

# 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 September 3, 2019 6:00 p.m.

### Resolutions & Bills Approved

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Walker called the September 3, 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, and Sandie Walker, with Vice President Walker Presiding.

**Members of the Administration in attendance included:** Michael Helfrich, Mayor; Tom Ray, Acting Director of Business Administration; Chad Deardorff, Fire Chief; Barb Kovacs, Director of Health; Chaz Green, Director of Public Works; Matthew Howie, Medical Director; 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.

Don Hake, resident, asked that an Ecological Steward position be created for the City of York. He said there are six such positions in existence in the U.S. He said Ecological Stewards work to install solar panels throughout the city, oversee the proliferation of charging stations for electric cars, plant trees such as Empress trees, establish a trash school to share information on eco-friendly measures, research legislation to outlaw plastic bags, explore geothermal mechanisms, and establish a speakers' bureau to educate future generations. He said to do nothing is not an option. He urged city administrators to start the process now.

There being no further discussion, the public comment period adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

#### II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:07 p.m.

#### III. Roll Call

#### IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

#### V. Moment of Silence observed.

#### VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of August 20, 2019: Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

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

- **Meeting cancellations:** Council has canceled its September 25, 2019 committee meeting and its October 1, 2019 legislative meeting as the City Clerk will be on a medical leave during that period of time. If pressing matters arise during the Clerk's leave of absence that require Council action, Council will schedule meetings accordingly to address those matters.

- **York Water Company Agreement ([Resolution No. 74](#)):** Council has postponed its vote on The York Water Company Agreement as additional information has been requested prior to Council action.

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **Council Committee Meeting:** The September 25, 2019 committee meeting has been  canceled.
- **Council Legislative Session:** The October 1, 2019 legislative session has been  canceled.

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: NONE**

**Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions**

1. **Final Passage of Bill No. 17, Ordinance No. 16** – A Bill Amending the 2019 Budget. (\$14,811.36 for equipment, overtime, & flashover simulator training) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Fire/Rescue

Final Passage of Bill No. 17, Ordinance No. 16, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 budget in the amount of \$14,811.36 for equipment, overtime, and flashover simulator training for the York City Department of Fire/Rescue Services, which was introduced by Washington at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Bill No. 17, Ordinance No. 16 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

2. **Final Passage of Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 17** – A Bill Amending the 2019 Budget. (\$29,000 for Safe & Healthy Communities Program) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Final Passage of Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 17, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 Budget for the Bureau of Health, which was introduced by Ritter-Dickson at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 17 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

3. **Final Passage of Bill No. 19, Ordinance No. 18** – A Bill Article 121 “Administration Generally” of the Codified Ordinances. (To limit time an acting director may serve in said capacity) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Sandie Walker  
Originator: Council (Walker)

Final Passage of Bill No. 19, Ordinance No. 18, Session 2019, A Bill amending Article 121 “Administration Generally” of the Codified Ordinances to limit the time an acting director may serve in said capacity, which was introduced by Walker at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Bill No. 19, Ordinance No. 18 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

4. Final Passage of **Bill No. 20, Ordinance No. 19** – A Bill Amending Article 718 “Marijuana Possession” of the Codified Ordinances. (To define marijuana paraphernalia & personal possession) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Council (Ritter-Dickson)

Final Passage of Bill No. 20, Ordinance No. 19, Session 2019, A Bill amending Article 718 “Marijuana Possession” of the Codified Ordinances to define marijuana paraphernalia and personal possession, which was introduced by Ritter-Dickson at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Buckingham, Bill No. 20, Ordinance No. 19 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

5. Final Passage of **Bill No. 21, Ordinance No. 20** – A Bill Amending Articles 933 “Sewer Rentals” and 951 “Municipal Solid Waste Management Act” of the Codified Ordinances (To establish language for collection of past due fees) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration (Finance)

Final Passage of Bill No. 21, Ordinance No. 20, Session 2019, A Bill amending Articles 933 “Sewer Rentals” and 951 “Municipal Solid Waste Management Act” of the Codified Ordinances to establish language for collection of past due fees, which was introduced by Buckingham at the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Bill No. 21, Ordinance No. 20 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

### New Business

6. Introduction of **Bill No. 23 (Deferred to the 9/17/18 mtg.)** - A Bill Amending the 2019 Budget. (\$43,654 JAG award for enhancement of law enforcement operations)([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Police

Introduction of Bill No. 23, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 Budget for the Police Department in the amount of \$43,654 for a Justice Assistance Grant award received for the enhancement of law enforcement operations, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council.

7. Resolution No. **PULLED (Deferred to the 9/17/18 mtg.)** - A Resolution Supporting the development and implementation of a plan to transition to 100% clean and sustainable energy. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Council (Washington)

**PULLED.** Agenda item #7 was pulled from the agenda and deferred to the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council as representatives wishing to speak on this resolution were unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

8. Resolution No. **75** - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the York County Planning Commission’s Housing Division. (To administer and deliver the city’s Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control and Healthy Homes grant program)  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson ([View](#))  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 75, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the York County Planning Commission’s Housing Division to administer and deliver the city’s Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Grant Program, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 75 came up for discussion.

Director Kovacs said this is an extension of our current lead program and will allow us to finish up the work we have already started.

**MOTION TO ABSTAIN.** Councilwoman Washington said she wishes to abstain her vote because her employment is related to this legislation. A motion to approve Washington's abstention request was made by Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Buckingham, and passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 75 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 3; Nays – 0; Abstain – Washington – 1.

9. Resolution No. 76 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the Children's Aid Society. (For Art Therapy services)([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 76, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the Children's Aid Society for art therapy services for women, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 76 came up for discussion.

Director Kovacs said there is a huge need out there for services to help women with behavioral health issues and the state was generous enough to provide funding for this program.

Chastity Frederick, Community Health Nurse, Bureau of Health, outlined the art therapy program.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 76 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

10. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution Authorizing a budget transfer. (\$3,000 for recreation programs)([View](#))  
Introduced by: Sandie Walker  
Originator: Public Works (Recreation & Parks)

**PULLED.** Agenda item #10 was pulled from the agenda at the request of the Director of Public Works as the account numbers on the resolution were incorrect.

11. Resolution No. 77 - A Resolution Authorizing a winter services agreement with the PennDOT. (\$24,381.50)([View](#))  
Introduced by: Sandie Walker  
Originator: Public Works (Highway)

Resolution No. 77, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing a winter services agreement with PennDOT whereby the city will remove snow and ice, and apply anti-skid and/or de-icing materials for certain State Roads, including bridges, was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 77 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA**

**MOTION TO WAIVE RULE 215.** A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Buckingham, to waive the provision of Resolution No. 215 of Session 1969 to permit consideration of a supplemental agenda item containing one Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Resolution No. 78 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the York County Office of Children, Youth and Families. (To provide funding for two nurses for maternal and child health services - \$173,730.00)  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 78, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the York County Office of Children, Youth and Families, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 78 came up for discussion.

Director Kovacs explained that this funding will be used to fund two additional nurses.

Chastity Frederick, Community Health Nurse, Bureau of Health, said this program will be offered to city residents only. She then outlined the program. She said the hiring of additional nurses will allow us to reach a broader spectrum of participants.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked how referrals are made.

Ms. Frederick responded that health facilities or self-referrals are two avenues available to the public.

Councilman Buckingham asked if these nurses will be county or city employees.

Ms. Frederick said they will be city employees.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson thank the city's Bureau of Health for all the work they do for the community.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 78 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker – 4; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment: None

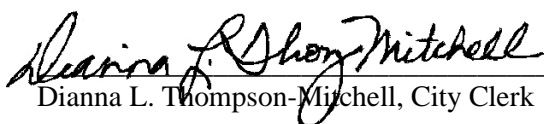
XIII. Administration Comment

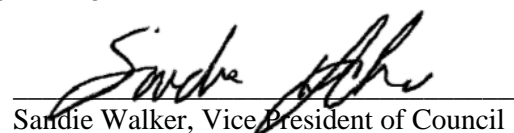
Mayor Helfrich said it was an incredible weekend of events happening in the city and he thanked all who participated. He then discussed a police officer involved shooting and said the individual who was shot is okay and he's in our prayers. He said he is a proponent of the Southern PA Incident Reporting Network (S.P.I.N.) but we have to remember that whenever it says there is a shooting in the city it can be anything from accidental to self-inflicted to suicide. He further explained that yesterday's event was police responding to a criminal. He said there are broader definitions to these calls so allow us to address those and we'll keep you informed as information is obtained.

Mayor Helfrich then responded resident Don Hake regarding his comment on eco-friendly initiatives. He said our city planner has already been working with the state on such initiatives.

XIV. Adjournment: The next meeting of City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the September 3, 2019 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:42 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