



BOROUGH OF WEST HAZLETON

100 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
WEST HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA 18202

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MINUTES Council Meeting February 12th, 2026

1. Call to Order by President Henry Kreisl

2. Roll call of Council Members

Chura: Present, **Vercusky:** Present, **Sharkey:** Present, **Duffy:** Present, **Dutz:** Present, **Kreisl:** Present, **Verrastro:** Present.

3. Motion to accept Meeting Minutes from Public Council meeting held on 1/13/2026:

Motion to approve: Sharkey

Second: Chura

Vote

Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

4. Committee Reports

- a. Police:** Submitted by Sgt. Buglio, read by Chair Verrastro.
- b. Fire:** Submitted by Chief Cressman, read by Chair Vercusky.
- c. Code and Zoning:** Submitted by CEO Luis Alberto, read by Chair Chura.
- d. Streets:** Submitted by Foreman Fogarty, read by Chair Duffy.
- e. Finance:** Submitted by Borough Manager Schweitzer, read by Chair Dutz.
- f. Buildings & Grounds:** Submitted by Chair Sharkey, read by Chair Sharkey

Motion to accept committee reports: Chura

Second: Verrastro

Vote

Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously.

5. **Public Participation:** CP Kreisl: This portion of the meeting is open for Public Participation, as always, Ordinance #175 of 1990 limit questions and comments to 3 minutes.

There was no participation from members of the public in attendance.

6. **Discussion of Work Session Actions:**

a. **Old Business**

- i. **Delinquent Garbage Report for January 2025:** Read by Council President Kreisl.

b. **New Business**

i. Motion to approve conditional offer of employment to **Marco Lopez as a part-time Fire Driver with the West Hazleton Fire Department.** CP Kreisl: Quickly, Brandon. Marco Lopez, was he road tested yet? Have you done any of that yet? FC Cressman: No, not yet. I was waiting until it was approved. He does run with other fire companies, and operates apparatus similar to ours. He will enter our training program before he is allowed to drive on his own. CP Kreisl: You are comfortable with it? FC Cressman: Absolutely. CP Kreisl: Fair Enough. Can I have a motion?

Motion to approve: Verrastro

Second: Sharkey

Vote

Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

ii. Motion to adopt **Resolution #1 of 2026 – Luzerne County Hazard Mitigation Update.**

Motion to Approve: Chura

Second: Verrastro

Vote

Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

iii. Motion to approve conditional offer of employment to **Berenice Centeno as Part-Time Borough Secretary.**

Motion to Approve: Dutz

Second: Verrastro

Vote

Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

iv. Motion to approve rate increases for Borough Secretary Nikki Bello & Borough manager Jim Schweitzer as presented in the 2026 Budget.

Motion to approve: Verrastro

Second: Chura

Vote

Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

v. Motion to appoint Alexis Kreisl as West Hazleton Borough Tax Collector.

CP Kreisl: In the interim until the next election.

Motion to approve: Sharkey

Second: Verrastro

Vote

Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Abstain, **Verrastro:** Yes.

Motion Passed 6-1.

vi. Motion to accept Professional Services Agreement from Government Consulting Strategies, LLC.

Motion to approve: Sharkey

Second: Duffy

Vote

Chura: No, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Abstain, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes.

Motion Passed 5-2.

- ii. Comments by Council and Mayor:** M Chura: I'd just like to commend all of our departments, the Police, Fire, and Streets Department on the job they did during the last snow storm. Cleaning Broad Street, everything was done in an excellent fashion, good job guys, excellent work. CP Kreisl: I was away, I had planned my vacation perfectly to miss the snow storm. I kept getting text messages and phone calls actually commending how well the streets were done, which never happens. Excellent Job! CM Verrastro: Many of my drivers are from out of town, and they were amazed at how well you took care of the streets. CM Duffy: It was like you were ahead of every storm. CP Kreisl: Anyone else with anything? Ok.

Announcements, Misc:

Announce Next Meeting:

1. Council President Kreis-

The next Work Session Meeting will be Tuesday, March 3rd, and the next Public Council Meeting will be Thursday March 12th. Can I have a motion to adjourn?

iii. Motion to Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn: Sharkey

Second: Dutz

Meeting Adjourned

Attested:

James Schweitzer
Borough Manager