

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Council met for a WORK SESSION on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, in Council Chambers. The WORK SESSION began at 7:19 p.m.

In attendance were City Council President James Perry, John Nilles, Anthony Colombo, and Mark Ondishin. City Officials present were Dan Lynch, Mayor Cusat, and Atty. Sean Logsdon

**DISCUSSION: On Feral & Stray Cat Neutering Program for the City of Hazleton.**

Barbara Conway, 727 Boundary Street, Hazleton, spoke of the No Nonsense Neutering Program. She said the contract she presented to City Council is for 50 feral/stray cats. There is no time frame for cats. The original fee is \$40.00/cat. The total commitment is \$750.00 with no “upfront” costs. The trapper collects the cats, makes the appointments, and collects the vouchers. Then, No Nonsense would bill the City. She has had over 150 Facebook responses to this issue. Conway has volunteered her time to hand out the vouchers and \$150.00 for the starting fee.

Perry asked how the vouchers work. Conway said she would contact No Nonsense Neutering. They would send 50 numbered vouchers to the City. The City residents would pick up the vouchers, and it is their responsibility to make the appointment at their Wilkes-Barre/Plains office. The City would get the bill at the end of the month. Nilles asked if the resident needs to pick up voucher before the procedure. Conway said yes.

Mayor Cusat asked Conway if No Nonsense Neutering would accept another entity or organization. Conway stated the borough of Freeland just signed up and gave \$2,000 “up-front” money. Mayor Cusat asked if a 501-C3 organization could apply for a grant. Conway said she does not know. Mayor Cusat he and City Council have a 501-C3 organization. He, also, inquired if the City “opens up” this program for cats, does this “open up” the City to do another program for another animal. Conway said No Nonsense knows the City of Hazleton has a big problem with stray cats. Conway solicited some private donations for something “down the road”. If the City does not want to continue the program, after the first 50 cats, No Nonsense has no problem with this. Mayor Cusat said there is, currently, a big problem with people giving up their dogs.

Mayor Cusat asked which City department would handle this program. He asked if it would be a union or non-union employee. Perry said Eileen Matenkoski, City Clerk, could accept the vouchers. Conway volunteered to come to City Hall to accept the vouchers. Mayor Cusat said City Council, a few years ago, eliminated the Vector Control employee. He said the City needs more time to review the program. Mayor Cusat asked after using the first 50 vouchers, would the price go up for the next 50 cats. Conway stated she does not think the price would stay the same. Perry suggested the City “pick-up” the first 50 cats, then the City residents would pay for the next cats.

Nilles told Conway this is a WORK SESSION, and not a vote for the program. He said City Council and Mayor Cusat has two weeks to find all this information out.

Conway asked Mayor Cusat if he would be in favor if the grant would be offered to a 501-C3. Mayor Cusat said yes. He stated the 501-C3 is its own entity, it does not involve auditors, and the City would not have to send out a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Conway said the program includes rabies shots, distemper shots, clip their ears, “fix them” and deworm for \$15.00 fee.

Conway said she will be contacting the president of No Nonsense to start the program for the spring.

Conway asked if there needs to be a resolution for City Council to approve. Mayor Cusat stated if it goes through the 501-C3 organization, this will not need a resolution. Conway said she will be contacting City Council members. City Council members agreed.

Atty. Logsdon asked Conway regarding the cost. Conway said each town has its own contract with No Nonsense. Atty. Logsdon asked what "after care" entails. Conway said "after care" includes, for a male- they remain in a cage, feed the cat, and then, after 12-14 hours, they are good. The female cat takes about 24-48 hours of care. She said the licensed trappers would do this. Mayor Cusat asked who comes for the vouchers. Conway said the trapper would pick up the vouchers. He said the City would need to make a policy procedure for this program. Conway said this contract is for stray cats, and not for pet cats. She said trappers do not charge a fee.

Conway said some trappers are talking about trapping some cats at the old American Legion building.

Colombo asked what would they do if a City resident said they found a stray, but found out it is their house cat to be neutered. Mayor Cusat that is why the City will need a policy in place.

The WORK SESSION meeting was adjourned by Perry at 7:50 p.m.