BOROUGH OF WEST HAZLETON
100 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
WEST HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA 18202
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MINUTES
Council Meeting
June 9th, 2026

1. **Call to Order by President Henry Kreisl**

2. **Roll call of Council Members**

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

3. **Motion to accept Meeting Minutes from Public Council meeting held on 5/12/2026:**

   Motion to approve: Sharkey
   Second: Dutz

   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 Secretary Nikki Valdez, 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: Sharkey
   Second: Chura
   Vote
   Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey: Yes**, **Duff**y: Yes **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes
   Motion Passed Unanimously.

5. **Public Participation: CP Kreisl:** This portion of the meeting is for Public Participation, as per ordinance #175 of 1990, please leave your questions and or comments to 3 minutes. Is there anyone that would like to address Council?

Bruce Hunsinger, South Broad Street: Guys, we're all to each other here. I was talking to Jim recently about some incidents that have been going on with property at 19 South Broad Street and Webster. And it's been getting out of hand quite a bit lately. And I don't want to say much about it. He has files that when I call 9-1-1, because that's what you guys asked me to do and I make a I get a copy from Jim just so.
You guys know what's going on. I don't want to talk too much about it until everybody views all the issues I had with this property. You shared it with the police. I'd like to sit down maybe next month and talk about it, but it's getting out of hand here. Even vandalism of my car.

CP Kreisl:
Brian, you're up to speed on that? You can fill me in then. Are you aware of what he's talking about?

Sgt Buglio:
There's a piece of any he is getting arrested for abusing the 9-1-1 system. And the neighbor, the video of you antagonizing the neighbor. The neighbor sent a video of you doing that. You get all those things when you came to report it. You thought it was connected to the neighbor because they have a video of you. You're driving by yelling and cursing at him. I wouldn't be officer with there if it was cold. And I think though, cause I well yeah, But he's gonna arrest, if he will, and we'll be able to see that in court. When is whether? I don't know when he's gonna file a charge or charge filed against five. I know, they told don't call nine one continuously calls and said at twelve o'clock.

BH:
It's a new day. I can now call nine one again. So we got the kid from the nine one center. I am not arguing with you. But I want everybody to look at those reports, please. And nobody's been stopping that music until this past Saturday. I saw officers up there about quarter to ten, and it stopped at night after it went on for several hours. Once again, now the previous week that went on until four o'clock. So I don't know if you guys stop over there or not, but that's the reason I call nine one because I can't sleep with my house. I mean it was so loud this past Saturday, I was tempted to leave my house. That's how loud it was. And I'm not leaving my property for a nuisance person. That's just not I'm bought and paid for it. I did seem that. I never have a problem except for this one property. And they damaged my car with eggs. I was sitting in my car when it happened the first time, and then same day, I had a juice thrown out. I couldn't see who was throwing the eggs. Then I came home from tennis at about noon, and the person that owns that property, Pedro, threw a container of juice at my car. And that's when I went to file a thing with Henderson. I think the reason Pedro was thrown out is because we drive by his house. I don't drive by his house. I didn't even walk by his house. I'm not going to argue this. But as long as that's going to happen, I'm being arrested, I would like you guys to please look at that information that I just spelled up.

CP Kreisl:
Thank you. I will definitely look at that person and be in contact with you.
Thank you. Any other new business?

Drew Hudson, 420 North Broad Street:
I filed a complaint, though I put in a records request that was completely ignored. I put in a complaint on it and it was ignored, and they said it was forwarded to the president and council would review it. I never heard anything back. This was back in December.

CP Kreisl:
I don't recall anything. I wasn't presented with anything. Was it sent to the solicitor or who did he file a complaint with? I'm sure he did.

BM Schweitzer:
I have it on file here. And it's on file Yes, Did you send it to the solicitor and the solicitor didn't respond or no?

DH:

It said in response, the email response that he forwarded it to council president for council to review.
CP Kreisl:
He may have, I don't recall seeing it back in December. I guess it wasn't reviewed then. Not that I could recall.
Solicitor Rockman:
That's a right to know request or a complaint? Right to know request. What records are you seeking?
DH:
There were four items I believe one was for
BM Schweitzer:
He did respond, but then he filed a complaint specifically against me.
He's just come to the office and filed a complaint here.
SR:
Against you. Your remedy: I am not trying to give you legal advice, but if you weren't satisfied with the response to the right to know request, your remedy is to file an appeal, and you have fifteen days to file an appeal.
DH:
I did the records request again and then got the response. The first one was completely ignored, and that was my complaint that Jim wasn't doing his job.
CP Kreisl:
So you did get a response the second time?
DH:
That the complaint was forwarded to them. Council and they would investigate it.
The second right to know request was answered. The first one was completely ignored.
BM Schweitzer:
It was a complaint for the first right to know request.
CP Kreisl:
All right so you can take care of that with the solicitor.
I don't remember seeing it, but it is. I will say that it is possible that it's in my mailbox and I didn't look at it because I do respond to emails, but paper, I usually don't pick up. I'll be honest with you that my mailbox has nobody does what they're supposed to do now. Is there any other new business?
DH:
And also the street sweepers have been going down to Hazel Park and sweeping private property. Hazel Park paid for the street sweeping down there.
CP Kreisl:
I don't recall that any of my stuff was swept. I don't own the street.
DH:
Because the next time the street sweeper came down, I walked down, and as the guy passed right where your no trespassing signs are at the beginning of your property, I told him, "Hey, that's private property." Then he lifted the brushes, turned around, and still came up. And they're still going down a hundred yards of township.
I can't answer for that, but he's so why are we sweeping township property and private property? I brought this up last year too, and I thought it was solved. They weren't going to do it anymore.
CP Kreisl:
But I don't believe that they're sweeping the property at Hazel Park.
DH:
Do you want to see a video?
Would you like to see the video? I don't need to see it. Manager, would you like the mayor? Would you like to see the video?
Mayor Chura:
I'll look at it with Henry.
CP Kreisl:
If they are, it's not to my knowledge. It's not to my knowledge because come on. I have.
DH:
An old video of you walking through a parking lot when they were doing them last year.

CP Kreisl:
I'd like to see that as well. Any other new business?

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

   a. **Old Business**

      i. **Delinquent Garbage Report for May 2026:** Read by Council President Kreisl.

   b. **New Business**

CP Kreisl: Ok, May I have a motion to go off the agenda to add an agenda item?

Motion to go off agenda: Verrastro
Second: Duffy
Vote

Vote

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

i. Motion to approve conditional offer of employment to **Diane Panzarella for Full Time Code Officer with West Hazleton Borough.**
Motion to approve: Chura
Second: Duffy

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

ii. Motion to approve handicap parking space for **Shirley Witcofski, 301 Winters Avenue (Verified & approved by Streets Dept. Foreman Corey Fogarty).**
Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Chura

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

iii. Motion to approve conditional offer of full-time employment to **Lesther Santos** with the **West Hazleton Borough Police Department.**
Motion to Approve: Verrastro
Second: Chura

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro: Yes**.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

iv. Motion to approve and adopt proposed reverse subdivision of **East Broad Street Properties, LLC** for property located at **235 East Broad Street, West Hazleton, PA in a B-1(Local Business/Residential Zone)** as recommended by the **West Hazleton Planning Commission**.
Motion to Approve: Verrastro
Second: Duffy
Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

v. Motion to adopt **Ordinance #3 of 2026 – An Ordinance of the Borough of West Hazleton Adopting the 2021 International Fire Code.**
Solicitor Rockman: Was the ordinance advertised?
BM Schweitzer: No, it wasn't.
Solicitor Rockman: Make a motion to table until the ordinance is advertised for Public Notice.
Motion to Table: Verrastro
Second: Sharkey
Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes.
Motion Tabled.

v.

CP Kreisl: That concludes the agenda. Do we have any additional comments by Council or by the Mayor?

ii. Comments by Council and Mayor:
Mayor Chura: I would just like to say and thank everybody who participated or helped with the Memorial Day ceremony. It was very nice. It'd been nice to have it outside, but it was still very nice. Heather's not here, but they did. Good job with the food. Everything turned out very well. And I just want to remind everybody, we're going ahead with the stone for the Korea monument. Yes. And Stiles is going to try to have that done in July. Good. So we can have a ceremony for that too. There's some he said either for the Fourth of July, which probably won't happen or whenever they sign the armistice. For the Korean War.

So it's hopefully going to be in July. Excellent. I got in touch with Corey. He's going to help some maybe dig a little bit.
CP Kreisl:
Maybe move something up here
Mayor Chura:

And we were hoping he wanted to put it on the right side.

CP Kreisl:

Right side of the monument?

CP Kreisl:

But you weren't here last time, and there's a possibility we'd have to go on the left side and something would have to maybe be moved over a little bit. Moved over around? And just in case.

Mayor Chura:

I don't think he's going to fit it on there, right there. Just for me looking at, am not putting it in. He's going to fit it on there, right? I am sure the guys will just figure out the best spot for it. Now that has to be moved down while four. It is what it is. True that was made for a specific area and that's definitely part of it.

Announcements, Misc:

a. The Borough Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.

Announce Next Meeting:

1. **Council President Kreisl-**
   The next Work Session Meeting will be Tuesday, July 7th, and the next Public Council Meeting will be Tuesday, July 14th. May I have a motion to adjourn please?
   Motion: Chura

Second: Dutz

Meeting Adjourned

Attested:

James Schweitzer

Borough Manager