

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026**

Call to Order: Council met at a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 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 July 14, 2026, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:

Honoring Cusat's Café on their 90th Anniversary

Perry read the Proclamation.

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Dee Deakos, 43 Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2026-13- Electric Vehicles. She suggested the City require the riders to obtain a permit to ride, in the City, and be "moved up" to the Luzerne County "level".

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

<u>Ordinance 2026-14</u>	An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton Renaming that Portion of South Fulton Court Located between East Beech Street and East Noble Street as "ICE MAN LANE," in Honor and Memory of Nicholas J. Caputo and in Recognition of the Caputo Family's Longstanding Contributions to the City of Hazleton (1st READING)
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Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Nilles.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

(2ND READINGS)

Ordinance 2026-10

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of Stop Signs at the Intersection of Carson Street and North 17th Street (2nd READING)

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2026-11

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of Stop Signs at the Intersection of McNair Street and North 13 Street (2nd READING)

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Perry.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2026-12

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of a Stop Sign at the Intersection of Boundary Street and West 11th Street
(2nd READING)**

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

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 (2nd READING)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry mentioned that permits are only required by businesses in the City, referring to Deakos's comments about electric bike riders and requiring them to get a permit. Atty. Logsdon stated the City does not want permits for people to ride bikes.

MOTION TO TABLE:

Presented by Nilles. Seconded by Bruno.

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

ORDINANCE TABLED

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2026-45

Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG Program Fiscal
Year 2021-2023-2024-2026

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

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: Betsy Durso, Hazleton, spoke of the Hazleton City Authority (HCA) raising the City residents water bills by 65%. She asked if the City is going to vote on this charter. Atty. Logsdon stated the City needs to approve this increase by resolution. Perry stated he is not sure when the meeting will be for City Council members to vote on this issue. He said it should be done ASAP.

Durso stated the City residents are getting “killed” with extra bills, especially affected are the senior citizens. She mentioned the residents should not be “absorbing” the cost. She stated the Hazleton Area School District is “tax-free” for 10 years.

Durso mentioned that healthcare costs have also increased.

Dan Lynch, City Administrator, stated, in 2024, the City’s EIT taxes were lowered.

Mayor Cusat spoke of the HCA agreement with the City of Hazleton. He stated the City did an evaluation report, and it was determined that the City is due \$12,700,000. The City will be receiving \$3,400,000 with the money being dedicated to specific ideas. He said the City will need a Homestead Charter for \$426.00 deduction, per occupied owner, in the City. Mayor Cusat said some of the money will be dedicated to the City paving project and for redevelopment projects.

Mayor Cusat said the City will, also, have a capital budget in place. He mentioned he wants to give the City residents a better place to live.

Jeffrey Sanchez, Hazleton, spoke of the concerns of the recent HCA billing increases. He asked how this increase would benefit City renters. Sanchez mentioned he is “big” on affordable housing. He sees this benefiting homeowners.

Mayor Cusat stated the benefits from this will be a better City infrastructure with better roads and City parks.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat asked all City Council members if they would be okay with a stop sign being erected at 14th & Laurel Streets.

Mayor Cusat spoke of the recent City grant that was received, and the current updates being made in Council Chambers. He mentioned the lights will be switched to LED lights. Mayor Cusat stated there will be “stick-ons” for all the windows in Council Chambers.

Mayor Cusat thanked all City Council members for recognizing Cusat's Café on their 90th Anniversary.

Mayor Cusat said the fireworks display, over the weekend, was a great event.

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Council: Perry stated even though the HCA has increased their water bills, the City residents will be getting a tax break. He mentioned that the water bills include the City residents' garbage and administrative costs per month.

Perry stated the goal is not to get rid of the Hazleton City Water Authority. He said City Council will address this issue in two weeks at the next City Council meeting.

Colombo thanked the City's Parks and Recreation Department for the firework display. Bruno stated the fireworks show was a nice event.

Bruno stated he has no problem with the HCA increasing their water rates. He mentioned the increased rates are helping the City.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.