

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 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 June 10, 2025, 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:**

**ORDINANCES:**

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

**Ordinance 2025-5**

An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Dedication and Naming of a New Street within the City as "FERRARA AVENUE" (1<sup>ST</sup> READING)

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said the City was referring to this street as "David Avenue". He said due to 911 rules, there is David Street, already, in the City. He said this is a natural extension of the current

Ferrara Avenue. Ondishin asked when this street, officially, becomes a City street. Mayor Cusat said it already is a street. Perry asked if the City would have a “ribbon cutting”. Mayor Cusat said yes, Reverend Ferrara’s family will dedicate the avenue.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1<sup>st</sup> READING**

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

None

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 2025-22**                      Honoring Metallo’s Formal Wear

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Perry read the proclamation.

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

## RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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### **Resolution 2025-23**

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Approving and Authorizing a Budget for the Hazleton Government Study Commission

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Perry.

#### On the Question:

Perry said the total budget amount is \$198,300.00. He stated there is a matching Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP) Grant for the same amount. Atty. Logsdon said the (STMP) Grant should partially, or fully, fund the budgetary items the City is looking for. He said the City should get a sizable grant.

Perry asked if the commission would have a treasurer. Mayor Cusat said the City will pay the bills.

He said he would not give authority to anyone to sign checks who is not a City employee.

Nilles asked Mayor Cusat if there will be cell phones for the commission. Mayor Cusat said there will be one cell phone used by the commission secretary.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-1 (1 ABSTAIN)**

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**Resolution 2025-24**

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hazleton Authorizing the Submission of a Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP) Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to Support the work of the Government Study Commission

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said the City will apply for the amount that is listed in the budget. He said DCED will “come back” and let the City know what the match will be.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES 4-1- (1 ABSTAIN)**

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**Resolution 2025-25**

**Awarding the Contract for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 Audits for the City of Hazleton**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Dan Lynch, City Administrator, said there were two respondents to the City audit contract. He said one respondent was HFA and Lynch cannot remember the second company. He said HFA was about \$13,000 less than the second company.

Nilles asked where HFA is located. Lynch stated HFA is from Red Bank, New Jersey.

Perry asked how the City is doing with the audits. Lynch said HFA just finished the 2023 audit, and, currently, are working on the 2024 audit. He said this audit should be done by the fall.

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

### RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** None

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**Comments from the Audience:** Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of the cell phone being bought for the Hazleton Government Study Commission. She said it would be cheaper to get a digital recorder.

Atty. Logsdon said the recording secretary could use the cell phone for group texts. He stated the City would not be using City phone lines for Government Study Commission needs.

Deakos said she has cameras around her building. She said when the City receives the LSA grants, it would be a good idea for City residents to place cameras around their homes, to get better control on crime.

David Dominquez, 202 East Holly Street, Hazleton, spoke of STMP Grant and the budget. He asked if there were any comparisons made around the area. He said there is a certain amount that has to be matched. Atty. Logsdon said the numbers in the budget have not been allocated yet for legal consultants. He stated no one has been selected yet.

Lynch stated the STMP Grant has a 50% match. He said the City will consult with DCED for options for the City to apply for a lower match.

Dominquez said there is a big pothole on James Street, intersecting Diamond Ave. Bruno said he was there today, and DPW has the area “marked off” and will take care of it.

**Comments from Mayor:** Mayor Cusat said the first “Rockin the Mountain” concert series will begin this Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> with a Garth Brooks tribute band from Nashville.

Mayor Cusat said City administration has a meeting with the financial advisors to do the City paving project that was discussed for the past two years. He said the City will get the funding. Mayor Cusat said Barry Isett is measuring the streets for the paving project. He said it will start from 1<sup>st</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, from Thompson to Boundary, and all “in between”. He said it will be milling and paving, but no curbing. Mayor Cusat said it may take more than one year. He stated it is about 17 miles of road. He said Buttonwood Street should be paved by mid-July. He said the sewer project is in charge of the “middle section”, with the City doing the rest, to Poplar and Church Streets. He stated some of the sewer inlets may be replaced to alleviate the problem by the train tracks.

Mayor Cusat stated the City Fireworks Event will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The DeAngelo event will be held on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Comments from City Administrator:** None

**Comments from the Council:** Colombo reminded all residents to stay cool in the heatwave.

Colombo said the DPW are replacing several sewer inlets.

Colombo said the crosswalks need to be repainted downtown. Mayor Cusat said the City does paint some of the arrows and crosswalks, but some will be contracted into the bid for the street paving.

Nilles stated 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Alter Streets has six different street lines. He said it needs to be “blacked-out”, and repainted. Nilles stated the double line needs to be fixed on Poplar Street.

Ondishin said the walk signals need to be reprogrammed.

Nilles wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He stated City residents will still be “lighting off” fireworks.

Ondishin wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July.

Perry thanked the City’s Government Study Commission. He said this process is open to the public.

**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6 :40 p.m.