

# 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  
 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 March 28, 2018 6:00 p.m.

Police	Fire	Public Works	E&C Development	Business Admin	Rules & Admin
<b>Washington</b> Ritter-Dickson Walker	<b>Washington</b> Ritter-Dickson Walker	<b>Walker</b> Ritter-Dickson Buckingham	<b>Ritter-Dickson</b> Nixon Walker	<b>Buckingham</b> Nixon Washington	<b>Nixon</b> Walker Buckingham

\***Bold text indicates Chairperson**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nixon called the March 28, 2018 committee meeting to order at 6:15 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.

**Note:** Mayor Helfrich declared a snow emergency for the City of York on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 effective at 5:00 p.m. in preparation of Winter Storm Toby. Because of the declared emergency, City Council canceled its legislative meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 and rescheduled it for Wednesday, March 28, 2018 (6PM) prior to Council's committee meeting. Immediately after the rescheduled legislative meeting adjourned, Council called its regularly scheduled committee meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**Members of the Administration in attendance included:** Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor; Michael Doweary, Business Administrator; Shilvosky Buffalo, Interim Director of Economic & Community Development; and Don Hoyt, Assistant Solicitor.

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

- I. Called committee meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.
- II. Committee Issues for the April 3 & 17, 2018 legislative agendas as follows:

### **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION / FIRE / POLICE** ([View Issues Chart](#))

1. **Resolution authorizing the appointment of probationary firefighters.**
2. **Resolution approving the Civil Service Board's certified list of probationary police officer candidates.**

Business Administrator Doweary explained that the firefighter appointments will be to replace firefighter vacancies due to attrition and withdraws which will bring the fire department up to its full compliment. He then stated that the Civil Service Board met last night and certified its list of probationary police officers for the period of 3/28/18 through 3/26/2020. He said the police academy is offered twice a year, so we are looking to get this approved as soon as possible so that we can send these candidates to the academy.

President Nixon asked if this increases the number of police officers. Administrator Doweary responded that this resolution just approves the list that we can hire from, but it doesn't approve appointment of officers at this time.

**DECISION:** There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, to place these two items on the **4/3/18** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Washington, Nixon, Buckingham – 3; Nays – 0.

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ([View Issues Chart](#))

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### 1. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the PA Dept. of Health to provide dental health & education services to city residents (\$46,330.00)

Director Buffaloe explained that the Health Bureau has received additional grant funding in the amount of \$46,330.00 to provide dental health and education services to city youth between the ages of 0-16 years.

Vice President Walker said this is an awesome initiative - especially when implemented in our schools – and she's excited to see additional funding made available to support this program.

**DECISION:** There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **4/3/18** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Walker, Nixon, Ritter-Dickson – 3; Nays – 0.

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

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### 1. Resolution authorizing exoneration of municipal taxes on 118 S. Cherry Lane acquired by the City of York.

President Nixon said this is a small building located behind the police station that we have been renting for quite some time.

Administrator Doweary said that is correct and the city recently acquired this property, so we will be asking Council to abate all taxes as well as any interest, penalties and fees that may have accrued. He said they are working on the final dollar amount for the resolution.

**DECISION:** There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **4/3/18** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

### 2. Resolution authorizing exoneration of municipal taxes for the property owned by Colonial House, Inc. located at 924 W. Market St.

Colonial House, Inc. representatives Kelvin Silver, C.E.O., and Chrissy Morrison, were present to explain their request.

In a letter dated January 30, 2018 received from Ms. Morrison, she explained that Colonial House, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization that acquired 924 W. Market St., York, and they are asking for exoneration of 2016 and 2017 municipal taxes, fees, interest and penalties. She outlined that they have been operating as a tax-exempt entity since 1969 and that other properties they have purchased in York County as treatment facilities are exempt. However, for some reason, after purchasing 924 W. Market St. on September 30, 2016, the property failed to be registered as a tax-exempt facility.

Mr. Silver outlined that Colonial House, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization that provides a stable, nurturing environment that allows its clients to develop healthy, productive, drug free lives, while assisting them in acquiring the skills needed to achieve sobriety and maintain a chemical free lifestyle. On September 30, 2016, Colonial House, Inc. purchased 924 W. Market St. to serve as an inpatient female facility designed to aid chemically dependent people in developing the skills and resources necessary to maintain recovery such as daily group therapy, individual counseling, family consults, lectures, workshops, and relapse prevention.

President Nixon asked if the facility is staffed 24 hours a day. Mr. Silver said it is.

Mr. Silver and Ms. Morrison answered questions from Council about Colonial House services and facilities.

Councilman Buckingham asked if taxes were owed on the property prior to Colonial House purchasing the property. Assistant Solicitor Hoyt said he would need to further research on this property to determine any prior liens.

President Nixon asked if the Solicitor's office could get more information to Council by its April 3<sup>rd</sup> legislative meeting. Assistant Solicitor Hoyt said "yes." Hoyt added that we have not completed in-depth research on this property but there is no question that Colonial House, Inc. is a tax-exempt entity, so the question is why they weren't given that status when this property was purchased.

**DECISION:** There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, to place this item on the **4/3/18** agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

**1. Bill amending Article 509 “Parking Meters,” Subsection 509.99 “Penalty” of the Codified Ordinances to extend the grace period for paying fines from eight (8) days to fourteen (14) days.**

President Nixon asked if this grace period includes violations to the Neighborhood Improvement Ordinance (NIO).

Mayor Helfrich said as of now it does not. He stated that he didn't want to rush into the NIO penalty process, so he's just focused on parking meter violations at this time. He said this will extend the time to pay fines from eight (8) days to fourteen (14). He then outlined the ticketing process, notices and penalty phases.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked if there is contact information for questions about tickets. Mayor Helfrich said people may contact the [Parking Bureau](#) or fill out the online complaint form.

Administrator Doweary added that residents may also visit the finance office, but it will all come back to the complaint resolution process. He said we only have a 30-day window to work with once a ticket is issued.

Councilman Buckingham asked for clarification on the penalty structure. Mayor Helfrich said all penalties are found in Section “.99” of each ordinance. However, the amount of the fine is at the discretion of the district magistrate in accordance with the minimum and maximum fees established in the penalty portion of the ordinance. In the case of parking meters, it would be section 509.99.

Councilwoman Washington said she would like this information communicated to the community and to stress that this grace period is only for parking meter violations at this point.

**DECISION:** There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Washington, to place this item on the **4/3/18** agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 3; Nays – 0.

**2. Bill approving the inclusion of 2017 ordinances into the Codified Ordinance book.**

City Clerk Thompson-Mitchell explained that this is a routine ordinance submitted yearly to authorize incorporation of the prior year's ordinances into the codified ordinance book.

**DECISION:** There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **4/3/18** agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 3; Nays – 0.

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III. Council Comment

Vice President Walker said the memorial service held for fallen firefighters Ivan Flanscha and Zach Anthony was extremely moving and the support from the community was awesome. She said she is proud that our community stepped up to the plate and donations are still being accepted to help support the families. Lastly, she stated that it was expressed to her that some type of memorial be situated at the location where the firefighters lost their lives.


Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson invited all to attend the Firefighter's banquet scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>.

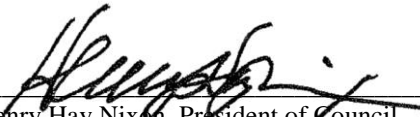
IV. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich thanked all who supported us while trying to cope with the loss of our firefighters. He said we were able to send them off with the honor and respect that they deserve. He also thanked Council for supporting a Mayor/Council joint proclamation for the families of Firefighters Flanscha and Anthony. He then thanked the families, visitors, restaurants, transportation agencies, and lodging establishments that helped us lay our men to rest. He encouraged supporters to contribute funds to help our fallen firefighters' families as well as the other two firefighters injured, Erik Swanson and Greg Altland. He said they are slowly recovering and we are thankful that their lives were spared. To donate please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/york-fire-fighters-support-fund>.

V. Next Committee Meeting April 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

VI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the March 28, 2018 committee meeting of Council adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

  
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Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk

  
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Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council