

# Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council  
Sandie Walker, Vice President of Council  
Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Member of Council  
Edquina Washington, Member of Council  
H. Michael Buckingham, Member of Council

Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk  
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## MINUTES April 17, 2018 6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) / [Bills Approved](#) / [March 27, 2018 Committee Minutes](#)

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nixon called the April 17, 2018 general public comment session to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: H. Michael Buckingham, Edquina Washington, Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Sandie Walker, Vice President, and Henry Hay Nixon, President, with President Nixon presiding.

**Members of the Administration in attendance included:** Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor; Chaz Green, Acting Director of Public Works; and Jason Sabol, Assistant Solicitor.

**Members of York City Council staff in attendance included:** Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk.

### I. Public Comment: 6:00 p.m.

Jerry King, resident, discussed a recovery house located next to his property. He said this house makes two recovery houses in the same block which he believes brings his property value down. He also said there has been three overdoses in a drug house also located on his block. Mr. King asked what can be done to address the more than 80 recovery homes located throughout the city.

Juanita Kirkland, resident, Kurtz Ave. Neighborhood, and member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, said they have declared 2018 as the Year of the Community. As a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church Women's Ministry, she said she wanted to share some feedback they have received during their community outreach initiative. She discussed the city's infrastructure project and that they are grateful for the improvements. However, the utility companies have dug up their streets and sidewalks, temporarily shut off water supply, cut down trees, tore up lawns, eliminated parking, and redirected their comings and goings, yet no neighbors were contacted about this project. She said people are feeling the economic strains of the project because their cars are needing repair from driving over uneven streets, and a bunch of strangers [*sic*] are walking around the neighborhood and on their properties. She said the approach to this project was inconsiderate. She said this is where we raise our kids, and worship. Ms. Kirkland added that the message received has been cold and callous and comes across as though we don't deserve better. Our kids are growing up believing this is what our streets should look. She stated that you need to take a humanitarian approach and talk to neighbors, visit the churches, and make us aware of the neighborhood plans and take into consideration how projects will impact our lives, property and quality of life.

Dolores Penn, also a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church Women's Ministry, said she sees kids coming into the church looking for food, properties not being well maintained, trash accumulation, and high incidents of violence and drugs activity.

Jose Santiago, YMCA New American Welcome Center Director, outlined that the welcome center is designed to help immigrants fully integrate into American society and prepare receiving communities to be welcoming and inclusive.

Services include language and education, employment assistance, health programs, civic engagement and community development. For more information, contact Mr. Santiago at [jsantiago@yorkcoymca.org](mailto:jsantiago@yorkcoymca.org) or (717) 843-7884, ext. 241.

There being no further public comment, President Nixon adjourned the general public comment session at 6:21 p.m.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:21 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

V. Moment of Silence observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of **April 3, 2018**: Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements: None

VII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 18, 2018).
- **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals: No reports.

X. Legislative Agenda: (Order of Business – Action on Subdivision/Land Development & HARB Resolutions; Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions; New Business.)

### **Subdivision / Land Development / HARB**

1. **Resolution No. 38** \_\_\_\_\_ - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 38, Session 2018, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness to Jeff Zeiler for work to be done at 111 E. Market St., was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 38 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

### **Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions**

2. **Final Passage of Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3** \_\_\_\_\_ – A Bill  
Amending Article 509 “Parking Meters,” Subsection 509.99 “Penalty.” (To extend the grace period for payment of fines from eight (8) days to fourteen (14) days.) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Mayor

Final Passage of Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3, Session 2018, A Bill amending article 509 “Parking Meters,” Subsection 509.99 “Penalty” of the Codified ordinances to extend the grace period for payment of fines from eight (8) days to fourteen (14) days, which was introduced by Washington at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington,

seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of **Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 4** – A Bill  
Approving inclusion of the 2017 ordinances into the York City Codified Ordinance book. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Council

Final Passage of Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 4, Session 2018, A Bill approving inclusion of the 2017 ordinances as part of the York City Codified Ordinances book, which was introduced by Buckingham at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 4, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

### New Business

4. Introduction of **Bill No. 5** - A Bill  
Amending the 2018 Budget. (\$130,667.33 in contribution funding from the York County Community Foundation for the Economic Ecosystem Builder contract.) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Business Administration

Introduction of Bill No. 5, Session 2018, A Bill amending the 2018 Budget in the amount of \$130,667.33 for a contribution received from the York County Community Foundation for the Economic Ecosystem Builder contract, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read by short title, and deferred to the April 25<sup>th</sup> committee meeting of Council.

5. Resolution No. **39** - A Resolution  
Authorizing the Acting Director of Public Works to sign documents related to a DCNR Grant. (For the Memorial Park – Poorhouse Rune Streambank Restoration Project.) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Sandie Walker  
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 39, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing the Acting Director of Public Works to sign documents related to a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant for the Memorial Park – Poorhouse Run Streambank Restoration project, was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 39 came up for discussion.

City Clerk Thompson asked Council if they would be agreeable to doing a blanket resolution to authorize the Acting Director of Public Works to sign the signature page on grant applications to speed up the process in the future.

President Nixon asked Assistant Solicitor Sabol to draft up a Resolution to this effect for Council's consideration at a future committee meeting.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 39 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment: None

XIII. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich announced a new email set up for residents to report illegal dirt bike riding in the city. To report illegal dirt bikes, please email: [Dirtbikeinfo@yorkcity.org](mailto:Dirtbikeinfo@yorkcity.org). Also, this Thursday from 10-11 a.m. in Council Chambers, the Mayor will host another Neighborhood Chat session to discuss businesses in the city.

To address Mr. King's earlier comment about drug houses, Mayor Helfrich said the solicitor has been researching what laws can be used to address recovery homes and what we can do on the municipal level to make sure there is oversight at these homes.

Mayor Helfrich then responded to statements made by Ms. Kirkland during the public comment session. He said projects in the city are not always city related and that many times the utility companies have their own projects.

Director Green added that many times the gas and water companies work collaboratively on projects, but the city has been working with them to make sure they are doing projects closely together to cut down on project time. He said we will bring the issue of lack of notification to the utility companies and will also try to give weekly project updates to residents in project areas. Director Green said on a positive note, once these projects are done, we will have better looking streets and sidewalks.

President Nixon said he has a problem with them doing these projects late in the season then abandoning the project during the winter months without attempting to make the roads adequately drivable.

Director Green responded that they don't abandoned the project, they just move on to the next project until they are able to come back and finish up the previous project.

Mayor Helfrich asked residents to report any problems with projects to the city.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked for an explanation of the streetlight outage on the corner of South & Duke Streets.

Director Green said there was a shooting over the weekend and a bullet hit the light box and that they are aware of the outage and have ordered the part to fix the traffic light.

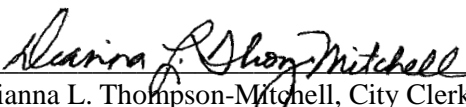
Councilman Buckingham said we have had ongoing issues with recovery houses and asked if the house Mr. King talked about is licensed and what happens if the home is not licensed.

Assistant Solicitor Sabol said they would need of Certificate of Occupancy and a tenant occupied license. However, we cannot have special laws or special rules that we don't have for any other tenant occupied dwelling.

Mayor Helfrich said we will continue to research the best way to address recovery homes.

Ms. Kirkland, resident, urged city official to reach out to residents in ways other than social media. She said we have a lot of seniors who are not computer savvy.

- XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, 2018 in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the April 17, 2018 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:51 p.m.
- XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer): None

  
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Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk

  
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Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council