

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 16, 2021 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the February 16, 2021 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members teleconferencing in from remote locations: 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, Business Administrator; Philip Given, Chief of Staff; Dan Hevner, Deputy Business Administrator; Chad Deardorff, Fire Chief; 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.

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 dthomps@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. Called Legislative Meeting to Order 6PM.

II. Roll Call

- III. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [February 2, 2021](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- IV. Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and Announcements: None
- **CHOICE Initiative** – Melanie Baldwin, York City Grants Coordinator and Regina Mitchell, Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of York, gave a brief presentation on the CHOICE Neighborhoods initiative. For information on the initiative, please email askcni@yorkcity.org.

CHOICE Initiative Overview

The Choice Neighborhoods program leverages significant public and private dollars to support locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, come together to create and implement a plan that revitalizes distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. The program helps communities transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services, and schools.

Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

1. **Housing:** Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood; and
2. **People:** Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children’s education; and
3. **Neighborhood:** Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families’ choices about their community.

– Source: www.hud.gov

V. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **Next Council Legislative Meeting:** Scheduled for **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**
Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 24, 2021.

VI. Legislative Agenda: (Order of Business –Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions; Introduction of Bills; New Business.)

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions

1. Final Passage of **Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5** - A Bill Amending the 2019 CDBG-CV (COVID-19) Program budget to reflect changes resulting from allocating additional funding amounts in the 2020 budget. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Lou Rivera
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5, Session 2021, A Bill amending the 2019 CDBG-CV (COVID-19) Program budget to reflect changes resulting from allocating funding amounts in the 2020 budget, which was introduced by Rivera at the February 2nd meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage.

Motion to approve request for abstention: Councilwoman Washington requested approval to abstain her vote because some of the funding included in this substantial amendment will be directed to her place of employment. On motion of Rivera, seconded by Ritter-Dickson, the request for abstention was approved by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 4; Nays – 0.

On motion of Rivera, seconded by Walker, Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 4; Abstain – Washington – 1; Nays – 0.

Introduction of Bills

2. Introduction of **Bill No. 6** - A Bill
A Bill approving an asset purchase agreement with Pennsylvania-American Water Co. (WWTP) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Mayor

Introduction of Bill No. 6, Session 2021, A Bill approving an asset purchase agreement with the Pennsylvania-American Water Company for purchase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, was introduced by Walker, read by short title, and deferred to the March 2nd meeting of Council.

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

Motion to consider items as a consent agenda: A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Washington, to consider agenda items 3-7 as a consent agenda. The motion to consider said items as a consent agenda passed by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

President Nixon asked if there was any public comment on the consent agenda items. There was no public comment received, therefore, President Nixon asked for a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda.

Approval of consent agenda items: A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Washington, to approve agenda items 3-7. The motion to approve passed by the following vote: Yeas – Rivera, Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Resolution No. **19** - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 19, Session 2021, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done in the application filed by Logos Academy for work at 243 W. King St., and the application filed by Brian Crouse for work to be done at 243 E. Market St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda with no public comment.

4. Resolution No. **20** - A Resolution
Approving appointments to various boards & authorities. (Correcting discrepancies in Res. 17 of 2021)
Introduced by: Lou Rivera ([View](#))
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 20, Session 2021, A Resolution amending Resolution No. 17 of Session 2021, to correct expiration terms as follows: Appointment of Stephanie Seaton as a member of the York City Human Relations Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Stanley Sexton, which term shall expire July 16, 2022; Appointment of Mina Edmondson as a member of the York City Human Relations Commission, which term shall expire July 16, 2023; Appointment of Allison Witherow as a member of the York Business Improvement District Authority, which term shall expire December 31, 2025; Appointment of Carlos (Diaz) Garcia as member of the York Business Improvement District Authority, to fill the unexpired term of Dylan Bauer, which shall expire January 1, 2023.

The Resolution was unanimously approved by consent agenda with no public comment.

5. Resolution No. **21** - A Resolution
Approving the conveyance of various properties to the York City Redevelopment Authority. (Various properties on the 400 block of W. Hope Ave.) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Judy A. Ritter-Dickson
Originator: Solicitor's Office

Resolution No. 21, Session 2021, A Resolution conveying 426 West Hope Avenue, 430 West Hope Avenue, 434 West Hope Avenue, 442 West Hope Avenue, 444 West Hope Avenue, and 446 West Hope Avenue, York, Pennsylvania, to the York City Redevelopment Authority was unanimously approved by consent agenda with no public comment.

6. Resolution No. 22 - A Resolution Authorizing a budget transfer for Public Works. (\$22,000 for other contractual services) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 22, Session 2021, A Resolution authorizing a budget transfer for Public Works in the amount of \$22,000 for other contractual services was unanimously approved by consent agenda with no public comment.

7. Resolution No. 23 - A Resolution Extending the declaration of disaster emergency. (Through March 31, 2021) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 23, Session 2021, A Resolution extending the declaration of disaster emergency relating to the COVID-19 pandemic to March 31, 2021 was unanimously approved by consent agenda with no public comment.

8. Resolution No. **PULLED from agenda.** - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Conrad Seigal. (To serve as custodian to administer the 457(b) Defined Contribution Plan for the City of York.) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Business Administration

Agenda item #8 was pulled from the agenda at the request of the Administration.

VII. Requests for Future Meetings: None

VIII. Council Comment

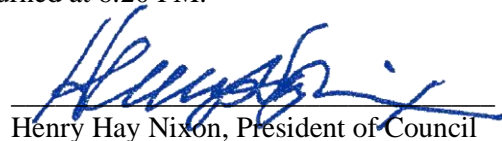
President Nixon said he wrote a letter to the editor and it listed him as the council president, but he made it clear to the newspaper that he was writing as a citizen of York and was not speaking for Council. He said this was his personal opinion. He apologized to Council if anyone thought he was speaking for them. He said the newspaper took the liberty of adding that he was the President of Council.

IX. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich announced that the York County Economic Alliance is having an inclusive business webinar. The link will be provided on the City of York Facebook page under the Mayor's Monday Message. They will also be hosting a virtual career fair at 12 noon.

- X. Adjournment: The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6PM. There being no further business, the February 16, 2021 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:20 PM.


Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk


Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council