

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Thursday, November 13, 2025, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

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

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

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of October 14, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:

1. **Oath of Office for Incoming Junior Council Members**
2. **City of Hazleton's 2025 proposed budget presentation- Daniel Lynch, City Administrator.**

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of Resolution 2025- 64- A Resolution Authorizing the City of Hazleton to apply for a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for Improvements to Broad Street between Laurel Street and Wyoming Street.

Deakos mentioned the City discussed, in the past, that they would do something similar. She said, in the wintertime, snowplowing and putting snow in the middle of the street, would make it more difficult to clean the streets correctly. She suggested the City look into this before committing to this project.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

None

(2ND READINGS)

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-62

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

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM TABLE:

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM TABLE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Perry.

Roll Call: Bruno=yes; Colombo=yes; Nilles=yes; Ondishin=yes; Perry=yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-63

A Resolution Approving the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said this is a basic resolution for the Community Development Office.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-64

A Resolution Authorizing the City of Hazleton to apply for a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant for Improvements to Broad Street between Laurel Street and Wyoming Street

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Mayor Cusat said he will be putting a “raised island with signage” in this area with curbing, grass and trees. He said this is the only part of Broad Street that could have the island. Bruno asked if there will be a problem with snow plowing. Mayor Cusat stated the City has professionals that could work “around it”.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-65

A Resolution Authorizing the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts to Award Bids for the HVAC Improvement Project

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said this is an older LSA grant. He mentioned the PTPA is making progress. Mayor Cusat stated the PTPA was not fully funded.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-66

A Resolution Authorizing the City of Hazleton to apply for a DCED Local Share Account, Luzerne County, Grant to Install a Pavillion at the 12th Ward Park

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Mayor Cusat said the area is where the artificial turf football field is. He said the City ran out of funding. He mentioned he wants to give families a place to go.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-67

A Resolution Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 2025-56- Requesting a DCED Local Share Account, Luzerne County Grant for Funds to Install a Concession Stand at City View Park

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said the original resolution passed was for \$535,002. He mentioned this is for the adjustment.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: Atty. Logsdon spoke of the residents applying for LSA grants. He said in 2026, the City is going to reinforce the policy for LSA grants. He said the City cannot fund projects that will never be finished. He said the LSA process starts in June. He said it starts at the DCED office, then to the Planning Commission. He recommends the residents to call the DCED office to find out the timelines.

Old Business: None

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Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of the traffic signals for walking. He said some are not working downtown. She offered to write an LSA grant for this purpose. Deakos said the Broad and Laurel Streets walk buttons are not working.

Mayor Cusat said the City is trying to figure out the problem with the traffic signals.

Dr. Barbara Conway, 727 Boundary Street, Hazleton, congratulated the new Junior Council Members. She comes with a request and an offer. She said the trap, neuter, and spay programs have been presented, in the past, to City Council. She handed out some basic information on this matter. Conway said the population of stray animals has come to epic proportions. She had trapped three animals that had been abandoned. Conway said the City needs to address the problem; it is not getting better. She hopes, by spring, the City will have something, minimally, in place. She will be sending City Council members information from the Humane Society. She said, "it is free, I am free".

Atty. Logsdon said the City has not been presented with the trap, spay and neuter program. He said, maybe, in the new year, the City could try a pilot program. He said the feeding of stray animals has consequences, and this needs to be presented to the public.

David Dominquez, 202 East Holly Street, Hazleton, spoke of the traffic signals. He said one signal told him to walk, but the light was green.

He asked if the City budget considers the transient residents "moving in, then moving out". He said there are several landlords that do not live in the area.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat welcomed all new Junior Council members. He encouraged all students to come to Junior Leadership Day. Lynch stated if some students are interested, in one specific department, the department managers could take more time with them.

Mayor Cusat stated, recently, a new firefighter was sworn into the City Fire Department. He said it is the first time the City sent a firefighter to the Allentown Fire Academy. The City will pay for the academy.

He congratulated all re-elected City Council members.

He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Cusat said the City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting Event will be held on December 3rd, the City's birthday is December 4th, CAN DO Christmas Tree Lighting is December 5th, and the first Santa Parade will be held on December 7th.

Comments from City Administrator: Lynch stated the proposed 2026 City budget is available in the City Administration office. He said anyone could come and talk to him about the budget.

Bruno asked if the proposed 2026 City budget will be online. Lynch stated once the budget is passed, then the budget will be online. Lynch said he will be placing the budget presentation online.

Comments from Junior Council: Perry welcomed all new members. He said all members could comment at any time. He wished them "all well" in the New Year.

Comments from Council: Nilles asked Mayor Cusat about paving for the remainder of the year. Mayor Cusat stated none of the "east or west" streets will be started this year. He said the big paving project will be from Boundary to Thompson Streets.

Nilles said there have been no issues with Locust Street being changed to a one-way street.

Nilles wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Colombo welcomed all new Junior Council members.

Colombo thanked Dr. Conway for coming and speaking about stray animals.

Colombo said the gas cut on Diamond Ave. and Cedar Streets is dangerous. Mayor Cusat said UGI is working on this issue.

Colombo said on November 22nd, CEO will have the annual turkey distribution at City View Park.

Colombo said the Hazleton City Council, "Hazleton Helps" turkey dinner distribution will be held on November 25th. There are 700 meals planned with distribution from Holy Annunciation Church.

Colombo stated City Council was contacted by Wounded Warriors. He said he is working with Ray from Blaise Alexander. They will have a refrigerated truck at their business. He said anyone could come and bring a turkey to feed a wounded warrior.

Colombo said the City will be sponsoring the "Wreaths Across America". He said the wreaths are \$17.00 each and will be distributed to Holy Annunciation Church.

Colombo wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Bruno said it is important for City residents to stay informed. He encouraged all City residents to attend the City Council meetings. He said people should not be posting on Facebook all their dislikes. Bruno explained all need to stay informed and involved. He said City Council members do the best they can when they make decisions. He said the City is looking into changing the form of government. He said these meetings are posted, and open to the public. He said the City residents need to give their opinions at the City Council meetings.

Ondishin thanked Dan Lynch for his City budget presentation.

Ondishin wished Frank Vito a speedy recovery on his major surgery.

Ondishin thanked Dr. Conway for her concern for the City's stray animals.

Ondishin thanked all who voted for him, Perry and Colombo.

Ondishin said Alter and Wyoming Streets sidewalks will be getting grants to repair them.

Ondishin wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Perry thanked all who voted for all City Council members for re-election. He thanked David Dominquez for running a good campaign.

Perry stated the City is, currently, a Third- Class City, Option Plan B, since 1988. The City is looking to change their form of government, with the Government Study Commission, to modernize and be "citizen driven".

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

