

# 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 October 16, 2018 6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) / No Bills Approved

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nixon called the October 16, 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; Shilvosky Buffaloe, Acting Director of Economic & Community Development; 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.

Christine Lincoln, York, PA, asked how \$78,000 was transferred to the York County Economic Alliance without Council's approval. She then discussed Council reimplementing the five-minute public comment rule and feels this is a means to silence the black community. She said she also heard that there was a meeting with the Mayor where two members of Council discussed possibly eliminating public comment.

Franklin Williams, York, PA, discussed the killing of Dequan Williams by York City Police officers. He said Dequan suffered from mental illness and is saddened that his mother had to witness his death. He asked residents to remember Dequan's name.

There being no further comment, President Nixon adjourned the public comment session at 6:14 p.m. and immediately convened Council's legislative session.

### II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:14 p.m.

### III. Roll Call

### IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

### V. Moment of Silence observed.

### VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of October 2, 2018: Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

## VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements

Philip Given, Chief of Staff, stated that purpose of tonight's presentation is to introduce a proposal of the York Water Company to take over the city's billing collections service for sewer and refuse payments. He said over the past few months, he has received 241 emails from citizens, 74 phone app submissions, and 89 social media contacts related to problems with the sewer and refuse billing system. He said this doesn't included the hundreds of complaints received by the finance department staff. The issues with the sewer billing system is not caused by our employees, he said it's a broken system that's causing the problems. He said this proposal will help our employees and our frustrated citizens.

Tommy Williams, Acting Business Administrator, briefly explained that back in 2016 the finance department started experiencing problems with the billing system which resulted in long lines at the window and customers' bills being incorrect. With these multiple issues, he said we looked at how we can make this system better, which is where the York Water Company comes in. Mr. Williams stated that this is a \$489,000 proposal and since we currently spend about \$615,000 to process and send out the sewer/refuse bills, this would already put us in a better financial position. He said the complete transition will take between 6-9 months and the two employees this transition will affect will have their duties rebalanced. Mr. Williams then provided Council with a copy of the proposed agreement with the York Water Company.

J.T. Hand, York Water Company, said York Water Company does about 70,000 bills per month. In addition to 70,000 water bills, they do 16,000 sewer bills for seven different municipalities. Mr. Hand stated that we already provide the water meter readings to the City of York which you use to calculate your sewer bills. He said we have the staff and technology in place to improve the efficiency and customer service experience for the City of York and its residents.

Assistant Solicitor Sabol added that this is still the city's sewer/refuse system and this agreement will only shift the sewer/refuse billing to the York Water Company, however, any direction or decisions will come from the city not the York Water Company.

Mayor Helfrich said this proposal will be on Council's October 24<sup>th</sup> committee agenda for further discussion.

## VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- Council Committee Meeting: Scheduled for **Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

## IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals:

- [Bill No. 16](#): Vacating a portion of York St. between N. State St. & Chain Alley was pulled from consideration of final passage at the request of the applicant.

## 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. **83** - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 83, Session 2018, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 45 E. Cottage Place, and 9 W. Market St., was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 83 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

**Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions:** NONE

**New Business**

2. Resolution No. **84** - A Resolution  
Appointing members to various boards. (R. Robbins to HARB) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 84, Session 2018, A Resolution appointing Ruth Robbins as a member of the Historical Architectural Review Board to fill the unexpired term of Justine Landis, which term shall expire the first Monday of January 2022, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 84 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Resolution No. **85** - A Resolution  
Approving a termination agreement with York Family Residences. (Relinquishing rights to Chestnut St. and York St. extensions) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Resolution No. 85, Session 2018, A Resolution approving a termination agreement with York Family Residences relinquishing rights to Chestnut St. and York St. extensions, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 85 came up for discussion.

Director Buffaloe explained that this is part of the Penn Rose development project located at the old Danskin site. This will allow the development to move forward without any title encumbrances.

Mark Stanley, McNees & Wallace, asked for Council's support and approval.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 85 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

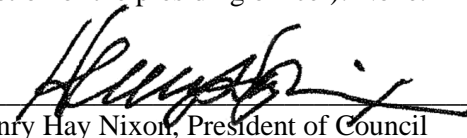
Vice President Walker adamantly dispelled the rumor about getting rid of public comment as stated by Christine Lincoln during public comment. She said that there has been no discussion or consideration given to eliminate public comment. She said she feels that she can speak for all of Council that we encourage public comment. She said her contact information, as well as all of Council's contact information, is public and posted on the city's website. She said it's not hard to find her and she welcomes discussion on the public's concerns.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative session of City Council is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. There being no further discussion, the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer): None.

  
Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk

  
Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council