

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019**

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance: A silent moment was taken followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the July 10, 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, spoke of Ordinance 2019-7- An Ordinance Amending Ordinances 1878, 1932, 88-52, and 2004-38, Providing for Assessment Levy, and Collection of a Tax for General Municipal Purposes and Imposing Additional Tax for the Sole Purpose of Funding Required Benefits to be Paid to or on Behalf of Pension Recipients Pursuant to Act 205, known as the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, which is Directly Related to the Pension Plan of the City of Hazleton. He stated he asked a question, at the last meeting, but will “ask it again, but differently” because it was misunderstood. Rabo stated when Mayor Cusat took office he borrowed money that was “to go” into the ACT 205 fund, and was not paid back. Rabo said this was used as a justification for the City “to go” into ACT 47. He asked if this money (\$1,300,000 or \$1,400,000) was paid back during the first two years of the mayor’s administration instead of a TAN note.

Daniel Lynch, city administrator, stated the City, three times, effectively self-funded a TAN note through the use of the ACT 205 funds. He said the resolution stated, as such, in the beginning of the year when cash was “tight”. Lynch said the City effectively “gave itself” a loan from this fund, and before December 31st, repays the loan to the fund. He said a few years prior, previous collector Don Wilkinson, dissolved their business, and the City received a lump sum of approximately \$2,300,000 which was placed in the ACT 205 fund. He stated this was not considered ACT 205 revenue. He said this was part of the justification for borrowing the money and would be “put back at the end of the year”. Lynch stated the separate issue is that the pension budget has a structural deficit in it. He said there is a fund balance in the ACT 205, can take money out of the ACT 205 and return this at the end of the year. The City must pay its minimal municipal obligation (MMO) every year which has grown to almost \$6,000,000, which “out-paces” the normal ACT 205 revenue where the City would have a deficit. He said this deficit was covered in 2017 by that existing fund balance in the 205 account. Lynch said it was also covered, in 2018, by the fund balance. He stated the big reason why the EIT is increased is this is covering the continuing pension budget deficit. Lynch said these are two separate things. He said the City is taking this, short-term, self-funded TAN and repaying it. He said aside from the fund balance, the City is running a pension budget deficit. He asked Rabo if this makes sense to him.

Rabo stated this makes sense to him, but his question is why the pension board did not meet to bring up these issues. He said the pension fund manager, for the City, would then explain to the corresponding unions as to the status of the payment into this fund. Rabo said they would need to be made aware of this information.

Lynch said it is a requirement, of the City, to pay the MMO's. Rabo said it is also a state law. Lynch said it is not in the purvey of the pension board to address the pension budget deficit if city council did not want to follow ACT 47 and did not have the EIT increase. He said the pension budget deficit needs to be covered for \$1,300,000. Lynch stated this needs to be addressed and the pension board does not need to be involved.

Rabo agreed. He said there is no current report as to what the pension and deficits are. Rabo said there needs to be a report what states the money made. He said Luzerne County reports on what is paid in as well as any outstanding deficit and the rate, for the year, for the fund being managed.

Lynch stated the ACT 205 fund is separate from the plan funds that are managed by Glen Meade, Janney Montgomery Scott and Wells Fargo. He said the ACT 205 fund is the fund the City has where the ACT 205 revenue goes and needs to be kept in this fund. Lynch said this helps pays the City's MMO every year. He said it does not have to do with the management of the assets of the pension.

Rabo stated there was a deficit in the first two years due to the self-funding. Lynch stated this has " nothing to do with it."

Gavio stated to Rabo that he can e-mail Mr. Lynch with his concerns.

Rabo said he wanted to understand the issue with the \$1,300,000- \$1,400,000 because this was used to justify "going into" ACT 47. Rabo stated insufficient money was paid in because the money was being used for payroll.

Old Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-7

An Ordinance Amending Ordinances 1878, 1932, 88-52, and 2004-38, Providing for Assessment Levy, and Collection of a Tax for General Municipal Purposes and Imposing Additional Tax for the Sole Purpose of Funding Required Benefits to be Paid to or on Behalf of Pension Recipients Pursuant to Act 205, known as the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, which is Directly Related to the Pension Plan of the City of Hazleton (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Perry.

On the Question:

Mope asked Lynch how the City "faired-out" with the tax increase and if there was a surplus or did the City "go in the hole" with the EIT tax.

Lynch stated the City needs to transfer out of the general fund, at the end of the year, to cover the MMO. He said the money has been coming in this year, as expected.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2019-7

An Ordinance Amending Ordinances 1878, 1932, 88-52, and 2004-38, Providing for Assessment Levy, and Collection of a Tax for General Municipal Purposes and Imposing Additional Tax for the Sole Purpose of Funding Required Benefits to be Paid to or on Behalf of Pension Recipients Pursuant to Act 205, known as the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, which is Directly Related to the Pension Plan of the City of Hazleton (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019- 8

Modifying Consolidated Plan For CDBG Program Year 2018 (**1st READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

On the Question:

Barletta asked Joe Zeller, Community Development Director, where the \$2,200 allocated for the West Court Playground is going.

Zeller's response (*inaudible*).

Barletta asked Zeller if there are groups/leagues that play there now.

Zeller's response *(inaudible)*.

Mope said there is a playground, in proximity, on the other side of the fence. She asked Zeller if there would be a "topper" in this area because of the children.

Zeller's response *(inaudible)*.

Mope stated one of the problems, at this playground, last year (2018), is there is a softball field but the residents are playing hardball. She said the neighbor's homes are getting hit. Mope stated if the residents use the City's facilities, they need to clean-up. She stated adults are using the field and not cleaning up dirty diapers, beer and soda cans, etc. She stated instead of the garbage going into trash cans they are left on the ground. Mope said the trash cans need to be emptied, and the residents cannot party "all over the place".

Zeller's response *(inaudible)*.

Mope stated, in 2018, her neighbor's home got hit by hard balls. She said she has buckets of hard balls. She said she has lots, across the street, from her home. Mope stated the neighbor needs to clean the lot with balls left there. She asked if the residents need permission to use this field if it is not residential.

Zeller's response *(inaudible)*.

Barletta stated there is a lot of crime going on at this playground. She asked if DCNR would allow the City to install cameras at this playground. She said this is a school zone. Barletta said the neighbors are always complaining and the police officers are "always there". She asked if the City can "hold off" on this requirement and put this money towards Altmiller Playground to make it safer for the children.

Zeller's response *(inaudible)*.

Mayor Cusat stated he just ordered six cameras for the Altmiller Playground. He said he is working with the Hazleton Area School district to help them pay for some of the cameras that would be placed at Altmiller, Arthur Street, and Laurel Streets. He said there is a total of 40 cameras that will be installed at all playgrounds. He said there are a total of 12 playgrounds within the City. Mayor Cusat stated six cameras will be placed at the Altmiller Playground. Barletta asked how the City will pay for these cameras. Mayor Cusat said these cameras will be paid by drug money. Mope asked how the police department will have the ability to watch the activity. Mayor Cusat said the cameras are "cloud-based".

Police Chief Jerry Speziale's response- *(inaudible)*.

Mayor Cusat said the Hazleton Area School district is looking for help with cameras that are directly attached to the schools which are at Arthur Street school, Altmiller and Laurel Street.

Perry asked how long the lights stay on, at the playgrounds, in the evening. He said the lights are "pretty bright". He said if the lights are on longer, maybe they should be shut down earlier. Perry stated if the lights are on longer this may be causing problems. Mayor Cusat said the problems there are not after dark. He said the problems happen in the afternoon and early evening. He said the lights do not have timers. He said they have a power box; the lock can be cut and the switch

can be “flipped”. Mope asked if something can be done if the kids are coming from outside the area and using the City’s facilities, i.e. baseball. Mayor Cusat said he has an agreement with the All-American Girls Softball League at the 17th Street field. He said there is also an agreement, with another group, for Pagnotti Field, which plays very Sunday. He said this group teaches a clinic all summer long, Monday through Friday. Mope stated the City does not want to stop these groups from playing, but they need to be respectful of the City’s properties. She said residents do not want to pick-up dirty diapers on their properties. Mayor Cusat said this group goes back the following day to clean-up the property. Mope said West Court Playground is “horrible”. She said she received numerous complaints, from neighbors, regarding tennis and hard balls “flying” off this field. Mayor Cusat said there are No Smoking signs with new No Alcohol signs being posted at these facilities.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-29

A Resolution Naming an Unnamed Lane connecting State Route 424 in the City of Hazleton to Parcels 71U8 00AVAR000 and 71U8 00A013000 in the City of Hazleton

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Gavio stated Mope has been working on this resolution for several years. He said it will make it safe for the children up at the Heights Terrace section of town. He said he hopes to see this “go through” and makes it safer with the current traffic.

Mope stated she has been trying to get “this done” since she has been on city council. She stated the traffic trailers going through the Heights is unacceptable. She said this is a school zone. She stated the truck drivers are lost, the GPS directs them to the Heights Terrace, and it is not the tractor trailer drivers’ or companies’ fault for changing their address.

Mayor Cusat asked which address is being used. Mope stated the name, that will be used now, is 335 Arthur Gardner Highway. She said she contacted Jerry Speziale and then got it changed through the postal service.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2019-30

Approving Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE)
Transportation Grant Agreement No. 04R231 and
Authorizing the Mayor to Sign Said Agreement

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Gavio.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2019-31

Approving Application for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from
the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Phase I of the Wyoming
Street Enhancement Project

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Colombo.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, stated she lives across the street from the parking garage, in downtown Hazleton, near the Laurel Street entrance. She stated the weekend of July 20th - 21st, 2019, there was a window broken in the Business Exchange Building. She said she gave the police department a video. She said there was some police activity, around 5:00 p.m., and the police were there for about ½ hour with Police Chief Jerry Speziale responding. She stated the Hazleton Fire Department also responded, and “hosed it down”. She said no one told her “what was wrong” other than they were just “freshening up”. She said she saw, on the third-floor door, the word “HAH” written. She said, today, the word is still there. She took a picture of this with other graffiti found there. She stated the stairwell is being used, heavily, by LCCC students. Deakos said this not a good reflection of the City. She stated Funfest will be coming next month, and residents will be using the parking garage. She said there has been a wooden board, previously, used to cover a broken window in this building, and this has been replaced. She stated it does not take long to replace windows. Deakos stated this is the “gateway” that the City is trying to put money into the downtown incubator and the Markle Building. She stated the parking garage is looking shabby. She stated a previous rehabilitation project, on the parking garage, was not done very good. Deakos said the garage was to be painted, but was not painted very well, with two colors of white used. She said there were holes in the wall not fixed. Deakos said this graffiti is an insult to the police department and to the City.

Anthony R. Stanziola, Foster Township, stated the last time he was at a city council meeting, one topic discussed was the Right-To-Know law. He said he received a “care-package”, in the mail, with no cover sheet. He is asking who sent this to him. He said this is not the way the City should conduct business.

He stated there was a hearing, in June, 2019, regarding a parking ticket. He said Parking Ticket Office employee, John Simcovich, was present at this hearing to testify. He said he is not here to talk about the case. He said, under sworn oath, Simcovich testified, at least three times, that he had a document, in his

hand, and stated "I cannot show this to anybody or I will get fired". Stanziola stated this document came from the PENN DOT website, with Stanziola's confidential information on it, and this document needs an authorization form to get this. He said for Simcovich "just to have this document" that he is in trouble. He wants a follow-up on this matter.

Stanziola stated he obtained a copy of all the serial numbers of the parking meters in the City of Hazleton. He said he has a question about the copy that Simcovich provided to him. He stated it seems outdated because there is no date or file number. He said there is no "pedigree" here. Stanziola asked who has control of these documents. He asked who this original report was sent to. He wants a follow-up on this matter. He said he is going to the Duncan Corporation, and research these numbers to see which municipality ended up with these parking meters. He said he has a video of vehicles, in the City, that had "bootleg" or homemade parking permits, on his You Tube channel. Stanziola stated there were no serial numbers or expiration date. He said he went to the Standard-Speaker, spoke to a reporter, and gave them a copy of the pictures. He said on his way to City Hall he "bumped" into Simcovich. Stanziola confronted him about the parking permits because these looked suspicious. He asked if Simcovich printed them out for his friends and making money under the table. He said to recap, he wants to know who sent him a care-package. He has a list of parking meter serial numbers and asked if the information is kept on a secure computer. Stanziola stated, recently, security has been breached at the Luzerne County Courthouse.

He said Simcovich kept repeating, during the hearing, "I cannot show anybody this document, or I will get fired". He wants to know where he got that document from.

Police Chief Jerry Speziale stated what Simcovich may mean is when Hazleton Parking Enforcement is "out there" and a plate needs to be run, through the scope system, there is certain criteria the police officer needs to run a plate. He said Simcovich is permitted to have this document but is not permitted to show outsiders this document because it needs to stay within the law enforcement circle. Speziale said it is a scope computer with certain tests each police officer needs to take to make sure they comply. He said Simcovich also needs to comply with these documents. He said this is what he assumes Simcovich means by "I cannot show this or I will be fired" because he cannot release this information due to the fact that he received this from the scope computer.

Gavio said this is more of an administrative issue, but he will talk to administration on this.

Stanziola said he would like to have a response to the several issues he brought up.

Linda Spallone, 620 North Church Street, Hazleton, thanked everyone for their service in the City of Hazleton. She said this is a thankless job. She said everybody here does an outstanding job. She is here, today, to support Mr. Colombo's initiative for the Quality of Life proposal, for raising fines, for double parking and parking on sidewalks, in the City. She said this has been the best proposal to come out of city council. She said this should have been done in the beginning of the summer. She said it has been written, in the paper, that there is not enough staff to enforce these issues. Spallone stated there are a lot of long-time Hazleton residents miserable because of this. She said the \$200.00 fine is not enough. Spallone stated it should be doubled and the cars should be impounded. She wants everybody to consider Mr. Colombo's proposal. She said Hazleton is "a mess". She does not recognize her City anymore. She commends Police Chief Jerry Speziale in assigning two police officers to the Quality of Life issue. She said we need to get serious with this. She said the City of Hazleton can become a "mini Baltimore." She said there are garbage containers on the street with loose trash. She wants to know why the garbage issue has not been rectified yet. Spallone stated the City of Hazleton can get a rat problem with the garbage. Spallone stated the City needs to get "tough" with these problems. She said the playground that was spoken about needs to be shut down. She said the dilapidated buildings are

“eye sores”, i.e.-high weeds, uncut grass, and broken windows. She said they lead to a general appearance of slum inly neighborhoods and need to be addressed by Code officers. She said another problem is the renovation of double homes into apartments without zoning approval. She said this action leads to overcrowding and a false census of Hazleton residents. Spallone stated if these actions are, indeed a problem, in the City, citizens are intitled to report on the subject. Spallone said another problem are blearing car stereos, loud music, and parties. These are continual all summer. She said parking on sidewalks are another issue. She said if the larger issues are too overwhelming, at this time, City officials should tackle the smaller ones.

Spallone is asking Mayor Cusat for a monthly report about the Quality of Life issues. She stated Mayor Cusat is a decent individual. She said a “paragraph, or two” from each City department on the progress and what has improved is not too much to ask. She said we need to do something about Hazleton because it is a mess. She said she appeals to city council on Mr. Colombo’s Quality of Life initiative. She said the summer is the “worst here”. She said it is time to “get tough”.

Gavio said city council will be discussing Tony’s proposal at the WORK SESSION meeting. He said city council has been raising fines as long as he has been on city council.

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said he identifies with everything Miss Spallone had to say. He wants to present two solutions; the same solutions since Mope and Perry have been on city council. Rabo said the Blighted Property Committee, if active, would deal with dilapidated properties and illegal building conversions which is at “the heart” and “root” of the double-parking problem and nuisances in the City. Rabo stated the City’s zoning ordinance needs to be enforced. He said the Hazleton Police Department and the Zoning Officer can enforce the ordinance. He stated if there are any illegal building conversions, identified by Charlie Pedri, the Hazleton Police Department can shut the building down if there are multiple complaints.

Rabo spoke of the recent bidding and RFP’s for City towers. He asked Atty. Logsdon if the bidding and RFP for the proposed towing exclusive contractor was in accordance with the Sunshine Act and procurement section of the state administrative code. Atty. Logsdon said yes.

Rabo extends condolences, to the families, from the recent incident of police officers shot in Philadelphia, PA.

Jeff Derr, 821 North Vine Street, Hazleton, stated he bought a property at 16th & North Vine Streets. Derr said before he bought this property, it was known as Blasko’s Bar, Pioni’s Luncheonette, and Donna Barletta’s Hair Salon. He said he is here, tonight, to object to the City of Hazleton’s Yard Sale Ordinance-2013-18. Derr said he was “threatened” by the City. Derr stated he was told if he has one more garage sale, he would be fined \$1,000 and/or spend 30 days in jail. He stated he applied for a permit to open as a business. Derr said he was denied. He said the reason, he was given, is that he is located in a R-2 medium-density residential district. Derr said he took it, upon himself, to acquire a map of the City to see where the R-2 zone covers. He stated he began making a list of all businesses that were granted licenses that were comparable to his situation. Derr said he wondered why he was singled-out and denied. He said, in order to appeal zoning’s decision, they want to charge him an additional \$500.00 after he gave them \$75.00 to deny him. He stated he is just trying to keep a “roof over his head, pay his property taxes, and stay in the City of Hazleton. He said he is trying to take care of his family. Derr said he is battling prostate cancer for the past three years. He has received 39 radiation treatments at the Hazleton Radiation Center. He said he decided to get a job to keep this property going. Derr stated he applied at a City company, had an interview, and stated the manager was going to call him to hire him. He stated, leaving this interview, he fell down three cement steps, hit his head, landed on his right shoulder, and broke his shoulder in four places. He said he is following-up with his rehabilitation at the

Hazleton Wellness Center. Derr said this "forced him" to take his early social security. He said this is impossible to "live off". He said he was going to try to keep paying his bills by selling his contents, out of his garage, at yard sales. He said he, now, cannot do this. Derr said he does not know what to do with the contents, from the yard sales, he has collected over the past fourteen years. He said he knows there was an ordinance passed, in 2018, with three free ones, and then pay for the fourth- and fifth-yard sale, (\$5.00).

He stated this is not fair under the current situation. He then went to the Zoning Office at the Luzerne County Courthouse to obtain a City of Hazleton map. He said the Zoning Officer said he would give him the latest map of the City. He said he noticed the date, on the map, is 1996, from Luzerne County. He stated the county's map is 23 years old. The Zoning Officer suggested going "down" to the City of Hazleton, and they may have a newer, up-to-date map. Derr said he acquired a map, from the City of Hazleton's Zoning Officer. He said it is the same exact map from 1996. He was told, by the Luzerne County Courthouse Zoning Officer, the City has an obligation, to the county, to keep their maps up-to-date. He was told it should be kept up-to-date every year or two. Derr said he did his "homework". He said he wished before he got his denial letter that someone in the Zoning Office and in the City would have done their homework. Derr stated there are 138 businesses in the R-2 zone. He asked why he is singled out and cannot get the same justice as these businesses.

He stated he has a remedy that would help but does not want to "convey" this at this time. He would like to work with city council to look at this ordinance. He said when this ordinance started, in 2018, and there are a few residents that are abusing the ordinance. He stated not once did a police officer, zoning officer, city council member or administration officer come to his home. Derr said this is an insane ordinance. He stated an officer needs to sit, for about one month, on the corner, to observe all the business he does on the weekend. Derr said the zoning office, told him, they have been watching him and that is what they did. Derr said he was told the zoning office has him on video with the times he was selling. He said he feels he has been targeted, discriminated against and can prove it. He said he has a lot more information he has uncovered. He said he researched, and it is "funny" something else "comes up" along the way.

Mayor Cusat said the property he bought was formerly Blasko's Bar. He said it is a "change of use". He said there were businesses there before or the same type of business that went in. He said a garage sale is a different use than a restaurant. Mayor Cusat said the current City of Hazleton map is up-to-date, and Luzerne County has the current map. He said the last time the zoning ordinance was changed was in 1996. Mayor Cusat said the City is currently working on a new City zoning map. He said there is a lot of work that goes into this. He said he gets a lot of complaints on City garage sales. He said there are between 6-8 places that he gets calls on. He stated the City is not targeting Derr. Mayor Cusat said any resident can go through the process. Mayor Cusat said it is \$800.00 to appeal to the Zoning Board. He said he guarantees Derr will be granted his permit. He stated this is the process stated in the City's current ordinance. He said he would be denied, an appeal filed, go to court, and it will be granted. He said he welcomes new businesses in the City. Mayor Cusat said he would love to give him a business license and sell him an inspection. He stated, right now, the ordinance that is in place tells his zoning officer to deny this under the R-2 requirements. Mayor Cusat said he would then need to go to the zoning board. He said they will grant Derr the exception and allow him to run his business out of this store. He said there are a lot of second-hand stores running businesses and paying mercantile, business taxes and all the fees.

Atty. Sean Logsdon stated Derr would be best served in filing his appeal and making his case before the Zoning Hearing Board. Mayor Cusat stated city council cannot do anything about this unless they change the ordinance.

Derr said city council made the ordinance and Atty. Logsdon helped structure the ordinance. He said the ordinance must be changed and fair for everybody. He said the first thing everyone did, before the meeting, was declare, "Liberty and Justice for All". Derr stated, "let us start living this in the City." He said he did his homework very well. He said some people will not like his findings when presented. He said when you look for something it always leads down another road.

Gavio stated he will have a meeting with Derr.

Mayor Cusat asked Derr why he was denied.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat stated Happy Labor Day and he will see everyone at Funfest.

Comments from City Administrator: Dan Lynch stated he gave city council a report that will be discussed at the WORK SESSION.

Comments from Council: Perry stated city council received a few requests for City stop signs to be erected. He said there is one on Diamond Avenue. He asked Mayor Cusat if Diamond Avenue is a state road. The areas are 637 East Diamond Avenue, East Muir Avenue, and McKinley Street by the playground. He said there needs to be a traffic study conducted in these areas. Mayor Cusat stated city council needs a resolution authorizing a traffic study.

Gavio stated he has received about ten calls on new stop signs. He said he thought this would go through administration. Perry asked if city council needs to make an ordinance.

Mayor Cusat stated city council needs to pass a resolution first to authorize a traffic study. He said city council needs to make a list of any stop signs that are needed.

Mope stated all residents are welcome to request a stop sign. She said they can call, e-mail the city clerk, call Mayor Cusat's secretary, or call Mayor Cusat. Mope said the first step, in the process, is receiving the complaint. She said city council is not in charge of the police department. She said the police department is in charge of the traffic study. Mope said this is the requirement before putting a stop sign up. She said city council is the last "link" on the chain. She said then the police department will do a traffic study on a stop sign, then come back to city council to notify them if it is necessary. Mope said then a resolution would be constructed. She said the Police Chief will decide if it is needed.

Mayor Cusat stated the City will not do a traffic study unless city council is considering putting a stop sign in a certain spot. He said city council can then authorize the traffic study, bring this back, and give city council the findings. He said city council is the first and last link. He said administration is in the middle.

Mope said city council is the last link on the chain.

Perry stated the City has received an approval for a vegetation facility at the Hazleton Regional Airport. Perry asked Ralph Sharp if this impacts the airport. Sharp said it will not impact the airport. Mayor Cusat said it will impact, the airport, financially. Sharp agreed.

Perry thanked the Hazleton Street Department for the City's paving and patching of the streets.

He also thanked Ted Sherrock and Chris Carsia for the city council tour of the Hazleton Sewage Treatment Plant. He said it was a three-hour tour, but an amazing process that is going on there. He appreciates where all the money is going, as a science "guy".

Gavio also thanked Mr. Sherrock for the tour. He stated he received 50 signatures, on a petition, for residents' complaints with ATV's in the City. He said city council will discuss how they can help them out. Gavio stated this is a hard thing to enforce. He said he also spoke with Police Chief Jerry Speziale. Gavio stated he told the City resident that there are ordinances to help her and the residents out.

Mayor Cusat said the problem, with ATV's, is where they are going. He said he knows where their starting and ending points are so to do a surveillance on the place to see them pulling in. Barletta stated she received phone calls as to where their starting points are. Perry stated this information needs to be shared with Police Chief Jerry Speziale. Mope stated the police department needs to know where they "congregate".

Audience member response- *(inaudible)*.

Gavio stated city council passed an ordinance that ATV's cannot buy gas at the City gas stations. Mayor Cusat said stickers are a "great idea". Gavio agreed. Barletta said when the ordinance was passed, the stickers were supposed to be made, and were never followed through on. She said the gas stations were not aware of this ordinance. Barletta said the city clerk then sent certified letters, to all the City gas stations, notifying them of this ordinance. She said, along with their starting points, it needs to be known where the "quads" are being picked up and are being driven to. She stated the City needs to be strict and enforce the rules. Barletta said this is an issue, but the City needs to be tough on them. Mayor Cusat said he is unaware of any starting or stopping points. Mayor Cusat stated the City "sat on" the ATV's, which were on the U-hauls, for three hours. He said they never came back. He said he knows which ones are the problems. Mope said the problem is the time; the police department does not know when they will leave or come back to the property. Mayor Cusat said he receives complaints the ATV's are going up and down Poplar Street. He said it is worth waiting for the ATV's if they know they are out. Gavio stated city council and administration will do what they can do.

Colombo said he has received a letter from Grand Central. He said, Mr. Brooks of Grant Central, has been contacting the Hazleton City Code Department, for six months, regarding high weeds and garbage. Mr. Brooks was told this would be taken care of. He said the same issue is by the Convenient Mart on Juniper Street. He said going up Poplar to Carleton Avenue by the old drugstore, the weeds are up to his waist. He said this needs to be addressed. He also thanked Ted Sherrock for the recent Hazleton Sewer Treatment Plant tour. He said this is a phenomenal place and he did an outstanding job. Colombo stated the Streets, Fire, and Police Departments are doing an outstanding job. He said, recently, Donald Leshko, Hazleton Fire Chief, conducted a class on flash over and how it saves lives. He said it was a fabulous. He said, last week, the City lost one of their long-time firefighters, Deputy Chief Les Rossi. He said he was a great guy, and a value to the City. He said to keep Mr. Rossi in your thoughts and prayers. He also reminded everyone of the 9/11 Annual Remembrance Service and Funfest. He wished everyone a Happy Labor Day.

Mope thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She thanked everyone for their input, especially Miss Spallone for coming to give her comments. She stated city council does hear their concerns. She said city council tries their best to get things done. She said sometimes things go a little slower. Mope said summertime is "bad" with more people being out and about doing what they should not be doing. She thanked Mr. Zeller on the information on the playground. She stated this is a concern. Mope stated there is a lot of money being spent, in the City, to try to improve the City- i.e.- LSA grants. She said it is heartbreaking, to see, the graffiti in the City garage. She stated this was never a City that did "this type of stuff". Mope said, now, more money needs to be spent on the garage. She said the City is having a "hard enough time" upkeeping the garage on Wyoming Street. She said city council tries their best, at all times, to answer all constituents. Mope said city council does what they think is best when they pass the ordinances. Mope said if there are complaints, she is glad the residents "come up" to give their thoughts.

She said if the residents would do this while there is a discussion, on the ordinances, at the city council WORK SESSION'S, then the residents' comments could be included.

Mope wished everyone a nice weekend and a Happy Labor Day. Mope said she will see everyone at the September 11, 2019 city council meeting.

Mope also thanked Police Chief Jerry Speziale and Atty. Sean Logsdon for their help in Resolution 2019-29- A Resolution Naming an Unnamed Lane connecting State Route 424 in the City of Hazleton to Parcels 71U800AVAR000 and 71U800A013000 in the City of Hazleton.

Barletta asked Mayor Cusat if he received, in the mail, from CoStars, their fuel card program information. She suggested Mayor Cusat look into this. Barletta stated this would be good for the fire or police departments. She said the savings is .25 cents per gallon. Barletta stated she will forward, this information, to administration, to review. She stated this can help control costs.

Adjournment: Gavio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.