

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
H. Michael Buckingham, Member of Council

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MINUTES July 17, 2018 6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) / No Bills Approved

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the July 17, 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; Chaz Green, Acting Director of Public Works; Shilvosky Buffaloe, Interim Director of Economic & Community Development; Ricardo Quintero, Mayor's Executive Administrator; 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.

Franklin Williams, resident, said he spoke with a young, African-American entrepreneur who said he felt the city would do everything they could to keep him from developing his business. He then said a Caucasian gentleman said he felt African-Americans could get whatever they wanted because they are African-American. Mr. Williams said to get this in both ears from people he is familiar with was hard to deal with. He said he would like people to be judged by their character and not their skin color. Lastly, Mr. Williams stated that it troubles him that there are no Latinos in high ranking positions in the city.

Tina Charles, resident, stated that since Pennsylvania legalized fireworks, residents are now shooting off fireworks all hours of the night within close proximity to residential homes. She asked if there is any enforceability to control fireworks before someone gets hurt or someone's home burns down. She then discussed illegal dumping at the rear of her home. When she called large item pick up to see if they could pick it up she said she was told she had to find a way to move the items to the front of her house. She asked if this is a requirement under the city's refuse collection contract. Lastly, Ms. Charles discussed the [marijuana ordinance](#) and said if someone has a prior violation, the person is being charged when they should only receive a fine as regulated under the new legislation. She asked if this could be revisited.

Amanda Auman, resident, said on July 13th she looked out of her window and saw her car on fire. She stated that someone went through her unlocked car, found fireworks and tossed a lit one into the car. She said it was a traumatizing experience for her and her family.

Lou Rivera, resident, announced that the Glatfelter Institute completed an assessment of the Latino community that reflected a 50% unemployment rate among Latinos, that 65% of Latinos don't trust of the police department, and 70% of Latinos are renters. He asked Council and the Administration to take a look at the assessment as they move forward with efforts for Latino inclusion.

Joanne Eckeledo, resident, asked that residents have access to all budget documents prior to Council's action on the budget to keep residents informed and allow for public input prior to passage.

Christine Lincoln, resident, said the black community will no longer be gaslighted and that revitalization is the act of bringing something back to life. She discussed the racial undertones of gentrification resulting in disparity and displacement thereby driving black and brown people out of the community. She said we have seen this happening throughout this country since the beginning and any city knowingly promoting gentrification is blatant racism. Ms. Lincoln stated that cities have to develop togetherness, yet she feels Mayor Helfrich is steady trying to turn over the city's economic development to a business with no diversity. She said we need to know openly what is happening with the economic development in our city because the black community is not going to sit back quietly.

Montika Smith, residents, said she briefly parked her delivery truck in front of her business and immediately after she pulled off, she was pulled over by a policeman. He asked to see her identification while another officer asked her son for his identification. She said the cop said he pulled her over because she was parked in a through way, which is a traffic offense. Ms. Smith said she was then given a citation for the infraction. She said she took several pictures of other drivers doing this exact same thing. When she asked these drivers if they were ever confronted by police or cited and they said no. She questioned why she was targeted and why her son was asked for his identification when she was the one driving the truck.

Halman Smith, Montika Smith's husband, added that we are taxpaying citizens and our color is God given and he's proud of it. He said we are not going to do business in an environment where we will feel suppressed by any entity. He added that you don't have the best interest of the city at heart when you are doing selective policing. Mr. Smith stated that our forefathers sacrificed so much for our freedoms and we demand respect. He said this is his home, he grew up here, and we need you to do your due diligence in protecting our rights and freedom.

There being no further discussion, President Nixon adjourned the public comment session at 6:43 p.m. and convened in legislative session.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:43 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

V. Moment of Silence observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of June 5, 2018: Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements

President Nixon announced that Council has begun airing segments on WRCT spotlighting businesses and individuals in the City of York with the first spotlight done by Vice President Walker on MiCaldero Restaurant, 605 S. George St., York. The second spotlight will be done by Councilman Buckingham on Furniture Finesse, 700 W. Market St., York. He invited residents to tune in and enjoy.

VII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

Next Council meeting: Council will continue to observe its summer recess; therefore, the next legislative meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on August 15, 2018.

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. **56** - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Historic York

A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be done at 50 N. George St., 45 S. Queen St., 1 W. Market St., and 120 N. Howard St., was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 56 came up for discussion.

Councilman Buckingham noted that the Resolution references work to be done at 50 N. Broad St., when in fact it is 50 N. George St. Council unanimously approved correcting the resolution to read 50 N. George St. There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 56, as amended, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions: NONE

New Business

2. Introduction of Bill No. **9** - A Bill
Amending the 2018 Budget. (Fire Commission grant - \$15,000 for purchase of ground ladders & training)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington ([View](#))
Originator: Fire/Rescue

Introduction of Bill No. 9, Session 2018, A Bill amending the 2018 Budget for the Department of Fire/Rescue Services for a Fire Commission grant received in the amount of \$15,000 for purchase of ground ladders and training, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the August 21st meeting of Council.

3. Introduction of Bill No. **10** - A Bill
Amending Article 165 “Employment Provisions” of the codified ordinances to establish a “Safe Time Leave” policy. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Council (Washington)

Introduction of Bill No. 10, Session 2018, A Bill amending Article 165 “Employment Provisions” of the Codified Ordinances to establish subsection 165.10 “Safe Time Leave,” was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the August 21st meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill No. **11** - A Bill
Amending Article 181 “General Provisions” of the codified ordinances to grant City Council authority to remove board members exclusively appointed by Council. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon
Originator: Council (Nixon)

Introduction of Bill No. 11, Session 2018, A Bill amending Article 181 “General Provisions” of the Codified Ordinances to grant City Council authority to remove board members exclusively appointed by Council,” was introduced by Nixon, read by short title, and deferred to the August 21st meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. **12** - A Bill
Amending Article 509 “Parking Meters” of the codified ordinances to grant City Council authority to amend parking exclusions, hours of operation, and additional parking meter zones. ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration (Parking)

Introduction of Bill No. 12, Session 2018, A Bill amending Article 509 “Parking Meters” of the Codified Ordinances to grant City Council authority to amend parking exclusions, hours of operation, and additional parking meter zones, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the August 21st meeting of Council.

6. Introduction of Bill No. **13** - A Bill
Amending Article 933 “Sewer Rentals” of the codified ordinances to reduce the burden of sewer rates for citizens falling under the Federal Poverty Guidelines. ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration (Finance)

Introduction of Bill No. 13, Session 2018, A Bill amending Article 933 “Sewer Rentals” of the Codified Ordinances to reduce the burden of sewer rates for citizens falling under the Federal Poverty Guidelines, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the August 21st meeting of Council.

7. Resolution No. **57** - A Resolution
Authorizing submission of a proposal for funds with the PA Council on the Arts. (\$2,500 for partial funding for the 2019 Yorkfest Public Community Mural) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Public Works (Special Events)

Resolution No. 57, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing submission of a proposal for funds with the PA Council on the Arts in the amount of \$2,500 for partial funding for the 2019 Yorkfest Public Community Mural, was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 57 came up for discussion.

Director Green said this grant requires a \$2,500 match, which had been previously budgeted for.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 57 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

8. Resolution No. **58** - A Resolution
Authorizing submission of a proposal for funds with PA DCED. (\$3,000,000 for the neighborhood street improvement projects - Duke St., Penn St., and Pershing Ave.) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 58, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing the submission of a proposal for funds with the PA DCED in the amount of \$3,000,000 for the neighborhood street improvement projects for Duke St., Penn St., and Pershing Ave., was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 58 came up for discussion.

Director Green briefly outlined the project and said no match is required for this grant.

Candace Robinson, resident, thanked Director Green for the information and asked when Mayor Helfrich was going to give Acting Director Green the title of Director of Public Works.

Tonya Thompson-Morgan, resident, asked if W. Maple St. & Kurtz Ave. can be part of the landscaping efforts because their sidewalks have been ripped up for over a year. She said her mother has ambulatory

problems and she's afraid she will fall on the unpaved sidewalks that are currently covered with nothing but broken stone.

Director Green said the utility company just finished up Prospect St. so hopefully by the end of the summer they will begin to finish up the work they started on Maple St. He said unfortunately this is something we'll have to deal with but once the project is done, the sidewalks will look great.

Mayor Helfrich said the sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility but since the utility companies are doing the work, they will redo the sidewalks, so we are happy to get them done at no cost to homeowners. He said we hope to get additional lighting on Pershing Ave. as well.

Carl Singleton, PA Diversity Coalition, asked that conditions be put in place in the contract scoring sheets so that points are awarded to black businesses because minority businesses are at a disadvantage when it comes to securing contracts.

President Nixon said one of his goals is to strengthen the city's [Article 136 "Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program"](#) ordinance also known as the Smallwood legislation, which gives bidding advantages to small and disadvantaged city businesses.

Mr. Singleton said that Council should put something forward for equitable inclusion and that he would like to help develop a scoring sheet. President Nixon said welcomes Mr. Singleton's suggestions.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 58 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

9. Resolution No. 59 - A Resolution Authorizing an escrow and payment agreement with the York City Sewer Authority. (Manchester Twp. Interceptor Project) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 59, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing an escrow and payment agreement with the York City Sewer Authority for the Manchester Township Interceptor Project, was introduced by Walker, and by unanimous approval of Council was read by short title only. On motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 59 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

10. Resolution No. 60 - A Resolution Authorizing the purchase of land from the RDA. (\$1.00 for the York County Rail Trail extension – North Bend Opportunity Area) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Resolution No. 60, Session 2018, A Resolution authorizing the purchase of land from the RDA in the amount of \$1.00 for the York County Rail Trail extension – North Bend Opportunity Area, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 60 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Walker announced that York City will be holding the York City United Back to School Resource Fair for students in need of school supplies from 12 noon to 6 p.m., Friday, Aug. 17th, at Penn Park. The city hopes to supply at least 1,000 children with backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming school year. Food and music will be available at the fair. If it rains, the event will move to William Penn Senior High School

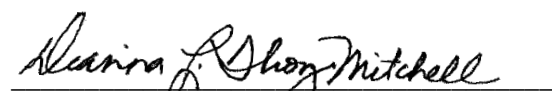
across the street. Those interested in donating or setting up a table with activities and resources can contact York City Councilwoman Sandie Walker at walkesan@yca.k12.pa.us; York City Recreational Specialist Diaz Woodard at dwoodard@yorkcity.org; or Nacole Gaines with York YMCA at ngaines@yorkcoymca.org.

Councilwoman Washington said she attended a block party where she, among other residents and a police officer, participated in a line dance, which was videoed and put on Facebook. She said Mayor Helfrich commented, "*I Left too early! Check out Officer Maine and Councilwoman Edquina Washington shaking it up! Now that's community building!*" She said those comments were disrespectful to her and her children. She stated that she is a woman of God and was not shaking up anything and the Mayor needs to be mindful of his statements because she felt his comments were demeaning and disrespectful.


XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative session of Council will be held on August 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA (general public comment begins at 6:00 p.m.). There being no further discussion, the July 17, 2018 meeting of Council adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer)



Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk



Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council