

# 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 February 19, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to see signed Resolutions | Click [here](#) to see signed Bills (forthcoming)

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nixon called the February 19, 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; Tom Ray, Acting Director of Business Administration; Chad Deardorff, Acting Fire Chief; Nicole Davis, Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development; Troy Bankert, Police 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.

Franklin Williams, resident, expressed discontent with the time limit being placed on public comment. He said he is getting a lot of mail from the city and last week he got a notice that he failed to remove snow and ice from his sidewalk. He also received photos of his property showing the violation. He said there was enough room for him to walk safely across his sidewalk. He then said he received another letter this week with another photo of his property regarding failure to have an address marker visible from a required distance. Mr. Williams stated that he takes care of his property and cleans up trash and broken glass, so he's upset about receiving these types of notifications about his property.

There being no further public comment, President Nixon adjourned the public comment period at 6:11 p.m.

### II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:11 p.m.

### III. Roll Call

### IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

### V. Moment of Silence observed.

### VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [February 5, 2019 \(Legislative\)](#); [February 11, 2019 \(Special Session\)](#): Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

### VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements:

- **Human Relations Commission:** Update on the HRC’s programs and activities.

Karen Rollins-Fitch, Chair of the HRC, said the HRC is now at a full commission and they are also fully staffed, which hasn’t been the case for quite some time. Ciara Ramos, HRC Investigator, was in attendance, so Chairwoman Rollins-Fitch introduced her. The HRC is scheduled to move from its West York location (1381 W. Poplar Street in West York Borough) to 15 N. Cherry Lane (in the City of York) on April 1<sup>st</sup>. They opened 10 cases in 2018 and closed 7. She stated that they are currently working on 6 open cases including 3 older cases. In 2018, the HRC received 99 calls from county and city residents with county complaints being forwarded to the state. She said we still have work to do to educate the public on where to report their complaints. She discussed various other committees that HRC board members serve on throughout York County that involve discussions on diversity, inclusion, training and programs. She said we have built relationships and hope to establish a countywide HRC in the future.

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **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 20<sup>th</sup>.

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.)

**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA**  
**February 19, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m.**

XI. Announcement - President Nixon read the following statement:

- City Council met in Executive Session on Monday, February 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in the Business Administration Conference Room, 101 S. George St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, York, PA, to discuss a personnel matter related to the recommended discharge of a police officer. Subsequent to this recommendation, Council has agreed to place this item on the agenda for official action.

XII. Legislative Agenda:

**New Business**

A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Walker, to waive the provisions of Resolution No. 215 of Session 1969 to permit consideration of a supplemental agenda containing one resolution. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

1. **Resolution No. 13** \_\_\_\_\_ - A Resolution  
Authorizing discharge of a Police Officer (C. Roosen) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Police

**Resolution No. 13, Session 2019**, A Resolution authorizing the discharge of Police Officer Christopher Roosen from the York City Police Department, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 13 came up for discussion.

President Nixon said we’ve concluded an Executive Session where we had discussions concerning one of our police officers. Are there any motions?

Washington moved that pursuant to the Third-Class City Code, we vote to terminate the employment of Officer Christopher Roosen for misconduct and violation of Departmental Regulations.

President Nixon stated that a motion is on the floor, is there a second?

Buckingham seconded the motion.

President Nixon asked if there was any discussion?

**Motion for abstention:** Vice President Walker said she would like to abstain from voting as she was out of the country during the Executive Session and therefore was not privy to the information surrounding the recommendation for termination of Officer Roosen. The motion to allow Walker to abstain was made by Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, and PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

President Nixon said the motion for Walker to abstain from voting has been approved. There is currently a motion and a second on the floor to vote on Resolution No. 13. As such, by roll call, all those in favor say Yea, those opposed say Nay.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 13 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Nixon – 4; Abstain – Walker – 1; Nays – 0.

President Nixon stated that the motion passes, and Mr. Roosen's employment as a York City Police Officer is hereby terminated, effective immediately. The City will inform Mr. Roosen of Council's decision. Because Mr. Roosen has a right to appeal Council's decision, the City will make no further comment regarding this matter at this time.

## AGENDA

# February 19, 2019

6:00 p.m.

### Subdivision / Land Development / HARB

2. Resolution No. **14** - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: HARB

**Resolution No. 14, Session 2019**, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for the application filed by Matt & Sean Landis for work to be done at 1 N. George St. 2; application filed by Mula Design for work to be done at 50 E. King St. 3; application filed by Allied Exteriors for work to be done at 751 S. George St. 4; and application filed by SCPII, LLC for work to be done at 136-140 S. Beaver St., was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 14 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. 5, Ordinance No. 5** (Forthcoming) – 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

Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance 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 salaries for Community Ecosystem Coordinators as part of the Community Ecosystem Initiative, which was introduced by Buckingham at the February 5 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

**New Business**

4. **Resolution No. 15** \_\_\_\_\_ - A Resolution  
Appointing Chad Deardorff as York City Fire Chief. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Mayor

**Resolution No. 15, Session 2019**, A Resolution approving the appointment of Chad Deardorff as the York City Fire Chief effective February 28, 2019, at an annual salary of \$106,452.15, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 15 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

President Nixon asked Chief Deardorff to let Council know when he moves into the city. Chief Deardorff said he would.

XIII. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XIV. Council Comment


Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson announced the passing of former Councilman William Lee Smallwood. She said a memorial service will be held at Crispus Attucks on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

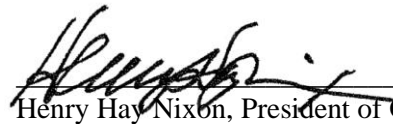
XV. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich said in anticipation of the impending snow storm, City Hall will be closed tomorrow. Only essential staff are to report for duty.

XVI. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for March 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. There being no further business, the February 19, 2019 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

XVII. 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