

# The City of York, Pennsylvania

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

Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk  
email: dthomps@yorkcity.org



Office of City Council  
101 S. George St.  
York, Pennsylvania 17401

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 509  
York, Pennsylvania 17405  
Telephone: (717) 849-2246  
Fax: (717) 812-0557  
www.yorkcity.org

## COMMITTEE MINUTES January 24, 2018 6:00 p.m.

<b>Police</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>E&amp;C Development</b>	<b>Business Admin</b>	<b>Rules &amp; Admin</b>
To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined

\***Bold text indicates Chairperson**

**Note:** General Committee is chaired by Council President or designee and includes all Council members.

**Council in attendance:** Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Sandie Walker, Vice President, and Henry Hay Nixon, resident.

**Administration in attendance:** Michael Helfrich, Mayor; Michael Doweary, Business Administrator; and Don Hoyt, Assistant Solicitor.

**Council staff in attendance:** Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk.

- I. Called committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Committee Issues for the February 6 & 20, 2018 legislative Agenda as follows:

### **GENERAL** ([View Issues Chart](#))

---

#### **1. Public interview of candidates to fill two vacant seats on Council.**

President Nixon thanked all for coming out this evening. He said Council received 29 applications to fill two vacant seats on Council with each term expiring on the first Monday of January 2020. One vacancy is to fill the remaining 2 years of the 4-year term vacated by former Council President Michael R. Helfrich who took on his new role as Mayor. The second vacancy is to fill the 2-year term won and vacated by Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson.

**Background on 2-year term:** Ritter-Dickson was appointed by Council in November 2016 to finish out the first 2-years of Carol Hill-Evan's original four-year term (2016-2020). Hill-Evans vacated her position on City Council during her first two years to take over as State Representative of the 95<sup>th</sup> District. The last two years (2018-2020) of Hill-Evan's original term was placed on the 2017 General ballot, which Ritter-Dickson won. Councilwoman Renee Nelson lost her bid for re-election for another four years on Council as Ritter-Dickson also won that seat. Ritter-Dickson vacated the 2-year term she won and chose to take over the 4-year term that Nelson lost. Therefore, the remaining 2-years (2018-2020) left on Hill-Evan's original 4-year term is vacant.

**Background on remaining 2 years of a 4-year term:** Councilman Helfrich was elected to Council during the 2015 General election to serve a four-year term (2016-2020). Helfrich won his bid for Mayor and therefore vacated the remaining two years (2018-2020) left on his four-year term. Therefore, the remaining two years (2018-2020) left on Helfrich's term is vacant.

President Nixon explained the point of order for the interview process with each Council member being given an opportunity to ask a series of questions of each candidate who shall respond in rotating order.

The following candidates were selected for public interviews:

- H. Michael Buckingham
- April Herring
- Christine Lincoln
- Montez Parker
- Louis Rivera
- Willard Squire
- Edquina Washington

President Nixon, Vice President Walker, and Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson took turns asking each candidate a series of questions.

Questioning ended at 7:45 p.m. and President Nixon immediately called for a brief recess.

President Nixon reconvened the committee meeting at 7:59 p.m.

President Nixon allowed each candidate to make closing remarks.

Vice President Walker expressed gratitude to all 29 applicants who applied for these two vacancies. She said she was excited to see all who wanted to be involved in City government. She said the seven candidates selected for an interview shows the diversity of our city. She thanked all candidates for being willing to step up to the plate.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson said she was once in the same position as these candidates and now serving on Council, she appreciates how difficult this decision is to make. She encouraged those who applied to become involved in city government and participate in city activities.

There being no further discussion, President Nixon recessed the committee meeting and called the Special Meeting of Council to order at 8:12 p.m.

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

January 24, 2018

I. Called Special Meeting to order: 8:15 p.m.

President Nixon opened the floor for nominations to fill the two vacancies on Council.

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson to nominate Edquina Washington to complete the 2 years left on the 4-year term. The motion to appoint Edquina Washington PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 3; Nays – 0.

A motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Walker to nominate H. Michael Buckingham to fill the two-year vacancy on Council. The motion to appoint H. Michael Buckingham PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 3; Nays – 0.

With the nominees selected, President Nixon introduced the first Resolution to appoint.

1. Resolution No. 13 - A Resolution Appointing a candidate to fill a vacancy on City Council. (To serve until the first Monday of January 2020.) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 13, Session 2018, A Resolution appointing Edquina Washington to fill the remaining two years of a four-year term on City Council, with said term to expire the first Monday of January 2020, was introduced by Nixon, read at length, and on motion of Nixon, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 13 came up for discussion.

Dolores Abreu, resident, said we needed a candidate who could have represented the Hispanic community and she is disappointed that a Hispanic was not nominated.

Carla Christopher, resident, said although there were some excellent candidates interviewed tonight, Council had an opportunity to not only select a Latino but also someone who represents the gay community. She stated that she hopes City Council will make concentrated efforts to reach out to the Latino and gay communities.

Tonya Thompson-Morgan, Investigator, York City Human Relations Commission (HRC), gave background on HRC and said we need all representation on the commission. She said they have vacant seats and on the Commission that they can't keep filled. Ms. Thompson-Morgan stated that you can make a real difference on the HRC, so we invite you to serve in that capacity as well because there are other opportunities in the community besides Council. She provided the HRC's contact information HRC and encouraged residents to apply for these vacancies.

Jose Santiago, resident, said this is a tough decision but in the future, he hopes we try to diversify a little more.

James Sawyer, resident, also spoke in favor of the Latino and LGBTQ communities and said we lost our only Latino member on the school board and it was frightening. He said the Latino population in the City of York is increasing so he encouraged Latino leaders to step up.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 13 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 3; Nays – 0.

2. Resolution No. 14 - A Resolution Appointing a candidate to fill a vacancy on City Council. (To serve until the first Monday of January 2020.) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 14, Session 2018, A Resolution appointing H. Michael Buckingham to fill the two-year vacancy on Council, with said term to expire the first Monday of January 2020, was introduced by Nixon, read at length, and on motion of Nixon, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 14 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 3; Nays – 0.

Council congratulated the new appointees.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Edquina Washington and Councilman H. Michal Buckingham.

President Nixon adjourned the special meeting at 8:22 p.m.

President Nixon reconvened the committee meeting at 8:29 p.m. with the newly appointed Council members seated at the Council table.

## 2. Resolution approving the 2018 Tax & Revenue Anticipation Note.

Administrator Doweary explained that the 2018 Tax & Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) is basically the borrowing of money to bridge the gap between now and when our tax revenue comes in sometime in April. He said this is a Resolution Council adopts yearly.

**DECISION:** Motion made by Nixon, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, to place this item on the **2/6/18** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Buckingham, Washington, Nixon - 5; Nays - 0.

---

### III. Council Comment

Council members Washington and Buckingham thanked Council for selecting them and that they look forward to the task.

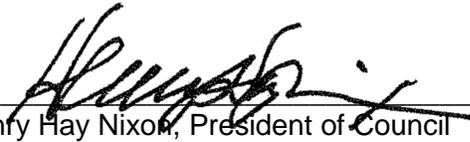
President Nixon said this was an extremely difficult decision but what turned the corner for him was their special abilities and prior history and involvement with York City government.

IV. Administration Comment: None

V. Next Committee Meeting February 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

VI. Adjournment: There being no further discussion, the January 24, 2018 committee meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council