

City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: City Hall, Conference Room A, Hazleton

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM by Christine Galuska.

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

Hazleton City Solicitor Sean Logsdon

Recording Secretary Christine Galuska

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the June 17, 2025 meeting minutes, which had been previously tabled due to creating GSC official emails, was brought to the floor. The motion was made by Rossanna Gabriel and seconded by Allison Keegan to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the July 1, 2025 meeting minutes. The Motion was made by Joe Zeller and seconded by Tom Bruno. Motion passed unanimously.

Consultant Selection

Vinny Cannizzaro, Executive Director of PEL, stated via Microsoft Teams, PEL is currently active in Hazleton and has extensive experience with Government Study Commissions. They will provide guidance, education, and an overview of Home Rule processes. PEL will attend meetings.

A motion was made by Joe Zeller and seconded by Jeff Cusat to engage PEL as a Consultant to assist the Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Counsel Appointment

A motion was made by Joe Zeller and seconded by Jeff Cusat to retain Karpowich Law Firm as legal counsel to the Government Study Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Solicitor's Overview

Solicitor Sean Logsdon provided a summary of the Optional Plan A & B along with the possibility of incorporating elements from both plans into a custom Home Rule Charter tailored to the municipality's specific needs.

DCED Materials

Department of Community and Economic Development informational booklets were distributed. These materials provide an overview of Home Rule governance. The Commission will review and discuss the contents at a future meeting if the decision is to propose changes to the current form of government.

Committee Structure

The Committee discussed the development of bylaws to govern the structure and operation of committees and subcommittees. This would ensure compliance with applicable laws.

Sunshine Act & Right-to-Know Law

An overview of both was provided and Solicitor Logsdon reinforced the importance of transparency, public access to government information, and openness. These laws are essential to building public trust and ensuring accountability.

Member Comments

Tommy Bruno commented on the impressive amount of experience present in the room and expressed confidence in the members.

Public Comments

Dave Dominguez asked if official email communication for the Government Study Commission were created as best practices and due to emails being subject to the Right- to- Know requests. He also inquired about the outlook and consideration of a possible Police Board, etc. Solicitor Logsdon responded.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:02 by Joe Zeller, seconded by Tom Bruno. The motion carries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Government Study Commission will take place on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 4:30pm on the 2nd floor of Hazleton City Hall.