

City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: City Hall, Conference Room A, Hazleton

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 4:36 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 was tabled due to limited time for review and delays related to the creation of official email addresses for Commission members.

Old Business

Official Email Distribution

Each Commission member received an official Government Study Commission (GSC) email address and password. Members are to use these accounts exclusively for GSC business.

New Business

Distribution of Materials

The following documents were distributed to Commission members.

- a. PEL materials regarding potential consultant services
- b. Proposal from Karpowich Law Firm for legal services
- c. Information packet on Types of Optional Plans of Government (Chapter 30) including the Third-Class City Code Optional Plan A and Optional Plan B

Executive Session

An executive session was held to elect Christine Galuska as Recording Secretary at a monthly rate of \$600.00. Motion by Jeffrey Cusat, seconded by Joseph Yannuzzi.

Vote: 7 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation by City Solicitor Sean Logsdon

Solicitor Logsdon provided an in-depth overview of each component within Hazleton's current government structure as defined under the Third-Class City Code, which consists of a traditional mayor and city council format.

- a. He reviewed powers and limitations under Optional Plan B.
- b. Emphasized that the Commission work will ultimately lead to a decision on whether to retain the current form of government or adopt a Home Rule Charter.

Review Request

Members were asked to review all distributed materials to better understand the current form of government.

Member Comments

Jeff Cusat provided historical context, noting Hazleton adopted a Third-Class City Code in January 1988 following a 1984 voter-approved ballot initiative.

Rossanna Gabriel emphasized the importance of increasing public attendance at meetings.

Public Comments

Dr. Robert Childs, a long-time resident, asked when Hazleton adopted the Third-Class Code and whether the Commission would consider at-large voting. He referenced the 14th Amendment. Jeff Cusat responded to the question.

David Dominguez asked who was responsible for the STMP grant application, questioned the lack of a designated controller, and inquired about the possibility of holding future meetings via Zoom or live broadcast. Jeff Cusat responded to all questions.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:01 PM by Joseph Yannuzzi, seconded by Philip Bonafair.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Government Study Commission will take place on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 4:30pm on the 2nd floor of Hazleton City Hall.