

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m.

Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance: A silent moment was taken followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Bruno-absent; Colombo-present; Nilles-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of September 30, 2025 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:

1. Honored the Greater Hazleton Concert Series on its 90th Season
2. Honored 14th Ward Fire Company

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

. None

(2ND READINGS)

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-55

Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBGB Program Fiscal Year
2023-2024

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated funds are being moved to the Wyoming Street Streetscape project.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2025-56

A Resolution Requesting Luzerne County Local Share Account
Grant Funds to Install a Concession stand at City View Park

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said people could get refreshments at an event. Mayor Cusat said it will be a free-standing concession stand, where the old bike trail used to be. He mentioned the City will be having a lease for someone to operate the stand on a full-time basis. He said the grant would just include

the structure.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2025-57

Resolution Approving the Articles of Agreement for the Luzerne County Emergency Services Commission

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Police Chief Schoonmaker said it is a creation with multiple municipalities throughout Luzerne county, creating an emergency services team including a forensic's analysis team and crime scene mapping unit for fatal motor vehicle accidents. He mentioned Luzerne County funded the entire program through grants. The City received over \$3,000,000 in equipment. There will be a minimal fee, for the City, to ensure the licensures for equipment and training. This program is for the police departments to come together instead of asking the state police for assistance.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2025-58

Appointments to Junior Council

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2025-59

Approving the Contract for the Collection of Real Estate Taxes for the City of Hazleton

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said the new contract is for Berkheimer Tax Office to collect the real estate taxes in the City.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2025-60

Approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Hazleton and the City Hall Workers' Union

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated the agreement has been reached between the bargaining unit and the City. He said council has some more questions about the contract. He mentioned council could table this resolution for more information.

MOTION TO TABLE:

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

RESOLUTION TABLED 4-0

Resolution 2025-61

A Resolution of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Implementation of a Pilot Camera Incentive Program to Evaluate the Feasibility of Integrating Resident-Purchased Cameras into the City's Municipal Surveillance System

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Police Chief Schoonmaker said City residents could purchase a solar-powered camera for \$2,100, with the City paying the service fees for the camera. For a City business, the charge to purchase the camera is \$600. This allows the City police department to "tap into" the camera system.

Perry asked how the City would notify the residents of this program. Schoonmaker mentioned Kent Jackson, Standard Speaker reporter, would, hopefully, make a story on this.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, mentioned this camera pilot program sounds good. She stated she caught a robber; she offered the City video footage, but the City refused her video. Schoonmaker said if there was no victim, as in this case, then there is no one to identify the robber. He said this is a problem “day in, and day out”. Unfortunately, not every citizen wants to cooperate.

Deakos spoke of the City’s LSA grants. She asked why the City cannot obtain a grant for stop signs to be placed in an alley. Schoonmaker stated there is a PA State law for drivers to stop at intersections.

James Derr, 821 N. Vine Street, Hazleton, spoke of the City camera pilot system. He asked if the City resident has a home in a “troubled” neighborhood if there is a discount for the camera. Schoonmaker said not at this time, but if two cameras were purchased, there would be a discount.

Derr mentioned at 15th Street at Sherman Court and 16th Street there is a stop sign. He said drivers are “running” through the stop sign at this area. Atty. Logsdon mentioned the City cannot place a camera here to give a traffic ticket. He asked if a flashing yellow light could be put in this area. Schoonmaker said he could ask DPW if they could place the yellow light for about one month.

David Dominquez, 202 East Holly Street, Hazleton, spoke of the incentive to the Flock camera system. He said there is an incentive, for the City residents, to buy a camera. Schoonmaker said this pilot camera system does not “tie-into” this pilot camera system. Dominquez asked about privacy issues for the placement of the cameras. Schoonmaker said the camera would not be targeting a resident back yard. Dominquez asked if this evidence could be used for civil or criminal cases. Atty. Logsdon said yes; this information could be used. Dominquez asked if this could be applied to an immigration case. Atty. Logsdon said the City did not contemplate immigration enforcement. This would be a federal purview.

Robert Mathuse, 826 Hayes Street, Hazleton, spoke of the 17th & Hayes Streets girls softball field. He mentioned the lights, at the field, are on longer than they should be, and this brings people to the park at all hours. He said he met with the mayor, in the past, about this situation, and thought the issue was resolved. The All-American League, in the past, would turn the lights “on and off”. Mathuse said all 28 residents would like the lights turned off. Mayor Cusat said, currently, the lights are on a timer. He said he will talk to the athletic and DPW director to change the timer at the field. Atty. Logsdon mentioned the City will meet first, internally, and then could meet with the neighbors.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat welcomed the new Junior Council members.

The Trail-of-Treats will be held on October 26th from 1-3 p.m. Safe Trick-or-Treating will be held on October 31st from 5-8 p.m.

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Junior Council: None

Comments from Council: Nilles said there will be a Blue Mass for the City Fire Department on October 29th at St. Gabriel's Church at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Colombo thanked the City residents for their patience in driving around town during road construction.

Perry stated the City received \$9,600,000 for the City paving project. The streets to be paved are from 1st through 21st Streets.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.