

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020**

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Barletta-present; Colombo-present; Mundie-present; Sacco-present; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the September 22, 2020 Regular Meetings were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said he wants to make a point of information to everyone on city council. He said he attended the Board of Elections meeting. Rabo stated the board has just changed voting Wards 1 & 2 from Heights Terrace Elementary to Catholic Social Services. He stated the polling information will be updated on their website.

Rabo spoke of Ordinance 2020-23- Stormwater Management Ordinance. He reminded Mayor Cusat and Atty. Logsdon, back in 2016, there was a violation sent by the Environmental Protection Agency for infractions, sent on June 6, 2016. He said there was an infraction of Section 309-G of the Clean Water Act and there were three violations the City was cited for in regard to the MS-4. Rabo said they included failure to have written procedures for illicit discharges, illicit discharge detection and elimination program failure to develop and maintain an MS-4 map, and failure to develop and implement a municipal employee stormwater training program. Rabo said this caused a fine, for the City, in the amount of \$3,000. He said this needs to be taken care of with mapping of the stormwater system. He said the Hazleton Sewer Authority needs to be contacted because they have all the maps. Rabo said the City engineer would need to do this. He said this needs to be addressed with administration along with a public hearing. Rabo suggested council table this.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

(1ST READING)

Ordinance 2020-23

Stormwater Management Ordinance (1ST READING)

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated he sent an e-mail out, this morning, to city council members. He said he had a conference call with two of the City's consulting engineers. He said the engineers want to take a look at the old and new ordinances. Logsdon said this is something that needs to be passed immediately. He said their recommendation is to "hold off". He asked if council could table this

and get it back on when it is reviewed by the City's engineers.

Perry stated this is different from the stormwater fee. Perry asked Logsdon for clarification because he stated some people are getting these two mixed up. Logsdon said the stormwater management ordinance is "akin to" with someone who comes in to do land development. He said with the salvo ordinance, there is stormwater management requirements for development with over one acre of land. He said it is more "akin to" land development for developers. Logsdon said there is no fee to each individual resident to pay for stormwater. He said that is not what this ordinance is. Perry said if someone is developing property, in the City, which not many have that much of property of one acre, then this will come into play. Logsdon agreed.

Barletta stated Ordinance 2011-5 is the same ordinance that was supposed to be, in front of council, tonight. Logsdon said yes, the same thing. He said the engineers stated the highlighted areas, in the new ordinance, are optional PENN DOT additions, with Riparian barriers and such, and should be "tossed". Logsdon said Tom DeAngelo, Barry Isett & Associates engineer, will review this again. Logsdon said the City needs to adopt the latest version unless DeAngelo has some other suggestions. Barletta stated there are four minor changes and the new ordinance lowers the fine.

Perry motioned to table this ordinance.

Motion to Table:

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Sacco.

Roll Call (TO TABLE): Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

ORDINANCE TABLED

(2ND AND 3RD READINGS)

Ordinance 2020-24

An Ordinance to Establish a "HOMETOWN HEROES" COMMITTEE in the City of Hazleton (**2nd READING**)

On the Question:

Perry said city council will let this die. He said the City formed a 501 Corporation with the City not needing to be involved.

NO PRESENTATION-ORDINANCE DIES

An Ordinance to Establish a "HOMETOWN HEROES" COMMITTEE in the City of Hazleton (**3rd READING**)

NO PRESENTATION-ORDINANCE DIES

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-71 Appointments to Junior Council

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry asked the city clerk if it will be open to more applications. The city clerk said due to the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a minimal response. She said she would keep the deadline open until the next meeting on October 27, 2020.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2020-72 A Resolution of the City of Hazleton, County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Approving the Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License #R- 4942 (LID 11636) into the City of Hazleton from the PA Liquor Control Board

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2020-73 A Resolution Requesting Luzerne Local Share Account (LSA) Funds for the City of Hazleton's CAN DO Community Park Phase III

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Krista Schneider, Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress Director, said this is to finish the project. He said when Phase II was bid out, early last year, the project was overbid and had to bid it again. Schneider stated it was still high and then CAN DO and CAN DO Community Foundation came in with an additional donation. She said it was agreed to reduce the scope and try to fund the rest through a subsequent phase with this grant. Schneider said it is to finish the lower part and the back. Perry stated it looks great. Schneider said it is coming along and should be done at the end of this month or early in November. Barletta asked if this would be for everything to be done. Schneider stated it would be a finish of Phase II with the brick plaza being done and part of the

retaining wall. She stated all the infrastructure is in and all the underground storm, electric, and concrete sidewalks are all done. She said the biggest part, of the next phase, is putting in big concrete set of stairs off Laurel Street to have a nice stage.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2020-74

Recommendation of Award for Hangar Roof Project at Hazleton Regional Airport

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Barletta asked what this is for and what hangar is this for. Joe Zeller, Community Development Director, said this is for the hangar the City acquired where the City stores some different planes and transient jets for a few days at a time. He said it is more marketable to lease the space out on a short-term basis and store more aircraft in there. Zeller stated grant and airport funds are being used. Barletta stated 50% grant and 50% airport funds are being use. Zeller agreed. Perry asked if the roof needs repaired. Zeller said yes; it is very bad. Perry asked if it is one of the City's older hangars. Zeller said yes; it is a brick structure. Barletta asked if it is on the left looking at the "skydive". Zeller said yes.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2020-75

A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Fire Apparatus for the Hazleton City Fire Department

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated this is a "add-on". Mundie said he thought the City was going to wait to refinancing to see how much the City would save. He said the City could use this money to buy trucks. Perry said this was a good question. He said he reached out to PEL representatives to get their input. He said the City is trying to save money ahead of the process. Perry said he does not know how long the City would have to wait. He asked if this includes an LSA grant. Leshko said there are no LSA grants available for this. Perry asked if Leshko wants three vehicles. Leshko stated this will go along with the PEL report of two engines and a power ladder. He said "locking" into a price now, the City will save a substantial percentage, almost 2.5%- 3% increase coming down the road. He said, also, there is a possible increase in emission standards changing in 2021. He said this does not include any increases that might happen due to COVID-19 process with building materials. Leshko said the City would not see these trucks until the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022. He stated it will all be purchased through the Co-Stars program, working with Lynch and

Mayor Cusat. He said this is probably the best thing to do, currently, to “lock in” to prices for the savings. He said if the City keeps going, there will be an increase by the end of the year and will add to the cost of the process. Perry asked how much of an increase. Leshko stated at least 2.5%- 3% “across the board” increase and not including any emission standards increases and any other items arising from the COVID process. Perry asked if \$2,500,000 is the “high-end”. Leshko said \$2,500,000 is the “high-end” and does not want to exceed this. He said he wants to be well under this. Perry asked if the sale of the previous trucks would reduce this amount. Leshko said yes, any sale of the vehicles the City re-coops would go towards this project.

Atty. Logsdon stated there are two other add-on resolutions. He said city council passed a resolution to apply for a multimodal grant for Wyoming and Alter Street projects. Logsdon said the City received “word back” from the consulting engineers that the state wanted the verbiage on the resolutions need to be changed from Commonwealth Financing Authority to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. He said the amounts are the same, the project is the same, and everything is the same. Logsdon said the only change is the City is applying through PENN-DOT for the multimodal grant. He used the exact verbiage that is used by PENN-DOT.

Comments from the Audience: Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said regarding the fire trucks, there needs to be a capital budget. Rabo said this would make it attractive to auditors but the finance institutions for favorable rates. He said if it is made into a capital budget, for these items, it would be attractive and easier for the auditors. Rabo said this is the “way to go” to make it a little more “organizationally neat” and done properly. He said he understands the need and urgency from Chief Leshko. Rabo stated some of this stuff needs to be included in the Hazard Plan, passed by Luzerne County Council. He said if Chief Leshko receives the three fire apparatus vehicles and something happens, in a natural or man-made disaster, and is not covered under insurance, and he goes to PEMA to get financial aid or reimbursement, he is asking if it would be covered. Rabo suggested Leshko investigate this along with Police Chief Schoonmaker. Rabo stated he sees some inaccuracies and deficiencies with some information being left out of the Hazard Plan. Rabo said this plan was “rushed through”. Rabo asked if there is going to be enough money for the multimodal project. He said this is usually done in phases. He suggested Vito, from DPW, expanding on this issue.

Perry said there was a recent email, from Lynch, and from the City’s financial advisor. He said he is okay with everything going on although the money is still not set. He said he would like to see this, as a group, to see how much money the City will refinance. Perry said he does not know if the City needs more or other things. Perry said he understands the need. Perry asked Lynch to answer these questions. He asked if it needs to be done by next month.

Lynch said because this is an extremely high “lead-time”, and there are factors to add to the cost with emission standards and year-to-year changes to models in raising the price, when is the City crossing the “Rubicon” that the City would buy the trucks and do the financing. Lynch said his questions for Ryan are if there is a chance if the financing could not be done or paying a higher rate. Lynch said Ryan does not see a serious risk in making this commitment. Lynch said Ryan feels optimistic with the City closing on a bond. Lynch said he is optimistic with the City closing on a bond this year. He said the auditor is still on schedule. He said to be safe and with looming costs, this is why it is being discussed. Lynch said Ryan feels the rates will stay low for a while. He said not higher in a way that would make the savings the City would receive worthless.

Perry said he reached out to PEL to make them aware of what the City is doing. Perry said PEL stated there are risks if the bond market freezes which happened in 2020. He said then the City is

“on the hook” to go to a bank. He said this is a possibility. Perry said if the City does not approve refinancing of a bond of the City’s debt, then the City is on “the hook”. He stated this is an individual choice. Perry said PEL recommended there is a need, but all the vehicles are serviceable. Perry said Lynch stated that the City is losing money where the City should be saving money. He said this is in addition to refinancing the City’s other debt. Perry said they do not know what the cost is. Perry asked Leshko if the City would pay for the vehicles until they come. Leshko stated the City will not pay a penny until the City accepts delivery. He said the City will still be waiting, at this time, in 2021, for delivery. He said for a capital plan, this coincides with this and “one big pie”. Leshko said the City needs to get in before a major pricing increase. He said the City has been discussing this for the past year.

Lynch said this represents the commitment to get the apparatus. He said the financial risks, as Mr. Hottenstein “sees them”, are fairly low. He said the bond rates should stay low and should close on a bond. He said the question is if the City wants to do this.

Perry asked Lynch if the City would be having their refinancing meeting in 2020. Lynch said he is not saying it would not be done this year. He said the auditor feels if the 2018 is done, the City is good and good in going “shopping”. Lynch said the auditor is online for the 2018 to be finished by November and try to close by December. Lynch asked Hottenstein if the City orders the trucks and council commits to this; is there any way the City would come out “bad” in this. Perry said the City needs to lock in the lowest rate. Lynch said Ryan felt the rates would go lower before they go up. Perry asked if this would affect 2020’s budget. Lynch said no. He said in the absolute worst-case scenario in not closing a bond, municipal leasing would be an option. Lynch said this would be a unique situation. Perry asked if this precludes other vehicles for other departments. Lynch said no. He said the number is about \$3,000,000. He said the City’s goal is for the City to refinance their existing debt and not touch the DCED at 0%. He said this leaves an additional \$3,000,000 in capital for the City. Perry asked if \$2,500,000 would be “taken up with this”, or less, per Leshko. Perry asked Leshko how much money the City would receive in selling the old fire vehicles. Leshko stated it is tough to say. He said the pumper trucks are old and have been heavily used. Leshko said the ladder trucks would bring in the biggest return.

Mundie asked Leshko if he will be working with Kovatch, Inc. Leshko said yes. He said he is a customer with them for many years. He said the trucks will be built in Nesquehoning. Mundie said Leshko stated there would be price increases. Leshko said he is working with two different sales personnel there. He said this has been a common theme with their whole process in the years. He said, in the past, when ordering a truck, the City had to get in before a price increase. Mundie asked Leshko if Kovatch told him he needs to do this right away. Leshko said he wants to do it soon because it needs to be done before the price increase.

Atty. Logsdon said this is his fault. He said he spoke with Leshko, last week, about this and forgot to get this on the agenda. This is why he “shoot this over” today. Logsdon said the City does not want to miss this deadline.

Lynch said this has been discussed every time there is talk about a bond. He said it is talked about, in a way, council understands why it is put on the agenda. Lynch said it is becoming more and more of a risk due to a price increase. He stated it looks like the City should have no issues with a bond talking with their financial advisor and said everything looks good. Lynch was under the assumption that council was receptive to the idea of the additional money and the apparatus needed. He said this should not be too surprising. Barletta said this is not too surprising, but she wants to see numbers. She said this was received at 4:30 p.m. She asked if Leshko could give

council a quote of what the City what pay for the vehicles. She also asked if Lynch could give council a refinancing quote with refinancing with the bonds to show council what they are looking at for the future. Barletta said everything seems like a “bum rush”. She said this had to be done, in the past, in going off the agenda, to purchase police vehicles. Barletta said this was done, in her first year, to purchase DPW vehicles. She stated nothing is planned out to show where the money is coming from. Barletta asked what the back-up plan is. She said the PEL plan states three vehicles and in keeping the residents and fire department safe. Barletta said the fire department, definitely, needs them. She said the pandemic hit in the middle of the PEL report. She asked if he could apply for grants if the City could get one truck this year, one truck in 2021, and one truck in 2022, and try to apply for grants to help. Leshko said he has been “down this grant road”. He said he has applied for “grant after grant after grant” for a FEMA grant to replace the fire apparatus. He said this is all he hears from council. He said he applies for grants “beyond belief”. Leshko has applied, relentlessly, for this project. He said ever since the PEL report, he has applying for grants to replace the 1987 pumper every year and for the rescue pumper through FEMA. He said the City had to use the LSA grants for other aspects because the City does not have the budgeted money. Leshko said this is the best way to make it work. He knows city council is looking at numbers, but he is waiting to get the final number. Leshko said this is why it is set at \$2,500,000 between two pumpers and a ladder truck. He is trying to get the best deal, through Co-Stars, to get well under this number and is his goal. He said since last January he has been discussing this. Leshko said he keeps putting band-aids on two of these trucks. He stated once his 1987 truck goes, and has no more band-aids to put on, then he will have to come to city council to move on this.

Barletta said this is just “thrown” on city council’s lap. She said this has been a problem from “years and years ago”. She said there are a lot of big things coming up for them. She asked to see some number. Barletta said this came at 4:30 p.m. She said this has not been discussed since the pandemic hit of pricing and refinancing bonds. She needs to feel comfortable to make a right decision. Barletta asked if it is the best deal to get three vehicles, for the City, right not. She stated the City has put off the purchase since the 1980’s. She said she knows he is great at obtaining grants. She asked if it would be beneficial to try to get more grants.

Perry said the City is a victim to the City’s auditor. He said if the audit was done, the City would be in a better position to refinance their debt. Perry stated this could be done much quicker. He said council may table this and do this at the next meeting.

Barletta said this may be better done at a WORK SESSION meeting with the numbers. She said some members have some questions. She stated city council did not have a chance to ask Mr. Hottenstein any questions. She said it should be tabled and have the numbers emailed to council members. Perry said Leshko could give them numbers on truck costs. Perry said they do not know what the bond cost would be from Mr. Hottenstein. Lynch said the City has an idea “neighborhood wise”. He said the City has an idea what it would cost and would need to borrow. Lynch said he sent out an email ahead of time, to Ryan Hottenstein, and his response was the risk is low. He said the bond will get done if the City is committed to the \$3,000,000 of additional capital with very low risk. Lynch said the change to the bond, for any unforeseen delays, is a minimal risk. The risk of the increasing costs of the fire trucks, over time, much higher. He said this is a certainty with the way markets work. Lynch said the City is looking to commit so the order could be placed and the risk to the City is low. He said if the difference is ½%, then wait and “see the numbers”. He said it comes down if the City wants to get the vehicles or not. Lynch said they are the “purse holders”. Mundie stated administration and city council always talked about the trucks and in conjunction with refinancing. He said they never talked about buying the trucks first, and then refinancing second. Mundie said no one ever said this to them. Lynch said the City would not pay for the trucks until the

bond is completed. He said the "lead-time" is 1 ½ years. Mundie said once the City is committed, they are committed. Sacco asked if there is a better deal with one truck at a time or buying three vehicles "is a magic number". Leshko said the City would get a better deal with buying two pumpers and a ladder truck. He stated it gives them more "purchase power". He said it is always good to buy a multitude of things. He said this is the ideal situation to go with the "purchasing power" they have. He stated it would give the City a better concession price back which would be a better deal, for the City, and better economically efficient, for the City. Perry asked Leshko if he has an idea of the cost. Leshko said it would be under the \$2,500,000 price and not go over this price. Mundie asked if he has talked to any other dealer besides Kovatch, Inc. Leshko said he has "stuck" with Kovatch, Inc. because they are right here and for their service. He said a lot of City residents work there to build these trucks. Leshko said the biggest thing is service. Leshko said when he calls them at 10:00 p.m. and a truck "goes down" with the service manager telling him to send a truck to them, and they work on them, it is a big key. He said they have been very good to the City in coming up here to work on trucks when they could not get the vehicle down there. He said it is under 20 minutes to get the vehicles down there. Mundie agreed with Leshko that Kovatch, Inc. is a good company and has great equipment. He asked if he could get better pricing or a bid and "pit" one company against another. Leshko said he said other cities that have bought trucks have paid more. He said he saw a lot higher prices they have paid. He said the cities have not bought apparatus, in many years, and are paying about the same, if not more, than what the City has. He said he did not hear of anyone paying under of what the City would pay. Leshko said service is a key for the City in maintenance and parts. Leshko said product, workmanship and longevity of the vehicles is a big key for the City. Mundie asked if the sales personnel stated when the pricing increases would come. Leshko said they said around the October/November time frame. He said their fiscal year ends in October. Mundie asked if the salesman stated when there would be a price increase. Leshko said the salesman told him there would be a price increase very soon.

Perry said he has spoken to Gerry Cross and Matt Domines of PEL. Perry said that PEL's view are "the Recovery Plan noted the age of the City's fire apparatus indicates, based on standards, the City should be considering updating fleet when appropriate. The plan does not have a schedule for replacement due to the service ability, for equipment, but to the financial impact at the time of the plan." Perry said the City was not going to buy trucks at that time. "Given the current equipment is serviceable, there is no reason to replace apparatus but there are timing pressures to contend with. They have a capable financial advisor, and he has given the city his opinion of a low risk in getting the bonds placed after the trucks are ordered. As a coordinator, there are risks with a bond freeze. The City's failure to generate revenue, prior to ACT 47, is one of the City's cause for financial distress." Perry said they outlined each case and if the City would need to go to a bank. He said PEL is not against this, but it is up to city council.

Mundie asked when the next city council meeting is. The city clerk stated October 27th, 2020. Mundie asked Leshko if the prices would increase by then. Leshko said he does not know this question and does not have the answer. Perry asked what more information council will have by then with more numbers. Barletta asked Leshko for truck estimates and what the old trucks would be sold for. Leshko said the estimates for a new ladder truck is \$1,200,000 and about \$600,000-\$610,000 for the fire pumper vehicles. He said there are other options, in borrowing, for the City. He said he is going up with certain specifications that will meet the fire department's needs. Leshko stated the ladder truck he is going to sell, the 1987 & 2002 pumpers, may get \$10,000-\$10,200 due to their age and heavy usage. He said the used market is, currently, very fluctual. Barletta said it is, currently, up 4%. He said when the City bought the 1987 truck, this was the year of a layoff.

He said the truck “ran”, in 2020, about 260 responses. He said the power steering pump had to be taken off and sent out to be rebuilt. He said no one makes them anymore. Leshko said the 2002 truck was a program truck, when bought, and there were some modifications done “in-house”. He said most of the money will come from the ladder truck, about \$50,000-\$75,000. Leshko stated for a City that does not run as many calls as Hazleton does, it will work well for them. He said it is showing its age and was bought under a capital project fund. Leshko said the fire department then went through Community Development for the rest.

Barletta asked if Leshko could get a printout of quotes for the trucks. Leshko said yes once the City “solidifies” everything they will get a solid pricing standard. She asked if they could give him a quote now. Leshko said no, they are confirming everything with the specifications, and nothing is left out. He said this is what he has been doing the past month. He wants to make it the most economical. Leshko said he is not getting a “Cadillac, per say”. He is looking at a work truck that is durable that will last well into the future for many ages to use. Sacco asked what the life of a truck is. Leshko said with the PEL report and the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards, a lot of trucks are 15 years. Leshko said he is getting well above this with 20-25-year range. He said with the 2002 truck, it is passed the 15-year range, and coming up on the 20-year range. He said it was bought offline and put in service. He said when it was bought, the City’s fire department was doing about 150-200/calls a year. Now, the average is about 1,000 calls per year with a big increase in responses on the apparatus. Leshko said if this purchase happened, fire apparatus would not have to be purchased, again, for a long time. Barletta asked when the fire department purchased a new truck. Leshko said it was in 2017. Sacco asked if there are any programs, as Police Chief Schoonmaker is using, to purchase used fire trucks. Leshko said he has reviewed this. He said going into the used market will not meet the City’s needs. He said it is not feasible with buying someone else’s problems.

Mundie made a motion to table this to the next meeting. Barletta seconded. Barletta asked Lynch and Leshko to meet with city council or send numbers to them for refinancing with the bonds. Lynch said there is not much time pressure, on his side, of things. He stated the City may benefit if a close on a bond is delayed. Lynch said the City could do the bond in 2020. He said the rates may even go down. Lynch said maybe about .10% but do not know until the bond is locked in. He said the factoring is on Leshko’s side. Lynch said on the financial side, time could hurt the City, but on Leshko’s side, time may hurt the City. He stated the City would need to wait 18 months for delivery and for the cash to be in the City’s bank account. Lynch said this is an alternative. He asked Hottenstein about a risk and Hottenstein stated there is not much risk for the City.

Barletta asked Atty. Logsdon to get the resolutions to council prior to the meeting. She stated this was just “a rush”. She said the price is wrong and old council members are on the resolution. Atty. Logsdon agreed. He stated he will get the items over ASAP.

Motion to Table:

Presented by Mundie. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call (TO TABLE): Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-no; Perry-no.

RESOLUTION TABLED 3-2

Resolution 2020-76 Updated Resolution Approving Application for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Phase II of the Alter Street Improvements Project

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry stated there was just a grammatical error in the resolution.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2020-77 Updated Resolution Approving Application for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Phase II of the Wyoming Street Enhancement Project

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Comments from the Audience: Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He said it was passed by Luzerne County Council last night. Rabo stated the Luzerne County and Zoning Director said any municipality that is part of the Hazard Plan wishes to add anything that is missing or any inaccuracies could add any addendum, at the end of the plan, for any kind of information. Rabo hopes Chief Leshko and Schoonmaker read the plan. He said he can e-mail this to them. He said the plan stated Alan Wufsus, City Engineer and Charlie Pedri, Code Enforcement Director, were participants in this. He said he is not sure if City officials have seen or read it. Rabo has seen some inaccuracies and some important things left out. Rabo said if anything happened, man-made or natural disasters, in the City, they would be left out of FEMA or PEMA disaster aid. He suggested they review the plan before it is adopted.

Rabo also welcomed Mr. Gulotta to the meeting.

Jason Carr, Saylorsburg, PA, said he is a property owner in Hazleton. He wanted to expand on his question from two city council meetings ago. He asked Mayor Cusat what his relationship is with Sean Shamany and Northeast Revenue. He said Mr. Shamany came to Luzerne County, personally, in renewing their contract with Northeast Revenue. Carr asked Mayor Cusat is he has any apprehensions in advocating for Northeast Revenue, even though, they have been named in several criminal allegations and conspiracies with other municipalities in the region. He asked if the Land Bank that Mayor Cusat, is proposing, if Mr. Shamany will have anything to do with the processing of properties within the Land Bank.

Comments from Mayor: None.

Comments from City Administrator: None.

Comments from Council: Barletta asked Lynch for monthly reports for September and has not received them. Lynch said he will send this to city council members tomorrow.

Sacco said the more she processes the fire department vehicles, the money end makes more sense to her. She stated City administration needs to get information, to city council, on time. Sacco said, from a citizen perspective, it looks like city council is a little “disheveled” and they need to paint a “better picture”, to the public, when they go, “turn around and present it.”

Mundie said administration is a little “disheveled” because they want city council to spend \$2,500,000 and gives them, a resolution, at 4:30 p.m. He stated that they may be “disheveled”. He said before you spend \$2,500,000, they need to make sure they have the money.

Mundie said the firemen do a great job, has supported them for five terms, and bought many trucks and hired fifty firemen. He said they deserve newer and better equipment to serve the City. He said his vote to table this was not against the firemen. Mundie said he hopes city council receives more information and able to pay for the \$2,500,000.

Colombo is 100%, in favor, of the fire apparatus purchase. He said the next thing, he needs to see, are the numbers. He said city council will vote on it again and are concerned for the residents. Colombo said all five are in the “same boat”.

Perry stated there is a process for this and could table it. He said no one is not in favor of getting the fire trucks. He stated they need to do it the appropriate way. Perry stated two weeks will not change much.

Leshko said he is happy that administration and city council members are at this point. He will have a quote, as close as he can, for the pricing of the fire trucks, by October 27th, city council meeting. Leshko said through this all, with talking with Lynch and Mayor Cusat, they have discussed this over months. He said city council has also talked about this. Leshko said if this could pass, the refinancing could help other items in the capital budget process of the City. He said, “worst case scenario”, of the leasing market, to do stuff with these trucks, if a bond would not come about. Leshko said there is the “leasing world”, out there, that they could use to their benefit to make this happen. He stated this is, currently, happening with the DPW trucks. He said this was done before with a fire truck, over two to three-year leases, with a longer-term lease. He stated this is why a lot of cities have gone to leasing trucks. Leshko said within the next week he will have solid numbers for city council.

Perry said he needs to know if there will be money left over to do other things. He said the City needs a VAC truck and other things. Perry said the City cannot spend in one area and not have extra.

Leshko said he does not want to hide anything from anybody. He said they need to work as a team. Leshko said the fire department's moto is "one team, one family". He stated that is how they work in the City, and he said between administration and city council this is how they will continue to work.

Perry said the fire and police departments are doing a fantastic job, along with DPW doing paving projects. He thanked them for all their work. Perry said city council will get back to having in-person meeting soon. Perry said Gary Perna, Mayor Cusat's secretary, is working on getting the camera and audio equipment in Council Chambers. He said he wanted to make sure to clear up any issues with the district magistrate. He said he wanted to make sure cyber plan insurance is in place for the City that was mentioned in the ACT 47 Recovery Plan. Lynch said the City has this.

Comments from Junior Council: None.

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