

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
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AGENDA May 16, 2018 6:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the May 16, 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. (Note: The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 16th instead of Tuesday, May 15th in observance of the May 15th primary election.)

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor; Troy Bankert, Acting Police Chief; 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.

Carol Hill-Evans, State Representative (95th District), announced National Police Officers Week and stated that her office will give recognition to police departments in all municipalities located in the 95th District. She then presented Acting Chief Troy Bankert with a proclamation honoring National Police Officers Week.

Franklin Williams, resident, said he has attended several meetings and filled out the public comment form requesting a response to his concerns, which have gone unanswered. He said he has always asked why the Administration wasn't present at every Council meeting, so he applauded Mayor Helfrich for attending Council meetings. He encouraged Council and the Administration to continue to work together.

Sandra Harrison, W. Manchester Twp., discussed dismantling of the Department of Economic & Community Development. She said the Bracey Administration promoted the first African-American Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development and currently there is an African-American Acting Director of Economic & Community Development. She said dismantling the department by placing the economic development portion under the auspices of the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA), which is predominantly white, puts into question how this will affect minority businesses. She asked why not create another position to strengthen the department and increase manpower to maintain a diverse landscape. She asked several questions related to outsourcing ED to YCEA. She also asked what Mayor Helfrich's plan is to reinforce the HRC.

Mayor Helfrich responded to Ms. Harrison's comments that he has requested at least one Spanish speaking employee be on staff at YCEA. Also, he said they are not dismantling ED&CD but that they will be moving two positions, one of which is not currently filled, to another department. The current Interim Director of Economic & Community Development will still be heading up the community development aspect of the department. He then discussed how YCEA will assist the city with economic development. As for the Human Relations Commission (HRC), he responded that there is only one full-time staff person currently working at the HRC but the number of cases coming out of the HRC has decreased so we need the HRC to step up its services in order to support its future existence.

James H. Morgan, District Justice (19-1-02), and city resident, asked what it is costing the city to contract with Q-Dot to inspect rental properties. Also, he asked if it would cost less to hire more Property Maintenance Inspectors (PMI's) to inspect the properties because the current PMI's do an excellent job. He added that he heard Q-Dot has passed inspections only to have the PMI's come through later and cite those same properties for violations. He said the PMI's come through his court and they are fair to the residents. He applauded the city for doing its due diligence in inspecting properties, but he feels the city could save money by allowing the PMI's to inspect properties instead of Q-Dot. He then discussed comments made by Ms. Harrison. Judge Moran asked if economic development is being moved to YCEA to save money and how this will affect city businesses. He said he lives and works in this city and he would like to keep focus on businesses in the city and bringing new businesses to the city.

Mayor Helfrich responded to Judge Morgan's comment that over \$300,000 in revenue was lost by the city through contracting with Q-Dot. He said their contract is up this year so he's looking into other options. He stated that he would have to do the math to see how economical it would be to assign inspections to the PMI's.

There being no further comment, the public comment session adjourned 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 May 1, 2018: Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements

Troy Bankert, Acting Police Chief – Brief presentation on the minority aspect of the Civil Service hiring process for police officers.

Chief Bankert reported that minority is defined as anyone who is other than white. Currently the police department is comprised of 9.27% minorities. The twelve new officers being hired will raise that level to 10.86% minority. Appointments are hired according to the state civil service guidelines which includes background checks, voice stress testing, physical agility, and written and oral testing. Once the applicants are narrowed down through the preliminary testing process, then we can hire based on the scores and they must go down the list according to testing scores. He then discussed the rules and regulations of the Civil Service which is bound by the laws set forth in the 3rd Class City Code. Chief Bankert did say townships and boroughs that aren't bound by the 3rd Class City Code can pick whoever they want from the list. Additionally, they tend to offer higher salaries so many times we miss out on hiring candidates because they have been hired elsewhere. Chief Bankert stated that in 2019 they hope to begin the process of implementing a police recruitment program, however, that process will involve legislative changes at the state level which will take time.

VII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **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).
- **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals

- [Ecosystem Builder Contract](#) – Referred to the May 16th 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 16th 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 25th 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 16th Council meeting. Council will then discuss these amendments further at its May 23rd committee meeting. The contract and budget transfer to fund said contract with YCEA were tentatively referred to the June 5th 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

1. Resolution No. **46** - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 16, Session 2018, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness to Al Kutcher for work to be done at 119 Fickes Way, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 46 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. 6, Ordinance No. 5** – 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

Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 5, Session 2018, A Bill amending Article 165 “Employment Provisions” of the Codified Ordinances to establish a Fair Chance Hiring Policy, which was introduced by Nixon at the May 1st meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Nixon, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 5, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of **Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 6** – 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)

Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 6, Session 2018, A Bill amending the 2018 budget to appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for the Health Bureau-HIV Testing and Counseling, in the amount of \$9,764.70, AIDS Education, in the amount of \$35,819.97, Home Visitor, in the amount of \$73,544.40, State Health Grant, in the amount of \$10,100.00 and Dental Health, in the amount of \$16,400.00, which was introduced by Ritter-Dickson at the May 1st meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 6, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business

4. Introduction of **Bill No. 8** - A Bill
Repealing Article 123.09 “Economic & Community Development” and establishing Article 150 “Economic & Community Development” of the York City Codified Ordinances. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon
Originator: Solicitor

Introduction of Bill No. 8, Session 2018, A Bill repealing Article 123.09 “Economic & Community Development” and establishing Article 150 “Economic & Community Development” of the York City Codified Ordinances, was introduced by Nixon, read by short title, and deferred to the June 5 meeting of Council.

5. Resolution No. **47** - A Resolution
Authorizing submission of a proposal for funds on behalf of the YMCA. (DCED grant in the amount of \$250,000 for construction of a small public park at the rear of 90 N. Newberry St.) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: YMCA

A Resolution authorizing the submission of a proposal for funds to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development on behalf of the YMCA in the amount of \$250,000 for construction of a small public park to be located at the rear of 90 N. Newberry St., was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 47 came up for discussion.

Larry Richardson, President/CEO, YMCA, outlined the project and stated that the YMCA will assume all costs related to this project.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 47 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

6. Resolution No. **48** - A Resolution
Authorizing an agreement with the PA Dept. of Health. (\$184,418.00 for public health preparedness services and activities) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the PA Department of Health in the amount of \$184,418.00 to provide public health preparedness services and activities for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 48 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. **49** - A Resolution
Reappointing Danny Callahan to the York City Consolidated Board of Appeals. ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 49, Session 2018, A Resolution reappointing Danny Callahan as a member of the York City Consolidated Board of Appeals to serve in said capacity until the first Monday of October 2020, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 49 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

APPENDED AGENDA

May 16, 2018

6:00 p.m.

8. Resolution No. (This item was pulled from the agenda) - A Resolution
Appointing a probationary police officer. (Z. Martz) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

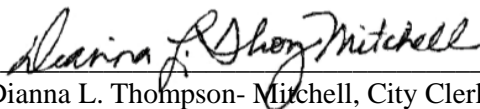
Vice President Walker said on behalf of Council, they would like to pay their condolences to the family of Officer Alex Sable, a police officer who died on March 6, 2018 after he went into cardiac arrest during a SWAT tactical training exercise.

XIII. Administration Comment

Acting Police Chief Bankert said a memorial service for Officer Alex Sable will be held at Memorial Hall located at the York Fairgrounds on Friday at 12 noon. The service is expected to last about an hour to an hour-and-a-half and then they'll take his body to its final resting place. Please visit yourcaring.com to donate to officer Sable's family.

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. There being no further business, the May 16, 2018 meeting of Council adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer): None



Dianna L. Thompson- Mitchell, City Clerk



Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council