

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
INAUGURATION/REORGANIZATION MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Council met for the Inauguration Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 3, 2022 in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing link. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.

**Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance:** An invocation was given by Reverend Mariusz Beczek.

Almighty, and Eternal GOD, you have revealed your glory to all nations. GOD of power and might, wisdom and justice, through your authority's rightly administered; laws are enacted, and judgement is decreed. Let the light of your Divine wisdom direct the deliberations of this City Council, and shine forth, in all of its proceedings. May council members continue to preserve peace, promote justice and continue to bring the blessing of liberty and happiness. May they be able to discharge their duties with honesty, ability and virtue. We pray to you our LORD and GOD. AMEN.

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call of Outgoing Council:** Barletta-Present; Colombo-Present; Mundie-absent; Sacco-Present; Perry-Present

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the December 16, 2021 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Remarks by Audience Members:** None

**Remarks of Outgoing/Current City Council members and other City Officials:**

Jim Perry thanked Allison for all she did in the last four years. He stated she was an asset to council and she continues to help the City. He wished her luck and success in the future.

Sacco said it was a pleasure of serving with Barletta and they wish her the best in moving forward.

Colombo agreed with Sacco's sentiments. He wished her the best, and said it was an honor for serving, four years on council, with her.

Allison Barletta thanked all the City residents and all here today. She said it went by quick. Barletta said they worked together with administration and the mayor to move the City forward. She said she will always be here for any help, and will keep the City "in her heart".

Mayor Cusat said it is hard finding people who care about the City. He stated she did a wonderful job, and in the past four years, they became pretty good friends. He said he has a list of openings on three or four boards. He said it was a pleasure working with Barletta.

The Oath of Offices were administered to Anthony Colombo, James Perry, and Mark Ondishin by Judge Joseph Zola.

**Roll Call of New Council:** Colombo-Present; Mundie-absent; Ondishin- Present; Sacco-Present; Perry-Present.

**Remarks by Newly Elected Council Member:** Mark Ondishin thanked everyone for coming out to vote. He said he has “big shoes” to fill. He said it is a big honor.

Colombo thanked the City residents for having the faith and trust in re-electing him. He stated they have Barletta’s phone number. He looks forward to working with the new city council along with administration to move this great City forward.

Colombo thanked Reverend Beczek for attending City Council’s Inauguration Ceremony.

Perry thanked the City residents who came out to vote. He said they represent all City residents. Perry said they are trying to make things happen. He said this has been the most amazing year they have ever had. He said there is no tax increase, at this time, and things are going forward in the right way.

Perry stated Ondishin will be a member of We Are Hazleton, LLC. He said Sacco and Barletta have done a lot with the Hometown banners.

Colombo said the Kentucky caravan to help the tornado victims is on its way. Colombo said the donations should arrive tomorrow.

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At this point, Perry announced that Council will now appoint the Council President and Vice President for the year 2022.

**Resolution 2022-1** Appointment of President of Council

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Sacco.

**On the Question:**

Colombo nominated James Perry for President. Sacco seconded the motion.

**Roll Call:** Colombo-yes; Mundie-absent; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2022-2** Appointment of Vice President of Council

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Colombo nominated Lauren Sacco. Perry seconded the nomination.

**Roll Call:** Colombo-yes; Mundie-absent; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Old Business:**

**ORDINANCES**

None.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

None.

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**New Business:**

**ORDINANCES**

None.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 2022-3**

Council Meeting Schedule for 2022

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Sacco.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said the previous resolution will be rescinded due to a few changes in meeting dates. He said this resolution will replace it. He said there are some months where there should be two meetings, especially in the summer months, and there were special meetings done. He said if there is no second meeting needed, city council will cancel them. Atty. Logsdon said due to his schedule, Mayor Cusat's and the Administration Departments schedules, he stated they moved the first meetings, of the month, from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. He said the second Tuesday and fourth Tuesdays will always be their meeting dates, if okay with council. He said for the year-end "shuffle, in terms of passing the budget and leaving room for any vetoes, the schedule from December 6<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> will work. He stated on November 8<sup>th</sup>, city council will be presented, with the budget, at a WORK SESSION meeting format. Atty. Logsdon said November 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the first reading of the budget and December 6<sup>th</sup> will be council's second reading of the budget. He said they could still have the meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>, and if not needed, they could cancel. Perry said one amendment will be to change the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to December 20<sup>th</sup>. Atty. Logsdon agreed.

Atty. Logsdon said they mostly enjoy the 6:00 p.m. meeting time, but in January, February, March and April, the meetings were scheduled for 7:00 p.m. for Jack. He said without Mundie here, he does not know if they want to start all meetings at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Cusat said if they leave the meetings, at 6:00 p.m., they could always start the meeting late. He said they cannot go the "other way". Perry agreed. He said council will then vote on the resolution "as written".

Atty. Logsdon said he, also, added a January 11, 2022 meeting. He stated they originally said they do not need a meeting in January, but they need to get at least one item on this meeting date. Perry agreed.

**Roll Call:** Colombo-yes; Mundie-absent; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

### **RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Comments from the Audience:** None.

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**Comments from Mayor Cusat:** Mayor Cusat welcomed Ondishin to the team. He said administration has a “fun-filled” agenda, for 2022, “ready to go”.

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Ondishin said he has been in the City a long time and has seen a lot of things moving forward. He said he is glad to be part of this and hopes he will help.

Sacco thanked Colombo for the nomination of vice-president.

Colombo welcomed Ondishin “on board” with council.

Perry said Ondishin has been on the Planning Commission. He said they are all here for the same reason, and care about the City. He said they look forward to some great things happening.

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**Benediction:** The Benediction was given by Reverend Mariusz Beczek.

Almighty and ever living GOD we commend to you these council members. May they be guided in the exercise of their duties and preserved in unity as they serve the City of Hazleton. Reverend Beczek gave the blessing of GOD. AMEN.

**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the Inauguration meeting at 10:28 a.m. Meeting adjourned.