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

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MINUTES
Council Meeting
October 13th, 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 9/8/2026:**

   Motion to approve: Chura
   Second: Dutz

   Vote
   Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
   Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

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: Dutz
   Vote
   Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey: Yes, Duffy**: Yes **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes
   Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

5. **Public Participation: CP Kreisl:** This portion of the meeting is open for Public Participation. According to the Ordinance #175 of 1990, please limit comments to 3 minutes. Does anyone have anything they would like to address with Council?

Georgeann Wellington, Oak Street: Yesterday I called the Police Department. I'm a little concerned, because whenever I call over there, they just answer the phone "Police Department", and when I ask, they just give me a badge number. They don't answer the phone and identify who we're talking to. I identified who I was, but I called because I didn't realize there were young children, not toddlers, but kids riding around on their mini bikes, mini dirt bikes, down by the cemetery on North Street, and one child was inside the gate. He was ripping up the grass and jumping out into the road. I was informed that's not our jurisdiction, but in Hazle Township. That's State Police jurisdiction. But if the officer came over and sat, there's only one way out of that cemetery on a bike, and that's North Street. They're on the street racing around. I did yell at the young man. I told him he didn't belong in the cemetery. My father is buried there. I don't want them to be there. That was my concern. I was informed that the Borough is responsible for the South Side of North Street. Am I correct?
SGT Brian Buglio: The cemetery is not ours, so everything on the right side going down is ours until the cemetery, and the cemetery is not ours. That's Hazle Township. That's the line. The street to the right past the school, that's Hazle Township.
GW: What about the hoses on the left side across from the cemetery? Are they the middle?
SB: Everything on the left side is ours.
GW: The other thing is, I did petition. We got Maple Street one way, but now we have an issue with the no parking sign. People in the back alley are constantly parking by the sign. I know I can call 911 and report it, but maybe if they occasionally got a ticket. I did notice somebody had a car parked across from 9 Maple on the parking side. They had a ticket, for what reason I don't know. We were told that was legal parking there. Now I've got a garage back there that installs music sound systems in cars. An issue with illegal car garages. I understand the house next door; he's remodeling above the garage and adding rooms. They have a 2-car garage right in the alley. I had to maneuver around; they had my garage blocked.
Council President Kreisl: Do they have a building permit visible?
GW: Yes, the building down. I checked that one.
CP Kreisl: I'm going to take a look at it. Thank you very much. Anyone else? Nobody? Then that concludes Public Participation.

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

   a. **Old Business**

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

   b. **New Business**
      CP Kreisl:

i. Motion to accept proposal from **Brian Preski** for **Cross Connection Control and Fire Suppression Installation, Inspection and Compliance Services care of Tony Ryba/ Government Consulting Strategies LLC.**

Vice President Verrastro: I know we've gone through this several times, but I make a motion to table that until next month. There are questions that I know you guys have had and that Brian can answer, but I can have him here next month at the work session so we can finally put this to bed.

Motion to table: Verrastro
Second: Sharkey

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky:** Yes, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Tabled Unanimously, 7-0.

ii. Motion to adopt proposed **Resolution #6 of 2026 – A Resolution Requesting Luzerne County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Roadway Improvements:**

Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Dutz

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

iii. Motion to adopt proposed **Ordinance #6 of 2026 – Ordinance of the Council of the Borough of West Hazleton Amending the West Hazleton Borough Zoning Ordinance (with regard to Data Centers).**

Motion to approve: Chura
Second: Duffy

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

iv. Motion to adopt proposed **Resolution #7 of 2026 – A Resolution Requesting Statewide Local Share Account Funds for the Infrastructure Improvements on Cranberry Avenue:**

Motion to approve: Chura
Second: Verrastro

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

v. Motion to adopt proposed **Resolution #8 of 2026 – A Resolution Requesting Local Share Account Funds for the Purchase of a Loader:**
CP Kreisl: Corey, was that the intention? To replace the existing loader with a new one and then put the loader we have now on Municibid? Or see what they give us in trade?
Councilman Sharkey: What do you figure we would get Corey?
Street Department Foreman Corey Fogarty: I would think around $75,000.00.
CP Kreisl: And the grant we're applying for, would that be for the complete purchase of the loader?
Borough Manager Schweitzer: Yes.
CP Kreisl: May I have a motion?

Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Dutz

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

vii. Motion to adopt proposed **Resolution #9 of 2026 – A Resolution Permitting West Hazleton Borough to Apply for a Grant on Behalf of TinyTownUSA.LLC for the Old Transfiguration School Revitalization Project:**

Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Sharkey

Vote
Chura: No, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Abstain, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passes, 5-2.

vii. Motion to adopt proposed **Resolution #10 of 2026 – A Resolution Authorizing Small Borrowing for Capital Purposes Under Section 8109 of the LGUDA:**
CP Kreisl: Would you give a little background on that one Jimmy?
BM Schweitzer: Yes. This is required for the loan related to the Fire Department Flat Roof Replacement Project.

Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Duffy

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

viii. Motion to approve **Conditional Offer of Full-Time Employment to Trevor Pavalko with the West Hazleton Borough Police Department:**

Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Chura

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

ix. Motion to **Allocate Funds for the Purchase of Property Adjoining the Police Station Located at 116-118 E Horn Street, Consisting of Garage, Parking Lot, and Office:**
Motion to approve: Verrastro
Second: Dutz

Vote
Chura: Yes, **Vercusky: Yes**, **Sharkey:** Yes, **Dutz:** Yes, **Kreisl:** Yes, **Verrastro:** Yes, **Duffy**: Yes.
Motion Passed Unanimously, 7-0.

CP Kreisl: This concludes our agenda for tonight. Are there any comments by Council Members or the Mayor?
Mayor Chura: I just want to let everybody know about our Tree Lighting. It will be on November 30th, the Monday after Thanksgiving at 6 o'clock. We will have the tree lighting on the corner, then everyone is welcome to come here. We'll have pizza, soda, and some refreshments. Santa Claus will be here too for the kids, so it will be nice.

Announcements, Misc: CP Kreisl: The Borough Office will be closed on Tuesday, November 3rd for the General Election.

Announce Next Meeting:
1. **CP Kreisl**:
The next Work Session Meeting will be Wednesday, November 4th, and the next Public Council Meeting will be Tuesday, November 10th. May I have a motion to adjourn?
Motion: Dutz
Second: Sharkey

Meeting Adjourned

Attested:

James Schweitzer

James Schweitzer

Borough Manager