

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019**

Council met for a work session on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 in Council Chambers. The work session began at 6:45 p.m.

In attendance were City Council President Bob Gavio, Vice-President Allison Barletta, Jean Mope, Anthony Colombo, and James Perry.

Mayor Cusat stated there is a parking situation on Laurel Street between Broad and Spruce Streets. He said Red Cross has moved downtown, and wants reserved parking spots. Mayor Cusat said he cannot give them meter spots. He was thinking about making parking ILLEGAL on the left side of Laurel Street. He said he can fit about four spaces in there. In the past, it was NO PARKING for the Pioneer Fire Department, but they have not been there for many years. He said the "one lane" should not be a problem on Broad Street. He said this is an old ordinance. He said the area is across from the new park, and is one block. He said Red Cross is in the HNB Bank Building, Sixth Floor. He said they sold their building in West Hazleton. Mayor Cusat said Red Cross has a 92 year-old and an 89-year old volunteer that cannot walk several blocks. He said the law office there, also, would like several parking spots. He said there are five spaces on the east side. Mayor Cusat said he has sold spots, across the street, and gets \$71.00/month for these spots. He said State Farm Insurance is there. He said in the HNB Bank Building is Ustynofski Law and a radio station.

He said the way the current ordinance reads is each business is allowed one space. He stated there needs to be a new ordinance made to allow parking on the west side of Laurel Street from Broad Street to Spruce alley. He said it also states the owner of the building would need to purchase these.

Mayor Cusat said church picnics, parades, and closure of streets needs to be decided on. He said Broad Street is closed for Funfest, but there is an "over-abundance" of requests for picnics, block parties, and parades. He said city council will need to decide if all should be allowed, what requirements there will be, and safety issues. He said, last year, there was no "lead or a tail". Mayor Cusat said this is dangerous. He said residents come "flying" down Alter Street. He stated he has many requests for road closures. He said one event last year left the surrounding park area dirty, and was not cleaned up. He said there needs to be an ordinance stating the length of the street closure, and the length of a parade. He said the streets are closed for MPB's & Our Lady of Grace's parades.

Atty. Logsdon asked city council if they want parades and block parties together or a separate ordinance. Mayor Cusat stated parades do not block streets. He said these cause cars to be "stuck in traffic". Mayor Cusat said it needs to be worked on "fast". He said it needs to state who is responsible for street closures. He said if there is an ambulance "in the back", and it needs to specify who will pay for it. He said the Stations of the Cross will be coming up. He said these organizations are asking for approval now. Mayor Cusat said there never was anything denied. He stated all the City churches advertise their picnics. Mayor Cusat said the first picnic is the Dominican picnic in February.

Atty. Logsdon said he will have his ordinance ready, for city council, for the next meeting in April, for the first reading, to allow for amendments. He said the few parades, coming in the spring, can give the mayor the authority to grant waivers. He said these few would not have to comply with the new ordinance until it passes.

Mayor Cusat said it needs to state the length of the parade and hours allowed.

Mope stated some organizations did have their events, then the ordinance was passed with the amendments, and they needed to comply. She also said the ordinance needs to state all the requirements, i.e.- state roads.

Mayor Cusat said if the City wants a PENN DOT road closure, then PENN DOT needs to be called.

Police Chief Jerry Speziale said the LIVE PD program will help the City of Hazleton reduce crime. He stated the crime statistics had gone down the last time they were filmed. He said the police department will also receive additional funding to put more police officers on the streets. Speziale stated there will be a total of ten police cars, on the roads, in the summer. He said the City may get some police cars with a grant. He said this is a much "better deal".

Speziale said after the first show, it will be a public record. He said, then, Sam Galski, Standard-Speaker news reporter, will have a copy of the contract and the payment fee. He said this will cover overtime costs to pay police officers. He said they are not paid, but are funding the City for use of their insignia.

Speziale said it will last for one year with police officers, on the street, for an entire year. He stated there will be a split shift- 7 p.m. until 3 a.m., with two to three extra officers. He said he and Lieutenant Wetzel, one lieutenant, one sergeant, and police officers will be on duty.

He said if an out-of-town resident decides to come into Hazleton and "raise havoc", it will deter any criminal. He said he has discussed this with other cities that have been filmed, and there has been a serious reduction in the amount of crimes. Speziale said the cities do benefit from this.

He said the City will also be insured with a large insurance policy.

Gavio adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.