

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 December 17, 2019 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the December 17, 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: Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor; Barb Kovacs, Director of Health; Tom Ray, Business Administrator; Philip Given, Acting Director of Econ. & Comm. Development; James Crosby, Director of the Bureau of Housing Services; Chad Deardorff, Fire Chief; Matthew Howie, Director of Health; Steve Buffington, Director of Permits, Planning and Zoning; Cherie Alwine, Finance Director; Kim Robertson, Human Resources Director; Chief Bankert, Police Chief; 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.

David Holtzapple said he is paying almost \$10,000 in property taxes and the streets are in horrible condition. He said the roadways should take priority and will hopefully be fixed soon because his car can't take it anymore.

Joie Henney introduced his emotional support alligator named "Wally" and explained how Wally helps children with autism and people suffering from dementia. Mr. Henney said he tours with the Wally and educates the public about alligators. He said any donations he receives are put toward charity.

James Norman opined that a stronger police presence at night would be a great deterrent to crime. He then commented about his property taxes and how they are going up, yet property values are going down. He said we have to reverse this trend.

There being no further comment, President Nixon adjourned the public comment period at 6:11 p.m.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:11 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

V. Moment of Silence observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [December 3, 2019](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements: None

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- Council Committee Meeting: The reorganization meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

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.)

HARB / NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution No. 115** _____ - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 115, Session 2019, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness to Byron Kehr for work to be done at 50 N. Penn St., was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 115 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

2. **Resolution No. 116** _____ - A Resolution
Approving the 2020 meeting schedule of Council. ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Council (City Clerk)

Resolution No. 116, Session 2019, A Resolution approving year 2020 meetings of Council was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 116 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. **Resolution No. 117** _____ - A Resolution
Authorizing the filing of an application with DCED. (For the Chestnut St. Project - 709-719 Chestnut St. - low-moderate income family homes) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Resolution No. 117, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the PA Department of Community & Economic Development for funding for the 709-719 Chestnut St. Project which includes construction of six (6) low-moderate income family homes, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 117 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

4. **Resolution No. 118** _____ - A Resolution
Authorizing execution of a grant agreement with the Dept. of Agriculture. (For a \$49,310 Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant award for Penn Market infrastructure improvements) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 118, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing execution of a grant agreement with the Dept. of Agriculture for a \$49,310 Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant award for Penn Market infrastructure improvements, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded

by Walker, Resolution No. 118 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

5. Resolution No. **119** - A Resolution
Authorizing an agreement with Midwest Casualty. (For year 2020 stop loss insurance) ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 119, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Midwest Casualty for year 2020 stop loss insurance, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 119 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

6. Resolution No. **120** - A Resolution
Authorizing an agreement with Pareto Underwriting Partners. (For year 2020 stop loss insurance)([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 120, Session 2019, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Pareto Underwriting Partners for year 2020 stop loss insurance, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 120 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. **121** - A Resolution
Appointing Osborne Robinson, III as Police Commissioner. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor | Police

Resolution No. 121, Session 2019, A Resolution appointing Osborne Robinson, III, as Police Commissioner effective January 11, 2020, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Resolution No. 121 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson asked how the overlap will affect our budget.

Chief Bankert said there will be one week where the city will be paying both our salaries, which was included in the budget.

Vice President Walker asked Chief Bankert to outline how the transition has been going.

Chief Bankert said in Phase 1, Mr. Robinson shadowed him. Phase 2 was more participatory with face-to-face meet and greets. Phase 3 will include him supervising staff and explaining to them his expectations. Chief Bankert said he will be officially retired on Jan. 11, 2020 so Mr. Osborne will begin his full-time leadership role as Police Commissioner at that time. Chief Bankert said Mr. Osborne will be a positive addition to the City of York.

Mr. Osborne was in attendance and shared his qualifications and law enforcement background.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 121 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

8. Final Passage of **Bill No. 30, Ordinance 28** - A Bill
Adopting the 2020 York City Budget. ([View](#))([Draft Budget Book](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Mayor | Business Administration

Final Passage of Bill No. 30, Ordinance No. 28, Session 2019, A Bill adopting the year 2020 City of York Budget, which was introduced by Buckingham at the November 19th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 30 came up for discussion.

President Nixon said he applauds Councilman Buckingham for attending all the budget hearings and keeping Council informed.

Mayor Helfrich said he echoed President Nixon's comments and said Councilman Buckingham will be missed.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 30, Ordinance No. 28 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

9. Final Passage of **Bill No. 31, Ordinance 29** - A Bill
Adopting the 2020 York City Tax Rate. ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Mayor | Business Administration

Final Passage of Bill No. 31, Ordinance No. 29, Session 2019, A Bill adopting the year 2020 tax rate, which was introduced by Buckingham at the November 19th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 31, Ordinance No. 29 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Buckingham, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

10. Final Passage of **Bill No. 32** - A Bill
Amending Article 167.07 “Residency Requirement” of the Codified Ordinances. (To expand residency to include any county contiguous to York County) ([View](#))
Introduced by: H. Michael Buckingham
Originator: Mayor

PULLED. Agenda item #10, Amending Article 167.07 “Residency Requirement” was pulled from the agenda. President Nixon said Council will schedule a town hall meeting to allow residents to participate in discussion on this amendment.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

President Nixon thanked Councilman Buckingham for his service on Council and stated that he has been an extraordinary leader and contributor and we will miss him very much.

Councilman Buckingham thanked his fellow Councilmembers and the City Clerk for putting up with him and said he enjoyed his time on Council.

Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson said she will also miss Councilman Buckingham, and that Council was lucky to have had him as a member of the team.

Vice President Walker said she enjoyed Councilman Buckingham's excitement for numbers, and she looks forward to Councilman-Elect Lou Rivera serving on Council. She also applauded Police Chief Troy Bankert for his service, and she wished him a happy retirement.

Councilwoman Washington echoed remarks of Council and thanked Chief Bankert and Councilman Buckingham for their service.

President Nixon wished everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy and good new year.

XIII. Administration Comment

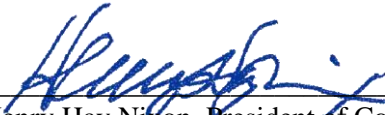
Mayor Helfrich also thanked Councilman Buckingham for his service and that he will look to appoint him to the Sewer Authority Board.

He then addressed Chief Bankert and thanked him for his service and for building bridges in the community. He welcomed Commissioner Robinson and said he's looking forward to working with him.

XIV. Adjournment: The next meeting of City Council is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the December 17, 2019 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk



Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council