

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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COMMITTEE MINUTES May 29, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Police	Fire	Public Works	E&C Development	Business Admin	Rules & Admin
Washington Ritter-Dickson Walker	Washington Ritter-Dickson Walker	Walker Ritter-Dickson Buckingham	Ritter-Dickson Nixon Walker	Buckingham Nixon Washington	Nixon Walker Buckingham

***Bold text indicates Chairperson**

Note: General Committee is chaired by Council President or designee and includes all Council members.

Council in attendance: Edquina Washington, Judy A. Ritter-Dickson, Sandie Walker, Vice President and Henry Nixon, President.

Administration in attendance: Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor; Chaz Green, Director of Public Works; Kittrell Barnes, Parking Bureau Manager; James Crosby, Director of the Bureau of Housing Services; Tom Ray, Acting Business Administrator; Nancy Griffin, Zoning Officer; Chad Deardorff, Fire Chief; Capt. Matthew Leitzel, Police Dept.; and Don Hoyt, Assistant Solicitor.

Council staff in attendance: Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk.

- I. Call committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Committee Issues for the **June 4, 2019** legislative Agenda as follows:

Click [here](#) to view issues chart.

GENERAL

1. Presentation by the York Housing Authority on the Thackston Phase II Project.

Regina Mitchell, Executive Director of the York Housing Authority (YHA), said the YHA is requesting Council's support of the demolition of 25 homes and replacement of the remaining units in the Codorus Homes development as part of the Homes at Thackston Park Project. She said the anticipated development will be located at the existing Codorus Homes site.

Background: Homes at Thackston Park is a partnership of the YHA and Creating Opportunities in Neighborhood Environments, Inc. (CONE, INC). This partnership was formed for the purpose of developing Homes at Thackston Park as a community affordable for low- and moderate-income families. YHA serves as the Management Agency for this community. The development is located in the City of York, York County, PA 17401. The property is located within one mile of a grocery store. Two farmers markets, a variety of retail establishments and restaurants are within six blocks. A bus stop is within a block and a bus transfer station is

within two blocks. A local airport is within seven miles and a hospital is within one mile. Homes at Thackston Park consists of 39 townhome units for families. Two are 2-bedroom accessible units (953 sq. feet), eight are 2-bedroom units (1058 sq. feet), six are 2-bedroom units (1090 sq. feet) and one 2-bedroom unit (953 sq. feet). There are eight 3-bedroom units (ranging from 1290 to 1450 sq. feet) and nice 3 bedroom (1359 sq. feet). Additionally, there are five 4-bedroom units. There is a community room with on site management. Other amenities include one and one-half baths, off-street parking, 24-hour emergency maintenance, supportive services, and community room with computer lab. Homes at Thackston Park is developed for General Occupancy, subject to the eligibility requirements stated within the Management Plan

Karen Welsh, President of UpStreet Architects, Inc., referred Council to the conceptual drawings and relevant documentation of the project that was previously submitted and gave detail about the layout of the homes, road access, landscaping, etc.

President Nixon said he is in support of this project and looks forward to seeing it come to fruition.

DECISION: A motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, to submit a letter of support from Council to the PA Housing Finance Agency to show our backing of this project. The motion PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 4; Nays – 0. (Click [here](#) to read letter.)

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Resolution authorizing acceptance of a \$700,000 grant for the York County Regional Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan Consortium.

Director Green explained that the \$700,000 will be used for the York City Poor House Run (Memorial Park) Stream Restoration Project that will include construction of improvements to Poor House Run within Veteran's Memorial Park, as well as floodplain restoration and stream stabilization efforts.

DECISION: Motion made by Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Walker, Ritter-Dickson – 2; Nays – 0.

2. Resolution authorizing an agreement with Mary Yeaple for special event consulting and coordination services.

Director Green explained that this contract is to secure the services of Mary Yeaple for public relations, marketing and fundraising for the city's special events. The city will pay Ms. Yeaple a monthly fee of \$5,050.00 for the term of the contract, which will be paid out of the Recreation & Parks Bureau fund.

DECISION: Motion made by Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Walker, Ritter-Dickson – 2; Nays – 0.

3. Resolution authorizing an agreement with Buchart Horn to perform a Capital Needs Assessment.

Director Green explained that this agreement is to secure the services of Buchart Horn in the amount of \$195,000 to undertake a Capital Needs Assessment of 34 city buildings/facilities, 24 parks, lights and four 10-ton dump trucks to help us prioritize projects for renovation and/or replacement.

President Nixon asked how this will benefit the city.

Director Green said this assessment will allow us to uncover any structural problems with our facilities so we can make it safer and more accessible for our residents.

DECISION: Motion made by Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Walker, Ritter-Dickson – 2; Nays – 0.

POLICE

1. Resolution authorizing application submission for JAG funding for the purchase of body-worn cameras for police personnel.

Captain Matt Leitzel said the Police Dept. is requesting permission to apply for federal funding to replace our existing body worn cameras for all 100 sworn police officers. He said this funding requires a 50/50 match from the city, however, to save taxpayer dollars, we are seeking funding to cover the match. He said this is just asking for approval to apply for the grant.

President Nixon asked when the last purchase was made for body worn cameras. Capt. Leitzel said about 5 years. He said these cameras will have cloud access which is a big plus to allow us to download footage from anywhere.

DECISION: A motion made by Washington, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Bill amending the 2019 HOME program budget in the amount of \$75,000 for York Habitat

James Crosby, Director of the Bureau of Housing Services, said this is for additional funding for development of two additional low- to moderate- income family housing units through York Habitat.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Nixon, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

2. Resolution approving the 2019 Annual Action Plan

Director Crosby explained that this is the resolution we do every year when we receive CDBG & HOME funding. This year the city was awarded \$1,466,403 in CDBG funding and \$468,766 in HOME funding.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Nixon, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

3. Budget amendment in the amount of \$125,000 for Family Health Council STD services.

Barb Kovacs, Director of Health, said this is to include funding received in 2019 for family planning, education, counseling and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases services through a partnership with the Family Health Council of Central PA for the period of January 1, 2019 through March 30, 2020.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Nixon, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

4. Resolution approving an agreement with Family Health Council for STD treatment & prevention services (\$125,000)(1-1-19 thru 3-30-20).

Director Kovacs explained that this is the companion piece to the budget amendment. This is the actual agreement with the Family Health Council for STD treatment and prevention services for the period of January 1, 2019 through March 30, 2020.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Nixon, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

5. Resolution approving an agreement with the PA Dept. of Health for emergency preparedness services. (\$181,923.00)(7-1-19 thru 6-30-20)

Director Kovacs stated that the city received \$181,923 in funding from the PA Dept. of Health for planning, education and exercises related to our emergency preparedness plan. This is a grant to prepare our staff for emergency situations.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Nixon, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

FIRE

1. Bill amending Article 149 "Fire Department" of the Codified Ordinances to authorize said dept. to seek recovery costs for services.

Fire Chief Chad Deardorff explained that this amendment is to allow the Dept. of Fire/Rescue Services to seek recovery of all reasonable costs for responding to emergency incidents. He said they hope to receive reimbursement through insurance carriers of the entities involved in emergency incidents. He said no resident or taxpayer will be billed if the property owner doesn't have an insurance policy. However, he did say that there is usually a clause in insurance policies that allows us to receive funding for our services so we would like to explore that option.

President Nixon asked how much recovery money is anticipated.

Chief Deardorff said anywhere from \$20,000 to \$60,000 but we're anticipating recovery to be closer to \$20,000.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

2. Resolution establishing fees related to Article 149 "Fire Department" for recovery costs.

Chief Deardorff said this is the companion piece to the Article 149 "Fire Department" amendment. If the amendment is approved, this will establish the reimbursable costs and fees associated with fire and emergency services.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

3. Resolution authorizing an agreement with PA Fire Recovery Service, LLC to provide recovery services related to Article 149 "Fire Department" of the Codified Ordinances.

Chief Deardorff said, again, if the recovery portion of the Article 149 amendment passes, the Dept. of Fire/Rescue Services would like to enter into an agreement with PA Fire Recoveries to do all the billing related to said recovery costs.

DECISION: A motion was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **7/16/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker – 3; Nays – 0.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

1. Resolution approving the 2019-2021 YPEA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Acting Business Administrator Tom Ray explained that the City of York and York Public Employees' Association (YPEA), have tentatively agreed to a new collective bargaining agreement for the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. For the three-year period of this agreement, the overall cost increase to the City is \$63,193.14. The parties agreed to a 2.25% wage increase for 2019; 2.60% wage increase for 2020; 2.75% wage increase for 2021; and a moderate increase in employee contributions for health care costs. The employee contributions will be approximately 12% of the health care costs by the third year of the agreement. There were amendments made to several sections of the agreement, which is outlined in the memo Mr. Ray submitted to Council (Click [here](#) to read memo). One of the notable amendments was the change in the residency requirement. Residency was amended to allow YPEA employee's primary domicile to be within a thirteen (13) mile radius of City Hall after residing in the City limits continuously for five (5) years from the employee's last date of hire.

President Nixon asked how many employees fall under YPEA. Mr. Ray said about 28 employees.

DECISION: A motion was made by Nixon, seconded by Washington to place this item on the **6/4/19** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Nixon – 2; Nays – 0.

III. Council Comment

President Nixon read the following statement:

"Since the appointment of Mr. Philip Given (Chief of Staff) as Acting Director of Community and Economic Development, and the hiring of Mr. Blanda Nace, in a newly formed position as Chief Opportunity Development Officer, Council members have had an increasing number of questions by concerned citizens. The apparent sidestepping of Council, whose responsibility it is to act as a check on the strong Mayor form of government, has alarmed many of our citizens. Council, as the representative of the people, will hold a public meeting to hear the public's concerns and thoughts about this issue in late June. We will invite the Mayor so he may explain the process, the authority and the funding by which he executed this plan and his long-term vision for the Department of Community and Economic Development. We invite any city resident or city stakeholder to feel free to ask questions of Council and/or the Mayor on this issue at this meeting."

(UPDATE: Council has scheduled said meeting for Monday, June 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.)

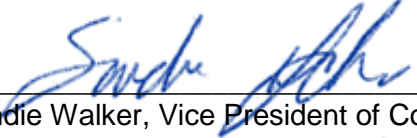
IV. Administration Comment: None

V. Council will observe its summer recess following the June 4, 2019 legislative meeting. Therefore, the next committee meeting won't be held until September 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers. (Committee agenda items are due by 12:00 p.m. on 6/18/19)

VI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the May 29, 2019 Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk



Sandie Walker, Vice President of Council