

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

Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk
Email: dthomps@yorkcity.org



Office of York City Council
101 S. George St.
York, Pennsylvania 17401

Telephone: (717) 849-2246
Fax: (717) 812-0557

Website: www.yorkcity.org

Minutes February 5, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to see signed Resolutions I No Bills were approved

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the February 5, 2019 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; Barb Kovacs, Director of Health; Chastity Frederick, Bureau of Health; Tom Ray, Acting Director of Business Administration; Mike Pritchard, City Planner; Joe Jefcoat, Treasurer, 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. As there was no public comment, President Nixon adjourned the general public comment session and immediately convened in legislative session.
- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- V. Moment of Silence observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 15, 2019](#): Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements
 - **Mayor Michael R. Helfrich** – Presentation on the new Community Ecosystem Initiative and Community Ecosystem Coordinator positions.

Mayor Helfrich outlined the York City Community Ecosystem Initiative. He said the overall goal and purpose is *“to empower and support our residents, and supply the services needed to do this in a focused and organized manner. By engaging residents, businesses, and non-profits, we hope to enhance community spirit, cooperation, and return some of the neighborhood “family” spirit that many long-time residents reminisce about.”* He said the city received \$125,000 from WellSpan Health for this initiative and additional funding was also received from the state. Mayor Helfrich further explained that we will initially hire 5 coordinators who will work under Diaz Woodard (who also serves as the city’s Recreation Program Specialist) and once trained, the coordinators will be placed in specific quadrants of the city. Mayor Helfrich said this is a work in progress, so we’ll learn as we go.

He then answered questions from Council. (Click [here](#) to read the Mayor’s presentation in full.) A copy of the presentation is also attached to the Minutes located in the City Clerk’s archives.

- **City Treasurer Joe Jefcoat** – Presentation on the responsibilities of the Treasurer.

City Treasurer Jefcoat asked Council for its consideration in increasing the salary of the City Treasurer. He said he began his position with no staff, which allowed him to reevaluate its structure. He then hired an experienced accountant as Deputy Treasurer and a qualified, bilingual (Spanish speaking) clerk. He said we have all participated in many hours of professional development classes and received several certifications. He stated that they have also trimmed costs that has saved the city thousands of dollars. We have updated our website and transcribed our handouts into Spanish. He outlined various other initiatives implemented and enacted in by his office to make the office more proficient and user friendly for our customers. He then discussed his inventories and audits process for thousands of properties throughout York City as a means to find ways to save taxpayer dollars. He said his duties are not commensurate with his salary and he is requesting an increase. However, according to the [PA Tax Collectors Manual](#), “Any action by a taxing district to raise or reduce the compensation of the tax collector must be finally passed or adopted prior to the fifteenth day of February of the year of the municipal election where the office is filled.” Therefore, the County of York, the York City School District, and City Council would have to act on this request on or before February 15, 2019. (Click [here](#) to read the Treasurer’s statement in full.) A copy of the presentation is also attached the Minutes located in the City Clerk’s archives. Council asked questions about salary determination and voting requirements related to amending the treasurer’s, which were answered by Assistant Solicitor Sabol.

(UPDATE #1: Council scheduled a special meeting for February 11, 2019 to introduce legislation to increase the Treasurer’s salary and February 14, 2019 to consider passage of the legislation. [Read Press Release](#))

(UPDATE #2: Council canceled its special meeting scheduled for February 14, 2019 as the County of York and the school district were not prepared to act before February 15th on the Treasurer’s request for a salary increase. [Read Press Release](#))

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **Council Committee Meeting:** Council canceled its January 23, 2019 committee meeting due to negligible action items received.
- **Next Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for **Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 20th.

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. **8** - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 8, Session 2019, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in approving certificates of appropriateness for work to be done at 209 N. Beaver St., 1 N. George St., and 29-31 W. Market St., was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 8 came up for discussion.

Motion to table: President Nixon and Councilman Buckingham said they had some questions about the 1 N. George St. application. As no one was present to explain, Councilman Buckingham made a motion to table the vote on said application at this time. The motion to table was seconded by Ritter-Dickson and

passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 8 approving the applications for work to be done at 209 N. Beaver St. and 29-31 W. Market St., PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

2. Resolution No. **9** - A Resolution Approving the final land development plan submitted by the York County Industrial Development Authority. (48 E. Market St. partial demo and redevelopment of the Yorktowne Hotel) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (PP&Z)

Resolution No. 9, Session 2019, A Resolution approving the final land development plan submitted by the York County Industrial Development Authority (YCIDA) for the Yorktowne Hotel located at 48 E. Market St. for partial demolition and redevelopment of the historic hotel, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 9 came up for discussion.

Blanda Nace, YCIDA, summarized that they have worked with the police, fire and planning department to review safety aspects of the project. The rear of the building has been demolished and will become a traffic circle. We are changing some traffic patterns so people can turn off of S. Duke St. The stormwater has been updated so the rainwater will runoff properly. We are thrilled with the design. He then outlined the waivers.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 9 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Resolution No. **10** - A Resolution Authorizing the release of security funds to York Academy Charter School. (Related to construction of the upper school project – 2 W. Hamilton Ave. - \$276,614.25) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (PP&Z)

Resolution No. 10, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing the release of security funds in the amount of \$276,614.25 to York Academy Charter School related to construction of the upper school project located at 2 W. Hamilton Ave., was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 10 PASSED by the following vote: Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions: NONE

New Business

4. Introduction of **Bill No. 5** (Will be on 2/19/19 agenda) - A Bill Amending the 2019 Budget. (\$125,000 for a grant received from WellSpan to cover salaries for Community Ecosystem Coordinators) ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Mayor / Finance

Introduction of Bill No. 5, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 Budget in the amount of \$125,000 for a grant received from WellSpan Health to cover the salaries for Community Ecosystem Coordinators as part of the Community Ecosystem Initiative, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title and deferred to the February 19 meeting of Council. (See above under Roman numeral “VII” for discussion on this initiative.)

5. Resolution No. 11 - A Resolution
Approving the appointment of a probationary firefighter. (B. Rohrbaugh) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Fire/Rescue

Resolution No. 11, Session 2019, A Resolution approving the appointment of Brian Rohrbaugh as a probationary firefighter, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 11 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

6. Resolution No. 12 - A Resolution
Authorizing an agreement with TrueNorth Wellness. (For maternal/child health programs - \$50,000 for pilot program) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 12, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with TrueNorth Wellness in the amount of \$50,000 to provide maternal and child health programs for city resident was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 12 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

Notice: Council scheduled a special meeting for February 11, 2019 to introduce legislation to increase the Treasurer's salary and February 14, 2019 to consider passage of the legislation. [Read Press Release](#)

Notice: Council canceled its special meeting scheduled for February 14, 2019 as the County of York and the school district were not prepared to act before February 15th on the Treasurer's request for a salary increase. [Read Press Release](#)

XII. Council Comment

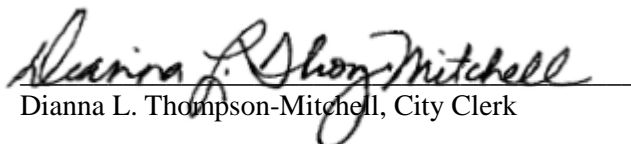
Vice President Walker announced the passing of former, longtime Councilman William Lee Smallwood. Members of Council expressed sympathy and paid condolences to the family.

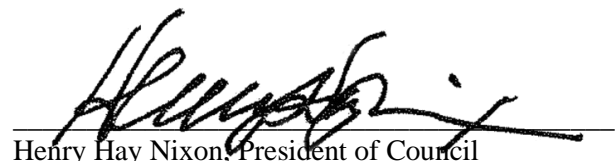
XIII. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich echoed Council's sentiments regarding the passing of former Councilman William Lee Smallwood. He then said he recently heard disparaging remarks that there is nothing to do in York City except visit bars. He reminded residents about the numerous activities going on in and around York City – a lot more than just visiting bars. He said take a look and partake in activities before making such remarks.

- XIV. Adjournment: The next regular meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 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