

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020**

Council met for a WORK SESSION on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The WORK SESSION began at 8:23 p.m.

In attendance were City Council President James Perry, Vice-President Anthony Colombo, Allison Barletta, Lauren Sacco and Jack Mundie. City Officials present were Dan Lynch, Mayor Jeff Cusat, Police Chief Brian Schoonmaker, and Fire Chief Donald Leshko. Also, in attendance were PEL representatives Gerald Cross, Matt Domines and Pat Moorhead.

Perry spoke of a Cable Television Ordinance. Atty. Logsdon said, back in the 1980's, with Mayor John Ford, thirty years ago, the City signed a Cable Service franchise deal with Service Electric. He said, currently, it is due to be renewed. He said he wants to "open up" communication with Service Electric and see if the City could re-negotiate a few things in the contract. He said it would prevent another deal in 30 years. Perry asked if the fee is 5% of the gross revenue. Atty. Logsdon said this is correct. He said besides the length of the contract and percentage fee, there is really nothing else to re-negotiate. He said he wanted city council to know about this and does not know if this will be done before the end of 2020. Atty. Logsdon said everyone's cable will not be turned off on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Mundie asked Atty. Logsdon if they notified them that the renewal runs out. Atty. Logsdon agreed. Mundie said he does not agree with the automatic renewals, in the old contract, and also in the new contract. He said the contract is based on a number of installations. He said the City is losing revenue with satellite TV. He asked how much the City gets. Mayor Cusat said \$110,000 "range". He said it has been going down since he has been here. He stated he wants to get the money "up-front", and there may not be cable in five years. He said it only pertains to hard wiring. Mundie asked Mayor Cusat to check with another City to see what they are doing. Mayor Cusat said Atty. Logsdon has negotiated a few of these deals, and he has reached out to a few places. He said he loves making deals.

Perry said the second topic is Rescinding the Quality-of-Life Ordinance. Atty. Logsdon said he knows the City has been "kicking this around" awhile. He stated the Quality-of-Life Ordinance was not working, at all, for the Code Department. He said to try to help code, they need to get back on track, get rid of the current ordinance, and re-enact another ordinance that would be aimed toward things that are not going to use the Property Maintenance Code for exclusively. He said this refers to snow removal, grass cutting, and trash violations. He said he is trying to put something together. He said there is also the City's recodification. He said this could be put on the agenda, rescind the Quality-of-Life Ordinance, and then re-establish an ordinance that would deal, solely, with quick and easy ticket violations that do not have to go through the magistrate's process immediately. Atty. Logsdon said the City could leave it alone, for the time being, and when re-codification happens, just remove it from the code. He said he wanted to open the discussion for this. He said with the re-codification, this does not need to be entered in the code.

Mundie stated, "whatever is easier and cheaper." Mayor Cusat said it is easier to pull it out, now, instead of going back and forth with the codification company and not going over it when they do a version. Mundie said this is a good idea. Barletta asked if the City would hand out a ticket. Mayor Cusat said he would like to re-do a new ordinance, get rid of the current one, and have the new one to put in the code book. He stated the current ordinance is lengthy. Barletta said the Quality-of-Life Ordinance is a "headache". She said it needs to be broken down. Mayor Cusat agreed. Atty. Logsdon said it was meant to be a streamlined effort where a code officer could walk up to a property and say, "here is your ticket and there is 10 days to pay it". He said then there were due process issues. Mayor Cusat said it is too detailed. Barletta said she is fine with this. Mayor Cusat said at the next city council meeting, the

resolution will be on the agenda to rescind. Barletta asked Mayor Cusat to get the ticket ready for garbage. He said he will be working on the ordinance. Barletta asked if Mayor Cusat could give city council members the authority to give tickets out. She said there are a lot of properties with a lot of garbage. Mayor Cusat said there were a lot of these issues, coming up, in 2020.

Perry adjourned the WORK SESSION meeting at 8:31 p.m.