

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025**

Council met for a WORK SESSION on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in Council Chambers. The WORK SESSION began at 6:47 p.m.

In attendance were City Council President James Perry, Mark Ondishin, Anthony Colombo, Tom Bruno, and John Nilles. City Officials present were Mayor Cusat, Atty. Sean Logsdon, and Police Chief Brian Schoonmaker.

DISCUSSION: Recommendations by PENN DOT for changes to improve safety in the area of 15th & Locust Streets.

A handout was given to City Council detailing a crash review from years 2019-2023 in this area.

Bruno said instead of changing the entire street, he suggested changing the last “block or two”. He said there would be a lot less “chaos”.

Mayor Cusat said there were 42 accidents from 2019 through 2024 that were reportable, and a lot more accidents that were not reported. Police Chief Schoonmaker said a reportable accident includes injuries or the vehicle cannot be moved. He stated the police have responded to about 100+ accidents in this area. Mayor Cusat said it would cost about \$3,000,000 to place a traffic light there. Ondishin said the solution is a one-way street. Schoonmaker said the majority of accidents is when someone is trying to cross going north, or a left or right-hand turn.

Mayor Cusat said Locust Street is the only road that will be paved in this area. He said the City could make the street a one-way street. Schoonmaker said Locust Street has become a hazard. He said more people are parking their cars more than they should. Mayor Cusat said the one-way needs to be going south. He said this would alleviate some congestion on Church Street. Nilles said this would help move the traffic through the City. Ondishin said it would be safer for the people who live there. Bruno said this would put a lot more traffic on Alter Street. Schoonmaker said most accidents occur coming off Locust Street and turning onto 15th Street. He said it is hard to see and turn onto 15th Street. Mayor Cusat said he would like a traffic study done in this area. He said the whole street is only 32 feet wide. He stated all the streets, in this area, are too narrow. He said most people have driveways, from 18th through 22nd Streets.

The WORK SESSION meeting was adjourned by Perry at 7:04 p.m.