

## **City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 7, 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 December 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion made by Gabriel, seconded by Bruno. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Invoices**

Public notice of the 2026 GSC meeting dates published in the Standard Speaker.

Motion made by Keegan, seconded by Cusat. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Courtesy of the Floor (On Agenda Items Only)**

Nicarol Soto thanked the commissioners for their service and encouraged them to consider adopting a district-based system.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

### **PEL Presentation and Discussion**

Gerald Cross, Senior Research Fellow from the Pennsylvania Economy League, led a discussion with the Commission. He requested that Commissioners review and respond to questions provided for the governing body in connection with the Hazleton Government Study Commission. The questions focused on the Legislative Branch section of the Charter, with questions 1 through 15 having been addressed so far. Commissioners engaged in discussion and noted points for follow-up and further deliberation.

The following materials were distributed to the Commission:

- A comparison chart of the Third-Class City Code and the City of Hazleton Third Class City Code Optional Plan B
- Questions for consideration for the governing body

PEL Consultants will take the information from the meeting and develop a narrative for the Hazleton Government Study Commission members to review in the near future.

### **Public Comments**

Dee Deakos asked what happens if a Council member is unable to serve their seat. The question was addressed by Attorney Logsdon.

Robert Childs suggested that if healthcare benefits are offered to council members, a fixed dollar amount should be provided rather than a percentage contribution toward the cost. This would allow members to choose their own healthcare plans.

Yesenia Rodriguez suggested holding an occasional daytime council meeting to accommodate citizens who work at night.

### **Member Comments**

Patty Moorhead, Director of Financial and Data Analytics from PEL, requested Commissioners review the materials, including PEL's recommendations, prior to the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:54 PM by Cusat, seconded by Bruno. The motion carries.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Hazleton Government Study Commission will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 5:00 PM, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Hazleton City Hall.