

City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time 4:30 PM

Location: City Hall, Conference Room A, Hazleton

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Rossanna Gabriel, Vice Chairperson.

Roll Call

Allison Keegan, Chairperson - Absent

Rossanna Gabriel, Vice Chairperson-Present

Philip Bonafair - Present

Thomas Bruno – Absent

Jeffrey Cusat - Present

Joseph Yannuzzi - Present

Joseph Zeller III – Present

Hazleton City Solicitor Sean Logsdon

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

Recording Secretary Christine Galuska

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

Approval of Minutes

Approval of August 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion made by Cusat, seconded by Yannuzzi. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Invoices

There were no invoices presented for approval at this meeting.

Old Business

The bylaws were updated to read City of Hazleton Government Study Commission.

New Business

Representatives from PEL distributed and discussed spreadsheets comparing various forms of municipal government adopted by Pennsylvania municipalities operating under Home Rule Charters.

The Commission proposed the formation of subcommittees consisting of 2 to 3 members each. These subcommittees will engage in outreach to the mayors and city council members of municipalities that have adopted Home Rule Charters.

- A standardized set of questions will be developed and used during these outreach efforts.

- The outreach process is expected to continue through Halloween.

A separate set of questions will be directed to the City of Hazleton's department heads, such as the Administrator, to gain further insights into current operations and any potential concerns.

The Commission discussed and agreed to appoint a Public Relations Contact from within the board. This individual will be responsible for responding to inquiries from the public, media, etc.

The City of Hazleton Government Study Commission finalized and adopted its bylaws. Motion made by Cusat, seconded by Yannuzzi. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Ted Sherrock expressed concerns regarding superiors directly administering questions to the City of Hazleton department heads. He noted that the staff might feel uncomfortable providing truthful or complete responses if their supervisors were involved. To address this, the Commission is considering using a fillable form to collect responses to encourage open feedback.

Member Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:00 PM by Cusat, seconded by Yannuzzi. The motion carries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Government Study Commission will take place on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 4:30 PM on the 2nd floor of Hazleton City Hall.