

# 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 June 5, 2018 6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) / [No Bills Approved](#) / [Committee Minutes of 5/23/18](#)

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nixon called the June 5, 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; Troy Bankert, Acting Police Chief; David Michaels, Fire 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.

President Nixon announced that Mayor Helfrich has requested that agenda item 8, an agreement with the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) for economic development services, and agenda item 9, a budget transfer to secure said services by the YCEA, be pulled from the agenda.

Mayor Helfrich said he will remain after the meeting to answer questions related to these agenda items.

Vice President Walker said although the Mayor has requested agenda items 8 & 9 be pulled, she would like to hear public comment on these items as several residents are in attendance who wish to speak on these. Council members Buckingham, Washington and Ritter-Dickson agreed. Therefore, President Nixon opened the floor to allow comment on agenda items 8 & 9.

Sherry Washington, resident, read a letter from Rev. Aaron Wilford of Bethlehem Baptist Church, regarding outsourcing economic development to YCEA. In his letter, Rev. Willford said, "People are flocking to our downtown. Residential living in downtown York is up, and many of us have watched quirky retail businesses flourish. Now suddenly, the city department that led this effort is being outsourced." He questioned what this outsourcing will mean for the two African-American city employees who currently work in economic development who have forged relationships, loyalty and trust with local businesses over the years. His letter went on to say that YCEA lacks diversity, which is worrisome. He questioned how YCEA's predominately white staff could represent the desires and needs of our minority community and asked will trendy white businesses be move to downtown York with minority businesses being pushed to the outskirts of the city.

Christine Lincoln, resident, stated that YCEA President Kevin Schreiber is offering a plan that, in a nutshell, is gentrification. She said the city's pension deficit is real and the so-called cost savings this outsourcing is supposed to do for the city won't help this deficit in the least. She said YCEA has no comprehension what our city needs to thrive and that one of the goals of economic development should be to focus on the community, not investors.

Carl Singleton, PA Diversity Coalition, outlined the mission and goals of the coalition. He said Harrisburg tried to privatize its Public Works Department and folks came out to oppose it. He said Council will be making decisions that will affect future generations. Mr. Singleton went on to say he doesn't necessarily feel there are ill intentions behind this idea to outsource economic development to YCEA, but he does feel it's ill-guided. He said we should look out for the masses, not the chosen few.

Joanne Ekeledo, resident and city business owner, said she has done numerous hours of research on outsourcing economic development and the data shows that it does not work, and it is not the panacea it's panned out to be. She said the head of YCEA, Kevin Schreiber, sat in the position as York City Director Economic Development and now that he's moved on he's now sending the message that this department is not functioning under its current director.

Rev. Larry Walthour, Shiloh Baptist Church, said what he's hearing now is disappointing because the Mayor reached out to the black community during his election campaign but now he said he feels the Mayor is turning on us. He said he refuses to be on the wrong side of history. Rev. Walthour stated that this community has not recovered from the 1969 race riots.

Wayne King, resident, complained about recovery houses in his neighborhood. He said he called the House of Choice and reported the foul language coming from residents at the property which could be clearly heard by passersby. He said he called the police once he heard arguing and a woman screaming.

Donna Zmjewski, resident, said the funding from the state for mental health is minimal and people are waiting six months to see a psychiatrist. She then said more streetlights are needed on S. Queen St. & W. Mason Ave. Lastly, she discussed redevelopment in the downtown area which includes high priced apartments. She asked why low, medium and high-income people can't share the same apartment complex.

Bill Evans, resident, complained about a home on his block with soiled diapers, old tv discs, and trash scattered on the property. He said it was cleaned up, however, it's back to the same old nasty condition. He said he filed complaints with the property maintenance department but only received one letter about his complaint although he has filed repeated complaints. He said something more has to be done to hold people accountable for the upkeep of their properties.

Louis Rivera, founder of First Friday Latino and member of Latinos Unidos of York, discussed the Guatemalan local relief effort underway following the deadly eruption of Volcán de Fuego which killed scores of people and buried rural villages in drifts of ash and volcanic rock. He then introduced two University of Pittsburgh law students in attendance this evening. He said they were attending school in Puerto Rico but when the hurricane hit, they relocated their studies to Pittsburgh. Mr. Rivera then unveiled the Latinos Unidos of York logo and said they are officially a 501(c)(3) organization. He said they are working hard to make sure Latinos are inclusive in our community.

There being no further comment, President Nixon adjourned the public comment session at 6:39 p.m. and called the legislative session to order.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:39 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

V. Moment of Silence observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of May 16, 2018 (legislative) and May 23, 2018 (committee): Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements

- **10,000 Acts of Kindness** – David Smith, co-owner of I-ron-ic, and Joan Maruskin, Program Administrator of Religious Service Program at Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program, gave a presentation on Celebrating York's Unity through 10,000 Acts of Kindness. This initiative will be a multi-cultural, multi-faith, non-partisan and all-inclusive festival celebrating the growth York has made over the past 50 years. The

celebration will be held on June 30, 2019 in Penn Park with one-and-a-half miles of tables in an attempt to earn the Guinness Book of World Records' title for the longest table in the world. To be one of the 10,000 people seated at the table breaking bread together, a person will have to have performed a recognized act of kindness that benefits others in a meaningful or tangible way. For more information please contact [10thousandactsofkindness@gmail.com](mailto:10thousandactsofkindness@gmail.com).

- **Proclamation:** Council approved and submitted for the record a proclamation declaring June 16, 2018 as International & Culture Festival Expo Day in the City of York. ([View Proclamation](#))
- **Council Recess:** After tonight's meeting, Council will observe its summer recess. During the recess, Council will meet for legislative sessions on July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. There are no committee meetings held during the summer recess.

VII. Meeting(s) Scheduled: None

IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals: No reports.

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. 50** \_\_\_\_\_ - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 50, Session 2018, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness to the York County Industrial Development Authority (YCIDA) for work to be done at 48 E. Market St., was introduced by Buckingham, read at length and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 50 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

2. **Resolution No. 51** \_\_\_\_\_ - A Resolution  
Waiving the requirement to pay an additional stormwater management fee. (For WellSpan Properties, Inc. for the Roosevelt Family Medicine land development at 1401 Roosevelt Ave.) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (PP&Z)

Resolution No. 51, Session 2018, A Resolution waiving the requirement to pay a fee to the Municipal Stormwater Maintenance Fund for installation of stormwater management facilities associated with the WellSpan Properties, Inc. land development for the Roosevelt Family Medicine facility located at 1401 Roosevelt Ave., as the applicant previously paid said fee in 2013 and is not proposing any new stormwater management facilities associated with this project. The Resolution was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 51 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked how much the fee would have been and Councilman Buckingham asked if the applicant met all the conditional approvals. Mayor Helfrich said he does not know and that those questions could be answered by contacting the City Planner.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 51 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

## Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions

3. Final Passage of **Bill No. 8 (Pulled from the agenda)** – 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’s Office

Final Passage 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, which was introduced by Nixon at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Nixon, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 8 came up for discussion.

Sherry Washington, resident, asked for an explanation of why Article 123.09 is being repealed.

Assistant Solicitor Sabol explained that a question was raised by Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson that Article 123.09 “Department of Economic & Community Development” of the codified ordinances may need to be amended to address the separate duties of economic & community development but after review, it’s the solicitor’s office opinion that the YCEA contract doesn’t affect the ordinance. However, there are some suggested changes being proposed to clean up language that is no longer relevant. Those changes include: (1) The Solicitor's office recommends deleting the "York County Industrial Development Council" from the ordinance as that organization is defunct and replacing it with "the York County Economic Alliance" as that is an organization currently exists and directly supports economic development in the City, and (2) striking the sentence "[T]he Director shall serve as staff assistance to the General Authority of the City of York” as the Director of Economic and Community Development does not and has not served as staff assistance to the General Authority for some time dating back until at least the last administration.

City Clerk Thompson-Mitchell added that she did not know why the Department of Economic & Community Development was included in Article 123 “Mayor” as all other departments have their own article number. Therefore, she said it was her recommendation to repeal Article 123.09 and establish this ordinance under its own article number, that being “Article 150.” She did say, however, that changing the article number was her only recommendation and that she did not recommend any changes in language.

Councilwoman Washington asked what the benefit is to add YCEA in the new language that was recommended by the solicitor’s office and what the harm would be to not include them in the language.

Mayor Helfrich said the entire ordinance was reviewed at the request of Council. He said minor amendments were recommended as outlined earlier by Assistant Solicitor Sabol. As for the YCEA’s inclusion, the original ordinance listed various liaisons, which included the York County Industrial Development Council, which is no longer in existence and is now taken over by the YCEA, so it made sense to make the correction. In a nutshell, Mayor Helfrich said the benefit of adding YCEA to our ordinance reflects reality. Although we are not considering the YCEA contract tonight, the Department of Economic & Community Development already has a relationship with YCEA so if they are not included in the ordinance, it won't hurt and as they will still have the same relationship regardless.

Shirley Kirkland, resident, said if agenda items 8 & 9 are being pulled, why are you acting on this ordinance tonight. She said it seems like something sneaky is going on.

President Nixon said he feels the Mayor has made it clear what the amendments are.

Christine Lincoln, resident, said we as a community feel that things are being done behind our backs.

Candace Robinson, resident, said she is doing a Facebook live video and a question just came up about the Ecosystem Builder contract. She said during the April 25<sup>th</sup> committee meeting ([read minutes](#)), the contract and budget transfer items were voted out of committee and were to be placed on the next legislative agenda. However, it was pulled from Council's consideration at the request of the Mayor. So, the question is how come the Ecosystem Builder contractor is now working for the city when Council did not approve the contract. She said we are intelligent and paying attention to what's going on.

Attorney Sandra Thompson, President of York NAACP, said she received complaints about ordinance and finance changes occurring with this contract. She said we are responding to these changes and trying to get information. We want to hear all sides. She said another concern is the minimizing of black and brown voices and taking away of power. This has been going on routinely in cities and York City is the only real voice of black and brown people in York County. When you talk about a system of white supremacy, you are taking away the power from those who are black and brown because the misconception is that we don't know how to properly manage finances. Attorney Thompson said our issue is that you are turning over the duties of economic development to an entity that is not accountable to the city and is not a representation of our minority community.

Rev. Aaron Anderson asked Council to table this legislation until the concerns of the public are adequately addressed so that we don't move forward with division.

President Nixon said given the heat of the evening, he feels it is a wise decision to table.

**Motion to table.** A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded Walker, to table Bill No. 8. The motion to table passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

Mayor Helfrich said although this bill was not acted upon, the Director of Economic & Community Development will not staff the General Authority.

### New Business

4. Resolution No. 52 - A Resolution  
Appointing Troy Bankert as the York City Police Chief. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 52, Session 2018, A Resolution approving the appointment of Acting Police Chief Troy Bankert as the York City Chief of Police effective June 5<sup>th</sup> at an annual salary of \$105,000.00 and waiving the residency requirement for one year, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 52 came up for discussion.

Members of Council spoke kind words of Chief Bankert.

Rev. Aaron Anderson, Attorney Sandra Thompson, and resident Lester Abbott shared stories of their positive interactions with Chief Bankert.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 52 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

5. Resolution No. 53 - A Resolution  
Appointing Dan Meckley to the York City General Authority. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 53, Session 2018, A Resolution consenting to the appointment made by the Mayor of Dan Meckley as a member of the York City General Authority to fill the unexpired term of Tim Fulton, which term shall expire January 1, 2022, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of

Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 53 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

6. Resolution No. **54** - A Resolution Supporting a Citizen’s Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 54, Session 2018, A Resolution supporting a citizen’s commission for legislative and congressional redistricting, was introduced by Nixon, read at length, and on motion of Nixon, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 54 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. **55** - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the PA Dept. of Health. (\$119,145 for immunization initiatives) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 55, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the PA Department of Health in the amount of \$119,145.00 for immunization initiatives 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 Washington, Resolution No. 55 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

8. Resolution No. **(Pulled from the agenda)** - A Resolution Approving an agreement with the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) for economic development services. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Mayor

**Pulled from the agenda.** Agenda item No. 8 was pulled from the agenda at the request of Mayor Helfrich. See discussion under the 6:00 p.m. public comment session noted above.

9. Resolution No. **(Pulled from the agenda)** - A Resolution Authorizing a budget transfer. (\$72,464 – For economic development services provided by the York County Economic Alliance) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Mayor

**Pulled from the agenda.** Agenda item No. 9 was pulled from the agenda at the request of Mayor Helfrich. See discussion under the 6:00 p.m. public comment session noted above.

- 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 Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business, the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council adjourned at 7:33 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