

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 27, 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 February 13, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: —

1. Smart Watt Street Lighting Improvement Project Presentation- Mitch Tombs, Account Executive of Smart Watt, gave a presentation on a lighting project Smart Watt has been working on, with the City of Hazleton, for the past 4-5 years. Mr. Tombs stated, "it is a good time to step back and explain how the City and Smart Watt got here." Mr. Tombs handed out a slide deck detailing the street lighting project.

Mr. Tombs said Smart Watt is an energy services company. He stated Smart Watt's focus is working directly with customers as partners to turn key energy efficiency projects. He said Smart Watt's focus is auditing, designing, and implementing the products for the customer. Smart Watt designs what the customer wants. He stated the City of Hazleton requested improved street lighting, LED street lights for savings and security within the City. Smart Watt has 300+ employees across the country with 14 offices in the United States. He said Smart Watt is a smaller, privately-held company which gives flexibility for what can be included in projects. He said Smart Watt can be flexible for what can fit in the job to make sure it meets the customer's needs. He stated Smart Watt is a Department of Energy (DOE) qualified energy service performance contractor, "Super ESCO". Mr. Tombs said it shows Smart Watt's ability to meet requirements on a federal level and the experience Smart Watt "brings to the table", working with the City of Hazleton. Mr. Tombs said Smart Watt is a local company located in Throop, PA. He said Smart Watt has been operating in the greater Scranton area the past 7 years. He said he has employees involved on this project from the beginning and will be here for any future project, if this would move forward.

Mr. Tombs stated Smart Watt has offices surrounding the Hazleton area. He said Smart Watt is well-positioned to deliver this project. He said these offices will be involved with the implementation as well as the warranty on the back-end.

Project Structure- Smart Watt is proposing for the project to be a guaranteed energy savings act project. Mr. Tombs stated it will be paid by utilizing energy savings to pay for the cost of the job. It generates positive cash flow each year for the term of the job. He said there is no out-of-pocket cost to the customer and no capital needed. He said the savings is guaranteed by Smart Watt and required, by law, to pay for the cost of the job. He said it does not affect the tax base or debt

limit. He said this job would be financed through a municipal lease. It is not a loan, but ultimately a lease where the lighting system and fixtures are used as assets to secure the lease. Mr. Tombs said it will not affect the City's ability to borrow in the future, and use the savings to pay this back over the term of the project. He stated it is a streamlined approach to turn keying a project. It allows the City to get the upgrades they need and plan for.

Mr. Tombs said the City of Hazleton is, currently, paying \$120,000 directly for utility cost for the street lighting system that is in place. He said Smart Watt is proposing to install a project where the savings, about \$76,000, pays for the cost of the job and generates positive cash from year one. He said after the term is paid off, in ten years, the positive cash would be used by the City of Hazleton for how they "see fit". He said it is effective because municipalities, across the country, do not have the ability to have capital to invest in the infrastructure upgrades. He stated the savings allows the City to do this without taking money, from elsewhere, and apply it to a project like this.

Scott Clark, Professional Engineer and Project Director for Smart Watt, stated Smart Watt looks at existing utility spending. He said the savings is what will fund the project. He said Smart Watt started with twelve months of utility bills for the City's unmetered street lighting system. He said the majority of street lights, in the City, are based on a calculation through PP&L. He stated PP&L does "all the math" on the wattage to determine energy costs. He said the City, currently, is billed for 1,750 lighting fixtures and burns 4,300 hours/year. Mr. Clark stated the tariff is SE for energy only since the City owns their lights. He said the tariff is broken down to poles that are owned by PP&L or poles owned by the customer. Mr. Clark said there is a slightly different rate between these two options. He said distribution cost is what PP&L charges, and supply is currently through Constellation for the City when the contract is negotiated every few years. The City of Hazleton spends about \$120,000/year for unmetered street lights. He stated the distribution costs are what are negotiated by the tariff.

Mr. Clark stated Smart Watt is looking to replace 1,279 cobra-head fixtures with new LED fixtures, 82 post-top fixtures which are mostly in the residential neighborhoods which are "spaceship" shaped and also called contemporary or acorn lights, 42 shoebox fixtures which are rectangular- shaped, and relocate 151 existing LED fixtures. He stated the City has already made good investments with new LED lights. Smart Watt is looking to re-use the LED lights since this investment has been made. These LED lights will be "pulled down" from certain locations and be reinstalled in select lighting corridors. Mr. Clark said there are 55 lights that can be re-used. These fixtures will be re-visited, optics cleaned off, and verify that there is an output that can match the other fixtures.

He spoke of the GIS mapping of the City of Hazleton which Smart Watt is working from that show all unmetered street lights. He stated Smart Watt's field audit team has been out based on the inventory provided by PP&L. He stated Smart Watt is visiting all the lights to verify locations and wattages. Mr. Clark said this will be used when the project would be implemented. He stated Smart Watt can track when the light has been changed and what the new wattage is. He said Smart Watt can report this, to PP&L, on a bi-weekly basis. He said as soon as the project is started, the City would start to see energy savings in their next bill. He said this would allow real-time updates as far as progress for conversion. Mr. Clark said at the completion of the project, this information will be turned over to the City. He said there will be an electronic record of every

street light, wattage, current fixture, and exact pole number in case there is an issue with PP&L. He said this would help record keeping, maintenance, and tracking.

Mr. Clark said certain LED lighting fixtures will be to consolidate lights to a couple of streets and playgrounds. He said this was requested for increased lighting for safety and security. He said this will also help with maintenance of the fixtures. Mr. Clark stated all the existing fixtures should be consolidated to these areas. He said the remainder of the City will need replacement fixtures from Smart Watt.

Mr. Tombs said the total project cost for materials, labor, audit, and design is \$863,697. He said the City of Hazleton has secured an LSA grant for \$200,000. He said the purpose of this grant is for materials and labor to upgrade the cost of the street lighting. He said Smart Watt would apply this grant to bring down the cost for the City to \$663,697. He said year one utility savings would be \$76,000. Mr. Tombs said this is "pure" bill energy savings. He said there is no maintenance savings. He said it is straight wattage reduction. The proposed interest rate is 4.2%. He said Smart Watt has worked with their finance partners to secure this rate. Mr. Tombs said this would be a ten-year term. He said, over a twenty-year term, the City would net over \$1,000,000. He reviewed the 20-year cash flow study. He said Smart Watt is claiming no savings under material costs. He said, currently, the City is paying for materials by using City employees.

Mr. Tombs said, in 2013, the City ran an RFP following GESA law and procurement to solicit energy service companies to respond. He said Smart Watt was, ultimately, selected by the City of Hazleton by a passed resolution in May, 2014. He said following the past resolution, Smart Watt has been working with the City with designing and performing an investment grade audit since 2015. He said over the past four years there have been some changes; technology has changed and grant funding has been beneficial to the City. He said assuming the City moves forward with the project, construction would begin in Quarter 2, 2019. He said this would start at the end of April, beginning of May, 2019. He said the project would be completed by the summer of 2019, Quarter 3, 2019.

Perry asked Mr. Tombs which local municipalities Smart Watt has worked with. Mr. Tombs said Smart Watt has done a GESA project for the City of Harrisburg in 2018. He said they have done work for the Housing Authority in the City of Wilkes-Barre. He said they have done work in Lancaster and Exeter, PA.

Mope asked what the life expectancy of an LED light is and the guaranteed terms. Mr. Tombs said there is a ten-year warranty. He said, at this time, the project would be fully paid off. He said the fixtures would last over 100,000 hours. He said this is an average rating. He said this would last for, an average, 20 years. Mope asked with technology changes and better products on the market if the City would be able to upgrade their street lights. Mr. Tombs said the City has the option to upgrade with the City having positive cash flow. He said if it is within ten years, he recommends the City utilizing the fixtures that are in place. Mr. Tombs said LED technology has been around for five to ten years. He said "everything" is going to LED. He said the LED lights are better in terms of output. Mope said technology changes fast. She said she is concerned if the City would commit to a ten-year term and then this would be obsolete. He said the LED's are the main lights that are, currently, being manufactured. Mope asked if the City would get immediate service or be placed on a list when a street light is reported "out". Mr. Tombs stated it depends on the situation and the issue. Mr. Tombs said they normally respond within 24 hours.

He said he realizes the City has their own "in-house" staff for maintenance. He said Smart Watt will provide the City with lighting inventory. He stated if the fixture is "out", the City would have this light replacement provided to them. He said then the City would not have to wait for this light to be replaced. Smart Watt offers a one-year full workmanship warranty. He said if anything does not operate, as it should, for the first full year, Smart Watt will come out to replace the light, free of charge.

Perry asked if the lighting will be brighter and cover a greater area. He asked if the City would need as many lights if they are brighter. Mr. Clark stated Smart Watt has done photo metrics. He said they have reviewed trouble spots within the City and have taken samplings of the fixture types. He said they have also taken light level readings to get the best LED output. He said the LED light tends to be a little brighter. He said there is energy savings in LED lights. He said LED lights are very directional. He said, on narrow streets, the lights would be horizontal. He said, on larger streets, the direction would be more rounded.

Mope asked if Smart Watt uses a certain company for light heads. Mr. Clark said Smart Watt works with American Electric owned by Acuity Holophane. He said they are one of the largest lighting manufacturers within the United States. He stated they use only Tier 1 fixtures.

Mope said the City of Hazleton has had some problems with a company named MEM a few years ago. She asked how long Smart Watt has been working. Mr. Clark said Smart Watt was established in 2002. He said they have been a lighting company and performance contracting for the last six years for municipal customers. He said they have also done lighting roll outs for national customers, i.e.- FedEx.

Gavio asked who Smart Watt deals with in terms of financing. Mr. Clark said they work with a broker. He said this information will be provided, to the City, when the time comes. He stated Smart Watt does not do any financing.

Perry asked if 4.2% is a standard rate. Mr. Clark said it depends on credit and what the current rates are with the U.S. Treasury. Mr. Clark the rate would be secured at closing. He said the benefit for the City is that the City of Hazleton owns their own street lights. He said, because of this, the agreement could go through in weeks, rather than take a few months. Perry said Pennsylvania Economy League (PEL) would also need to review this proposal.

2. Opioid Epidemic Update- Greg Griffin. Mr. Griffin thanked Mayor Cusat, city council and citizens for inviting the opioid committee back to speak at the city council meeting. Mr. Griffin stated, in 2017, there were 156 deaths in Luzerne County. In 2018, 169 deaths from drug overdoses and most were supplied by drug dealers. He said Luzerne County is ranked sixth in drug deaths in Pennsylvania. He said there are four record years of drug deaths. He said 5,000 people have died, in 2018, in Pennsylvania, from drug overdoses. Mr. Griffin said it increases every year.

Mr. Griffin said since his last presentation, he has written letters to Federal U.S. Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, Pennsylvania State Attorney General Josh Shapiro, Congressman Dan Meuser, Citizens Voice newspaper, Times Leader newspaper, and WILK radio. Mr. Griffin and the opioid committee have personally visited the offices of State Senator Lisa Baker, State Representative Karen Boback, State Representative Aaron Kaufer, and U.S. Senator Pat

Toomey. The committee had a 1 ½ hour meeting with Robert Casey's staff in Scranton. Mr. Griffin said two mothers who lost their sons and daughter, along with Wilkes-Barre council member Tony Brooks, attended the meeting. Mr. Griffin said his committee speaks, every two weeks, before Luzerne City Council and Wilkes-Barre County Council in an effort that local government will respond to the opioid crisis. He said, "if we do not join together now, many more will die and our community's will continue to degrade". Mr. Griffin spoke of Operation Synthetic Opioid Surge (SOS). He said this was a Justice Department decree which the U.S. Attorney General, in July, had made. He sent ten DEA Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force officers out into the ten counties across America. These ten task forces are in communities, right now, with highly trained agents. Mr. Griffin stated Luzerne County did not receive a task force. He stated Pennsylvania got one task force (in Washington county). Mr. Griffin said half of the ten counties having a task force had half of the drug deaths that Luzerne County has had. Mr. Griffin said we need a task force, in Luzerne County, immediately. He commended Police Chief Jerry Speziale for all his work in fighting the drug problem in the City of Hazleton. He said the Attorney General has sent no help.

Mr. Griffin stated Mayor Cusat, courageously, had to declare a distressed city status. He said Mayor Cusat is a truthful leader. Mr. Griffin said he, recently, met with Deputy State Attorney General Steve Risotto and Chief Drug Investigator John Soprano. Mr. Griffin asked for immediate, additional support for the City of Hazleton. Mr. Griffin said they said to "standby, in two weeks they want the mothers and fathers, who lost their children, to meet with the Attorney General." Mr. Griffin said, recently, District Attorney Stephanie Salavantis, stated at a public hearing that, "Hazleton is the source city, in Luzerne County, for the drugs coming into Wyoming Valley." Mr. Griffin said it maybe true, but feels Hazleton got "smeared". He said the dying will continue and will become almost "unbearable".

Mr. Griffin spoke of a recent drug overdose of a father of six from Hanover Township. He stated, "what do we tell these kids?" Mr. Griffin said his committee has briefed Senator Toomey and Casey on this matter. He said they need to hear from Hazleton City Council and the residents. He stated Frank Maza, Chief Legislative Affairs Officer, is working to get a #11 task force for Hazleton. Mr. Griffin said everyone on the opioid committee has lost a family member. He said Hazleton would be a great place to start.

Mr. Griffin said Wilkes-Barre council and Luzerne County council members are "coming around". He said there needs to be telephone calls made to Senator Toomey's office.

Bid Opening: None.

Mr. Gavio stated city council members, prior to the city council meeting, held an executive session on litigation.

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of the Smart Watt light proposal. She stated she wrote the original grant and requested \$250,000 to cover half of the lights needed. She said the City received \$200,000. Deakos said administration mentioned \$76,000 in savings in 2016. She stated with 1/3 of the lights, there would be a savings of \$25,000. Deakos said 2017 and 2018 has passed. She said there could have been, a minimum, of two years of savings for \$50,000. She said when she applied for the grant, she spoke with Representative Toohill. She stated Tarah Toohill said, "the City could go for the first year and when this is done, then you can apply for the second LSA grant". Deakos said the first year was never done.

She said there could have been savings in the past few years. She said Smart Watt stated there would be 1,750 lights that the City would paid for. She said when she calculated the total lights, it is only 1,403 lights. Deakos asked if the remaining lights are fine. She said the City could do this work with their own employees. She said the financing would affect the City's debt. Deakos said the City is using a "cherry-picker" to put up banners and Christmas lights. She said this is not "good use" of City personnel. She said this is an election year which will make Mayor Cusat "look good" with the new street lights. She said the grant needs to be used for what it was originally requested for. Deakos said the City needs to take care of things themselves.

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of Resolution 2019-14- Authorizing Settlement and Execution of Settlement Related Documents. He asked what the total amount of the settlement and attorney fees are. Gavio said city council cannot comment on current litigation. Atty. Sean Logsdon agreed. Atty. Logsdon advised Rabo that he can contact him after the meeting for any comment on the settlement. Atty. Logsdon said city council will not comment on this. He also advised Rabo that he can request this information in a Right-To-Know request.

Rabo spoke Resolution 2019-15- Resolution to Approve Purchase of Three 29-foot Gillig buses, ADA Accessible CNG van, and Facility upgrades for Hazleton Public Transit. Rabo said he is in support of this resolution, but, there is a problem. He said, recently, PENN DOT Secretary Leslie Richards spoke of funding for transportation and the "Turnpike situation" in regards to a lawsuit by the Truckers Association. He said if the litigation "goes negative", there would be significant cuts to the Shared Ride Program which affects the City of Hazleton. He stated Ralph Sharp, Hazleton Public Transit Director, would need this allocation in the summertime for matching funds from the county.

He also spoke of Resolution 2019-17- Resolution Approving Agreement with General Code for the Recodification of the Hazleton City Code of Ordinances. Rabo asked how long this process will take. He asked if this should have gone out for an RFP or bid to get a better rate for the City. He said the current City Code is based from the year 1992. He said this would be "a waste of money".

Grace Cuzzo, 948 James Street, Hazleton, said she is at a total "loss" from the statement made by Atty. Logsdon in regards to Resolution 2019-14. Cuzzo stated this is a public meeting and this is a public entity. She said this is public information, and does not need to send out a Right-To-Know request. She said if the City moves to pay money, in a settlement, this is public information. She wants to know what the legal bills are in this litigation. She said if anyone votes for this without presenting this to the public, they are all wrong.

Kent Lazor, Downingtown, PA, said he read an article, in the newspaper, about a lighting project. He stated he needs to "help the citizens of Hazleton". Lazor said he has been "doing" lighting for thirty years. He said there are a lot of standards that have changed, in the lighting industry, from 2014. He stated from 2014 to 2019, the prices have come down and technology has improved drastically. He said he had done several lighting projects, in Pennsylvania, and deals with different lighting manufacturers, engineers, and with PENN DOT. He said there are new color temperatures and glare standards. He said there are light level calculations that need to be followed. He stated PENN DOT has new recommendations for LED lighting in city neighborhoods. Lazor stated the pricing has also "come down". Lazor said regarding lighting fixtures, there are warranty and testing reports on the fixtures. He said the TM-21 report shows the life-expectancy and performance of a certain fixture. He said the TM-21 report sets standards. He also asked what will be used for glare; discreet or COB chips. He said the COB chip is "glary" and distracting. He said discreet chips are considered individual chips. Lazor said PENN DOT will not accept COB chips. Lazor said the City needs to check when reusing lighting fixtures.

Lazor asked what the total cost of the lighting project would be proposed by Smart Watt. Perry stated \$863,697. He also asked how many fixtures will be replaced. Perry stated 1,750 fixtures. Lazor said the cost, per fixture, would be \$493.00/per fixture. He stated LED fixture pricing has come down drastically. Lazor stated the prices should be less than what is quoted by Smart Watt.

Lazor stated the City of Newark, Delaware, revisited the cost of their street lighting project. He stated they were able to replace all their fixtures with the recent cost reduction, from 40% of their fixtures to 100% fixtures.

Lazor suggested the City seek other proposals, advertise for RFP's, or the City can do their own work.

Tom Mengoni, 982 East Chestnut Street, Hazleton, thanked Mayor Cusat for "going in the right direction". He said the City needs this. Mengoni said there are, currently, two bids for the street lighting project. He said the City needs 4-5 more bids. Mengoni challenged each person to do this. He said Mayor Cusat can "come up" with one with other city council members. Mengoni suggested talking with Pennsylvania Power & Light. He said this is something that, "needs to be done now". He said city council and administration represent the citizens of the City. He said this would save each individual taxpayer some money. He suggested city council and administration "get together" to get the best product for the money. He said it does not have to be the lowest bid, but the best bid that works for the City of Hazleton.

Mope stated city council received a grant, in 2016, and this grant has been "sat on" since then. She agrees with Mengoni 100%. She said the City needs new lighting to help stop and eliminate the criminals that are out at night.

Gregg Pavlick, Barry Isett & Associate employee and a resident of Hazle Township, said he has been involved in this process, with the first group, in looking at the grant and how to spend the grant money. Pavlick wanted to clarify some of the items that were referenced under the last presentation. He said the actual numbers, in this current package, are actual, recent numbers, and not from the 2014 bid. He said they were updated, recently, in coordination with the bids that were put on the street for this project. Pavlick said these numbers are real. He said there can be a better breakdown to be provided. Pavlick said he has been involved in GESA projects, not just for municipalities, but for school districts. He stated there have been times when the money is just "sitting out there". He said there are savings to be realized. Pavlick said if the City would go back on this GESA project, there is a large time frame associated with doing this. He said there were a lot of different ways investigated on how to do this project. Pavlick said this was bid out "at one point".

Pavlick said there were a lot of things that "went on" in this project that would be positive for the City, as a whole. He said he and administration wanted to present this, and give city council some time to decide on this proposal. He suggested city council "look into this" before voting.

Old Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-1

An Ordinance Authorizing the Vacation of the Remaining Portion of "C" Court, North of Berner Avenue, South of Carleton Avenue, East of Mill

Street, and West of East Street, having a Width of
Approximately 30 Linear Feet in the City of
Hazleton (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Gavio.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2019-1

An Ordinance Authorizing the Vacation of the
Remaining Portion of "C" Court, North of Berner
Avenue, South of Carleton Avenue, East of Mill
Street, and West of East Street, having a Width of
Approximately 30 Linear Feet in the City of
Hazleton (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Gavio.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-14 Authorizing Settlement and Execution of Settlement Related Documents

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Gavio.

On the Question:

Mope stated there was discussion, at the podium, on the current litigation. She asked Atty. Sean Logsdon where “this stands”. Mope asked, “what section of the law did he quote”. Atty. Logsdon said he and city council met in executive session to discuss litigation. He said there will be no comment on this matter. He said there will be no comment, on litigation, in public. Atty. Logsdon stated the information that is public will be released, if requested. Mayor Cusat said it is on-going litigation until it is settled. He said, “after he signs it, it is settled.”

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2019-15 Approve Purchase of Three 29- foot Gillig Buses, ADA accessible CNG Van, and Facility upgrades for Hazleton Public Transit

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Gavio.

On the Question:

Ralph Sharp, Hazleton Public Transit Director, said Hazleton does not participate in the Shared Ride Program. He said the City of Hazleton does paratransit services. Sharp stated there are two different criteria’s for each service. He said for the Shared Ride Service, the resident needs to be 65 years old. He said for the paratransit service, there is a detailed application that needs to be filled out by a doctor. He said the Shared Ride Service is free where the paratransit service has a fee depending on the distance of the bus ride. Sharp said it then comes back to Hazleton Transit for approval. He stated the City does not participate in the Shared Ride Program.

Sharp said he has received his split letter, from PENN DOT, for year 2019 & 2020 upgrading grant which is received yearly. He said the amount has remained the same at \$2,041,000. He said every agency is staying at the same dollar amount, from 2018, due to the “Turnpike situation”. Sharp said two years ago, several agencies (7-8) had their funding “cut”.

Mope asked if the City has the financing for these purchases. Sharp said the City has applied for a federal grant called a Governor’s Apportionment. He said the state gets the funds, and decides how much each agency will receive. He said this is then turned over to FTA, and the FTA will disburse the funds to the agencies.

Sharp stated the City of Hazleton has received \$970,000 in federal funding. He said, from the bus purchases in 2018, there was a remainder of \$15,000 and rolled this amount into this grant. He said the 1514 funds is the state discretionary funds, and applied for a Consolidated Capital Application grant (CCA). Sharp said the City was approved for the balance of \$824,685. He said the local match is \$27,611. He said this amount is what is received from Luzerne County each year.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2019-17

Resolution Approving Agreement with General Code for the Recodification of the Hazleton City Code of Ordinances

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry stated this is part of an ACT 47 grant. Gavio stated the proposal is under the grant amount.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Audience: Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said there is one clarification on the transit situation. He stated Secretary Richards said the Shared Ride Program and residents with disabilities who use transportation would be the first ones “cut” if the Turnpike litigation would be ruled against the county.

Rabo said he was troubled on a recent Wilkes-Barre newspaper article. He spoke of a proposed State Police fee for townships that use their police coverage. He said the City of Hazleton and Hazle Township were mentioned in this article. He spoke of a recent city council meeting where township supervisors were “heckling” city council members about the amount of coverage by the City and how they use their own coverage. Rabo stated one state representative, Tarah Toohill, is against the fee because, “no one wants to levee a fee on senior citizens who are dealing with an already fixed income and constantly rising local property taxes. Now, on top of everything, citizens are grappling with a new imposition of a storm water fee. Hazle Township is one of my municipalities that would be impacted by this proposed fee. We need to take a hard look at the large amount of police pension debt that deters municipalities from regionalizing.” Rabo said the City of Hazleton is being imposed the same storm water fee, and has local police coverage. Rabo said Freeland, West Hazleton borough, and Butler Township have their own local police Departments. He said Sugarloaf Township also has their own, and this is where Tarah Toohill lives.

Rabo stated the City pays for their own police force. He wants to know what Toohill's proposal is. He is asking city council and Mayor Cusat to go to Tarah Toohill for reimbursement from the gas tax to pay for the police departments officers or for overtime.

Dan Lynch, city administrator, said any questions regarding the street lighting project can be answered by City administration to help make the best decision possible.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat said when this RFP was originally "put out", there were multiple companies that came in that gave presentations. He said Smart Watt was, ultimately, chosen as the company to move forward with this project. He said DPW has changed out approximately 250 LED fixtures in the past few years. He said the City has seen zero savings on them because of the light fixture used. Mayor Cusat stated the fixtures that were purchased and installed by DPW are adjustable heads, and have not seen any savings from this. He said, today, he has met with the "grant people". Mayor Cusat stated the grant expires on June 30th, 2019. He said the grant cannot be utilized to pay anything towards a governmental employee salary. He said the savings, not mentioned in this project, are the approximately 1,200 man hours that are spent, each year, on street lights, and the cost of the fixtures that are purchased. He said the re-audit of the light fixtures was completed about four to six weeks ago. He said none of this information is old. Mayor Cusat said it is all "redone", and up-to-date, including the fixtures and the pricing.

Comments from Council: Perry thanked the Hazleton's Street Department for doing a "great job" in the recent snow storm. He also commended the Hazleton Fire Department for always "being there". He also commended the Hazleton Police Department and Police Chief Jerry Speziale for a great job and his twenty-first century policing policies, cop grants, and rewriting policy in lethal force to reduce insurance. He said he is bridging the barrier between the police and the Hispanic community which "is amazing."

Colombo also commended all three City departments. He said the Street Department is "out" patching holes on the streets. Colombo said there are numerous potholes to be filled. He commended the police and fire departments for their "outstanding" work.

Mope said she was on city council when the grant was applied for. She said it was written, by Deakos, with the city workers doing the installation. She agrees that the money, from the grant, cannot be used to pay the City employee salaries. She said the City is paying them "anyhow", and as Deakos had calculated, it will not take long to put in light heads. Mope said city council heard many presentations on the street lighting replacement project. She said she does not remember city council deciding on one company to do the work. Mope said it sat "idle". She said the street workers were doing the installation of the lights. She said the initial grant (\$200,000) was for the purchase. Mope said she doesn't mind using the \$200,000, totally, to buy lights. She said this was "sat on" since 2016. Mope said there could have been more presentations. She said this was the third presentation, given to city council, by Smart Watt. She said it was decided to let the grant to sit idle. She said the City could have been receiving savings.

Mayor Cusat said the fixtures that the City used has seen zero savings. He said the City has not seen any savings.

Mope said the City could not have seen any savings from LED lights in comparison to sodium lights. She said her understanding was when the Broad Street lights were turned on, in the Broad Street corridor, when this project was completed, the City's electric bill increased astronomically. Mope asked why LED lights were not installed when this project was done. Mope said the City is "stuck" with the sodium lights unless they get changed.

Mope said she appreciates Smart Watt's presentation. She said the City needs to put out RFP's. She said she does not want to hear that the grant "will go out". She said Mr. Lynch stated administration is okay with the grant and the timing of the grant. Mope said if the City needs to ask for more time then administration should. Mope stated presentation needs to be made, and the decision should be more calculated. Mope said she would appreciate PEL coming in to help the City as they have done this in the past with other municipalities. She stated any input would be greatly appreciated.

She commended the Street's Department employees for their pothole patchwork. Mope also commended the fire department for their fundraising with Mr. Colombo. She also thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Comments from Junior Council: None.

Adjournment: Gavio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned