

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

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MINUTES February 18, 2020 6:00 p.m.

Resolutions & Bills Approved

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the February 18, 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; Chad Deardorff, Fire Chief; Joe Jefcoat, Treasurer; Craig Walt, Bureau of Health; 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.

Stacey Boyer read a statement in support of waiving the residency for Fire Chief Chad Deardorff. She said he has been serving the city for over 25 years and is a proven leader.

Stephanie Seaton stated that she supports the residency waiver for Fire Chief Deardorff. She said a few years ago Council agreed to moving an entire city department – the York City Human Relations Commission (HRC) – to West York. She said there were no reprimands or gripes made about that and Council went even further and amended the ordinance so that the HRC could move to West York. So, she questioned why reprimand and gripe about Chief Deardorff living outside of the city limits. She then recalled the waiver granted to former Police Chief Wes Kahley. She said Council approved waiving the residency for him and, again, there was no reprimand or complaint about waiving his residency. Ms. Seaton said Council needs to show consistency and remain unbiased. She stated that if 5 minutes away for all citizens of York to travel to West York for HRC services, then 5 minutes away for the Fire Chief shouldn't be an issue. She said Chief Deardorff is the best person for this position and she pleaded with Council to waive the residency requirement so that he can remain in his position.

There being no further comment. President Nixon adjourned the public comment session at 6:05 p.m. and convened in legislative session.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:05 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

V. Moment of Silence observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of February 4, 2020: 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: Scheduled for **Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 20th.

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. 21 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Lou Rivera
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 21, Session 2020, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness to Richard Willis for work to be done at 138 S. Queen St.; John Esh for work to be done at 238 E. Philadelphia St.; and Andrew Mears of JMT for work to be done at 220 W. King St., was introduced by Rivera, read at length, and on motion of Rivera, seconded by Walker, and 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. 2, Ordinance 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

Bill No. 2, Ordinance 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, which was introduced by Walker, at the February 4th meeting and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Walker, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 2, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 3, Ordinance 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)

Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3, Session 2020, A Bill amending the 2020 Budget in the amount of \$7,989.28 for additional revenue and expenditures for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which was introduced by Ritter-Dickson at the February 4th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 3, came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Washington said she requests to abstain her vote as she is employed with Crispus Attacks and they are a recipient of funding under this program. The request for abstention was unanimously approved by Council.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 4; Abstain – Washington – 1; Nays – 0.

New Business

4. Introduction of **Bill No. 4** - A Bill
Amending the 2020 Budget. (Lead Hazard Control Program grant funding - \$44,399.82) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 4, Session 2020, A Bill amending the 2020 Budget in the amount of \$44,399.82 for a Lead Hazard Control Program grant, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and deferred to the March 3rd legislative meeting.

5. Resolution No. **22** - A Resolution
Approving the final land development plan submitted by GJ Devers, LLC. (Development of lot 2 located in the Northwest Triangle) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Economic & Community Development (PP&Z)

Resolution No. 22, Session 2020, A Resolution approving waivers to the final land development plan submitted by GJ Devers, LLC, for development of lot 2 located in the Northwest Triangle as follows:

1. Section 1333.3(A): Waiver from requirement to submit a preliminary plan
2. Section 936.AG: Request to use the characteristics of the site as it was prior to demolition as the basis for existing conditions calculations for stormwater management

The Resolution was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 22 came up for discussion.

Todd Curl, RGS Associates, was in attendance and outlined the project.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 22 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

6. Resolution No. **23** - A Resolution
Authorizing the establishment of a 2020 Complete Count Committee. (As part of the 2020 Census) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Henry Hay Nixon
Originator: Council | Mayor

Resolution No. 23, Session 2020, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and other appropriate officials to create a 2020 Complete Count Committee to partner with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure that every resident of the City of York is counted in the 2020 Census, was introduced by Ritter-Dickson, read at length, and on motion of Ritter-Dickson, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 22 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. **24** - A Resolution
Appointing and reappointing members to various boards. (M. Davis to Planning; R. Miller to General Authority) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Lou Rivera
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 24, Session 2020, A Resolution reappointing Matthew Davis as a member of the York City Planning Commission, which term shall expire January 1, 2024; and appointment of Richard L. Miller, II, as member of the York City General Authority to fill the unexpired term of Dan Meckley, which term shall expire January 1, 2021, was introduced by Rivera, read at length, and on motion of

Rivera, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 24 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

8. Resolution No. 25 - A Resolution
Approving the appointment of probationary firefighters. (D. Messina; R. Krauss) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Business Administration | Fire/Rescue

Resolution No. 25, Session 2020, A Resolution Approving the appointment of Daniel Messina and Ryan Krauss as probationary firefighters, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Walker, Resolution No. 25 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

Supplemental Agenda

Motion to waive Rule 215: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Walker to waive the provisions of Resolution No. 215 of Session 1969 to permit consideration of a supplemental agenda containing one Resolution. The motion to waive passed unanimously.

9. Resolution No. 26 - A Resolution
Approving an extension of the original residency waiver Fire Chief Deardorff. (To grant an additional year to relocate to the City of York) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 26, Session 2020, A Resolution authorizing an extension of the original residency waiver previously approved by Council (Resolution No. 15 of Session 2019) to grant Fire Chief Chad Deardorff an additional year to relocate to the City of York, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Resolution No. 26 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Washington said Chief Deardorff has performed his duties impeccably and with the deadline approaching for him to relocate to the city, she said she wanted to take action to grant an additional year to relocate.

Councilman Rivera stated that he will support the extension because Chief Deardorff has served the community well over the past 25 years.

Vice President Walker said she feels this is a great compromise and should give Chief Deardorff enough time to relocate or discuss other options with his family. She said she has taken into consideration comments made by Chief Deardorff's family members, and residents. She said she does not shy away from tough decisions and she welcomes feedback from the public.

President Nixon asked Chief Deardorff to let Council know at his earliest convenience what his intentions are so that we can move on and decide what's next and Chief Deardorff can move on with his life no matter which way his decision goes.

Vice President Walker addressed the comment made about the Human Relations Commission relocating to West York. She said the Chief Deardorff waiver is completely different because the HRC was asked to relocate out of the York County Administrative Building because Veterans Affairs was moving into that space, which left the HRC homeless. At that time, West York offered to house the HRC in their building and the city accepted the offer. Additionally, she said there had been discussion on a countywide HRC and the lifespan of the York City HRC because they were operating on bare bones. After visits to the West York facility, meetings and timing, she felt it best to accept the offer from West York so that the HRC could continue providing services.

Stephanie Seaton, resident, said her comments were not personal. However, the decision of Council to move an entire department – the York City Human Relations Commission – and whether comparisons

were made or not, that was a big deal because all city residents who needed HRC services had to travel outside of the city. Chief Deardorff is just one person so it doesn't make any sense what Council is requiring this one person to do when you had no problem with all city residents having to find a way to the HRC's West York location.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 26 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Walker thanked all who participated in the Daddy Daughter Dance held earlier this month. She said over 250 families were in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time. She thanked those who donated to help support this worthy cause.

XIII. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich thanked Council for approving Resolution No. 23 authorizing establishment of a 2020 Complete Count Committee as part of the 2020 Census. He urged residents to take part in the census count because the amount of federal funding we receive is based on the count that occurs during the census. He said York City is consistently undercounted which means fewer dollars per person. So, it's important to spread the word on the importance of being counted.

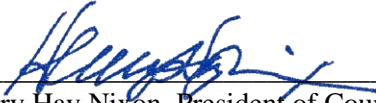
Mayor Helfrich then thanked President Nixon, Councilman Rivera & Councilwoman Ritter-Dickson for attending the KIVA press conference today. The City of York is partnering with international crowd-lending website, Kiva. This partnership brings crowd-funded microloans to small business owners and entrepreneurs in the City of York. Kiva works with communities to provide zero interest loans up to \$10,000 for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Through this partnership, financially excluded entrepreneurs in the City of York have the opportunity to access capital on a greater scale, spurring economic development through small business growth and job creation. This partnership opportunity was introduced to The City of York by PNC and is being made possible through financial support from the York County Community Foundation and PNC. For more information, please contact our Economic Development Specialist and Kiva Capital Access Manager, Sharee McFadden at smcfadden@yorkcity.org or Skyler Yost at york@local.kiva.org.

Joe Jefcoat, City Treasurer, said the 2020 tax bills have been sent out. Residents will receive two separate bills, one from the city and one from county. That means, two separate payments must be made. If your taxes are paid through your mortgage company, they will have to be notified by the mortgagee to send two separate checks so you must inform them of this new requirement. For more information, please contact the York City Treasurer's Office at (717) 849-2281.

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA. There being no further discussion, the February 18, 2020 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:37 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