

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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 24, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: Ryan Hottenstein- Senior Vice-President for Financial Solutions, discussed a potential bond issuance for the City of Hazleton.

Hottenstein said the City is looking to finance some capital improvements throughout the City. He said the City's 2022 & 2023 audits have been completed.

Hottenstein stated the City would like to finance a large and "robust" road project. He said the City, currently, it has three outstanding notes. There is a 2017 DCED loan, 2018 note & 2021 note. He said the total debt service for 2025 is \$945,000. He said, in 2026, the City's debt service drops to \$440,003. He said the City would not have a budget increase.

Hottenstein stated this would be a good time for the City to borrow. There are investors that will have money to re-invest back into tax-exempt bonds.

Hottenstein said he will be back again at the next City Council meeting on July 22, 2025, along with Brian Koscelansky. They will have the 2025 Bond draft ordinance to present to council. The ordinance will include a clause, "not to exceed \$15,000,000". He said the City will need to include an underwriter in the ordinance. They suggest RBC Capital Markets for the underwriter. He said they will be looking for final approval on August 12, 2025. They would file documents with DCED, and the City would have the money on September 25, 2025.

Perry asked Hottenstein if the rates would fluctuate. Hottenstein said the rate is between 4.5-4.7%. He said there could be changes in demand, so the rates would go up or down. He stated the interest rates would stay the same after September 10, 2025.

Nilles asked Hottenstein for the debt service from 2021 to 2025. Mayor Cusat stated Dan Lynch, City Administrator, could provide council with this report.

Mayor Cusat said there will be 12-14 miles of roads with 21 streets scheduled to be paved in the City.

Bid Opening: None

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

None

(2ND READINGS)

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" **(2nd READING)**

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated there were no changes from the last meeting. Mayor Cusat said the dedication ceremony will be held on July 11, 2025.

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS:

None

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of DPW repairing the walk buttons in the City. She said Frank Vito did not repair the walk buttons but introduced a lock cycle. She said this is upsetting the traffic flow in Hazleton. Deakos said Vito lied about repairing the signals.

Deakos said she has been receiving a lot of delivery services. She said the deliver is not able to locate her house due to cross streets and not knowing "east, west, north or south". She suggested the City upgrade their street signage. Perry asked if the City makes their own signs. Mayor Cusat said the City makes their own street signs. He stated there are 1,400 blocks in the City with 5,600 signs in the City. He stated one DPW employee could work the sign machine.

David Dominquez, 202 East Holly Street, Hazleton, asked if any of the proposed City bonds would help the City infrastructure. Ondishin said the streets are considered infrastructure. Dominquez asked if there were any decisions made for the bonds. Perry stated there was only a presentation. Atty. Logsdon said the ordinance will be on the city council meeting agenda on July 22, 2025.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat said there was a good turnout for the 4th of July events. Mayor Cusat said there will be three more "Rockin the Mountain" concert series.

Comments from City Administrator: None- absent

Comments from Council: Perry stated Brian Schoonmaker, City Police Chief, said there were a little less 911 calls, this year, regarding fireworks.

Nilles thanked everyone for being at the City Sister Cities meeting.

Nilles sent his condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in a car accident over the past weekend. Ondishin said people need to slow down when driving.

Colombo thanked Mayor Cusat for the City fireworks and concerts at City View Park.

Colombo sent his condolences to the City Clerk on the recent loss of her father. Ondishin, also, conveyed his condolences.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.