

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
Lou Rivera, Member of Council

Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk
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MINUTES February 4, 2020 6:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the February 4, 2020 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Lou Rivera, 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, Director of Business Administration; 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.

Marc Ott, York City Fire Dept., read a statement outlining the outstanding job Fire Chief Chad Deardorff has done as a career firefighter and Acting Fire Chief. He said no grievances have been filed since he's been in office because he serves as an excellent bridge between the union and the city. He asked Council to waive his residency requirement so that he can serve as Fire Chief.

Clifton Frederick, York City Fire Dept., said Chief Deardorff can be opening presents with his kids on Christmas Day and when that alarm rings, he's there on the scene of the call. He said the chief should not be asked to decide between his family and his career so please waive the residency requirement for him.

Jess Deardorff, Chief Deardorff's wife, said the Department of Fire/Rescue Services is their second family. She said there have been so many sacrifices made because Chad had to leave on a call. She said he has been dedicated to his job to the point he has spent more dinners in the city than with his family. She said their son was born premature and has challenges and his teachers have helped them through some tough times. She said to uproot her son from this support mechanism is heart-wrenching. She said whether or not Council waives the residency for Chad, he will continue to serve the York City Dept. of Fire/Rescue Services. She then mentioned former Mayor Kim Bracey's residency waiver for Police Chief Wes Kahley and asked that her husband be given the same consideration.

Stephanie Seaton, resident, said she hopes that through further discussion, Council can come to a solution to this residency problem. She stated that Council approved the York City Human Relations Commission (HRC) moving to West York, so if you were okay with moving an entire department, what is the problem with waiving the residency for Fire Chief Deardorff. She said be consistent because the community's memory is not short. She said Council should base their decision on his performance, not where he lives. She said moving the HRC to West York is way more egregious than waiving the Chief's residency.

There being no further discussion, the public comment period adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:12 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- V. Moment of Silence observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 21, 2020 \(Legislative\)](#); [January 29, 2020 \(Committee\)](#). 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:
 - **Town Hall Meeting:** Council will hold a town hall meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at LOGOS Academy, 250 W. King St., York, PA, to receive public comment on amending the residency requirement for city employees.
 - **Council Legislative Meeting:** Council’s next legislative meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 12th.
 - **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 19, 2020.
- 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. 20 - A Resolution
 Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
 Introduced by: Lou Rivera
 Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 20, Session 2020, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness to the York Housing Authority for work to be done at 115 S. Pershing Ave., was introduced by Rivera, read at length, and on motion of Rivera, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 20 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions

- 2. Final Passage of Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1 – A Bill
 Amending the 2020 Budget. (To reflect changes resulting from rollover of 2019 funding due to a grant extension from DEP for the Poorhouse Run Project - \$99,162.90) ([View](#))
 Introduced by: Sandie Walker
 Originator: Public Works

Final Passage of Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1, Session 2020, A Bill amending the 2020 Budget in the amount of \$ 99,162.90 to reflect changes resulting from rollover of 2019 funding due to a grant extension from the Dept. of Environment Protection for the Poorhouse Run Project, which was introduced by Walker at the January 21st meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On

motion of Walker, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business

3. **Introduction of Bill No. 2** - A Bill
Amending the 2020 Budget. (To reflect the City, City School District and the Business Improvement District Authority’s share of the cost to secure the city Treasurer’s \$6 million bond) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Business Administration | Treasurer

Introduction of Bill No. 2, Session 2020, A Bill amending the 2020 Budget to reflect the City of York, the York City School District, and the Business Improvement District Authority’s share of the cost to secure the city Treasurer’s \$6 million bond, was introduced by Walker, read by short title, and deferred to the February 18th meeting of Council.

4. **Introduction of Bill No. 3** - A Bill
Amending the 2020 Budget. (Additional revenue/expenditures for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program - \$7,989.28) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 3, Session 2020, A Bill amending the 2020 Budget in the amount of \$7,989.28 for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read by short title, and deferred to the February 18th meeting of Council.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment: None

XIII. Administration Comment

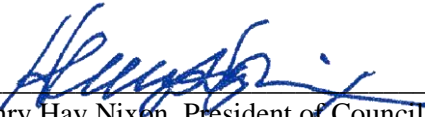
Mayor Helfrich said the application process for the sewer & refuse amnesty forgiveness and repayment program begins on March 1st and ends on March 31st. He said we are cutting great deals and setting up payment plans so don’t wait until the last minute to apply. For more information, call (717) 849-5223 or email: amnesty@yorkcity.org. Next, he announced that AARP is offering free tax preparation for seniors. For more information, call (717) 771-9042.

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is schedule for February 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. There being no further discussion, the February 4, 2020 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

XV. 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