

City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026

Time 5:00 PM

Location: City Hall, Conference Room A, Hazleton

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Allison Keegan, Chairwoman.

Roll Call

Allison Keegan, Chairperson - Present

Rossanna Gabriel, Vice Chairperson-Present

Philip Bonafair - Present

Thomas Bruno – Present

Jeffrey Cusat - Present

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 January 21, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion made by Cusat, seconded by Zeller. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Invoices

None

Courtesy of the Floor (On Agenda Items Only)

None

Old Business

PEL Presentation and Discussion

PEL Consultants led a discussion and requested that the Commission review and respond to the remaining questions related to the proposed legislative body for the Hazleton Government Study Commission.

New Business

PEL Consultants-Presentation, Review and Discussion

The following materials were previously distributed for the Commission's review:

- Questions for Consideration for the Method of Election of Council of the Legislative Body
- Draft of Article II City Council as of 2-4-2026

PEL Consultants coordinated a discussion requesting that the Commission respond to questions provided to the governing body. The discussion focused on the method of election for the Council section of the Charter to determine whether a consensus could be reached.

Commissioners engaged in discussion, shared perspectives, and identified points that may require follow-up and further deliberation.

PEL Consultants also discussed with the Commission a DRAFT of Article II City Council as of 2-24-2026. The draft, provided by PEL, incorporated narrative language reflecting the consensus and direction from previous meetings.

PEL Consultants will incorporate information from this meeting into the prior draft and prepare an updated narrative for review by the Hazleton Government Study Commission members in the near future.

Public Comments

Dave Dominguez

Stated that he respects the decisions made by the Commissioners this evening but noted the City's growth, encouraging consideration of long-term policies such as a seven-member council, controller and tax collector.

Dave also raised concerns about potential law enforcement interactions with state or federal agencies in the future. He requested that this be discussed at the next meeting.

Dr. Childs

He noted that a commissioner had mentioned representing the entire city. He stated that this can be challenging, as different community members-such as a businessperson and a housewife-may view issues like taxation differently.

He also stated that he believes ICE may come to the community and wonders how individuals might be represented.

Member Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM by Yannuzzi, seconded by Bruno. The motion carries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Hazleton Government Study Commission will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 5:00 PM, on the 2nd floor of Hazleton City Hall.