

# 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

Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk  
Email: [dthomps@yorkcity.org](mailto:dthomps@yorkcity.org)



Office of York City Council  
101 S. George St.  
York, Pennsylvania 17401

Telephone: (717) 849-2246  
Fax: (717) 812-0557

Website: [www.yorkcity.org](http://www.yorkcity.org)

## MINUTES October 15, 2019 6:00 p.m.

[Resolutions Approved](#) | No Bills Approved

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Nixon called the October 15, 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; Philip Given, Acting Director of Economic & Community Development; Dan Hevner, Assistant Business Administrator; James Crosby, Director of the Bureau of Housing Services; 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.

Wayne King, York, PA, complained of a recovery house on his block where people are suffering from overdoses and one dead body was pulled out. He said he filed a right-to-know request to find out if this house is licensed but he's not getting any answers to his questions.

Delma Rivera-Lytle thanked the City of York for naming a street after her late parents Dr. Edwin & Delma Rivera. She also applauded Council for establishing the Latinx/African American/Multicultural Affairs Commission.

Alex Kauffman spoke about Council's proposed legislation to ban booting on private property in the city. He said clients have chosen booting instead of towing because it's a cheaper and more convenient method and doesn't make people think their vehicle was stolen. He added that a boot can easily be removed, however, if a vehicle is towed, it's a long drawn out process to recover the vehicle. Mr. Kauffman presented Council with 53 letters opposing adoption of this proposed legislation. He said the Mayor has proposed alternative language and he would like Council to consider making amendments.

Dylan Bauer, resident, and business owner said he supports alternative language to the booting ordinance.

President Nixon responded that this bill will be introduced this evening but won't be considered for passage until the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, so we encourage you to contact us and give us your thoughts and suggestions between now and then.

Brenda Lee McClain said her biggest problem is parking when events are taking place downtown. She said her mother's car was hit while parked and she's seen people parking in handicapped parking spaces without a parking placard and that she called the police, but the violator didn't receive a ticket. She said she sometimes has to park nearly a mile away from her home because there is no parking available. One time there was construction crane dangling over her car. Also, she said on First Friday, trash is left all over the streets and sidewalks, and she has to step over vomit and deal with intoxicated individuals. She said she wishes there was something that could be done because it is a huge inconvenience to those who live downtown.

There being no further discussion, President Nixon adjourned public comment at 6:19 p.m. and immediately convened in legislative session.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:19 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- V. Moment of Silence observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [September 17, 2019](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements:

- **Greg Shank, Maillie CPA:** Mr. Shank provided a summary of the year ending December 31, 2017 audit of annual financial statements for the City of York.

Acting Business Administrator Tom Ray said he will be sure Council receives a hardcopy of the audit.

- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
  - **Council Committee Meeting CANCELED:** The **Wed., October 23, 2019** committee meeting has been canceled.
  - **Next Council Legislative Meeting:** Scheduled for **Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on October 30<sup>th</sup>. (Note: The General Election will be held on Tues., November 5; therefore, Council will hold its legislative meeting on Wed., November 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.)
- 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. 87 - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Sandie Walker  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 87, Session 2019, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriates for work to be done in the applications filed for work at 207 E. Philadelphia St., 365-369 W. Market St., 140 W. King St., 215 S. George St., and 246 W. Philadelphia St., was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 87 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0

### **Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions:** NONE

### **New Business**

- 2. Introduction of Bill No. 24 - A Bill  
Amending Article 507 “Booting” of the City of York Codified Ordinances, Subsection 507.02 “Boot Installation” to include booting on private property shall be prohibited. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Solicitor’s Office

Introduction of Bill No. 24, Session 2019, A Bill amending Article 507 “Booting” of the City of York Codified Ordinances, Subsection 507.02 “Boot Installation” to prohibited booting on private property, was introduced by Nixon, read by short title, and deferred to the November 6 meeting of Council.

3. Introduction of Bill No. 25 - A Bill  
Amending the 2019 York City Budget. (Children, Youth & Families Grant - \$28,598.25) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 25, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 Budget to appropriate revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$28,598.25 for the Bureau of Health for a Children, Youth & Families Grant, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read by short title, and deferred to November 6 meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill No. 26 - A Bill  
Amending the 2019 Budget. (Habitat for Humanity - \$50,000) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Introduction of Bill No. 26, Session 2019, A Bill amending the 2019 Budget to appropriate revenue and expenditures for the Bureau of Housing Services in the amount of \$50,000 for recapture funding received from the Department of Economic & Community Development for Habitat for Humanity for construction of four new homes, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read by short title, and deferred to the November 6 meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. 27 - A Bill  
Authorizing issuance of a \$10M Sewer Bond. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: York City Sewer Authority

Introduction of Bill No. 27, Session 2019, A Bill authorizing issuance of a \$10,000,000 bond for the York City Sewer Authority, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the November 6 meeting of Council.

Vice President Walker asked what this funding will be used for.

Mayor Helfrich said the Wastewater Treatment Plant needs some improvements and this funding will help make those necessary improvements. He said sewer authority projects involve a combination of several different municipalities and that those municipalities will also be chipping in on this bond.

6. Resolution No. 74 - A Resolution  
Authorizing an agreement with the York Water Co. (Sewer/Refuse Billing and Revenue Service Agreement) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration (Finance)  
(**Note:** This resolution was tabled at Council’s 8/20/19 mtg. Prior to consideration of passage, a motion to remove this item from the table is required.)

**Motion to remove from the table.** A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Walker, to remove Resolution No. 74 from the table. The motion PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 74 came up for discussion.

Mayor Helfrich said we have discussed this contract ad nauseam over the past several months, but we are open to any additional questions.

President Nixon asked how much money is still owed to the city.

Acting Business Administrator Tom Ray said over \$10 million is outstanding.

President Nixon asked what the annual savings to the city will be with this contract.

Acting Business Administrator Ray said we'll see a possible increase in revenue of about \$3 million with York Water collecting over 90% of fees due.

President Nixon asked why it has been difficult for us to collect these arrearages.

Acting Business Administrator Ray said part of the issue is there was a change in our billing system as it is not geared to handle utility billing and our staff is not equipped to dedicate time to collections. He said we have tried to do our own postings, but it was eventually moved to another department although it was not part of their responsibilities. He said it will be beneficial for the city to move sewer and refuse collections to the York Water Company.

Mayor Helfrich said there are thousands of properties that haven't been paying their sewer and refuse bills and those of us who pay are making up for those who don't. The York Water Company has a track record of a 92% collecting rate. We have tried to take this task on internally but it's just not working, and this will be a huge headache removed and will help us to be more efficient, he said.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 74 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 3; Nays – Washington, Ritter-Dickson – 2.

7. Resolution No. 88 - A Resolution

Supporting the City's Sewer and Refuse Amnesty Program ([View](#))

Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham

Originator: Business Administration (Finance)

Resolution No. 88, Session 2019, A Resolution supporting the city's sewer and refuse amnesty program, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 88 came up for discussion.

Assistant Solicitor Sabol stated that the amnesty program will commence on March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 and asked the City Clerk to amend the Resolution to reflect this correction. The City Clerk said she would comply.

Mayor Helfrich said this amnesty program contains three options that individuals can choose from during the open enrollment period of March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020. (Click [here](#) for information on the Amnesty Program) He stated that we have to do something to change from a system of people taking advantage of this utility. He said this is money coming in that is otherwise not coming in. The alternative is that if you are in arrears, you will have your service shut off if you don't opt for this program.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked if we have people currently on payment plans.

Mayor Helfrich said we have filling cabinets full of people who owe money and since no other suggestions were made, this is the best option we could come up with.

George Rhine, resident, asked why wait until a bill is \$5,000 before you start asking for money. He said if it's over \$500, you don't have to kick them out of their homes, just shut their water off.

President Nixon said if the water is shut off, people must move out of the house because its unfit for human habitation. That's the law.

Montika Smith, resident, asked how residents will be informed about this program.

Mayor Helfrich said notices will go out in tax and sewer/refuse bills, and we will offer informational sessions on the program. He said actual collection will start March 1, 2020 so this will give residents time to get money in place to take advantage of this program. He added that this will keep us from driving people out of their homes.

**Request for abstention.** Vice President Walker requested abstention from voting as she plans to sign up for this program. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, the request to abstain was approved by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Nixon – 4; Nays – 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 88 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Buckingham, Nixon – 3; Nays – Ritter-Dickson -1; Abstain – Walker – 1.

8. Resolution No. 89 - A Resolution Establishing a Latinx/African American/Multi-Cultural Affairs Commission. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon  
Originator: Council (Nixon)

**Motion to read by short title.** A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Walker, to read Resolution No. 89 by short title. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 89, Session 2019, A Resolution establishing the Latinx/African American/Multi-Cultural Affairs Commission, was introduced by Nixon, read short title, and on motion of Nixon, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 89 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

9. Resolution No. 90 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with All City Management Services. (For school crossing guards) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 90, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with All City Management to provide school crossing guard services for the 2019-2020 school year, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 90 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

10. Resolution No. 91 - A Resolution Designating officials authorized to execute Multimodal Transportation Fund grant documents. (For a \$3M PennDot MTF grant application) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Sandie Walker  
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 91, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing Mayor Michael R. Helfrich and Controller AliceAnne D. Frost authority to execute Multimodal Transportation Fund grant documents for a \$3 million MTG grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot), was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 91 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

11. Resolution No. 92 - A Resolution Proclaiming November 1, 2019 as Extra Mile Day in the City of York. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Council

**Motion to read by short title.** A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, to read Resolution No. 92 by short title. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 92, Session 2019, A Resolution proclaiming November 1, 2019 as Extra Mile Day in the City of York, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded

by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 92 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

12. Resolution No. 93 – A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Capital Blue Cross. (For health and Welfare Benefits Services) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 93, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Capital Blue Cross for health and welfare benefit third party administrator services, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 93 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

13. Resolution No. 94 – A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with RxBenefits, Inc. (For pharmacy benefit management services) ([View](#))  
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 94, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement RxBenefits, Inc. to provide pharmacy benefit management services for the year 2020, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 94 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Walker said during general public comment the normal procedure is to accept comment on non-agenda items and to save comment on agenda items when that item comes up for discussion during the legislative session. However, some people were allowed to discuss action items during general public comment and although it is up to the discretion of the presiding officer, if one person is allowed to comment outside of the normal procedure then we need to allow others to do the same.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson invited residents to visit the new policing station located at 455 S. Duke St.

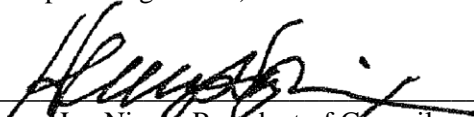
XIII. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich announced several events happening around the city. For information on city events, visit [www.yorkcity.org](http://www.yorkcity.org). He then encouraged residents to get out and vote on November 5, 2019.

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers (Note: The meeting is being held on Wed. 11/6/19 in observance of Tuesday's general election.) There being no further business, the October 15, 2019 legislative meeting of Council adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

XV. 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