

City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Time 5:00 PM

Location: City Hall, Conference Room A, Hazleton

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Allison Keegan, Chairwoman.

Roll Call

Allison Keegan, Chairperson - Present

Rossanna Gabriel, Vice Chairperson-Present

Philip Bonafair - Present

Thomas Bruno – Present

Jeffrey Cusat - Absent

Joseph Yannuzzi –Present

Joseph Zeller III – Present

PEL Consultants Gerald Cross; Senior Research Fellow; Patty Moorhead, Director of Financial and Data Analytics; Fred Reddig, Consultant

Solicitor, Sean Logsdon

Recording Secretary Christine Galuska

Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of April 15, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion made by Yannuzzi, seconded by Keegan. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Invoices

None

Courtesy of the Floor (On Agenda Items Only)

None

Old Business

PEL Consultants Review and Updates

PEL Consultants reviewed with the Commission the updated Draft of Article II - City Council and Article VI – Other Appointed Officials, incorporating the most recent decisions made by the Commissioners.

New Business

PEL Presentation and Discussion

PEL Consultants led a discussion with the Commission regarding Article VII -Ordinances and Article VIII-Budget and Finance. Commissioners engaged in discussion and shared their perspectives. Updated drafts of these articles will be provided at the next meeting for further review.

Public Comments

David Dominguez-David asked why the Commissioners believed a Controller position is not necessary; this question was addressed. He also inquired about what revenue incentives have been implemented by other commissions. This question was addressed. Municipalities can move away from high property taxes toward more diverse sources. Fees must be proportionate with the services provided and you cannot create a new tax. David commented on the Administrator position and collection of taxes. It was noted that the collection of taxes is done by an outside firm.

Member Comments

Rossanna Gabriel asked whether positions would begin immediately in January if the Home Rule Charter were approved by voters. The question was answered.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:55 PM by Bonafair, seconded by Bruno. The motion carries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Hazleton Government Study Commission will take place on Wednesday, May 6, at 5:00 PM, on the 2nd floor of Hazleton City Hall.