

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, May 27, 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-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

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

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

None

(2ND READINGS)

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-19

A Resolution Requesting a Greenways Trails and Recreation Program Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Pine Street Park Improvements

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated this is the same resolution as presented in 2024. He said it is the exact same project and same amount of money for Pine Street Park.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-20

A Resolution Amending Resolution 2024-52 and Approving the Amended 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2025

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said he received this request from Joe Zeller's office. He said, in 2022, the funds allocated were \$650,000, but the City received an award of \$658,424. The City needs to send the amended budget and resolution to HUD for the allocated \$8,000.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: None

Old Business: None

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Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, said with the summertime approaching, there are a lot of people driving around with loud music playing. She said the young kids hearing could be hurt by the loud music.

Police Chief Schoonmaker said if his police officers “catch” the offenders, they will issue a citation and remind them of the volume level the music should be.

Deakos also spoke of City residents receiving a City citation from the magistrate rather than coming from the City. She said this gives the residents extra fees to pay. Atty. Logsdon said one reason would be if the City cannot hand or contact the residents regarding the citation. Atty. Logsdon said he will get in touch with Diane Panzarella, Code Department Manager, to discuss this matter with her.

Deakos asked what the Executive Sessions, before the city council meetings, are for. Atty. Logsdon stated the Executive Sessions are, mostly, for City litigation matters.

Tina Lorenzo, Hazleton, said she, also, received a citation for high grass. She said she received a certified letter from the magistrate for a Quality-of-Life citation.

Lorenzo asked if there are opening and closing times for the City playgrounds. She said there are people at Altmiller Playground at 3:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. in the morning. Police Chief Schoonmaker said the park is open from “dusk to dawn”. Schoonmaker told Lorenzo to call the police department to notify them of this issue.

Laura Stancu, North Poplar Street, Hazleton, asked why all the City Department Managers are not coming to give their department’s yearly reports. Perry said the City Clerk has requested all managers to come to a meeting. Stancu said the managers should be here at least once every other month. Ondishin said if city council needs to, they will subpoena them to come to the meeting. Perry stated the City issues

should be taken care of between the two weeks of city council meetings. The City Clerk stated she will send out another email to the department managers who have not given their report yet.

Comments from Mayor: None – absent.

Comments from City Administrator: Dan Lynch said the City is close to having the City 2023 audit completed. He has received two RFP's for the City's 2024, 2025 & 2026 audits. Lynch is, currently, reviewing these RFP's. He said the City should be awarding this contract in June.

Lynch stated Ryan Hottenstein said the City will have the money to do their street paving project within 90 days.

Perry asked Atty. Logsdon if the City put bids out for the street paving project. Nilles said there are a lot of "white numbering" being spray painted on the streets.

Comments from Council: Colombo said he called the PENN DOT Dunmore office to notify them of the traffic light signals that need to be reprogrammed. Atty. Logsdon said it may be the City's responsibility to take care of this issue. He said the City needs to coordinate with the company that takes care of this.

Nilles asked Police Chief Schoonmaker if any parking sticks will be placed by the Hazleton Post Office. Schoonmaker said the City will not be putting any parking sticks in this area. He said it is hard to penalize people when the post office only has one person waiting on people. He said there will be parking sticks placed at the "no parking" sign near the corner". Schoonmaker said the parking sticks are working "fantastic" in the City.

Ondishin stated he had some complaints in the area of his neighborhood. He said his neighbor puts a little plastic man, in the middle of the street, to try to slow traffic down. Ondishin said there will be a problem, and someone will get hurt. Schoonmaker told Ondishin to call the police officers if a problem arises. He stated a citizen cannot place an object on the road to obstruct it.

Colombo said City Council needs to send a letter to PENN DOT regarding the lines on Poplar Street. Schoonmaker said the police department met with a representative for PENN DOT. He said one of his officers took the PENN DOT director to Poplar Street to show him. The PENN DOT official said they will be fixing the mess.

Colombo complimented the DPW for placing American flags on all City poles. He said the DPW needs to repaint all crosswalks in the City.

Colombo said with the fire hydrant and fire lane violations, in the City, this could bring more money into the City. Schoonmaker said the City moved some of the parking sticks to the fire hydrant and fire lane areas.

Colombo complimented the beautiful mass for Memorial Day. Also, he thanked the Hazleton Fire Department, Hazle Township, West Hazleton Fire Department, Local 507 and all volunteers for putting 2,500 American flags out in the cemeteries.

Nilles spoke of the Hometown Heroes program. He said there is a website that posts all municipalities veterans information. Perry stated Hazleton City Council has a 501C Corporation, "We are Hazleton". He said City Council orders the banners, and the DPW places the banners on the City poles. Nilles stated the City administration needs to contact them to put this on their website. Atty. Logsdon said he will have administration do this.

Comments from Junior Council: None

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.