

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026**

**Call to Order:** Council met at a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 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-absent; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** The minutes of April 14, 2026, 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 2026-9** An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton Correcting a Clerical Error in Ordinance 2026-4 and Confirming the Intended Penalty Reference in Chapter 162 of the Code of Ordinances **(1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said there was a typo where the penalty section was misidentified. The chapter and article numbers were reversed. He stated it is Chapter 1, Article II that is correct. The amended item, in Ordinance 2026-4, is Subsection B which states, "Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity that violates this provision shall, upon conviction, be held before a Magisterial District Judge, be subject to the penalties set forth in Chapter 1, Article II, 1-16 of the Code of Ordinances

of the City of Hazleton, together with costs of prosecution”.

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

**ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0 ON 1<sup>st</sup> READING**

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

**Ordinance 2026- 8**

An Ordinance Amending the City of Hazleton Code of Ordinances to Establish a Residential Reserved Parking Permit Program **(2<sup>nd</sup> READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said there were no amendments made from last time. Perry said there were questions from people on the program. He mentioned this program is “modeled” after the handicapped parking ordinance. Perry stated this would be more in the Northeast section of the City. Atty. Logsdon said this program will be in the area where there is less or no off-street parking. He mentioned this permit could be revoked for misuse, nonpayment, or false information provided to the City. The City would install the appropriate signage. The City Police Department would enforce this program. The snow ban would still be in effect. The sign cannot impede a fire hydrant, intersections, driveways, or any ADA driveways. It has to be an owner-occupied property.

Mayor Cusat said the owner must live on the property. If it is a renter, the owner of the building has to apply for the permit, and the tenant cannot apply for it.

Ondishin asked how many permits a resident could buy. Mayor Cusat said one permit is permitted per household and one permit per building for a business.

Perry said another question from a resident was what would be done if there was a handicapped sign there already. Mayor Cusat said the person who has a handicapped sign could opt to get a reserved sign for anybody in the household to use. If someone is parked in the reserved spot, the residents would need to call the police department. He said any City employee that has a badge number would be able to issue a ticket. There was another resident question as how would parking displacement be handled. Mayor Cusat stated it would not be adding vehicles to the area.

Perry asked if this program would affect the current street paving project. Mayor Cusat said the signs are not placed on the streets but are on the sidewalks. He mentioned most of the side streets are being paved.

Perry asked if there was a lot of interest in the program. Mayor Cusat said there have been about 87 residents with a letter of interest sent in from the last time this was introduced.

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

## **ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0**

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### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 2026-29**

A Resolution Approving a Cable Television Franchise Agreement between the City of Hazleton and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC, and Authorizing Execution of the Agreement

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Perry said this is an additional competitor. Atty. Logsdon said this would be a 10-year franchise agreement with Comcast Cable Communications. This ordinance gives Comcast legal permission to

use the City streets and right- of- ways to provide cable services in the City. The agreement includes a 5% franchise fee, the same fee that is paid to Service Electric. There are several conditions in the ordinance with legal protections for the City. He said services have been limited by only having Service Electric in the City. Atty. Logsdon said the City's authority is over the right-of-way and the franchise fee. The agreement secures some revenue, protects the City and ensures the continued cable service under enforceable terms.

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

### RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

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**Resolution 2026-30**

A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement 287(g) Program and Ratifying the Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Hazleton Police Department and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

Attorney Logsdon read Resolution 2026-30 in its entirety.

**Public Comment:**

David Dominguez, Hazleton resident, provided public comment regarding the resolution prior to Council consideration.

**On the Question:**

Attorney Logsdon explained the purpose of the resolution, including ratification of the previously executed Memorandum of Agreement and Council authorization of participation in the program.

Bruno spoke regarding the Resolution.

Colombo spoke regarding the Resolution.

Ondishin spoke regarding the Resolution.

Perry spoke regarding the Resolution.

Nilles spoke regarding the Resolution.

**Roll Call:** Bruno-yes; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes (via telephone); Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

### RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Attorney Logsdon explained the applicability of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act requirements regarding agenda amendments and the opportunity for public comment on items added to the agenda.

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** None

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**Comments from the Audience:** Joseph Drauschak, 176 Overlook Road, Nescopeck, said he is here representing the All-American Girls Softball League. He is asking for the usage of the 17<sup>th</sup> & Hayes Street field. Also, as president of the league, he is asking for his “ban” to be lifted. He stated this was a one-sided ban. Drauschak said he was told that Mr. Trivelpiece’s organization would help take care of garbage at the field. He said this is not being done. He has been taking care of maintenance, at this field, for the past 10 years.

Drauschak said they were at the City Council meeting two years ago. He said the neighbors are happy their league is taking care of the field.

Wendy Holguin, Hazleton resident, said she has been taken care of mowing the grass at 17<sup>th</sup> & Hayes Street field. She said the other organization is a for profit organization, while All American Girls Softball League is a non-profit league. Holguin said there was no warning about the ban. She does not understand where this issue came from.

Jennifer Drauschak, 176 Overlook Road, Nescopeck, spoke of the All-American Softball League. She stated that their locks were changed without their permission. She said the sheds and concession stands belong to All-American league. Drauschak said a neighbor told her Frank Stish, City Athletic Director, was present when the locks were changed. She said there needs to be some resolution in this matter.

Perry stated this is a legal matter.

Jessie Bender, Butler Township resident, said the lawyers from ACLU PA and Community Justice Project received a response to a letter that was sent to the City. The letter stated, “The unilateral decision to enter into the ICE 287 (g) program without of a vote from City Council is a violation of the PA code, and this contract is “null and void”. She is requesting a TOWN HALL to be scheduled to answer people’s questions.

Maria Jacketti, 549 Kiefer Avenue, Hazleton, spoke of the City ICE 287 (g) program. She said the City would be giving “half of their police force” to the ICE program. Jacketti said she has not received answers to her questions. Jacketti said there are three choices. One is to let ICE officials come in and do their job. The Hazleton Police Department needs to use their oversight to make sure the residents’ civil rights are not violated. She asked how much this program would cost if something went wrong. She asked if the City would be paying for this if they had made the wrong choice.

David Dominquez, 200 East Holly Street, Hazleton, suggested having a workshop with local businesses and the City’s Zoning Department. He said the City should be “lending a helping hand” to City business owners for best practices.

Dominquez congratulated the City in moving forward with the Comcast contract. He said the City should be looking for even more companies to work with.

Dominquez spoke of the City street sweeping process. He mentioned the City needs to put up signs earlier than the same day of sweeping.

Dominquez spoke of the ICE program. He said if people are violating the law, they need to be brought to justice. He does not want to see innocent people being “held up”.

Dominquez mentioned Project 2035 needs to be looked at closer and needs a bigger survey sample size.

Alaina Cossado, Hazleton, said she is a player in the All-American Girls Softball League. She said she enjoys playing in the league. Cossado said the kids need to wait longer to play due to the ongoing field issues.

Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of immigration issues. She said the City needs to check the arrest records to see who are illegally in the City. She said she shares her video camera with the police if there is any evidence of criminal activity.

Atty. Logsdon spoke of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street field issues. He said, currently, there is the scheduling system in the City of all parks and playgrounds. He said the City passed policies regarding equipment that is left at any City field. He mentioned this equipment would stay there. He said Frank Stish has implemented rules and regulations in these fields. He said the City is not preventing anyone from playing there.

Perry asked Atty. Logsdon about insurance at the fields. Atty. Logsdon said insurance is part of the requirements to play on the City fields.

Drauschak said he has “done this” for two years with Frank Stish. He said the contents, of the sheds, are not part of the City or of Vince Trivelpiece.

Atty. Logsdon stated all the City policies are on the website.

Colombo asked if Joe could talk to Frank Stish regarding this issue.

Jennifer Drauschak said they never received “anything”. She mentioned if they knew, they would have removed their property.

Wendy Holguin, Hazleton, said the ban that was sent to Drauschak is unclear as to how long it is. She said there are only two organized teams playing at this field. She mentioned this is the only activity that kids have in the City.

Atty. Logsdon said he will contact Frank Stish and look into this matter. He said the letter sent to Drauschak was never meant to be a “long-term” thing.

Perry stated this is a legal issue. He said any organization could schedule their games on the City’s website.

Atty. Logsdon stated the City wants the kids to start playing softball. This issue needs to be defused.

**Comments from Mayor:** Mayor Cusat said any resident that wants to do any renovations to their home or buildings, they need to come to the City, first, and notify them of any changes.

Mayor Cusat spoke of the City street sweeping. He said the sign has to be up within 24 hours before sweeping. He mentioned the City does not sweep on weekend’s and Monday’s.

**Comments from City Administrator:** None- absent.

**Comments from Junior Council:** None

**Comments from Council:** None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council entered into executive session for purposes of discussing matters of potential litigation and legal advice. The meeting remained in session and Council subsequently returned to open session.

Council returned to open session. No formal action was taken during executive session.

Councilman Nilles joined the meeting via telephone and was able to hear and be heard by all members of Council and the public.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA:

A motion was made by Perry and seconded by Bruno to amend the agenda to include Resolution 2026-30, a Resolution Authorizing Participation in and Ratifying the Memorandum of Agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the 287(g) Program.

Reason for Amendment:

Attorney Logsdon advised Council that, following a discussion earlier that day with legal counsel for interested parties, legal concerns were raised regarding the City's participation in the 287(g) program. As these matters arose after the agenda posting deadline, Council determined that prompt consideration was necessary to address the issues raised and to avoid potential litigation.

Public Comment on Agenda Amendment:

The public was afforded the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the agenda.

Roll Call: Bruno – yes; Colombo – yes; Nilles – yes(via telephone); Ondishin – yes; Perry – yes

MOTION TO AMEND PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.