

MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
INAUGURATION/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

Call to Order: Council met for the Inauguration Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mayor Jeff Cusat.

Invocation: The Invocation was given by Reverend Brian Clarke of Saint Cyril & Methodius Church.

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Council: Bruno-present; Colombo-present; Nilles-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of December 16, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

At this point, the Oath of Office was given to Jim Perry, Anthony Colombo, and Mark Ondishin by Judge Allison Barletta. The new Council members took their seats on Council.

Roll Call of New Council: Bruno-present; Colombo-present; Nilles-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present.

Remarks of Current City Council members and other City Officials: Perry stated it was an honor to be back. He sees a lot of progress happening. The vision is promising and bright for the future. Perry thanked the voters and residents.

Ondishin thanked all the voters, fellow councilmen, and Judge Barletta. He hopes to have another good four years.

Colombo thanked Reverend Clarke for taking the time to come to the Inauguration. Colombo mentioned Reverend Connell McHugh on his recent passing. He thanked the voters, Mayor Cusat, and the current councilmen. He said they will fight for the City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

At this point, Mayor Cusat announced that Council will now appoint the Council President and Vice President for the year 2026.

Resolution 2024-1 Appointment of President of Council

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Colombo nominated Jim Perry. Ondishin seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Bruno-yes; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2024-2 Appointment of Vice President of Council

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry nominated John Nilles. Colombo seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Bruno-yes; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2024-3 Confirming the 2026 Meeting Schedule

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said there will be a few changes to the meeting schedule. The June meeting was changed to June 23rd. Also, there will be one meeting in November on November 10th.

Roll Call (As Amended): Bruno-yes; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED

Old Business: None

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

Comments from the Audience: Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, congratulated all Hazleton City Council members.

Rabo spoke of the increased vehicle accidents in the City. He stated it is coming from all undocumented/illegal immigrant in the City. He suggested City Council and Mayor Cusat write a letter to the PA legislature to provide a grant for driver education.

Rabo spoke of the proposed data centers. He said they are a “nightmare”. He said they are a drain on the residents’ electricity and water. He mentioned the data centers would drain a lot of the water from the water hydrants. Bruno said the water department would not have enough water to supply them. Rabo said about 35-50 jobs would be created by the data centers but are only “tech” engineer or maintenance jobs.

Rabo stated there was “extracurricular activity” of vehicles being serviced in the City.

Rabo said there are a lot of roof replacements being done on the weekend.

Comments from Junior Council: None

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Mayor Cusat: Mayor Cusat said he is glad he got a team to work with. He would like to see a lot of work done within the next two years.

Comments from City Council Members: Nilles thanked everyone for their support.

Bruno congratulated all three councilmen for being re-elected. He, also, congratulate Perry for being re-elected to president, and Nilles for being elected vice-president. He mentioned prayers for Reverend Connell McHugh on his recent passing. Bruno stated Reverend McHugh will be missed.

Colombo thanked all. He said, "love ourselves and our neighbors, because tomorrow is not promised to anyone of us".

Ondishin said he is glad to be back with his council members. He stated they have a good team.

Perry said he cannot wait to see the City roads being paved. He said the City needs to keep up with the infrastructure.

Benediction: Reverend Brian Clarke, St. Cyril & Methodius Church, gave the benediction.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the Inauguration/Organizational meeting. The meeting was adjourned.