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

(570) 455-7851
FAX (570-455-4223

MINUTES
Council Meeting
August 11th, 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 7/14/2026:**

   Motion to approve: Verrastro
   Second: Chura

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

5. **Public Participation: CP Kreisl:** This is the part of the meeting where we open for Public Participation. Anybody have anything they'd like to say to Council or the Mayor? Please stand, state your name, and address.

Jan Kraske, 54 Madison Avenue: My name is Jan Kraske. I live at fifty-four Madison Avenue and I've lived there all my life. I grew up in West Hazleton. This is my first meeting. I just wanted to come and see what goes on. But my question is first, can you tell me how many policemen work for West Davidson?

CP Kreisl:
We have nine full-time and one part-time.

JK:
One part-time, just nine full-time. And I know they're very busy. And I'm sure you've heard this a million times about noise complaints. And I always call 911. They have to take it; I tell them it's not an emergency. I just want to talk to the West Salem police. They tell me they'll call back, and they don't call me back. And I want to know, what do I do then? Do I keep calling or do I leave it alone? Do I deal with it myself?

Councilman Sharkey:
If you don't say it's an emergency, I heard that from other people. If you don't say it's an emergency, they don't always respond. But if it was an emergency,

JK:
I could use 911. But like I said, what do you do in my case? I had a car parked in front of my driveway the whole day. I couldn't go anywhere. I couldn't get out. I had no idea whose car it was. So, I called the police, just either get a ticket on it or get it towed. I had places that I had to be. I had to call somebody to come, get me and take me because I couldn't get out there's garage there. There's a yellow line there and nobody called me back. So, like what do I do in a case like that? Do I keep calling them? Do I? I would. I don't know. It was just so frustrating.

CS:
But that is an emergency. There's an emergency.

JK:
And the same with noise complaints. Do they actually give these people tickets or warnings?

CP Kreisl:
I think it depends on the case, but if it's a property that they've been to over and over, I'm sure they ticketed them. But if it's one they haven't been to, I'm sure they'd like to give them a warning first. And if they don't come?

JK:
Do I deal with it myself or am I better off just waiting and leaving them alone? Because last year, I went to a guy right across from my house to say, buddy, can you just please turn the music down? I don't even want you to turn it off. Just turn it down. And he got right in my face. And it was like; it's only five o'clock. I don't have to turn my music down. And I was like, buddy, you want to hit me? Hit me. I don't. Like I was at the point where I could give you one good kick and you'd be down. But I just don't know. I mean as soon as I turned around and walked away, he did turn the music down. That's a good thing. Do I deal with it? Because I've already had a cop tell me, "Don't deal with it."

CP Kreisl:
They probably say no, because you don't know who you're dealing with. You know what I mean?

CS:
And usually, you don't.

CP Kreisl:
You don't. Right now. So, I feel the same way you do with the nine one. However, that is the only way that you're going to get an officer dispatched. You have to go through the nine one system. Silly as it is, I disagree with it but it's just the way it is.

CS:
I wouldn't use the station like it isn't actually manned by a secretary.
JK:
So, they might not get the call from the police. Right, and I can understand.
CS:
Like I said, they might have been busy that time. But I just wasn't sure what I would do in the instance if I really needed them. And like I said, I wouldn't call nine one for a noise complaint. I would just put up with it. That's just me. I wouldn't do that.
CP Kreisl:
Two unfortunate truths because you have to call nine one and you're better off leaving your name because if you don't leave your name well
JK:
I did leave my name. They even asked me what it was about, The nine one. The nine one. So, can you just tell me what it's about? I don't know if they just didn't think it was that important. I have no idea. Maybe if it was after midnight and they were still doing it, I would probably use nine one. But I just wanted to know what I would do in those instances.
CS:
I would say 911.
Concerned Citizen#1:
That's okay. The best bet. All right? Thank you very much. Thank you too. Go back to her with the music because after midnight, my mom called nine one. They were rude to her. She's like, it's been hours. She's eighty-four years old. Trying to sleep and I got maybe an hour of sleep. Had to shut the windows and the music was so loud.
CS:
And see nine one was your room tour? That's we I hear that often too. We unfortunately have no control over that. That I hear that too, and many of the dispatchers aren't nice when you call. And there is really nothing you can do about it? There is really nothing. They're not employed. I thought you said. I thought you meant the cop. I said, "if the cop was here, that's a different story." But nine one yeah.
JK:
There's no police here now.
CP Kreisl:
Unfortunately, we don't have a police officer here for the meeting.
JK:
I didn't know if they ever came to some or not.
CP Kreisl:
They normally do, they normally do, and unfortunately tonight, we don't have them. Yes
Mrs. Childs, 30-32 West Broad Street:
We're receiving an email from Charles and even Terry on Terry to West Broadway Street. I'm coming here to ask.
MC:
Make a favor. We need an ordinance of code enforcement because we don't have it now. When we ask for occupational burning, something like that, especially when we're working in the business, we need to be strict about this situation. The girls you have at the office and your manager try to do them the best they can. But sometimes because they don't know everything about the rules or that kind of things, they send it back. Because that's not where it's supposed to be. I would like to know if it is possible. Do you have some candidate for code enforcement? We need one. We have a request.
CP Kreisl:
We do not. We did advertise looking for code enforcement. If you know anyone that is in that field.
MC:
Or we do have. We need it because when we come into the office, very nice people say the same. We don't have enforcement. We do the best we can, but that's not what we know to do. They're doing their best. We send them things to Scranton and Scranton sends them back and forth.

CP Kreisl:
Are you familiar with this problem that she's having?
Borough Manager Schweitzer:
Yes. And it's what it involves, Henry, as Mrs. Childs is expressing, is that Nikki and Bernice can process the information to B H W. But as opposed to us having a code officer in the office, that's a B C O, that's versed with the code that can answer all the detailed questions depending on the information that's in the application or the questions that the applicant has. Obviously, the girls do not know all of that information.
CP Kreisl:
I understand that we have BHW, can schedule a meeting to come in and help her, or Barry Isett can't schedule a meeting.
BMS:
We can make those arrangements, but it still wouldn't be the replacement that we need as opposed to an actual code officer.
CP Kreisl:
That's understood.
Councilperson Chura:
But when you involve Barry Isett, that's going to be an extra cost for us.
MC:
Would I'm sorry, would you say, would it be a cost to you?
CC:
Extra cost for us if we use Barry Isett.
Councilman Dutz:
I think the issue would be paying a salary to attract somebody for that position because what's in the budget to pay somebody. You don't get a lot of applicants for any job out there. Not even it's just this one. It would be a matter of the budget and how much do we want to allocate. So, it's kind of a fine line and then getting somebody who wants to actually apply for the job. We did it in the past; we got nobody. It's difficult to hire someone right now.
CP Kreisl:
Anyone else? Doctor Childs?
Doctor Robert Childs, 30-32 West Broad Street:
Now, on a different subject, uh coming off Fifth Street onto Bowdoin Street is very hazardous. Um I've come close to getting hit a couple of times now. Uh you can't see around the bushes. Now whether you put whether you put a stop sign there for the people coming down Boundary Street or you put a mirror up that you can see who's coming down. So, by the time you can see who's coming down Boundary Street. Okay, you're halfway across the road and people coming up are not happy. So, just to throw out there for consideration.
CP Kreisl:
Very good, thank you. Corey, I marked down what Street and Jimmy, if you don't mind, please, if you can take a look at that Fifth and Boundary.
BMS:
I already have it on hand here. I'll follow up with Corey on it. Thank you. You're welcome.
JK:
What does it take to put a speed bump on a road? I am not sure about that one.
Ken Majusiak, 245 West Green Street:
Can you review the shop Santana's from New Street? On the cars racing around at night. I know it's hard for the cops to get them, but all they got to do is have anybody sit around anywhere from five till eight thirty-nine o'clock at night. They're going close to ninety down North Street. You can hear them buzzing down. It sounds like they're coming from Santanas's. They're coming down Broadway. And everywhere they go with the stop signs right left.
CV:
One right coming out of,

KM:
They blow through the one we put out. I mean, the cops sit there every now and then, but normally when they sit there, nobody goes through for that house. But as soon as they leave, they blow through it. But I mean that's morning till night. Yep, the other thing is where all those trucks are parked there? Why are all those tires parked or laid down? Facing up not along the bank faces out towards all those old places, right across from your garage. Where all those trucks, if you go to the back of that lot, there's all tires laying down. Truck tires.
CV:
The back of it up towards the woods? Yep.
KM:
Where that camper is, they camp there year-round? Yes. There are tires all along that path. And the mosquitoes in that, they've been there two years laying like that. And they've been camping in that camper pretty steady for two years now? Come November it's two years.
CP Kreisl:
Brandon, would you please be able to take a look at that? There's no sewage or anything.
KM:
I know. That was garbage from the trucks.
Fire Chief Cressman:
Is that still Nemeth's property? Yes.
Cp Kreisl:
Please check into that.
Mayor Chura:
One tomorrow morning, Brandon, is there something we can look into, like what he's saying about that camper living year-round? We have like. I mean, there's no if your house doesn't have sewer or
KM:
Let me just say it doesn't matter if they're in their own yards.
KM:
Tear the house down.
00:17:48 Speaker 7
Yeah. They can get cited if they don't have sewage, right?
FCC:
Or electricity. They so I know the guy I think the father there got arrested from that camper. So might just be the daughter, the mother and I think a son there still. But yeah, I should definitely look into that.
Councilman Verrastro:
There was supposed to be dogs there too over at the school, I think?
CS:
They would venture over every now and then. Big dogs actually.
KM:
And the other thing where they're filling that back in, where does that runoff go to? Like right in front of the camper, there was a parking lot came, and then it dropped down about foot and a half. They're filling that in with dirt now. Who's filling it? I guess it is. You look there you could see clay right across from the garage. Right. You can see the clay going towards the top.
CV:
The last I saw, I just saw him laying stone down to try to level out that parking, which was horrible, but a lot nonetheless.
KM:
I didn't know they were dumping anything over the bank. They're not going over the bank; they're filling that lot in. They haven't dumped a load probably in two and a half to three weeks, but still. The other thing is they parked that tractor trailer along the fence there, where those two other campers are. It goes there from Friday and then it stays till Sunday afternoon. It doesn't get ticketed, and it's on the road. Three quarters of the road is blocked.
CV:

Agreed. I see that all the time, and I assumed he was ready to leave, but then I came back at the end of the day and he was still there. Who is he? From Friday night to where does he live? Does he live there? He just like a truck driver? And he just leaves it on the road. You can't do that; it blocks up half the road. Half the road's blocked up.

CS:

We got to send somebody there.

KM:

Another thing with noise complaints, I don't know what they're doing with the cops. We called at one o'clock in the morning last week on my phone. I got a decibel reading; it was reading ninety-three at one o'clock in the morning. Called 911, a cop came by. They talked to him, laughed, shook hands, took off. Nothing happened. You think it stopped, or no? Got back down the road, got louder. This time he did Trans Church. Called back, probably forty minutes later, a cop came out. They turned it down. I don't think he got to Trans School and they cranked it back up. Three o'clock I went to bed but I just turned the TV on, turned that up so I couldn't hear the noise. They don't do nothing. But one a year ago, they told me go in your house, sit in your house, if you don't like that music. And that's from the Borough Police Department.

CV:

I don't like how loud it is.

CP Kreisl:

I have an issue with it.

CS:

Especially that's a time that I have an issue with. If someone's having a party at their house, but after some time, after a certain time and front.

MC:

I have a question regarding this. We don't have any ordinance about it?

CS:

About Tickets? We do.

MC:

Do and who's supposed to do that? The police, the police.

MC:

And there is an ordinance all day. It's not just because I understand that crucial, we make a party sometime down one day, ten or eleven, something like that regular night. But one o'clock in the morning is not right.

MC:

And I don't know how it's working if you have a warning or you go directly, but I think so. Let me tell you something that I've heard. I was with Mr. Arbaugh the other day, and so on to the person over there saying, 'Oh, we called the police and they said regarding the forms.' You know that we have a new law that started in June. Testing and introducing the new ones, the red light. And they say, 'What are you doing? Why do you think that we can do it?' It's a lot of people doing the same. And I'm thinking, even a lot of people doing the same, you have started to put fines there. I don't know how much five hundred dollars or whatever you put it. They're going little by little down because they are very careful about spending money. Spending money? And we need to respect their rights and other people.

MC:

That's just ridiculous. Some guy is blasting music or he's merengue or he's whatever. It's ridiculous. So, what I'm thinking is I don't know what you can do and why you deny police.

CP Kreisl:

Craig, do you have anything you'd like to add to that? What is the standard procedure when an officer shows up on a noise call?

Officer Craig Barket:

So, we do receive, I mean during the summer listening points are probably up there with one of our most frequent calls. All the officers do respond to every call that we call for assistance that we receive. Noise complaints are handled if it's not unreasonably loud. As far as if we're driving by and we have our

windows down, we can't hear it, we walk up. If we can't hear it, knock on the door, make contact, give them a warning that 'Hey, your level of noise is bothering some of your neighbors.' If you have to come back, you could get cited. I know we have just cited several residences.

OCB:

People for noise ordinance actually not the noise ordinance. It's for disorderly conduct unreasonable noise but like I said the officers are making patrols. We do respond to every noise complaint. I'm not sure who the officer was that told you just to go in your house and I can't speak to that, but we do cite for that. We do patrol it, and we do answer those calls.

KM:

Thank you. One last item.

KM:

Wastewater from the house and is there an ordinance for dumping outside? One neighbor had their washing machine running from morning to night without changing the water, and then at the end of the night, they just pumped the water into the yard. It's like a third world country. They're doing their house. Next thing, there's a bucket of water coming from upstairs over to the banister, just throwing garbage. It's not washing cars. It's wastewater from the house.

CP Kreisl:

The house has to have sewer. It has to have water, sewer, and electric. All for occupancy.

KM:

They're pumping stuff out of the upper floor downstairs constantly.

CP Kreisl:

If you don't mind, you don't have to say it during the public meeting, but if you want to tell Brandon what house to look at, he could check that. Thank you. That's all. Thank you. Anyone else?

Christine Fergel, 103 Putnam Street:

I guess. Or Christien Fergel, one hundred and three Putnam Street, across from the senior high rise. E A Encke School. That right hand turning lane to get into Humboldt. Can we get that guy to dump whatever on that pothole? It's back.

CP Kreisl:

It's terrible and it's Hazelton. I didn't see it today. Today is the first day in weeks I haven't gone out. I was avoiding it with a big truck. I had to go around it.

BMS:

Corey informed me that they just patched the area yesterday, Henry.

CP Kreisl:

I'm glad to hear that they did it because we had written several letters and contacted them. The biggest problem with that is it is Hazleton's area, and if we started patching it and taking care of it, it turns into a lifetime commitment, and we don't get any of the resources to replenish and take. We don't get the credit, and we don't get the funds to be able to maintain it. That's why we were hounding them, but it did take like four months to finally get some action.

CV:

Jimmy knows more than anything if he did reach out with a number of calls.

CF:

The yellow lines are painted really nice.

CP Kreisl:

Just right over the rocks and over the potholes I saw.

MC:

Can I ask something about the agenda? They do have an agenda? You can ask sure. Okay, um, this is the next motion. I am going to know the motion when you go put it is regarding the last time you are talking about. Is this an ordinance they talked about before and they wanted to approve today?

CV:

Yes.

MC:

Then first, what is the number?

Zoning Officer Charles Pedri:
It means about the Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan.
CP Kreisl:
That is the hearing we had at the beginning of the meeting regarding joining Hazelton Township and West Hazelton and Hazleton with a comprehensive municipal agreement. It is just an agreement between the municipalities where we will interact together for grant money and for area development.
ZOP:
That's nothing about. They do want to adopt the kind of things they do now, the government like that.
CP Kreisl:
We're not going to combine the municipalities. It's a completely voluntary system. It's just a guideline. It's something that was supposed to be done for years and was never done. It's a guideline or a book that we can access if we have questions or if we want to use it, have an outline as to how to proceed with certain things. It's addressed mostly in the municipal agreement. But it's completely voluntary. We can say that we don't want to do it or that we do want to do it when it comes up. is that everyone? Thank you. I'm going to close Public Participation.

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

   a. **Old Business**

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

   b. **New Business**
   CP Kreisl: New business.

i. Motion to adopt **Ordinance #4 of 2026- An Ordinance Establishing and Implementing a Program to Charge Mitigation Rates for the Deployment of Emergency and Non-Emergency Services by the Fire Department for Services Provided/Rendered by/for the Borough of West Hazleton.**
Motion to approve: Chura
Second: Verrastro

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

ii. Motion to adopt **Resolution#5 of 2026 – A Resolution of the Borough Council of West Hazleton Borough, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Adopting the Greater Hazleton Area Thrive35, A Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the City of Hazleton, the Borough of West Hazleton, and Hazle Township.**
Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Chura

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

Motion Passed Unanimously.

iii. Motion to approve **Commercial Parking Space Application for Fire Bowl and VIP Nails, 301-303 East Broad Street.** (Verified by Streets Department Foreman Corey Fogarty).

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

iv. Motion to approve **Delinquent Garbage account Settlement for 123 West Clay Avenue. The total amount- $9,657.87**

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

CP Kreisl: This portion is for comments by the Council and the Mayor. Does anyone have anything that they want to say?

ii. **Comments by Council and Mayor:**

Councilman Sharkey:
Go ahead. I was contacted by Elliot Gregory, he owns Hoops, the place on the bar, the embroidery place. I don't know if he said he was at the Korean War Memorial thing at the ceremony, but he was there for some reason, and his family's willing to donate a bench. He said there's no bench there. His family's willing to donate a bench in memory of his grandfather, I believe. To put it that at that site if we're with it, I told him I'd have to talk to council. He's a World War Two vet, I believe he said.

CP Kreisl:
He said he was a World War Two vet, and they would like to put a bench with a plaque on it,

Mayor Chura:
Just maybe in memory of. Maybe, we could do something with the bench and combine like saying what that area is, how we were going to say it's just the veterans you know memorial park.

Councilman Verrastro:
Right.

MC:
Maybe we could do it like two things in one somehow. That's a good idea.

CV:
I think it's a great idea. By the way, the memorial looks good. Fantastic! Well done, whoever put it in.

MC:

I wanted to thank Council for allowing us to do it and make it possible. I really wanted to thank Brandon for his help and Corey. Corey did a lot of work and also the gentleman who made it, Mr. Sal DeFazio. He created all the other ones there and also the ones down by the high school. He's a very good man and he really didn't charge the borough. There may be something small that he had to buy, but there's really no charge. He's amazing. It was very nice and the ceremony went over well. Maybe we could do some with a bench like that and a sign.
00:32:01 Speaker 16
And. Another. Where you're going with that? I know where to put it. We know where we can go.

CP Kreisl:
The only two comments that I have was one. We talked about putting the basketball hoops back in down in Sixth Street and I'll work with Brian and with Corey to get that facilitated so that they get the hoops put back up there. The other thing was I know it's been with the noise. I will talk with Brian and I'll have a meeting with the officers regarding the noise complaints in the city because it or in the borough because it has been Dominican Father's Day was a nightmare. The music played all night. Six o'clock in the morning, I was on my front porch, and the windows were still. I'll be honest with you, it was darndest thing. I drove all around town. I couldn't find it. I don't know where it was coming from. I thought, and I thought I had it down into an area, and you'd get there and there was nothing there. I have no idea how they pulled that off because it was through the entire borough. They were driving around in a car. A lot of them are in the car

CV:
I noticed with the loudspeakers. It's amazing but it is.

MC:
Our ordinance should be: you get a fine, you don't get a warning. After ten o'clock, there should be no warnings.

CV:
Maybe we could revisit that.

MC:
Will have a discussion at the meeting.

Councilman Sharkey:
Brandon, you guys had a great bump this month. Congratulations! Job well done. Keep up the good work on that.

CP Kreisl:
Anyone else? Ok.

Announcements, Misc: CP Kreisl: The Borough Office will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

Announce Next Meeting:

1. **CP Kreisl**:
   The next Work Session Meeting will be Tuesday, September 1st, and the next Public Council Meeting will be Tuesday, 8th. Can I have a motion to adjourn?
   Motion: Sharkey

Second: Dutz

Meeting Adjourned

Attested:

James Schweitzer

James Schweitzer

Borough Manager