

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 the April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of the LSA grant for the Lunchbox. She stated the Lunchbox is part of Penn State Hazleton, and, maybe, Penn State Hazleton will be closing. Atty. Logsdon said this is through the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress (DHAP). He does not know what affiliation DHAP has with Penn State.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

Ordinance 2025-4

An Ordinance Restricting Parking (1st READING)

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Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said under Title 67 212.114 of the Pennsylvania Code, there are guidelines for parking and parking restrictions. The City is trying to limit parking in alleys and smaller roadways that are disrupting the flow of traffic and emergency response vehicles. The roadway needs to be 18 feet or

less.

Bruno asked how the City residents will know of the new law. Mayor Cusat said the police will need to give out warnings first. Nilles asked what the fine is set at. Atty. Logsdon stated city council will need to set the fee tonight. Mayor Cusat said, currently, the fee for parking in a street sweeping area is \$40.00. He said he will bring the list of fees to the next council meeting. It was agreed to set the fee at \$40.00.

MOTION TO AMEND:

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

MOTION TO AMEND PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED ON 1st READING

(2ND READINGS)

Ordinance 2025-3

An Ordinance Establishing a No Parking Zone on the East Side of Lafayette Court Between West 2nd & West 3rd Streets (2nd READING)

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-16

A Resolution Awarding the Bid for the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress' Hazleton Lunchbox Incubator Phase IV Project

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated Commonwealth Financing Authority requested the City apply on their behalf for an LSA grant. DHAP requested the City apply for \$354,090.00 for an LSA grant, and \$157,335.00 was awarded. He stated Heim Construction was the lowest bidder with a bid of \$287,713.00. The project managers are recommending the project to be awarded to Heim Construction. Perry stated James Esposito, Hazleton Standard Speaker reporter, did an article on this project. There will be an elevator installed in the building. Bruno asked if there were any other bids for the project. Atty. Logsdon stated the project managers review all the information.

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: Anka Vilov, 432 West 3rd Street, Hazleton, said in between 1st and 2nd Streets there is a part of the road that is “caving in” and deep.

Vilov said there are more cars driving very fast on her street, West 3rd Street, with loud music. She asked when the City could enforce the Noise Ordinance.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat stated there were 600 children with 1200 adults attending the Easter Bunny Trail.

Bruno asked if any business could be part of the Easter Bunny Trail. Mayor Cusat said the City reaches out to everybody who participates in any other City event throughout the year. The information is also placed on Facebook for businesses and families to join. Mayor Cusat said City View Park was picked because it is a safe place for the children. He said there were 34 sponsors this year.

Comments from City Administrator: Lynch stated the City received the 2022 audit draft. He said the auditors will, then, be starting on the City’s 2023 draft. Lynch said he spoke to Ryan Hottenstein. He said the City’s borrowing of money for paving will be moving along.

Comments from Council: Nilles stated a lot of City residents are complaining about potholes on the Club 40 Road. Mayor Cusat stated this is a state route. Colombo said the Club 40 Road is scheduled to be “tarred and chipped”.

Ondishin asked Mayor Cusat regarding the status of the old Blue Comet restaurant. Mayor Cusat said there is a new owner. He stated the new owner did not request a demolition permit. He said this is going to be a part of an expansion for the future outdoor facilities phase of the YMCA.

Ondishin asked Mayor Cusat if Conahan Drive will be repaved. Mayor Cusat said Conahan Drive will be completely rebuilt. He said the City put new piper under the road. He stated this will be put “out for bid” shortly.

Perry asked if Ferrara Avenue will be done shortly. Mayor Cusat said yes.

Mayor Cusat said the City has plans to paint some City streets with lines.

Colombo said the City crosswalks need to get repainted by DPW.

Colombo said a telephone pole, on 15th & Church Streets, is being held up by a rope.

Colombo stated the old Motor Transportation garage looks like a “junkyard”. He said Charlie Pedri went there to notify the owner of the violations.

Colombo said the recent Easter meal distribution was a success with 650 meals given out.

Colombo said on April 24th, there will be a “Keep Hazleton Beautiful” clean up, meeting at the old Club 40 Restaurant, to clean this section, in honor of Earth Day, for two hours. On April 26th, there will be a cleanup of East Diamond Avenue for four hours. On April 27th, there will be a cleanup of Stockton Road (mine disaster area) for three hours. He said bags, gloves, and vests will be provided with water and snacks available.

Colombo reminded all City residents to maintain their yards.

Perry mentioned to Police Chief Schoonmaker regarding the new areas, in the City, that need parking sticks.

Comments from Junior Council: Mateo Feola said the HASD FBLA has “wrapped” up for the season. He thanked all of the Hazleton City Council members for their support.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.