

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026**

Call to Order: Council met at a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 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 23, 2026, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:

Honoring John Keegan on his retirement

Jim Perry read the Proclamation for John Keegan.

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2026-13. She asked if only one person could ride an electric bike. Atty. Logsdon said Section 306 references this issue- "No operator shall carry another person upon a Micromobility Device unless the device is specifically designed and equipped by the manufacturer to carry more than one person.

Deakos, also asked about a clause regarding electric bikes riding on one wheel. Atty. Logsdon said this would be considered reckless driving.

Deakos, also, asked if there is a section in the ordinance that speaks of wearing helmets. Atty. Logsdon said, yes, this is included in the ordinance.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

. Ordinance 2026-10

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of Stop Signs at the Intersection of Carson Street and North 17th Street (1st READING)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Police Chief Schoonmaker said this area is considered an emergency route. The police department has placed a "SLOW DOWN" sign here.

Perry said the drivers "fly" in this area. He stated the neighbors will be happy with the stop sign.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

Ordinance 2026-11

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of Stop Signs at the Intersection of McNair Street and North 13 Street **(1st READING)**

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Police Chief stated the City police department is trying to slow down the traffic in this area.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

Ordinance 2026-12

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of a Stop Sign at the Intersection of Boundary Street and West 11th Street
(1st READING)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Bruno asked if the stop sign would be placed on Boundary or on the side street. Police Chief Schoonmaker said the stop sign would be placed on Boundary Street. Colombo asked if there are stop signs on 11th Street. Schoonmaker said, currently, no. Perry stated there is a lot more traffic accidents in the City.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

Ordinance 2026-13

An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton Regulating the Operation of Electric Bicycles, Electric Scooters, and other Micromobility Devices Upon City Streets, Sidewalks, Parks, Trails, and Other Public Property; Providing for Safe Operation; Authorizing Restrictions on Certain City Property; Establishing Parking Requirements; Providing for Enforcement and Prescribing Penalties **(1st READING)**

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry said City residents have asked City Council members to do something about this issue. Nilles said he had witnessed two kids, on an electric bike, riding through five stop signs. He mentioned someone is going to get hurt.

Bruno asked where this came from. Atty. Logsdon said City Council members directed him to put this ordinance together. He stated there is a lot of "overlap" due to the laws in the PA Vehicle Code. The electric vehicles are not allowed to ride on sidewalks and in non-bicycle areas in the City parks. He referenced local ordinances and standards, such as yielding to "right-of-way" to pedestrians.

Atty. Logsdon, also, extended the ordinance into laws for electronic scooters. He said the City residents would need a permit for a shared scooter.

Atty. Logsdon said more people will be purchasing these electric vehicles.

Ondishin asked if there is an age minimum to read the vehicles. Atty. Logsdon said the age is 16 years old.

Perry said by the time the police officers could get to the area, the vehicles are already gone.

Atty. Logsdon said this is the first reading of the ordinance. He said there could be amendments made to the ordinance.

Perry asked if the police officer could cite the driver. Atty. Logsdon said yes; it would be considered a summary offense.

Perry asked if there have been any electric vehicle accidents in the City. Schoonmaker said no.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

(2ND READINGS)

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2026-42

A Resolution of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Accepting the Completion of the Columbus Park and Pagnotti Field Master Site Plan and Authorizing Close-Out of Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant No. BRC-TAG-29-159

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated the Master Site plan has been completed and confirmed by the Community Development Office. He said all the terms were followed that were sent by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2026-43

A Resolution Awarding the Hazleton Streets Improvements – Phase 2

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Nilles stated this is the City paving project, from 12th Street through 21st Street. The amount is for \$2,510,424.20. Perry stated the lowest bidder was Pennsy Supply, Inc.

Atty. Logsdon said Mayor Cusat and the contractor wanted this resolution in front of City Council “as soon as possible”.

Ondishin asked if Phase II would be started in 2026. Atty. Logsdon said yes.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2026-44

Resolution Approving Application for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for Phase V of the Alter Street Improvements Project

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Nilles stated, currently, the project is at 6th & Alter Street.

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: James Dumin, Hazleton, spoke of the issue of the lights at St. 17th Street field. He said on July 2nd, the lights were turned off at the field. He stated there are no more cars “racing” up and down the street.

Nilles asked if the electric wires were fixed on the light pole. Dumin said yes. He said, also, the garbage was picked up.

Atty. Schoonmaker stated a camera was installed at the softball field and at the pickle ball field.

Mark Yanac, 842 Laurel Street, Hazleton, stated he is a retired foreman for the Department of Transportation. He spoke of signs on the poles at 17th Street by Senapes Pizzeria. He said the pole is one foot away from Laurel Street. Yanac said the sign needs to be moved further back. This is also the bus stop for the children in this area. He said there is no speed limit signs by 9th Street down to 17th Street.

Nilles said the City already started by placing “Cross traffic does not stop” signs.

Atty. Sean Logsdon said the PA Legislature is adjourned until September. He said they did not pass any laws regarding skilled games. Nilles said there is time for the PA Legislature to put something together, and vote on the law in January.

Comments from Mayor: None- absent

Comments from City Administrator: None- absent

Comments from Council: Nilles said the City is trying to get the drivers to slow down.

Nilles acknowledged past City Council member Jack Mundie on his passing. He said he always had a smile on his face and tried to help everyone he could. He thanked him for his many years of service.

Bruno said he is happy about the Electric Bike Ordinance. He thanked Atty. Logsdon for putting this together. He stated the situation is getting worse.

Colombo said the City has suffered a huge loss with the death of Jack Mundie. He asked everyone to keep his in their prayers. He was a City Council member for 20 years.

Colombo reminded all City residents of the “Rockin’ the Mountain” Concert series and the fireworks event on Saturday.

Perry said the City maintenance and construction workers are doing a great job on the reconstruction of Council Chambers and in the Auditorium.

Perry stated there will be a Home Rule presentation at City Hall on July 15th at 6:00 p.m. Atty. Logsdon said there will be a handout, in both English and Spanish, and a slide show presentation. There will be public comments. Perry stated this will be placed on the next ballot for the public to vote on the change. Atty. Logsdon mentioned if the form of government does change, it would take about 18 months to prepare the administrative code for the City.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.