

City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Time: 4:00PM

Location: City Hall, Conference Room A, Hazleton, PA

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05PM by Christine Galuska.

Roll Call

Philip Bonafair Present

Thomas Bruno Absent

Jeffrey Cusat Present

Rossanna Gabriel Present

Allison Keegan Present

Joseph Yannuzzi Present

Joseph Zeller III Present

Overview of Current Government

City Solicitor Sean Logsdon provided an overview of Hazleton's current structure under the Third-Class City Code: Optional Plan B. He also outlined the responsibilities of the GSC, including the consideration of a possible Home Rule Charter. The estimated timeline for the study is approximately 9-18 months.

Oath of Office

A remote oath of office was administered to all Commission members by District Magistrate Judge James Dixon.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes: None

Items on the Table: None

New Business

Nomination of Chairperson

Motion to nominate Allison Keegan by Jeff Cusat, seconded by Joe Zeller

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 absent, 1 abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

Nomination of Vice Chairperson

Motion to nominate Rossanna Gabriel by Joe Zeller, seconded by Allison Keegan

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 absent, 1 abstained. Motion passed unanimously.

Consultant Services

Motion to utilize PEL based on prior success with the City of Hazleton

by Joseph Yannuzzi, seconded by Joseph Zeller III
Vote: 6 in favor, 1 absent. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Services

Motion to utilize Karpowich Law Office as familiar with Plan B; request quote/hourly rate by Jeffrey Cusat, seconded by Philip Bonafair.

Vote: 6 in favor, 1 absent. Motion passed unanimously.

Nomination of Recording Secretary

Motion to nominate Christine Galuska as familiar with our form of government by Jeffrey Cusat, seconded by Joseph Yannuzzi. Vote: 6 in favor, 1 absent. Motion passed unanimously.

Government Study Commission Meeting Schedule

Motion for meetings to be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm, Hazleton City Hall. Vote: 6 in favor, 1 absent. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Discussion

Proposed budget of approximately \$200,000.00 to cover consultants and legal services, recording secretary, website, email, printing, advertising, phone, office supplies, etc. by Joseph Zeller, seconded by Jeffrey Cusat.

Vote: 6 in favor, 1 absent. Motion passed unanimously.

STMP Grant Application

Motion for City of Hazleton to apply for STMP Grant by Allision Keegan, seconded by Jeffrey Cusat. Vote: 6 in favor, 1 absent. Motion passed unanimously.

Present Budget to City Council

Motion to present the committee budget to Hazleton City Council on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 by Joseph Zeller III, seconded by Jeffrey Cusat. Vote: 6 in favor, 1 absent. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Comments

Jeffrey Cusat emphasized the importance of the Government Study Commission and the work ahead.

Public Comments

David Dominguez suggests seeking additional bids
Amilcar Arroyo-expressed support and highlighted the significance of GSC's work prior to the ballot on November 3, 2026

Adjournment Motion to adjourn at 5:26PM by Joseph Zeller III, seconded by Allison Keegan.

Next Meeting The next meeting of the Government Study Commission will take place on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 4:30 PM.

