

# 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

### May 23, 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.

**Council in attendance:** Edquina Washington, H. Michael Buckingham, Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Sandie Walker, Vice President, and Henry Hay Nixon, President.

**Administration in attendance:** Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor; Chaz Green, Acting Director of Public Works; Barb Kovacs, Director of Health; 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 June 5, 2018 legislative Agenda as follows:

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

#### **1. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the PA Dept. of Health for immunization services. (\$119,145) (Health Dept.)**

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson read the following email from Barb Kovacs, Director of Health:

“This is a one-year contract with the PA Dept of Health for us to provide immunization services for city residents who are uninsured or underinsured. We are also obligated to work with our community partners to identify pockets of need in the community and to address issues relating to the delivery of immunizations, respond to vaccine preventable diseases as they occur and to educate people about the importance of vaccinations. The contract begins July 1, 2018 and goes through June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$119,145.00. We give approximated 2,500 vaccines each year to uninsured and underinsured individuals as well as children on Medicaid, per our requirements under the vaccines for children program. Services are provided free to city residents.”

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

## **2. Resolution appointing Chief Troy Bankert as the York City Police Chief. (Mayor)**

Mayor Helfrich stated that Chief Bankert is currently serving as Acting Police Chief. Although he resides outside of the city, he has agreed to relocate to the city sometime over the next year. He said Chief Bankert has been doing an exceptional job and his appointment is merited.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson said Chief Bankert has a fair disposition and he is well qualified for the position.

Councilwoman Washington concurred and said she worked with Chief Bankert on a gun violence intervention initiative and he has a lot to bring to the table.

President Nixon said his is grateful that Chief Bankert has agreed to move into the city.

Vice President Walker asked if Council has to approve a Resolution to waive the residency requirement.

Mayor responded that waiver clause is included in the Resolution.

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

## **3. Resolution supporting a citizen’s commission for legislative and congressional redistricting. (Council)**

West York Borough Councilman Alan 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.

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

- 4. Resolution approving an agreement with YCEA & a budget transfer for economic development services to be provided by the YCEA. (Mayor)**
- 5. Bill No. 8 establishing Article 150 “Department of Economic & Community Development**

(Committee agenda items 4 & 5 were discussed together.)

Kevin Schreiber, President/CEO, York County Economic Alliance (YCEA), said this proposal is to provide economic development support to the City. We put together a proposal on how we could best coordinate the economic development of our community. He gave background information of the mission, goals and achievements of the YCEA.

Councilwoman Washington asked if any other municipalities contribute to YCEA.

Mr. Schreiber said currently we have active agreements with Hanover Borough and Fairview Township and he explained the services provided to them.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked under this agreement, who will the YCEA employees report to and if they will have offices in City Hall will YCEA be paying rent to the city.

Mr. Schreiber said the YCEA employees will have office space at City Hall, they will work for YCEA, and rent has not been discussed.

Councilman Buckingham asked if these employees will also have an office at YCEA.

Mr. Schreiber said they will have office space at YCEA and City Hall.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked what the \$72,464.00 budget transfer will cover.

Business Administrator Doweary responded that the transfer is to cover the contractual costs to secure the services of YCEA through the end of 2018.

Councilwoman Washington asked what heightened level of service we will be receiving in addition to our already existing collaboration with YCEA.

Mr. Schreiber responded that YCEA will establish a "People-Centered Economic Development Strategy" for the City of York that will include quality of place, employment entrepreneurialism and career opportunities, blight remediation, economic development partnerships, transparent government services, and economic development coordination, activities, project management and customer service.

Mayor Helfrich said he wants to transfer economic development to YCEA. The Director of Economic & Community Development will still work in a smaller capacity with economic development, but the focus of the director will now be on community-based services such as resources for seniors, healthcare, blight, housing, and property maintenance. Additionally, he said it was originally thought that Article 123.09 "Department of Economic & Community Development" of the codified ordinances needed to be amended to address the separate duties of economic & community development but the YCEA contract doesn't affect the ordinance. Therefore, amendments are being proposed just to update the language and to create a separate article (Article 150) for the Department of Economic & Community Development.

Councilwoman Washington said Mayor Helfrich proposes to eliminate the Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development. She asked why the Mayor would eliminate one position only to turn around and secure two YCEA staff persons.

Mayor Helfrich said the YCEA staff specializes in economic development and this is what is needed to propel us forward.

Councilman Buckingham said the \$72,464 budget transfer isn't enough to cover the \$12,500 monthly payment to YCEA through the end of the year.

Mayor Helfrich said money has already been transferred from other means, so this is the remaining amount needed to fulfill this contract.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson said what happens if the city's relationship with YCEA doesn't work.

Mayor Helfrich replied that if this relationship doesn't work, then we'll have to work out a new game plan as we do with any other contract we've entered into. He said this is a professional services contract that doesn't require bidding because it's a specialized area.

Councilman Buckingham asked if YCEA will do any workforce development.

Mr. Schreiber said definitely, and he'll be happy to send that information to Council. He said YCEA will be connecting our residents to various employment opportunities.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson questioned section two of the consulting agreement. She asked what expenditures would be considered outside of the typical course of business that the city would have to reimburse YCEA for.

Mr. Schreiber said a practical example would be the need to purchase marketing materials but that any such purchase would have to be approved by the city before the money is spent. He said that language is merely included merely as a precaution.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked if these unanticipated expenditures would come before Council for approval or is this just something YCEA would be discussing with the Mayor. She also asked about the start date/payment of the contract.

Mr. Schreiber said he would be in close contact with the Mayor regarding such expenditures.

Mayor Helfrich said the start date and payments would occur after Council approves the contract.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked that Mr. Schreiber provide Council with a job description of the two YCEA employees that will be working out of City Hall.

**DECISION:** A motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Walker to place the YCEA contract, budget transfer and amendment to Bill No. 8 on the **6/5/18** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Walker, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

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III. Council Comment: None

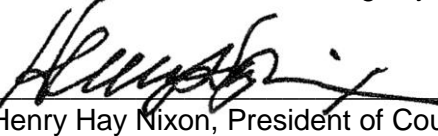
IV. Administration Comment: None

V. Next Committee Meeting September 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

VI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the 5/23/18 committee meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

  
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Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk

  
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Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council