

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 17, 2019 6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) | [Bills Approved](#)

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the September 17, 2019 meeting 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 Helfrich, Mayor; Tom Ray, Acting Director of Business Administration; Barb Kovacs, Director of Health; Mike Pritchard, City Planner; Blanda Nace, Redevelopment Authority; Cpt. Matthew Leitzel, Police Department; and Jason Sabol, Assistant Solicitor.

Members of York City Council staff in attendance included: Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk.

I. Called Public Hearing Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

President Nixon called to order the September 17, 2019 Public Hearing and explained the hearing was being held to receive testimony on Bill No. 22, a Bill amending Article 1304 of the York City Planning & Zoning Code to include regulations for personal solar panel systems. Said Bill was introduced at Council's August 20th meeting and will be considered for final passage this evening.

A transcript of the hearing will be kept on file at York Stenographic Services, 34 N. George St., York, PA 17401, for a period of five (5) years.

President Nixon adjourned the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

II. General Public Comment Called to Order: 6:07 p.m.

Franklin Williams, resident, thanked members of the Public Works Department for adding three waste receptacles on his block. He apologized for the appearance of the middle of the 500 block of W. Market St. He said he hasn't been able to pick up trash because he was helping a neighbor get her yard in order since she was cited by the city for tall grass and weeds. He said this neighbor moved into her house in 1951 (68 yrs.) and he doubts the police have ever been called to the home in those 68 years. He said he's sure this neighbor pays her taxes and keeps to herself, so he doubts neighbors care if her yard looks like a wilderness area.

Brandon Marquette, resident and business owner, said he and members of the community are going to try to bring back safety to our city streets. He said Council will be seeing a lot more of him and those involved in this movement and they would like the support of city officials.

Donna Majesky, resident, thanked all who attended the 10,000 Acts of Kindness event held last Sunday.

There being no further comment, President Nixon adjourned the public comment period at 6:15 p.m.

- III. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:15 p.m.
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- VI. Moment of Silence observed.
- VII. Action on previous meeting Minutes of September 3, 2019: Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VIII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements
 - **Meeting cancellations:** Reminder - Council has **CANCELED** its September 25, 2019 committee meeting and its October 1, 2019 legislative meeting as the City Clerk will be on a brief leave of absence. If pressing matters arise, Council will schedule meetings accordingly to address those matters.
 - **York Water Company Agreement ([Resolution No. 74](#)):** Remains tabled at this time.
- IX. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - **Next Council Legislative Meeting:** Scheduled for **Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** Agenda items are due by 12 noon on October 9th.
- X. Status of Prior Committee Referrals: No reports.
- XI. 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. **79** - A Resolution
 Accepting the recommendations of HARB in denying an application. (215 S. George St.) ([View](#))
 Introduced by: Sandie Walker
 Originator: HARB

 Resolution No. 79, Session 2019, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in **denying** a certificate of appropriateness filed for work to be done at 215 S. George St., was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 79 denying said certificate PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.
2. Resolution No. **80** - A Resolution
 Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
 Introduced by: Sandie Walker
 Originator: HARB

 Resolution No. 80, Session 2019, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be covered in the applications filed for work to be done at 350 N. George St., 28 E. Jackson St., and 426 W. Philadelphia St., was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 80 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Resolution No. **81** - A Resolution Approving waivers to the final subdivision/land development plans submitted by United Fiber and Data. (Development of a data center at 319 Chestnut St. – Old York County Prison) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (PP&Z)

Resolution No. 81, Session 2019, A Resolution approving various waivers for the final subdivision and land development plans submitted by United Fiber and Data for the development of a data center at 319 Chestnut St. including the former York County Prison, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 81 came up for discussion.

City Planning Mike Pritchard explained that the intent of this Resolution is to pre-approve various waivers as requested by the city engineer to assist with a cost estimate for the financial security the city receives when land development plans are submitted. He said final approval of the actual subdivision and land development plans will come at a later date.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 81 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions

4. Final Passage of **Bill No. 22, Ordinance No. 21** – A Bill Amending Article 1304 of the Codified Ordinances. (To include provisions for solar panels) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (PP&Z)

Final Passage of Bill No. 22, Ordinance No. 21, Session 2019, A Bill amending Article 1304 ““Use Definitions, General Provisions, Accessory Uses, Conditional Uses and Special Exception Use Requirements” of the City of York Codified Ordinances to include regulations for personal solar panel systems, which was introduced by Ritter-Dickson at the August 20, 2019 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 22, Ordinance No. 21, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

5. Final Passage of **Bill No. 23, Ordinance No. 22** – A Bill Amending the 2019 Budget. (Expenditure of \$244 in remaining funds from a JAG award) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Final Passage of Bill No. 23, Ordinance No. 22, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 Budget for the Police Dept. to authorizing expenditure of \$244 in remaining funds from a Justice Assistant Grant award, which was introduced by Washington at the September 3, 2019 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 23, Ordinance No. 22, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business

6. Resolution No. **82** - 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)

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Washington and seconded by Walker to read Resolution No. 82 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 82, Session 2019, A Resolution supporting the development and implementation of a plan to transition to 100% clean and sustainable energy, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 82 came up for discussion.

A member of the CASA Youth Committee said there is only one earth with no Plan B, so we need to preserve it for future generations. She encouraged residents to take care of the environment because it's the only earth we have, and we won't get a second chance.

President Nixon thanked the CASA Youth Committee for their kind and thoughtful work.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 82 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. **83** - A Resolution Authorizing the Redevelopment Authority to administer an RACP grant for the York Plan 2.0 Innovation District Project located in the NWT - (\$6M) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic Development

Resolution No. 83, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing the Redevelopment Authority to administer a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant in the amount of \$6 million for the York Plan 2.0 Innovation District Project located in the NWT, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 83 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

8. Resolution No. **84** - A Resolution Approving the appointment of a probationary police officer. (T. Platts, Jr.) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Resolution No. 84, Session 2019, A Resolution approving the appointment of Todd Platts, Jr. as a probationary police officer, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 84 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

9. Resolution No. **85** - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Willis of Pennsylvania, Inc (Willis Towers Watson). (For worker's comp insurance broker services) ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 85, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Willis of Pennsylvania, Inc (Willis Towers Watson) for worker's comp insurance broker services, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 85 came up for discussion.

Assistant Solicitor Sabol explained that this Resolution amends the original contract to change the term from one year to three years as language for a one-year term was a clerical error.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 85 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

10. Resolution No. 86 - A Resolution Authorizing agreements for various optional employee benefits packages. ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 86, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing agreements with OSS Company Direct, Rx 'n Go, and CRX International for optional orthopedic and prescription programs for city employees, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 86 came up for discussion.

Acting Business Administrator Tom Ray explained each program package.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 86 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XII. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XIII. Council Comment

Vice President Walker thanked CASA for coming out this evening for the sustainable energy initiative (Res. 82). She said she was invited to a meet and greet but the invitation was sent via Facebook, so she didn't see it until after the event. She said please don't send invites through Facebook, instead contact Council by email or through the City Clerk to be sure the invitation is received.

President Nixon concurred. He said he also receives Facebook messages and invitations but said he doesn't interact through social media and prefers phone or email. He reminded residents that Council's contact information is on the city's website at <https://www.yorkcity.org/government/city-council/>.

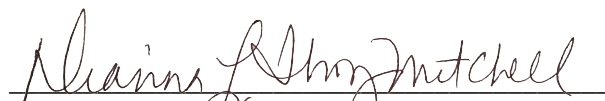
XIV. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich notified residents that a free Naloxone (Narcan) supply giveaway will take place tomorrow. Also, a flu vaccine clinic will be held this Saturday in Council Chambers instead of York High (UPDATE: The flu clinic was canceled). He then announced several events taking place throughout the city this week. For more information, please visit www.yorkcity.org.


XV. Adjournment

The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the September 17, 2019 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

XVI. 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