

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, May 13, 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 April 22, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Ted Sherrock, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2025-4-An Ordinance Restricting Parking. He stated there is a "situation" on Muir Avenue, where it meets Franklin Street, before Hunter Drive. Sherrock said this is a snow emergency route. He said people park on both sides, and this road becomes one lane. He said this is a safety concern.

Anka Vilov, 432 West 3rd Street, Hazleton, said she has spoken, in previous meetings, about speeding cars driving on her road. She said her chimney was hit, and her house was damaged by a driver. She contacted Hazleton Police and requested these records from the incident. She said the Hazleton Police clerk is on vacation and has to wait until she returns to get the police report. Vilov said she was sick for a few days and did not go outside. She said she found a yellow ticket on her car. Perry stated she would need to speak with the Hazleton Police Chief regarding the incident at her home. Perry said as far as the ticket, he is not sure. He stated it may be the Hazleton Parking Enforcement Department that placed the ticket on her car.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

None

(2ND READINGS)

Ordinance 2025-4

An Ordinance Restricting Parking (2nd READING)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said this ordinance would restrict parking along the curb or edge of a road when the center line or roadway markings are not present, and less than 19 feet on major arterial highways, or less than 18 feet on other roadways. Perry asked if the City already “mapped” them out. Atty. Logsdon said Mayor Cusat is working with the City Engineering office for this. He said the City will have to get the notice out “somehow”. He stated the City residents need to know the law. Atty. Logsdon said the City residents will be given warnings first, with the Hazleton Police Department giving warnings.

Bruno asked if 18 feet would be on each side of the road. Nilles stated it is “curb to curb” 18 feet.

Perry stated this ordinance will “cover” the whole City.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-17 Appointments to the Housing Authority

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said over the years, and making appointments, the City miscalculated and the staggering the way it was “supposed to go”. He said every year, City Council will have a new appointment on that board. Nilles stated these individuals are already on the Hazleton Housing Board serving their duties.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2025-18 Honoring Van Hoekelen Greenhouses

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry read the resolution. He said there are only three locations that celebrate Tulip Day: San Francisco, New York, and now, Hazleton.

Alex Van Hoekelen stated when the City of Hazleton placed their Tulip Day video, on social media, Target saw this. He said, now, Target will be doing this Tulip Event, at their headquarters, for 10,000 of their employees.

Colombo complimented Van Hoekelen for all their work in the City.

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, stated City residents do not know to not park on Lafayette Court or small City streets. Atty. Logsdon said this will need to be a concerted effort between the Hazleton Parking Enforcement Department, police department, Mayor Cusat's office and City Engineering office. They will need to identify and figure out the streets and place with the appropriate markings. Nilles stated the City could put this ordinance on the web page or send the notice to all City residents in the mail. He stated the City will give up to three warnings. Atty. Logsdon said this ordinance will not go into effect until Mayor Cusat signs the ordinance.

Vilov asked what her \$80.00 parking ticket was for. Nilles stated it could be for cars parked in a street sweeping area. Perry told Vilov to send a copy of the parking ticket to Ondishin.

Dave Fatula, 105 Mark Road, Hazleton, spoke of the City's Allen Ridge project. He said he noticed there is a different deed holder on the project. Atty. Logsdon stated he is not aware of any deed transfer. Fatula said someone from the City should know what is going on with this project. He asked if a project is transferred to another contractor, would the "scope" of the project be the same. Atty. Logsdon stated the project would be the same. Perry agreed with Atty. Logsdon. Fatula said the company "leveled" all the trees on the property. Fatula stated he and his neighbors are worried it is not going to "end up" the way the original project was projected for. Atty. Logsdon said there are three phases, in total, in the agreement. He said the financial security agreement is for \$6,049,439.058. He stated there are project engineers with RJD Engineering as special project engineers.

Ondishin said he dealt with the same situation with his business with trees being chopped down by Wyoming Homes. He said, after some time, they planted trees after their project was completed. He said the residents by the Hazleton Airport dealt with the same situation. Fatula stated he will find out what Charlie Pedri, City of Hazleton Zoning Director, knows about this project.

Eugenio Sosa, 140 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, spoke for a realtor in Hazleton. He said he has an issue with the City of Hazleton Code Enforcement Department. Sosa said their concern is the City Code

Department is delaying house inspections. He said the City of Hazleton's ordinance requires a 15-day inspection period. Sosa suggested the City go back to the 15-day prior home inspection. Sosa said the realtor does not get paid until the home inspection is done. Perry said the Code Department does not have enough code inspectors. Diane Panzarella, City Code Manager, told Perry there are only two code inspectors to do the home inspections.

Atty. Logsdon said the City needs to follow the ordinance. If not, the City needs to re-examine things. Bruno asked if the City could have an outside inspector to perform the home inspections. Atty. Logsdon stated the City would need to check the collective bargaining contract.

Sosa said there are other issues, and he has a meeting pending. He stated they are the ones that "move the City" economically.

Atty. Logsdon stated he is looking for a bond reduction request regarding the City's Allen Ridge project. He said the original permits have been approved. He said if there are any requests for a bond reduction, he will forward this to all City Council members.

Comments from Mayor: None- absent

Comments from City Administrator: None- absent

Comments from Council: Colombo said, last night, the Hazleton Fire Department, Local 507, West Hazleton, and Hazle Township Fire Departments, and Hazleton Elks Lodge replaced 1,200 American flags on American veterans' graves. He said the DPW Department is placing flags on flagpoles for Memorial Day. Colombo said next Thursday, they will finish the flags at St. Gabriel's Cemetery. On Monday, May 26th, there will be the Memorial Mass for Memorial Day at Holy Annunciation Church (St. Gabriel's).

Ondishin agreed. He said without the veterans, we would have no freedom.

Colombo congratulated Roseanne Gabriel on winning the Athena Award.

Comments from Junior Council: None

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.