

Public Notice  
Hazleton City Council Meeting  
July 15th, 2015

Hazleton City Council meeting held at the City Hall called to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:00 PM by Mayor VandeVorde. Council members present: Duffy, Ekstrand, Hayzlett & Miller. Also present: City Clerk Baych, Public Works Loomis. City Attorney Stevens. Mayor VandeVorde asked the council to amend the agenda to adjourn the meeting at City Hall and move it to the Legion Hall because council chambers could not accommodate all the citizens who want to participate in the meeting. Duffy/Ekstrand moved to amend the agenda and move the meeting to the legion and place signs on door noting the location change of the meeting. Roll Call, All Ayes, motion carried. Duffy/Ekstrand moved to approve the amended agenda, Roll Call, All Ayes, motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 to move to the legion. The City Council resumed the meeting at 7:08. Miller/Duffy moved to approve the consent agenda: a) May 20th, 2015 minutes b) Clerk Report c) Disbursements. Roll Call, All Ayes, Motion approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Increase Water & Sewer rates. Miller/Duffy moved to open the public hearing at 7:10, Roll Call All Ayes, motion approved. Randy Blume asked the nature of the increase. Mayor VandeVorde explained the ordinance states water and sewer rates will be raised yearly according to the consumer price index. Gene Seiffert questioned local option sales tax. City clerk Baych explained the increase in water & sewer rate is not related to local option sales tax but the increase is determined by the Consumer Price Index. Miller/Duffy moved to close the public hearing at 7:20. Miller/Duffy moved to approve Resolution 15-18/Increase water & Sewer Rates by .4% Roll Call All Ayes, motion approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Stevens instructed the crowd that this was the time they could voice their comments, not to ask questions of the council. Gene Loomis asked the clerk why she had put his name on the agenda when he had handed in a statement saying concerned citizens request this. Clerk stated because it was delivered by you Mr. Loomis. Gene asked the room to stand or say "Aye" if they felt Mike Loomis deserved a pay increase. An unknown number of people said "Aye", and for anyone who didn't think he deserved one too please state the reason why. Bonnie Carson stated if you're not happy with your job, move on. Gene Loomis informed the council he had a petition signed by 118 residents for an audit. The mayor and attorney accepted the petition. Gene Seiffert wanted to know why no one was discussing anything. Melissa Potts stated no one should get a raise because our town smells like dead chickens. Dan Sheldon stated he felt his family had been bullied by past city officials and stated his family doesn't have this with the current administration, only certain people in town. He felt Mike Loomis is a good person hard worker and deserves a raise. Joy Sheldon stated Mike deserves a raise. Harry Hermanson asked if this would be the appropriate time to discuss the placement of the lift station generator. He asked the crowd if they would want a huge generator in their front yard. He and his wife Cheryl offered to give the city the adjacent lot to place the generator on. Hazel Kout stated she's a member of the community gardens. Thanked the mayor and fire chief for assisting with the watering of the garden and the council for allowing it. Randy Blume asked about an inspector for his housing project. The city clerk will get back to him with that information. Rhonda McAllister informed the council on the work that is being done with United Neighbors. Joy Sheldon appreciates the help the United Neighbors provides. Darrell Hayzlett commented on bullying and the letter that was written to the editor. Stated he has had confrontation with the public works director. The public works director stated he has never jumped down his back. Hayzlett stated he was not going to argue with him. Pat Arthaud thanked the council and mayor for allowing the many organizations in town and those working toward the wellbeing of the community for being a united front with them. The mayor thanked the public for their input during public comment.

**BUCHANAN COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT:** Record of performance for the City of Hazleton 97.88 hours with 89 records. Report on file.

**HAZLETON FIRE STATION:** Dettbarn informed council on the final draft of the cadet program. Duffy/Ekstrand moved to approve the parental consent form for the cadet program. Roll Call, All Ayes, motion approved. Miller/Duffy moved to approve workman's compensation on the cadets. Roll Call, All Ayes, motion carried.

AMENT ENGINEERING: Mike Dryden informed council the surveying had been completed for the generator placement.

PUBLIC WORKS: Loomis informed council that Maguire Iron cleaned the water tower. All the required samplings have been taken. Overhead door had been in to survey the garage doors and provided a quote. A service line at a residents home had ruptured and been fixed however it had ruptured again. The city clerk informed council the home owner had been in and she read the ordinance regarding service lines. Miller/Duffy moved to instruct the city clerk to send a letter to the home owner requesting the service line be repaired. Roll Call, All Ayes, motion approved. The City received bids from Bartlett Electric Motor Rebuilder for a 30 KW generator for \$20,132.00, GCS Electrical Services for a 40KW generator for \$31,550 and two (2) bids from Iowa Generators for a 22KW for \$15,019.11 and a 27KW for 16,684.89 KW generators. The home owner Harry Hermansen offered to give the city property to place the generator. Miller motioned to table until further investigation could be done on the location. The council decided to choose a generator knowing that additional cost may incur with where the generator will be placed. Miller withdrew her motion to table. Duffy/Miller moved to approve the bid from Iowa Generators for \$16,684.89 generator only, Roll Call, All Ayes, motion carried. Loomis asked about the two trees in the right of way on Hayes Street and when they would be taken down. Duffy informed him that the city would receive their proof of insurance prior to any work. Miller asked Mike about the fence around the basketball court. Mayor VandeVorde said that needs to get started on. Stevens asked the council what their desire is to deed the property for the generator. Mike Dryden thought it would be better to get an easement to the property. Loomis, Dryden and Hermanson will work on the easement.

CITY CLERK: Baych informed council the Public Works phone is not working correctly. Verizon can ship a new phone at no charge but would be a year contract. Miller suggested using the phone that was turned in by mayor, if that phone doesn't work to purchase the new phone. Baych said Randy Ciesielski had been working on current building permits and will be an asset to town. Clerk informed council she talked with Brian Keileiber and Ellen Gaffney on the bridge. They are waiting on parts and thought the bridge would open the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August. She attended a safety meeting and an Upper Wapsi Watershed meeting. The City has received a petition for a special election. She received 2 complaints on water building up in front of the City Park shelter and informed council. She answered a questioner that was given to her on her compensation hours while filling in as city custodian. Duffy was in to review city financials. She reminded the council that City Hall would be closed July 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> due to her attending the clerk academy. Signage would be place on door with emergency contacts. The clerk and Bill Gerstenberger are working on the web and Facebook pages. She asked for suggestions on city slogan. A link can be provided to the council to review before going live. Miller will be in to review July financials.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION: Donna Walker informed council on her concerns regarding the trees in the right of way on her property. Mayor VandeVorde asked if anyone would like to take the assignment on getting the estimate on removing trees. Hayzlett volunteered to get bids. Duffy/Miller moved to have Hayzlett obtain quotes on removing trees and stumps in the right of way on Walkers property. All Ayes, motion carried. Duffy/Ekstrand moved to accept council member Dan Gerstenbergers letter of resignation, Roll Call, All Ayes, motion approved. Council discussed the options of filling the current vacancy created by Gerstenbergers resignation. Miller recommended skipping the appointment and going directly to a special election. Duffy agreed. Miller/Duffy moved to approve Resolution 15-19/Special election to fill Albert's seat that Hayzlett holds by appointment that expires 12/31/15 and Gerstenberger's seat that expires 12/31/17. Roll Call All Ayes, motion carried. Attorney Stevens asked Loomis if he wanted to go into closed session and he replied no. Duffy asked Loomis if he had ever used city vehicles or equipment for personal use and Loomis said never. Duffy then asked if he had ever smoked in the city truck and Lommis responded yes until the policy was changed. Mayor VandeVorde

informed council and the public he had nothing to do with what happened at the June meeting regarding Mike's raise. He informed everyone that Mike had stopped by his home shortly after he was elected mayor because Mike was worried about his job because I was mayor. He informed Mike he does not have it in for him or anyone. Mike is the expert on his job. Mayor VandeVorde stated he versed no one on Mike's raise and has never said he does a bad job. Mayor VandeVorde informed everyone on the debate that had taken place with the Public Works and the County Engineer on the bridge project and that the county almost backed out of working with the City on that project, this could of cost the city a lot of money. Several residents started talking and the city attorney stated the mayor has been very kind allowing them to speak but the bridge is not the issue. Council member Miller stated she had reviewed Mike's evaluation and it was a good evaluation and that is why she motioned for the raise. Miller stated she won't listen to hearsay. Duffy stated he did not look at the evaluation and has never said Mike has done a bad job. He has had some issues on how Mike dealt with a situation with his spouse. Mike said that is all hearsay. Ekstrand told the council she had received negative phone calls about the Public Works Director and that is why she did not second the motion. She did state that she received a positive compliment today. Hayzlett said he received negative comments also. Miller/Duffy moved to put Public Works Director pay increase on next month's agenda and that all council members review the evaluation. Roll Call, All Ayes, motion carried. Loomis asked the mayor if the raise is going to be based on the cost of living, merit or personal beliefs. Miller and Duffy said merit.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: Carter informed council and public he has been Hazleton's city attorney for over twenty years and Hazleton is one of his favorite cities. He felt the discussion tonight was productive and it's how democracy works.

MAYOR REPORT: Mayor VandeVorde congratulated Gene Loomis on his honor flight. A Reap meeting is scheduled at Fontana August 6th. United Neighbors has projects coming up. The Skate Park is fundraising. He thanks all council members for their openness and employee's for their work.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT: Bonnie Carson commented that she has worked at several places over the years some places with 2 in an office and some with 50 in an office and not everyone has received a raise at the same time and she doesn't understand what the big deal is. It doesn't mean anything and doesn't understand what the big stink is all about. Molly Thompson asked Rhonda McAllister about giving a donation to the United Neighbors. A comment was made about what the plans for the old fire station are. Mayor VandeVorde stated he has received calls on it and it will be addressed soon. Dan Sheldon commented on the great job that Mike does. The job is 24/7; it is too much for one person. Melissa Potts asked about the dead chickens. She asked the council to adopt a clean air resolution with them (hatchery) and some type of generator and work with the DNR to resolve this problem. VandeVorde stated he has turned it over to the state inspector who is in charge of hatcheries. Joy Sheldon stated Liz stepped up tonight and is disappointed in council members she won't name. Mike has worked hard and doesn't have time to be friends with everybody. Randy Blume asked if employee salaries were public record.

ADJOURN: Miller/Ekstrand moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. All Ayes

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Lisa Baych/City Clerk

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Gerald VandeVorde/Mayor