

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 May 22, 2019 6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) | [Bills Approved](#) | [4-24-19 Committee Minutes](#)

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the May 22, 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: Philip Given, Acting Director of Economic & Community Development; Tom Ray, Acting Director of Business Administration; Mike Pritchard, City Planner; 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, talked about his experience on election day when a veteran thanked him for voting. He said the election system needs improvement. He asked if anyone remembered what sat in the lot on the east side of Penn Market. He said it was the old A & P Grocery Store. He said he's heard many stories from residents about Penn Market, which use to be filled with lots of produce and people. He said the vendors and people started to decline over the years so he hopes repairs and renovations can be made so that it can once again become a thriving market venue like it was in years past.

Tonya L. Thompson-Morgan, resident, spoke about the hiring of Blanda Nace as the city's new Chief Opportunity Officer, a position created by Mayor Helfrich. She asked why the city hired a former consultant who was running for County Commissioner. She asked if this position was in the budget and where did the nearly \$90,000 come from to pay him. Ms. Thompson-Morgan stated that this salary makes it clear that this is a cabinet level position. She said it looks like the position was created to avoid Council's need to approve him as a director. She said the community came out to speak against outsourcing the Dept. of Economic & Community Development which was led by two professionals of color. However, Mayor Helfrich fired one and squeezed the other one out to make room for his hidden agenda. Yet another conniving plan from the administration, she said.

Jeff Kirkland, resident, added to the comments made by Ms. Thompson-Morgan. He said the way this position was hired seems like it was a move to bypass Council and shut the public out on speaking to this newly created position. He said he hopes this doesn't become customary practice for this administration because we are at a crossroads in the community and the openness is desperately needed to bring this community together.

Dolores Minaya, resident, congratulated Louis Rivera for winning his bid to appear on the general election ballot in November to fill a seat on City Council. She said York is changing and she believes all of us can work together to effect positive change.

There being no further comment, President Nixon adjourned the public comment session and 6:17 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:17 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- V. Moment of Silence observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of May 7, 2019: Council dispensed with the reading on the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements: None
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - Council Committee Meeting: Scheduled for **Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on May 22nd.
- 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. 40** _____ - A Resolution Approving the final land development plan submitted by Penn State University (For construction of the Graham Center located at 1031 Edgecomb Ave.) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 40, Session 2019, A Resolution approving the final land development plan submitted by Penn State University for construction of the Graham Center located at 1031 Edgecombe Ave., was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 40 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.
2. **Resolution No. 41** _____ - A Resolution Recommending deferral of the preliminary/final land development plans submitted by Apple Honda. (Deferred to West Manchester Twp. for redevelopment of the property located at 1313 Kenneth Rd. into a full-service auto dealership) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 41, Session 2019, A Resolution recommending deferral to West Manchester Township of the preliminary/final land development plan submitted by Apple Honda to redevelop the property located at 1313 Kenneth Rd. into a full-service auto dealership and service facility, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 41 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. 10, Ordinance No. 9** – A Bill
Amending the 2019 Budget. (\$54,400.00 for a lead grant) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Final Passage of Bill No. 10, Ordinance No. 9, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 Budget for the Bureau of Health in the amount of \$54,400.00 for grant money received from the state for lead hazard reduction services, which was introduced by Ritter-Dickson at the May 7th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 10, Ordinance No. 9, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business

4. Introduction of **Bill No. 11** - A Bill
Amending Article 714 “Noise” of the Codified Ordinances. To remove the word “jake brake” from the description of prohibited motor/engine retarder devices – 714.04(c)(5)) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon
Originator: Solicitor’s Officer

Introduction of Bill No. 11, Session 2019, A Bill amending Article 714 “Noise” of the Codified Ordinances to remove the word “jake brake” from the description of prohibited motor/engine retarder devices, was introduced by Nixon, read by short title and deferred to the June 4th meeting of Council.

5. Resolution No. **42** - A Resolution
Appointing Corey Wolfe as a member of the York City Planning Commission. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 42, Session 2019, A Resolution appointing Corey Wolfe as a member of the York City Planning Commission to serve until January 1, 2023, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 42 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

Corey Wolfe was in attendance and said he is excited about this opportunity and to learn more about the City of York.

The City Clerk then administered the oath of office to Mr. Wolfe.

President Nixon thanked all who volunteer to serve on our boards and authorities.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Walker said as part of the Appell Center Black Film Series, she will be presenting the movie “Love and Basketball” on May 25th at 3 p.m. at the Appell Center. She invited the public to attend.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for June 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. There being no further discussion, the May 22, 2019 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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



Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk



Sandie Walker, Vice President of Council