

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

December 30, 2020

1:00 PM (Continued from 12/29/20)

ALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the December 30, 2020 continuation meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Council members teleconferencing in from remote locations: Lou Rivera, Edquina Washington, Sandie Walker, Vice President, and Henry Hay Nixon, President, with President Nixon presiding.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor; Tom Ray, Business Administrator; Dan Hevner, Assistant Business Administrator; Cherie Alwine, Finance Officer; Kim Robertson, HR Director; Gere Levelle, Budget Team Member; Philip Given, Chief of Staff; and Jason Sabol, Assistant Solicitor, with all teleconferencing in from remote locations.

Members of York City Council staff in attendance included: Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk, who also teleconferenced in from a remote location.

Administration Guests: Gerald Cross and Steven Goldfield of the PA Economy League.

NOTICE: Council's meeting format has been altered due to the Declaration of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Wolf amid the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and the recent breach to the city's information technology department. Public Comment will only be received on agenda items. General Public Comment is suspended until further notice. Below are ways citizens may watch and participate in the Council meeting:

1. For public view only link, click this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/91462846649?pwd=bWR4R0lVM2Fpd3NoQVhUc3ZvSTRxZz09>
Passcode: 54321
2. For public call-in number: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
US: +1 312 626 6799 **or** +1 646 876 9923 **or** +1 301 715 8592 **or** +1 669 900 6833 **or** +1 253 215 8782 **or** +1 346 248 7799 **or** +1 408 638 0968
Webinar ID: 914 6284 6649
Passcode: 54321
To request to comment during the meeting, you must press *9 to "Raise your hand." When recognized, press *6 to unmute/mute your microphone. Zoom will also remind you to press *6 after you are recognized to speak. Also, those watching in Zoom may use the "Raise Hand" feature to indicate you request to comment.
3. Watch the meetings on Comcast Cable Channel 18.
4. Watch the meetings live on Facebook (Search for "City of York").
5. Watch the meetings online at www.wrct.tv
6. Email comments on agenda items to the City Clerk at dthompso@yorkcity.org no later than 3PM on the day of the scheduled meeting.
7. Mail comments on agenda items to: Office of City Clerk, Attn: Public Comment, 101 S. George St., York, PA 17401. Comments must be received the day prior to the scheduled meeting date by 4PM.
8. Persons with hearing impairments may call the Deaf Center at TDD (717) 848-6765 for assistance.

I. Reconvened Legislative Meeting at 1PM (Continued from 12/29/20)

II. Roll Call

Final Passage of Bills

1. Final Passage of Bill No. 20, Ord. No. 18 (AMENDED)(Continued from 12/29/20 mtg) -A Bill Adopting the 2021 York City Budget ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Mayor

Final Passage of Bill No. 20, Ordinance No. 18, Session 2020, A Bill adoption the 2021 York City Budget, which was introduced at the November 17th meeting of Council, came up for final passage. On motion of Nixon, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 20 came up for discussion.

President Nixon asked Mayor Helfrich for an explanation of the proposed amendment to the 2021 budget.

Mayor Helfrich said in addition to the revenue included for the sale of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$550,000 as been added as revenue for the increase in the payment in lieu of taxes increase from WellSpan Health. Another amendment is to include \$300,000 funding for a disparity study and rewrite of Article 136 “Small & Disadvantaged Enterprise Program” of the Codified Ordinances.

President Nixon said so the bottom line number of \$55,473,882 is the final dollar amount for the amended budget.

Mayor Helfrich said that is correct.

Motion to amend. President Nixon made a motion to amend Bill No. 20 to include said amendments. The motion was seconded by Walker and PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Rivera, Washington, Walker, Nixon – 4; Nays – 0.

A motion to approve Bill No. 20, as amended, was made by Nixon, seconded by Walker, and came up for discussion.

Anthony Collier, resident, said a lot of the members on Council and members of present and past administrations have known about this financial burden for a long time. He said there were a lot more issues in the past that he’s holding everyone accountable for that put us in the financial situation we are in. He said he feels like no one gave options prior to today. He stated that this budget will affect us for years to come. He offered to sit down with Council and the Administration to discuss how to best allocate these funds to create a better economy so we don’t have to sell our assets. This fix will not last forever so we need to focus on making York City a better community.

Vice President Walker said one of our main concerns as Council members is to have a plan from the Administration outlining how these proceeds will be allocated. She said Mr. Collier has her commitment to ensure these funds are spend responsibly.

Councilwoman Washington made the following statement:

“Good Afternoon Everyone:

Thank you again to my fellow colleagues, our Administration, and most importantly our community for the opportunity to recess.

The decision on our budget, was a tough decision for me. One of our duties as Council Members are to ensure that we are making the best financial decisions for residents of The City of York, not just for one year, but for decades to come. What we do today, ultimately effects, the next 5, 10, 15, 20 and so on years.

As I stated during my December 22nd comments, I did not in anyway want to see an increase of 48% in our property taxes, I wanted to make sure that all avenues of revenue were researched thoroughly, prior to us moving forward and that a clear financial plan was provided if the sale of the WWTP were to move forward.

Please note, that our vote today is not on the sale of the WWTP, we are voting for a balanced budget factoring in monies of the presumed sale of the WWTP, that we have yet to vote on, which will possibly be voted on, in January or February 2021.

As I shared yesterday, I was able to research and find \$8.1 million of additional streams of revenue that could be utilized to the benefit of our city. It is apparent that millions of dollars are owed to the City of York that the Administration and team could have done more to work and uncover these dollars, LIKE I DID. If so, I don't believe that we would have to accept a budget with the unknow of a possible upfront payment.

For example, and the public may not be aware of this, but there is more than a possible \$7 million owed to the city of York from outstanding sewer fees that haven't been paid!!! Yes, we are all aware that York Water is working diligently on these collection efforts through our arrangement with them to collect, but what if they collected all monies owed during 2021? That would be a possible additional

\$7 million right there!!! It seems to me that this should have been factored into the math of the administration as well.

Therefore, because many of my suggestions have not and time is running out for anyone to do any further work, and we MUST pass a balanced budget by December 31st, to ensure that the services for the people of the city of York are kept on tack, I am left to vote in support of a budget that I believe is not the BEST that we could do for the people of the City of York.”

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 20, Ordinance No. 18, as amended, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Walker, Nixon – 4; Nays – 0.

2. Final Passage of **Bill No. 21, Ord. No. 19** (AMENDED)(Continued from 12/29/20 mtg) - A Bill Adopting the 2021 Tax Rate. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Mayor

Final Passage of Bill No. 21, Ordinance No. 19, Session 2020, A Bill fixing the tax rate for year 2021, which was introduced by Walker at the November 17th meeting of Council, came up for final passage. On motion of Walker, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 21 came up for discussion.

Motion to amend. A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Rivera, to amend the tax rate for 2021 as follows:

For operating purposes, the sum of 15.5455 mils (\$15.55 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation)
Bond/Sinking fund, the sum of 2.4190 mils (\$2.42 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation)
Parks/Recreation, the sum of 1.00 mil (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation)
Total for all purposes, the sum of .01897 mils (\$18.97 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation)

The motion to amend PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Rivera, Washington, Walker, Nixon – 4; Nays – 0.

There being no further discussion, on motion was made by Walker, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 21, Ordinance No. 19, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Walker, Nixon – 4; Nays – 0.

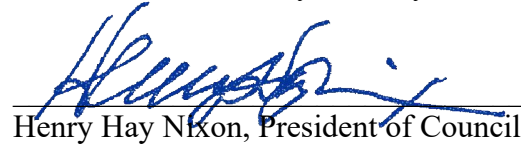
III. Council Comment: None

IV. Administration Comment: None

V. Adjournment: There being no further business, the December 30, 2020 meeting of Council adjourned at 1:24 p.m. The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6PM.



Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk



Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council