BOROUGH OF WEST HAZLETON
100 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
WEST HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA 18202

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MINUTES
Council Meeting
July 14th, 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 6/9/2026:**

   Motion to approve: Verrastro
   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 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: 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 for Public Participation. Is there anyone that would like to address Council or the Mayor?

Paul Young, West 22nd Street: My name's Paul Young. I live on West 22nd Street. We have a park block from my house that hasn't had a rim on the basketball court for nine years. We'd like to go up there; kids in the neighborhood to play basketball, younger kids. Maybe you can do something about putting that in. I would imagine. Okay, Cindy Street playground. I mean, if there's problem and bad kids go to it, take them back down. But it's been nine years that they haven't been there. It's time to put them back up. There's nothing in that park except for a tire swing for kids to do. I mean, what good is the park? Nobody goes there. You have a park you're paying to keep it running, And nobody's using it. The other problem I have is on West Twenty Second Street. You put bike lanes in both sides of the street, which makes us nobody can park on that street at all. I think it should only be one side. They have that in in West in Hazel Township from Community Park up to the airport. They have it one side of the street, not both sides of the street, so now you have people parking in no parking zones. Somebody rides a bike there and has to go around the car and gets hit, the borough's going to be liable for that. Because you made it no parking and you're leaving people parked there, I think you should take one side or the other down. I don't care what side you do, but if I need a park, I'm going to park in Bernie's driveway. They're all right. Try to do something about that.

CP Kreisl:
Thank you. Yes ma'am?

Speaker#2:
Did I have to vote there? No. Great. So we have code enforcement now in the borough.

Solicitor Rockman:
Could you just state your name and address?

00:12:56 Speaker 12

GeorgeAnn Wellington, Oak Street: GeorgeAnn Wellington, Oak Street. So we do have code enforcement in the borough. Garbage cans. People in my neighborhood put them out, sometimes Saturday morning. Our garbage pickup is Monday morning. Is there some way we can notify people not to put them out?

CP Kreisl:
We issue a letter with the garbage bill.

VP Verrastro:
Mistake, I think there is one issued every so often with it. Not saying people read them because evidently they don't. There is one everybody is informed of such that you don't do that. You put it out the night before.

GW:
I live next to an apartment house; they have ten cans.

VP Verrastro:
Do they leave them out there all the time?

GW:
When they put them on Saturday morning, sometimes they don't make it back to the side of the house until Tuesday or Wednesday. That's why I asked about a code enforcement officer. Other thing is how late can the ice cream truck make its rounds?

CP Kreisl:
Question: I honestly don't even know how the ice cream truck. We kind of turn our head to the ice cream truck because we're not. So we're technically not supposed to have any food trucks. In the borough, but the ice cream truck, as long as I've been around, has been.

Councilman Sharkey:
As long as I've been around.

They say Chilly Willie.
GW:
But now he goes up our street sometimes three times a day, and the last time was as late as nine forty-seven at night.
CP Kreisl:
I would think curfews are curfews, ten o'clock. That's probably the ordinance he's following, the curfew at ten o'clock. The answer would be ten if I am not mistaken.
GW:
And we have a lot of properties in the borough that look like crap. People don't realize that the weeds along their fence have to be cut down too, just not supposedly the grass on the other side of the fence. But that's code enforcement.
Fire Chief Cressman:
We just can enforce all that. And like the garbage cans. I can do that because that's all in a quality of life ordinance. But I have to be careful because I can't go on people's property without permission or it goes against the garbage cans. The garbage cans I can get. They're out and they're put trash or if they're out and not being put back because there's the ordinance gives a specific time for when they're allowed to be put out and when they have to be brought back in. So if they are out we can pick it for that. Some days I do work on the weekends.
GW:
So that's basically it. Thank you.

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

   a. **Old Business**

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

   b. **New Business**
   CP Kreisl: The agenda.

i. Motion to accept proposal from **Cutting Edge Roofing** for the **West Hazleton Fire Department Building Flat Roof Replacement project - $75,475.00.**
Motion to approve: Sharkey
Second: Verrastro

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

ii. Motion to adopt **Resolution#5 of 2026 – Streets Department Collective Bargaining Agreement between West Hazleton Borough Council and PSSU Local 668 Service Employees International Union from January 1st, 2026 to December 31st 2031.**
Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Duffy

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

iii. Motion to approve replacement of **18' x 24'** section of concrete flooring at **Streets Department Garage** by **Tony Lobello Concrete - $7,875.00**
Motion to Approve: Verrastro
Second: Chura
Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Duffy:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro: Yes**.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

CP Kreisl: That concludes this evening's agenda. Are there any additional comments by Council or by the Mayor?

ii. Comments by Council and Mayor:
CP Kreisl:
Mayor Chura just informed me about the Korean War Veteran Memorial. Do we have a time frame?
MC:
Yes. July twenty-fifth, next Saturday. Ten o'clock.
VPV:
Ten o'clock. I am going to try to go out and get an invite on the sign so the public knows it's there if they want to show up.
MC:
It's going to be in the paper just saying what's going on. Did we contact Bruce Huttenstine? I hope he is willing to make it.
CP Kreisl:
God willing. Actually, I have to call him and let him know on that date because he'll see it in the paper. Don't surprise him. I'll call him.

Announcements, Misc: No announcements or miscellaneous items.

Announce Next Meeting:
1. **Council President Kreisl-**
The next Work Session Meeting will be Tuesday, August 4th, and the next Public Council Meeting will be Tuesday, August 11th. Do I have a motion to adjourn?
Motion: Chura
Second: Sharkey

Meeting Adjourned

Attested:

James Schweitzer

James Schweitzer

Borough Manager