

City of Hazleton Government Study Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Time 5:00 PM

Location: City Hall, Conference Room A, Hazleton

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:05 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 April 1, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion made by Yannuzzi, seconded by Bruno. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Invoices

None

Courtesy of the Floor (On Agenda Items Only)

None

Old Business

PEL Consultants Review and Updates

PEL Consultants reviewed with the Commission the updated Draft of Article II - City Council and Article III - Mayor, incorporating the most recent decisions made by the Commissioners.

New Business

PEL Presentation and Discussion

PEL Consultants led a discussion with the Commission regarding Article VI -Other Appointed Officials and Article VIII-Budget and Finance. Commissioners engaged in discussion and shared their perspectives. Updated drafts of these articles will be provided at the next meeting for further review.

Public Comments

Dee Deakos-Dee raised a question regarding hiring procedures, including whether criminal background checks are conducted prior to employment and the qualifications required for department heads. She also expressed concerns about potential false information on resumes and conflicts of interest, such as relatives being employed or a spouse receiving a work contract. Additionally, she asked whether there would be an ethics department or a whistleblower policy in place. Her questions were addressed.

Ted Sherrock-Ted stated that conducting background checks on department heads could help address concerns raised about hiring practices. He also asked whether provisions could be included in the Charter to ensure fair treatment of the Mayor by Council, noting there have been issues in the past. His question was addressed.

David Dominguez-David asked what provisions could be included in the Charter to help the City remain within its budget. It was noted the ordinance requires a balanced budget each year. He also inquired about property tax increases and the possibility of a cap, noting the HCA is rising, and asked whether federal and state grants are included in the budget. Additionally, he asked about the potential to establish a neighborhood watch or police board. His questions were addressed.

Member Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM by Cusat, seconded by Yannuzzi. The motion carries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Hazleton Government Study Commission will take place on Wednesday, April 22, at 5:00 PM, on the 2nd floor of Hazleton City Hall.