

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

**Call to Order:** Council met at a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 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-absent; Colombo-present; Nilles-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** The minutes of January 27, 2026, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None**

**Bid Opening: None**

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

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**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

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

**Ordinance 2026-2**

An Ordinance Naming and Dedicating Streets within the Allen Ridge Subdivision and Land Development (**1<sup>ST</sup> READING**)

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Perry.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said these are newly created streets within the Allen Ridge Land Development. He mentioned these streets still need to be approved by dedication and the development plan needs to be up to "specs" before this is finally accepted, and the engineer's approval. He said these roads and addresses will be sent to 911 and the post office.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0 ON 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

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

**Ordinance 2026-1**

An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton Terminating a Right-of-Way Easement Along South Conahan Drive **(2<sup>ND</sup> READING)**

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0**

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 2026-8**

Proclamation of Hazleton City Council

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Perry stated the City of Hazleton is claiming February 9-15, 2026, as FBLA week.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2026-9** Appointment to the Hazleton City Housing Authority – John Tunnessen

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2026-10** Appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board - Laura Stancu

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2026-11** Appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board- Ronald Kapuschinsky

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2026-12** Appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board -John Paletski

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2026-13**

**Appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board- Bhavin (Sonny) Patel**

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0**

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**Resolution 2026-14**

**Appointment to the Recreational Vehicle Board of Appeals- John Nilles**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 3-0**

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**Resolution 2026-15**

**A Resolution of the City of Hazleton Authorizing and Adopting a Cost Savings and Implementation Proposal from Governmental Consulting Strategies LLC**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon stated Mr. Ryba discussed several different initiatives the City could accept. He asked

if City Council would like to table the resolution to “fine tune” to what the City would be interested in. Mayor Cusat said Ryba offers multiple areas of savings, but he said he does not think the City wants to accept all the programs.

Colombo motioned to table the resolution. Ondishin seconded the motion.

Perry said there was two weeks from the last presentation at the City Council meeting, and there were no questions.

**Atty. Logsdon suggested an Executive Session to discuss the matter. Perry stated City Council and City administration will be going into an Executive Session.**

**Perry stated the Executive Session ended at 6:33 p.m.**

**Roll Call (TO TABLE):** Bruno-absent; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

#### RESOLUTION TABLED 4-0

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**Resolution 2026-16      Adopting the Amended Fire Civil Services Rules and Regulations**

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Perry stated City Council received the updated rules. Atty. Logsdon read only the changes of the Fire Civil Service Rules and Regulations. He stated this is to improve the City to get more Firefighters, hopefully staying with the City for a while. He mentioned these rules were passed at the Fire Civil Service meeting this morning.

***After the Executive Session, Atty. Logsdon stated certain provisions may require additional review by labor counsel to review Civil Service Rules vs. Civil Service contract. He suggested City Council re-open the resolution and table the resolution at this time.***

**MOTION TO RE-OPEN RESOLUTION:**

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

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**MOTION TO TABLE:**

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Nilles.

**Roll Call (TO TABLE):** Bruno-absent; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

## RESOLUTION TABLED 4-0

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** None

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**Comments from the Audience:** Arannia Mantasas, 105 Chestnut Street, Hazleton, said when DPW cleared the snow, on Laurel Street, the snowplow pushed snow onto her building. She mentioned this is not good for the building. She brought pictures of the snow on her property.

Mantasas stated when she arrives back in the City, and uses GPS, it does not bring her to her address. She said she cannot get deliveries due to the wrong address in the GPS system. Nilles stated this is from Google maps. She needs to inform Google maps of this address. Atty. Logsdon said this has nothing to do with the City.

Linda DeAndrea, 191 North Lee Court, Hazleton, stated her neighbor has a "joint" chimney with her. There are bricks and a liner missing. She was told she would have to pay for this issue. DeAndrea said he is Hispanic and does not understand. She asked Jonathan from the City Code Department to go and talk to him. DeAndrea said Jonathan wrote a letter to her neighbor. She told the neighbor he needed to pay half for the repairs. Atty. Logsdon stated he will contact Jonathan to see where the issue remains.

Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, stated some streets have no street signs. She said all major roads, in the City, need street signs.

Perry asked if the City makes their own signs. Mayor Cusat said the City makes most of the signs. Deakos volunteered to write an LSA grant for this issue.

Carmella Yenkevich, 523 West Diamond Ave., Hazleton, is here on behalf of Anka Vilov. She said Vilov is still having a problem with people parking in front of her garage. Yenkevich said when Vilov calls the City police, they do not come to her house. She asked if the City could install a sign. Mayor Cusat said the City cannot place a sign in an alley.

Gene Babula, 191 North Lee Court, Hazleton, asked if there is anything the City has done for the stray cat issue. Atty. Logsdon said they will be having a WORK SESSION meeting, tonight, to discuss the cat neutering program.

Babula asked why there is snow piled up behind the Hazleton Public Library. Mayor Cusat said this street is still closed.

Babula said when DPW comes to plow his street, the plow pushed snow on the wrong side of the street.

Ted Sherrock, Franklin Street, Hazleton, commended the City and all the employees, Mayor Cusat, and Mr. Perry for a nice tour of the City departments for the Junior Leadership group. He said Mayor Cusat surrounded himself with the finest people the City has.

Taylor Young-Bottomley, 425 ½ Allen Street, Hazleton, spoke of the City job equity. He stated he grew up in Massachusetts. He said labor unions are lacking in the City. Bottomley said the City is allowing multiple companies into the City. The only problem is the people who work for these companies are not recognized. He said there are a lot of people who do not earn a minimum wage. He said most Amazon employees, who are single mothers, are on SNAP benefits. Bottomley stated the City has many Spanish markets who stock only vegetables. He mentioned most people shop at Walmart for their low prices.

David Dominquez, 202 East Holly Street, Hazleton, said some City storm drains, especially on Cedar and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets, have not seen, recent, maintenance. He mentioned some sewer storm drains are causing backups in some City houses.

Dominquez said there needs to be more bilingual City Code and Enforcement employees.

Dominquez said Luzerne County Council is proposing a resolution titled, "Expressing concern on the use of deadly force by Federal Immigration officers and urging federal oversight and Accountability". He said, recently, there was an ICE facility inserted in Schuylkill County. He said if most of the Hispanics, in the City, get deported, the labor force will be hurting.

Mayor Cusat said the City Code Department has 2 out of 3 employees that are bilingual, 2 out of 3 Permit Officers are bilingual, and 1 out of 2 Code Officers are bilingual.

Laura Stancu, 1511 Terrace Blvd., Hazleton, spoke to Dominquez's concerning regarding ICE. She told Dominquez to speak to Police Chief Schoonmaker about the rules and regulations. She mentioned that all U.S. citizens have their status with INS. Stancu said Dominquez should not assume ICE will be taking children out of school.

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**Mayor Cusat stated City Council and City administration need another Executive Session.**

**Perry stated the Executive Session ended at 7:16 p.m.**

**Comments from Mayor:** None

**Comments from City Administrator:** None

**Comments from Junior Council:** None

**Comments from Council:** None

**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.