

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Thursday, December 4, 2025, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 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-absent; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** The minutes of November 13, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:** Oath of Office to Incoming Junior Council Members

Perry gave the Oath of Offices to the remaining Junior Council members.

**Bid Opening:** None

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

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**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCES:**

**(1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

**Ordinance 2025-12**

An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hazleton, Part II, General Legislation, Chapter 404, Solid Waste, Article I (**1<sup>st</sup> READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon stated the City gave the Hazleton City Authority the authority to collect the City garbage fees. The Master Service Agreement, with the HCA, has expired. If the code of ordinances is left “the way it is”, it states the HCA could collect the fees. There needs to be an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to clarify the City will oversee the garbage collection, and not the HCA. The HCA will still be collecting the City garbage fees.

Bruno asked about the City recycling. Ondishin said all the garbage goes to the transfer station and the garbage is separated there.

**Roll Call:** Bruno-yes; Colombo-no; Nilles-absent; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

### **ORDINANCE PASSES 3-1-0**

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#### **Ordinance 2025-13**

An Ordinance Authorizing and Making Harrison Street a One-Way Street between 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Diamond Avenue (**1<sup>st</sup> READING**)

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

#### **On the Question:**

Perry said it would make sense to go “south”. Atty. Logsdon mentioned the success the City had in making two-way streets a one-way has been effective.

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

### **ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0**

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#### **BUDGET ORDINANCE 2025-14**

An Ordinance Providing for the Appropriation of Specific

Amounts Estimated as Required for the Various Departments of the Government of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania for and during the Fiscal Year, dating from January 1, 2026, and Ending December 31, 2026 **(1<sup>st</sup> READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Dan Lynch, City Administrator, said this is the first reading for the City Budget Ordinance. He mentioned the budget, budget presentation and audits are on the City website. He stated anyone could call him to discuss the budget. The City is looking for an increase in the real estate tax.

Perry asked what the total health care cost of the proposed 2026 budget is. Lynch said health care costs take up about 20% of the budget. Lynch said about \$4,000,000, but this is everywhere.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0**

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**Ordinance 2025-15**

An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton Fixing the Tax Rate of Real Estate Located in the City of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, for All City Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2026, Beginning January 1, 2026, and Ending December 31, 2026 **(1<sup>st</sup> READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0**

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**Ordinance 2025-16**

Reenacting the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hazleton, Part II, Chapter 490, Taxation, Article IV Earned Income and New Profits Tax (**1<sup>st</sup> READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0**

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**Ordinance 2025-17**

Re-Enacting Ordinance 2021-24 which Continues in Force and Effect for the Period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, Imposing the Payroll Preparation Tax for the City of Hazleton (**1<sup>st</sup> READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0**

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**Ordinance 2025-18**

Re-Enacting Ordinance 1931 which Continues in Force and Effect for the Period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, Imposing the Real Estate Transfer Tax (**1<sup>st</sup> READING**)

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Perry.

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

## ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0

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### **Ordinance 2025-19**

An Ordinance Accepting the Conditional Dedication of Three Streets Within the Hazleton Creek Development and Establishing Their Official Names (**1<sup>st</sup> READING**)

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

### **On the Question:**

Perry stated this is in the area of Buttonwood Street. Atty. Sean Logsdon said these will be dedicated streets. The names of the streets are Hazleton Commerce Parkway, Trestle Way and Lamphouse Lane.

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

## ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0

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### **(2<sup>ND</sup> READINGS)**

None

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### **RESOLUTIONS:**

### **Resolution 2025-68**

Approving Hazleton Public Transit's Title VI Program

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Ralph Sharp, Hazleton Transit Director, said the City needs to renew this program every three years.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2025-69**

A Resolution Updating the Fee Schedule for the City of Hazleton

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Perry.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said there are different fees that need to be inserted.

**MOTION TO TABLE:**

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

**RESOLUTION TABLED 4-0**

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**New Business:** Atty. Logsdon said, on November 20, 2025, the PA Supreme Court heard rural arguments on skill games. He said they will know if they are games of chance or games of skill. The City will then have some guidance on this issue.

Atty. Logsdon stated the second case, from November 24, 2025, discussed the Sunshine Act, and the 24-hour requirement to post the meeting agendas. He said emergency issues are discussed and there will be a little more “breathing room” to post items to the agenda. He said the amended agenda needs to be posted on the website and at the City Clerk’s office.

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**Old Business:** None

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**Comments from the Audience:** Ralph Cameron, 791 North Locust Street, Hazleton, spoke of the property at 22<sup>nd</sup> & Church Streets. There is a sign that the property is buildable but feels that it is not buildable land. Cameron said he has caught people illegally dumping this property. He called the non-emergency number to report this. Police told him that people have permission to dump there. The police officer told him to bring his complaint to a council meeting.

Charlie Pedri, Zoning Director, said he sent a stop work order, and sent a notice of violation to the property owner and the people dumping. Also, contacted DEP and filed with the Luzerne County Conservation District who will investigate. Pedri said they need to file a special form with DEP explaining what the clean fill is. They will have 30 days for the notice of violation.

Schoonmaker said the property owner had a property manager that allowed to bring the clean fill into the property.

Cameron suggested that a fence be put around the property. He said Mine and Locust Streets, also, has illegal dumping on the property.

Douglas Carper, father of Colton Carper, new Junior Council member, thanked city council members for involving all the young students in the government.

Colton Carper, 611 Aspen Drive, Zion Grove, PA thanked city council members for “having him”. He apologized for “flubbing up” his Oath of Office. He spoke of the CAN-DO Expressway. He has seen a lot of deforestation in this area, but there has been nothing done with these properties.

David Dominquez, 200 East Holly Street, Hazleton, commended the DPW for their excellent job in plowing the City streets, but Cedar Street and Bennet Court have been inaccessible in the snowstorms. He stated there is an issue of parking in the City. He suggested DPW keep snow piles more organized.

Dominquez asked if he could view permits that were issued by DEP for deforestation. Atty. Logsdon said he could obtain them through the Right-to-Know process. Pedri said it would not be through DEP, but through Luzerne County Conservation District who issue the permits.

**Comments from Mayor: Absent.**

**Comments from City Administrator:** Lynch said on behalf of Mayor Cusat, he thanked all for the City Hall Tree Lighting event. He said the Christmas Village is coming up soon.

Lynch said there is a lot of interest in the City Planning and Zoning issues.

Lynch said there are, currently, 17 DPW employees. He said there is pressure on these services to do all the public works duties.

Lynch mentioned he and Mayor Cusat will be on the Sam Lesante Show to discuss the City's 2026 proposed budget. He said all the City wants is to be transparent in all the budget items.

**Comments from Junior Council: None**

**Comments from Council:** Colombo commended Vito and DPW for doing a good job in snow plowing. He asked Vito if after a snowstorm, they could switch the snow ban signs. Vito said that cannot be done. DPW could only push snow one way.

Colombo commended Ali McKittrick, Recreation Dept Director, and Clemie Yamona on the City Hall Tree Lighting service.

Colombo said he received several calls that there are people sleeping out, in the cold, at the old Boyle Funeral Home. Schoonmaker said most of the time, the shelters are full. There are several churches, in Scranton, who take in people.

Colombo spoke of the recent fire property on Wyoming Street. Donald Leshko, City Fire Chief, said City code has been on the property owner for demolition. He said, recently, there have been excavators and dumpsters on the property. He said the property should be cleared within a week or two.

Colombo said Santa will be in town the next three Sunday's.

Colombo commended all the City departments- police, fire, DPW and code.

Bruno asked if the City could take over the old Tranguch property. He suggested the property being made into a park. Ondishin asked if the City could make the owner develop the property. Pedri said there was a discussion, several years ago, for a Sheetz, but it could not develop in this area. He said this is the same situation with the old St. Joseph building.

Bruno asked what is going on with the Hazleton Shopping Center. He said it looks like a "ghetto". He said Wilkes-Barre had built up their old Kmart property into a beautiful plaza. Pedri said the City has cited the owner on several issues. The owner stated he has received construction funds to renovate. The City is putting pressure on them. Bruno mentioned Tsuki Hibachi is moving out of the Hazleton Shopping Center due to the mess. Pedri said this is a separate developer. The current manager, also, manages the Laurel Mall. Perry stated there is no lighting in this area. Pedri said there needs to be indirect lighting in this area.

Ondishin commended the recent City Hall Christmas Tree lighting event. He thanked Vito and DPW for all their work in the City.

Perry thanked the new Junior Council members for attending. He thanked all the City department managers. He said anyone with City budget questions could go to Lynch. He said all the City wants is to be transparent.

**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.