

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019**

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance: A silent moment was taken followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for previous council woman Grace Cuozzo.

Roll Call: Barletta-present; Colombo-present; Mope-present; Perry-present; Gavio-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the September 25, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said the City needs qualified people to conduct inspections. He said, previously, the City was using UCC inspectors that are contracted-out. He said there is nobody "in-house". Rabo said there needs to be a sufficient number of people, in the Code Department, to do inspections, especially when there are structural problems with properties. Rabo said there needs to be sufficient number of employees in the permit department, especially for roofing inspections. He stated there are a lot of "fly-by-nighters". Rabo said the inspectors need to be licensed with a sufficient amount of insurance coverage. He said the City, in the summertime, is losing "tens of thousands of dollars" in roofing projects. He stated this needs to be addressed by city council.

He also spoke of Ordinance 2019-12-An Ordinance Authorizing the Collection of Attorney's Fees and Costs in Collection and Enforcement Matters. Rabo stated he agrees with it "in part" but disagrees with it "in part". He said some of these fees are collected at the Wilkes-Barre Courthouse or at the magistrate's office. Rabo said this needs to be worked out between administration and the courthouse so there is no redundancy in terms of double charges.

Old Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-9 Amending Ordinance 2018-15, Regulating Recreational Vehicles Within the City (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2019-9 Amending Ordinance 2018-15, Regulating Recreational Vehicles Within the City (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Colombo.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2019-13 An Ordinance Establishing a Designated Fire Lane on the Southern Portion of East Hawthorne Street from South Woodward Court to South Poplar Street (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2019-13 An Ordinance Establishing a Designated Fire Lane on the Southern Portion of East Hawthorne Street from South Woodward Court to South Poplar Street (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Mope.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2019-14 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance Nos. 10-108, 94-12, 95-18, 95-26, 2003-07, 2005-8, 2006-34, 2007-9, 2007-29, 2009-17, 2010-2, 2011-8, 2012-9, 2013-5, 2015-25, & 2016-31, and Chapters 24, 140, & 203 of the Hazleton City Code for the Setting of Licenses, Fees and Inspections (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Gavio.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2019-14 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance Nos. 10-108, 94-12, 95-18, 95-26, 2003-07, 2005-8, 2006-34, 2007-9, 2007-29, 2009-17, 2010-2, 2011-8,

2012-9, 2013-5, 2015-25, & 2016-31, and Chapters 24, 140, & 203 of the Hazleton City Code for the Setting of Licenses, Fees and Inspections
(3rd READING)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Mope.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-12 An Ordinance Authorizing the Collection of Attorney's Fees and Costs in Collection and Enforcement Matters (**1st READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Gavio.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

Ordinance 2019-15 An Ordinance Approving the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 (**1st READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

On the Question:

Barletta stated she is happy to see more money going towards street repairs and improvements in the City. Mope concurred.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-37

Appointments to Junior Council

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Audience: Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said the Zoning Ordinance needs to be enforced instead of a “stand-alone ordinance”. He stated the City needs to enforce what is “on the books”. He stated the Zoning Ordinance needs to be amended to include this. Rabo stated the City Administrative Code also needs to be amended including licensing and permit fees for parking. He said the City solicitor is able and should do this instead of a “stand-alone ordinance.” Rabo stated there would be “full force of the law” and enough “teeth” before it would go before the magistrate. Rabo said then the City could show the magistrate- “This is where it says it in the City Ordinance or in the City Code.” He said, then, the magistrate would have no problem with upholding parking, code enforcement, police or fire laws.

Rabo gave an example of this. He said there were two cars parked on Wyoming Street between 3rd & 4th Streets. They were four feet from the curb. He said they were double parked with an SUV in the “dead center” and in the middle. He stated he beeped his horn, but they did not move. He beeped his horn a second time, but nothing. Rabo asked him to move his vehicle because he is blocking “all” of Wyoming Street. He said the resident gave him a “dead stare” and then, reluctantly, moved his car. Rabo said this is the problem in the City. He stated, “enough is enough”. He said residents need to be kind and courteous, but the rules need to be enforced. He said city council does not need to create redundancy to get something done.

Rabo said he was at a recent Luzerne County meeting regarding 911. He wants to ask either the city solicitor, the police or fire chiefs regarding the receivers and portables for 911 if there is enough, in the budget, for the City and what the county would provide to municipalities for 911. He stated this needs to be very clear because neither the fire or the police departments could go without a portable. He said the funding is also another concern that needs to be taken into consideration. He said when the budget is presented this needs to be investigated.

Rabo stated, “God bless the soul of Grace Cuzzo”.

Comments from Mayor: None- absent

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Council: Perry extended his condolences to the Cuzzo family on the recent death of Grace Cuzzo and to the George Hayden, Sr. family on his recent passing. Mr. Hayden was a previous council member. He stated city council will be creating proclamations for them at their next city council meeting to be held on October 23, 2019.

He also stated there will be a Hazleton Electronics Recycling Day held on October 19th, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hazleton City Authority.

Colombo also extended his condolences to the Cuozzo family. He said she will be missed. Colombo stated she was a fixture at the city council meeting. He said it was a very depressing call he received on Sunday. He also extended his condolences to the Hayden family. He said he was well-involved in the community. He stated to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Mope extended her condolences to the Cuozzo, Hayden and Zola families. She said her thoughts and prayers go out to all the families involved. She stated the Hayden family has been an institution in the City.

Gavio stated there will be a Hazleton Electronics Recycling Day on October 19th, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the City of Hazleton, at 400 East Arthur Gardner Parkway. He also wished the Cuozzo, Hayden, and Zola families his sincere condolences.

Gavio welcomed "aboard" the new Hazleton City Junior Council members. He stated they will be sworn in at the next city council meeting on October 23rd, 2019. Gavio stated it is a pleasure to have them. He said they will then have a chance to comment on any topic.

Adjournment: Gavio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:30.