

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026**

Call to Order: Council met at a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:17p.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- (via telephone); Ondishin-present; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

. None

(2ND READINGS)

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2026-33

A Resolution Requesting that a Traffic Study be Completed by the City of Hazleton at the Intersection of McNair Street and North 13th Street to Determine if there is a Need for a Stop Sign at this Location

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2026-34 Appointment to the Hazleton City Water Authority

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

Perry nominated Joseph Zeller. Colombo seconded the nomination

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2026-35

Appointment to the Sewer Authority

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

Colombo nominated Frank George. Perry seconded the nomination.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2026-36 Appointment to the Sewer Authority

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

Perry nominated Rocco Formica. Colombo seconded the nomination.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2026-37 Resolution to File Application and to Certify the Local Match for Public Transportation Capital Application (PTCA)

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Bruno asked what this resolution refers to. Atty. Logsdon stated this certifies the amount of Section 1514 discretionary funds for transit purposes. The City is certifying, in fiscal year, 2025/2026, that \$1,581.00 will be provided to match the requested amount.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2026-38

Resolution of the City of Hazleton Requesting a Local Match from Luzerne County Council for the Hazleton Public Transit State Section 1513 Operating Allocation

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said Section 1513 is the operating allocation. The City needs to make a request to the Luzerne County Council to request these funds. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is increasing the overall awarded amount, in fiscal year 2026/2027, by 3%, to \$3,109,474.00.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: None

Old Business: None

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Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of Resolution 2026-37. She asked if the years that were stated in the resolution are wrong. Atty. Logsdon said he will check with Ralph Sharp, Hazleton Transit Director, if these dates are correct.

Bruce Miller, Hazleton, spoke of the City's participation in the 287 (g) ICE program. He is angry and disgusted by this move. He said City Council members stated this program is for the safety of the community. Miller said there were no people present when the vote was held after their Executive Session. He mentioned City Council should have cancelled their vote until the next meeting. Miller stated Council voted unanimously to institute this program. Miller said few of the City Council members have gone to the Hazleton Integration Center. He stated they have many good programs. He mentioned Scranton rejected the 287 (g) program.

Dr. Robert Childs, West Hazleton, spoke of the 287 (g) ICE program. He mentioned a City resident, who works in Humbolt, with two months "away" from getting her residency, was deported to the Dominican

Republic. Childs mentioned the lady had no criminal record. He was told he should feel more secure with the extended police coverage. Childs said he does not feel this way. He said signing an agreement with ICE will divide the community. He said the agreement could be “broken” at any time by either side.

David Dominquez, 200 East Holly Street, Hazleton, said City Council members work together well with passing most ordinances and resolutions unanimously. He mentioned the public is “owed” an explanation on why City Council votes they way they do. He hopes the City has received 287 (g) funds. Dominquez said the City needs to start getting better programs and obtaining more grants.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat said the City’s collaboration with the federal government has netted the City with a \$1,000,000 grant for the Hazleton Police station. The City received over \$400,000 last week, in LSA grants, from local state representatives and senators.

Mayor Cusat said the City’s street milling project will start on June 1.

Mayor Cusat said the City has started a summer basketball clinic at the HIPP Center. This program is under the direction of the Hazleton Recreation Department. There is a total of nine teams.

Mayor Cusat stated the City is working with a flag football team for the West Court Playground. The City is slowing converting the field for a flag football league.

Mayor Cusat said the City did “break ground” at City View Park for the “all-inclusive” children’s playground. The playground is geared toward 2–5-year-olds. This playground will be completed by the 4th of July festivities.

Mayor Cusat said the City Concert Series will be held on July 11th, 18th, and 25th. The first concert is a tribute to MoTown, the second is a Bon Jovi group, and third is a Dave Matthews Band. The 4th of July fireworks festivities will be held on July 5th with Kartune playing at the event.

Mayor Cusat said the Motorcycle Run will be held on Saturday. He said there is an event booked every single weekend through the summer at City View Park.

Ondishin asked if City View Park will be holding the Mexican festival. Mayor Cusat said Cinco DiMeo was held downtown this year.

Perry asked which City fund account, from the HCA land sale, went to. Mayor Cusat mentioned, currently, the money is in the City’s General Fund account. Ondishin asked if the amount is \$849,000. Mayor Cusat said yes. Mayor Cusat mentioned the HCA is voting, tonight, on giving the City \$700,000 in garbage funds. He said this would be reoccurring money from the garbage contract.

Ondishin asked if the City could get new “No Littering” signs on Route 424. Mayor Cusat said, in the “littering corridor”, there would be triple fines and points towards a driver license. Ondishin said several individuals are littering “on purpose” in this area. Colombo agreed. He said littering needs to be enforced.

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Junior Council: Perry congratulated several students on achieving their recent awards.

The City Clerk announced that the Junior Council members will be receiving their certificates at the next City Council meeting.

Comments from Council: Nilles asked what the status, of the sinkhole, is by the Housing Authority. Mayor Cusat said Hazleton Sewer Authority will look at this because the hole is too deep, and the City does not have the equipment to check this hole.

Colombo spoke of the school graduations this summer. He reminded all City residents to watch their driving with children crossing and playing in the City.

Colombo mentioned the City is starting another Hometown Hero Banner program. He said the application is on the City's website. The cost of the banner is \$175.00. These banners will be situated on Diamond Ave, Broad Street, Wyoming and Alter Streets. There will be different banners this year with a 250 Anniversary symbol on the back of the banner.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.