

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:18 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 (**via telephone**); Ondishin-present; Perry-present

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** The minutes of the February 25, 2025 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)**

None

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**(2<sup>nd</sup> READING)**

None

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 2025-4**

Approving the Contract between the City of Hazleton and the Department of Public Works (DPW) Service Employees International Union, Local No. 473, NCFO

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Sean Logsdon stated it was negotiated between the City's labor counsel and the DPW counsel union, which was voted on and approved. He said there are no issues that he needs to bring to the council's attention. Perry stated this is a three-year contract.

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

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2025-5**

Approving Conveyance of Shaft Road Property to the City of Hazleton Land Bank

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Perry.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Sean Logsdon showed and explained to city council members the area on the map on the computer GIS system. He stated the City purchased most of the land from Pagnotti's. He said the total is about 20 acres. It is mostly old mining land and may contain pollution. The City has been in talks with a company that would help with a Brownfield grant. He said the studies are expensive and would "fall" on the City. He said the City could convey the land to the City Land Bank because they would qualify for a Brownfield grant.

Nilles asked how long the study would take. Atty. Logsdon stated the study representative could come to a future council meeting and do a presentation explaining the process.

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

### RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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**Resolution 2025-6**                      Approving Conveyance of 241 East Chestnut Street to the City of  
Hazleton Land Bank

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon said the City owns 241 E. Chestnut Street property. The City Land Bank owns the adjoining property. The City Land Bank is requesting the City convey this property to the Land Bank to see if they could find someone to build on this land. He said the Land Bank could reverse subdivide the property.

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

### RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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**Resolution 2025-7**                      Approving the Issuance of a Request for Proposals for the 2024, 2025, and  
2026 Audits for the City of Hazleton

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Lynch stated HFA is the City's, current, auditor, from New Jersey. He said HFA has put in a proposal for these audits. He stated the City is very happy with their audits. Lynch stated, currently, it is tough to do municipal audits.

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

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### RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** None

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**Comments from the Audience:** Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, said, recently, she saw on the news the City was starting to put a registry together for City residents with cameras. She said a lot of people do not listen to the local news or get the newspapers. She suggested the City send out letters to each City resident to notify them of this program. She said this would fight crime in the area.

Dom Holmes, statewide program director for Rural Progress, stated he wants to discuss the upcoming ballot measure regarding the exploration of a commission exploring the Home Rule Charter for the City. He said there are concerns, in the community, regarding representation in Hazleton. He asked why the language selected was exclusively sided for the Home Rule Charter. Holmes asked if the City could change the language to have the City explore the Home Rule Charter and other optional plans. He said some City residents may not want their taxes levied.

Atty. Logsdon said the City was under the Third Class City Code. In 1988, the City had performed a government commission study and decided Optional Plan B was the best choice for the City. He said the Home Rule Charter option may be the best choice due to City growth.

Holmes asked what benefits would be gained through Home Rule Charter versus other plans. Lynch stated the City of Lancaster gave the City some reasons why they choose the Home Rule Charter. He suggested the City adding a defined controller position, but the law does not allow this under Optional Plan B. He said there would only be slight changes. He said, in 2024, the City reduced the ACT 205 rate by half. Holmes said the City should consider the current representation in the City. He stated is what the City residents want. He said the City residents should consider more than one option.

**Comments from Mayor:** None- absent

**Comments from City Administrator:** Dan Lynch stated the City auditors will be at City Hall this week. He said the City is looking to be “back on track” this summer. He said the City would like public input on all issues.

**Comments from Council:** Perry stated the City has more renters than owners of homes.

Bruno spoke of the Vine Street Cemetery. He said there is only one gate kept open. Bruno said people park in front of the gate and work on their cars. He said some residents are asking for a sign to be installed. Atty. Logsdon stated Frank Vito could make a sign to be installed.

Bruno also spoke of the Hazleton Shopping Center. He stated it looks like a “third world” country. He said people are telling the owner of Tsuki Hibachi that they are afraid to come to their restaurant due to the area being run down.

Colombo stated the old Quality Beverage building, on Poplar Street, is going to be “turned” into a car lot. He stated this property is zoned as commercial. Atty. Logsdon said he will check with the Zoning Department on this.

Colombo said people are “relieving” themselves on the side of the Welfare Office on Chestnut and Wyoming Streets. He said this should not be. He asked for increased police patrol in this area. Atty. Logsdon agreed. He said the liquor laws have been “liberalized”.

Colombo thanked DPW for all their work in starting the City street clean up.

Colombo stated Greg Steber has retired, today, from the City of Hazleton’s Fire Department, with 30 years of service.

Colombo wished the HASD Lady Cougars basketball team, good luck, in their quest for a state championship.

Perry said the City has parking sticks on the streets. He said the parking stick takes a picture of license plates. He said there will be more parking sticks placed throughout the City. Ondishin stated motorists have three minutes to park in a No Parking Zone before they are ticketed. Ondishin stated the City needs more fire, police and ambulance volunteers. Atty. Logsdon stated there will be ten more parking sticks placed in the City.

**Comments from Junior Council:** None

**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.