

# 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

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## MINUTES

# May 1, 2018

6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) / [No Bills Approved](#) / [March 27, 2018 Committee Minutes](#)

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nixon called the May 1, 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.

Helenita Ziegler, resident, complained about streetlights in her neighborhood being too bright. She said she contacted Met-Ed and they said she needed to contact the city.

Mayor Helfrich asked Ms. Ziegler to contact him to discuss this further.

Cody Santiago, city employee, discussed residency requirements for city employees. He said he enjoys working for the city and is grateful for the opportunity. He said he takes immense pride in his position as Emergency Management Planner. He said he comes to work every day for more than a paycheck, so he has stake in the city and he enjoys patronizing local businesses and partaking in citywide activities and events. Mr. Santiago said where he lives does not determine the city's economy nor does he feel it's fair to say he wouldn't have stake in the city if he didn't live here. He asked Council to reconsider repealing the residency requirement for city employees.

Jerry King, resident, said he filled out a right-to-know request and hasn't received any information yet. He said wants to know all recovery homes located in the city but in his request, he was passed from person to person. He said as a taxpaying resident, he has a right to know this information and feels filling out the right-to-know form is a waste of time.

Mayor Helfrich responded to Mr. King that issuance of Certificates of Occupancy to recovery homes is required to be granted based on state law, but we are working on a process of finding ways to deal with complaints surrounding recovery homes.

Candace Robinson, resident, said she did a Facebook live of the last Council meeting and citizens asked what will happen to Economic Development Directors Shilvosky Buffaloe and Nicole Davis' positions if the city hires an EcoSystem Builder and outsources Economic Development to the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA). She said people also questioned the purchase of alcohol being a qualifying expense in the EcoSystem Builder contract. Ms. Robinson stated that residents have also questioned the rush in hiring an EcoSystem Builder and approving the YCEA takeover. With the

high rate of crime going on in our city, she questioned who is going to want to open a business here. She asked Council to take their time before acting on these items.

Dave Kerns, III, protested his property taxes and how they have increased over the years. He discussed that his house was broken into, a special bicycle was stolen, his car was broken into and ransacked, then his truck was broken into and two fire extinguishers were stolen, and his truck was vandalized with spray-paint. He also talked about cigarette butts and drug paraphernalia laying on the streets and sidewalks as well as other crime-related events happening in his neighborhood and the city. Mr. Kerns said the police need to do more to protect the residents especially since he's paying such high taxes.

There being no further comment, the public comment session was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:25 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

V. Moment of Silence observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of April 17, 2018 legislative meeting & April 25, 2018 committee meeting: Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements

- **National Day of Prayer:** Proclamation declaring May 3, 2018 as National Day of Prayer in the City of York was submitted for the record. ([View](#))
- **Presentation:** West York Borough Councilman Alan Vandersloot - Fair Redistricting presentation.

Councilman Vandersloot outlined fair redistricting efforts currently taking place across the Commonwealth. According to [www.fairvote.org](http://www.fairvote.org), “redistricting encourages manipulation of our elections by allowing incumbent politicians to help partisan allies, hurt political enemies and choose their voters before the voters choose them. The current process is used as a means to further political goals by drawing boundaries to protect incumbents and reduce competition, rather than to ensure equal voting power and fair representation.” Councilman Vandersloot said citizens deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population. He said legislative and congressional redistricting has often resulted in gerrymandered districts that favor one political party over others. Such gerrymandering can result in detrimental ways to our representative democracy. Councilman Vandersloot stated that West York Borough Council approved a Resolution at its August 7, 2017 meeting to support legislative efforts to secure action to amend the PA Constitution to assign redistricting to an independent citizen redistricting commission to oversee. He asked that Council consider adopting a similar resolution of support.

VII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. (Council will meet on Wednesday instead of Tuesday in observance of Tuesday’s primary election.)
- **Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (agenda items are due by 12 noon on May 16, 2018).

IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals

**Economic & Community Development Committee**

- **Ecosystem Builder Contract** – Referred to the May 16<sup>th</sup> agenda to allow Council additional time to review said contract. (UPDATE: This item was removed from Council’s consideration as Mayor Helfrich found alternative means to secure said services.)
- **Bill No. 5** – A Bill amending the 2018 budget in the amount of \$130,667.33 for a YCCF contribution received to fund the position of an Economic Ecosystem Builder, was also referred to the May 16<sup>th</sup> agenda as it is the companion piece to the Ecosystem Builder contract. (UPDATE: This item was removed from Council’s consideration as Mayor Helfrich found alternative means to secure said services.)
- **York County Economic Alliance contract** and **budget transfer** – Discussion at the April 25<sup>th</sup> committee meeting revealed that **Article 123.09** of the Codified Ordinances, which established the Department of Economic & Community Development, must be amended prior to consideration of outsourcing the duties of economic development to YCEA. As such, Council requested the Solicitor’s office draft the appropriate legislation to amend the codified ordinances for introduction at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Council will then discuss these amendments further at its May 23<sup>rd</sup> committee meeting. The contract and budget transfer to fund said contract with YCEA were tentatively referred to the June 5<sup>th</sup> legislative agenda pending committee action on the codified ordinance amendments.

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

**Subdivision / Land Development / HARB: NONE**

**Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions: NONE**

**New Business**

1. **Introduction of Bill No. 6** \_\_\_\_\_ - A Bill  
Amending Article 165 “Employment Provisions” of the Codified Ordinances to establish a Fair Chance Hiring Policy. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Council

Introduction of Bill No. 6, Session 2018, A Bill amending Article 165 “Employment Provisions” of the Codified Ordinances to establish a Fair Chance Hiring Policy, was introduced by Nixon, read by short title, and deferred to the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council.

2. **Introduction of Bill No. 7** \_\_\_\_\_ - A Bill  
Amending the 2018 Budget. (For subsequent funding received for HIV testing & counseling, AIDS education, home visitor and dental health services) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 7, Session 2018, A Bill amending the 2018 budget for the Bureau of Health to appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for the Health Bureau HIV Testing and Counseling (\$9,764.70), AIDS Education (\$35,819.97), Home Visitor (\$73,544.40), State Health Grant (\$10,100.00), and Dental Health (\$16,400.00), was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read by short title, and deferred to the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council.

3. Resolution No. **40** - A Resolution  
Appointing Kendall Menzer to the Housing Authority Board. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Mayor
- Resolution No. 40, Session 2018, A Resolution appointing Kendall Menzer to the York Housing Authority Board to fill the expired term of Margaret Eckles-Ray, which term shall expire April 1, 2023, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 40 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.
4. Resolution No. **41** - A Resolution  
Supporting expungement clinics. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Council
- Resolution No. 41, Session 2018, A Resolution supporting expungement efforts being put forth by the York County Bar Association and MidPenn Legal Services to remove barriers to employment by providing information and assistance with criminal records expungement and limiting access to criminal records, was introduced Nixon, read at length, and on motion of Nixon, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 41 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.
5. Resolution No. **42** - A Resolution  
Authorizing an agreement with Rettew. (For PSPS Raw & Effluent VFD replacement at the WWTP - \$421,500.00) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Sandie Walker  
Originator: Public Works (WWTP)
- Resolution No. 42, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Rettew in the amount of \$421,500.00 for PSPS Raw & Effluent VFD replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 42 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.
6. Resolution No. **43** - A Resolution  
Authorizing a budget transfer. (\$800 for attendance at conferences/training) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Council
- Resolution No. 43, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing a budget transfer in the amount of \$800 from account number 10-110-46110-00000 (Office Equipment & Furniture) to 10-110-44030-00000 (Association Dues and Conferences) to allow Council’s attendance and various conferences and training, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 43 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.
7. Resolution No. **44** - A Resolution  
Authorizing an agreement with the PA Dept. of Health. (For HIV/AIDS and STD prevention programs - \$819,000.00) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 44, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the PA Department of Health in the amount of \$819,000 to provide HIV/AIDS and STD prevention programs for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 44 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

8. Resolution No. 45 - A Resolution Approving the appointment of 12 probationary police officers. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Business Administration (HR)/Police

Resolution No. 45, Session 2018, A Resolution approving conditional offers of employment as probationary police officers be sent to Ross Casteel, Jeffrey Zeigler, Andrew Groh, Joel Lawrence, Phillip Edmonds, Ryan McGeehan, Jarrod Harr, Alexander Nova, Tyler Benton, Ryan Rhodes, Terrence Bradshaw, and Nathan Reed, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 45 came up for discussion.

Tonya Thompson-Morgan, resident, asked after these appointments, how many officers will the City of York have.

Mayor Helfrich said a full complement would be 105 officers but with these appointments it will be 106 with the expectation that not all candidates will make it through the academy so hopefully this will put us ahead of the game.

Ms. Thompson-Morgan then asked if we know the racial make-up of these candidates.

Mayor Helfrich said these names come to us through the civil service process, so we have no say as to what ethnicities are hired. He did say that African-American and Latino officers are in high demand, so the key is to hire them quickly before they are taken by another municipality

Ms. Thompson-Morgan said she heard recruitment efforts are being made to get more minority appointments and she hopes that this will happen.

Vice President Walker asked Police Department Liaison Washington to invite Acting Police Chief Troy Bankert to attend a future meeting of Council to explain the Civil Service hiring process. Councilwoman Washington said she will extend the invitation to Acting Police Chief Bankert.

President Nixon said he would like to see a recruitment program at William Penn Senior High School because there is no more valuable police officer than one that has grown up in this community so when there is a call, there is a background that can be identified by our residents.

Ms. Thompson-Morgan responded that she is a York City School Board Commissioner and there is discussion currently on the table to implement an academy, inclusive of uniforms, that would focus on emergency services training and we look forward to moving this forward for the 2018-2019 school year.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 45 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

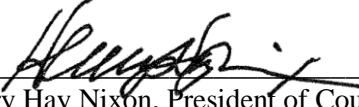
XII. Council Comment: None

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. (Note: The meeting will be held on Wednesday instead of Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in observance of Tuesday's primary election.) There being no further business, the May 1, 2018 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:59 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