

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:25 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 August 12, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: Ralph Sharp, City of Hazleton Transit Authority Director, discussed the layout plan options for the Luzerne County Transportation System Site.

Sharp stated the City obtained grant money from the state. The City is looking to make a Park & Ride facility for the downtown Transit Center. This will be a gated facility. The property is part of the old Blue Comet Diner. The City is "out of space" for parking. Sharp mentioned there are more people riding the City buses. The City has had the money for over one year. PENN DOT will do all the planning and layout for the Park & Ride facility.

Charlie Pedri stated the property the City is looking at, on Chestnut Street, in regard to the Eminent Domain, is in severe deterioration. It is the old S&R Provisions property on Chestnut Street. There is one owner for the whole property.

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, discussed Ordinance 2025-10- Authorizing the Execution and Filing of a Declaration of Taking and Proceeding in Accordance with the Applicable Provision of the Eminent Domain Code- Chestnut Street. Deakos stated the property is not as dilapidated as the City is claiming. She proposed, instead, to use the giant lot at Church & Walnut Streets to be used for the Park & Ride. There are, also, other empty lots in the City to use.

Ondishin mentioned the roof has collapsed on the Chestnut Street property. If the property "goes abandoned", the City is responsible for it.

Nilles said the whole property will not be parking. The YMCA is using a part of the property for outdoor events.

Ourania Mentasas, 105 Chestnut Street, Hazleton, the owner of the proposed Eminent Domain on Chestnut Street, mentioned she spent \$200-\$250 on the roof, garage door, and a new furnace. She said the roof had not collapsed. Mentasas stated she likes to live there and does not want to move. She will get an attorney if she needs to.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

Ordinance 2025-11

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of Stop Signs at the Intersection of West 11th Street and McKinley Street (1st READING)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said this was a concerning area in the City. There are existing stop signs, already, going east and west. He said this area, if approved, would be a four-way stop. The area has heavier traffic with speeding.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

(2ND READINGS)

Ordinance 2025-7

An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hazleton, Chapter 504, Trees (2nd READING)

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon mentioned the City will not use the mayor for a certified arborist. He noted the intent of this ordinance is for the mayor to hear any appeals.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2025-8

An Ordinance Authorizing and Making North Locust Street a One-Way Street between 15th Street and Diamond Avenue (2nd READING)

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Nilles said there have been four more accidents in a three-week period. The area would be south, going from 15th Street to Diamond Ave. All of the streets will be re-signed. Bruno suggested that only 14th & 15th Streets should be one-way, but fire and police departments stated the street is too narrow for this.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2025-9

An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Filing of a Declaration of Taking and Proceeding in Accordance with the Applicable Provision of the Eminent Domain Code **(2nd READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said he spoke to the owner, Mr. Matusick, this morning. Mr. Matusick is selling off some property that is in his garage. It gives the City authority for the “taking” of the property. He mentioned both parties are willing to work in agreement. The problem is the timing for the grant funding. There is a building, on the other side of this property, that is a nuisance and a hazard. Atty. Logsdon mentioned that the City Land Bank has made an offer for his property.

Perry said the owner will get “fair value” for the property.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2025-10

An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Filing of a Declaration of Taking and Proceeding in Accordance with the Applicable Provision of the Eminent Domain Code- Chestnut Street **(2nd READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Pedri stated this building has been in disarray for about eight years. There has been constable documents served to the owner. Ourania Mentasas, owner of the property, mentioned she has not spoken to anyone about “taking” the property. She said she will get a lawyer. She does want to sell the property. Mentasas does have some stuff in her garage. Pedri mentioned the City would have to

establish "fair market value".

MOTION TO TABLE:

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

ORDINANCE TABLED

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-42

A Resolution of the Council of the City of Hazleton Amending the Compensation Rate for Members of the Planning Commission

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Dan Lynch said it may be about \$13.00 the members receive from one meeting. Pedri said the Planning Commission meets about eight times a year. Atty. Logsdon said it is not what the "going rate is".

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-43

A Resolution of the Council of the City of Hazleton Amending the Compensation Rate for Members of the Zoning Hearing Board

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Perry said the members get a flat rate of \$8.00. Atty. Logsdon said this increased rate would take effect immediately.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-44

Honoring Our Lady of Grace Church on its 115th Anniversary

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Perry read the Proclamation.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-45

Honoring Diamond Engine, Hose, Hook & Ladder
Co. 2 on their 135th Anniversary

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Perry read the resolution. The Proclamation will be given to Mr. Hoegg.

Nilles mentioned the fire department was the first motorized facility.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-46

Resolution of the City of Hazleton Authorizing
the Redevelopment Authority to Convey Property to the Greater
Wyoming Valley Area YMCA

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Nilles said this property is behind the old Blue Comet Diner. There are small “slivers” of land and this property is owned by the Redevelopment Authority. This land has “little to no value” to the Redevelopment Authority. Atty. Logsdon stated this land would be used for outdoor activities by the YMCA.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-47

Resolution to File Application and to Certify the Local Match for Public Transportation Capital Application (PTCA)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Ralph Sharp mentioned the Hazleton Transit Authority needs to come up with \$162.00 matching funds.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-48

Appointment to the Hazleton City Housing Authority- Todd Platek

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-49

A Resolution Requesting Luzerne County Local Share Account Grant Funds for Interior & Exterior Building Repairs and Upgrades for Three Fire Stations for the City of Hazleton Fire Department

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-50 Approval of Flock Camera System Upgrade Plan

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Michael Lucas, Flock Safety, spoke of the potential expansion of the police Flock System. This would include the full suite with long-term savings and upgrades being built into the current system. This would include live and community cameras for third party cameras such as hospital, schools, libraries, city and county buildings for the police department. It would also bring live 911 calls to the police officers.

Lucas reviewed his Power Point presentation.

Lucas said the Flock drone will be the “first on the scene”. The drones could reach 400 feet. There would be one drone for a 3.5-mile radius for the City. All flight logs are made public.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-51 A Resolution Requesting Luzerne County Local Share Account Grant Funds for a Multipurpose UTV for the City of Hazleton Fire Department

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Ondishin spoke to Chief Leshko. It is to upgrade the current equipment._

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Comments from the Audience: Atty. Jane Sevelin, with Curt Thomas of Thomas Kitchens, spoke of a paper street located at 551-555 S. Hazle Street, Hazleton. Mr. Thomas has been taking care of the property. Atty. Sevelin is asking the City to vacate paper street and allow M&T Realty to be the owner. Atty. Logsdon said this resolution will be placed on the next City Council meeting on September 23rd.

Cindy Kardisco, 404 Samuels Ave., Hazleton, spoke of the recent car show "up the Heights". She said while on the trail, there were cars blocking the trail. She stated cars could not impede the walkway. Kardisco asked for these participants to be courteous to the City residents.

John Romanelli, 785 Alter Street, Hazleton, spoke of the new City residents parking their cars. He stated they park on the corner of the street, obstructing the other driver's views.

Police Chief Schoonmaker said the police department is working with partners, in the community, to educate them on the City laws.

David Dominquez, 202 East Holly Street, Hazleton, spoke of the new police Flock system. He said the City needs to be transparent. He said the City needs to plan for this system in their budget. He also stated the new parking sticks are being vandalized.

Lynch said the City did budget for the new Flock system. He said the long-term revenue prospect, in the future, is very strong with the new industrial buildings being built.

Dominquez asked about privacy with the Flock system. Schoonmaker said he could do an internal audit every 30 days, and he could do an audit at any time.

Comments from Mayor: None- absent.

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Council: Colombo congratulated the Diamond Fire Company on their anniversary.

Colombo reminded all of the annual 9/11 St. Gabriel Church mass at 6:00 p.m.

Colombo stated on Friday, September 12, at the Harman Geist Stadium, there will be a sky diver and coin toss remembrance for 9/11 at the Hazleton High School versus Berwick football game.

Nilles spoke of transversing in the City streets due to the current street repairs being done. He reminded all residents to have patience.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.