

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, 2021 10:00 AM

As the mayor has closed City Hall to the public amid concerns of rising COVID-19 cases, the following are ways the public may view and participate in the 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.

CALL TO ORDER: President Nixon called the December 30, 2021 special meeting to order at 10:00 AM in City Council Chambers 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. President Nixon teleconferenced in from a remote location for the meeting.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Acting Mayor and Acting Business Administrator, Melanie Baldwin, Grants Administration, and Jason Sabol, Assistant Solicitor. Assistant Solicitor Sabol teleconferenced in from a remote location for the meeting.

Members of York City Council staff in attendance included: Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk.

- I. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 10AM.
- II. Roll Call

III. Legislative Agenda

1. Resolution No. 145 - A Resolution Overriding the mayor's veto of Bill No. 60 of Session 2021 (the 2022 York City Budget). ([View](#))
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 145, Session 2021, A Resolution overriding the mayor's veto of Bill No. 60 of Session 2021, the FY2022 York City Budget, was introduced by Walker, read at length, and on motion of Walker, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 145 came up for discussion.

Public comment was received via the Zoom meeting platform.

Jeff Kirkland, resident, said he's hoping Council and the Mayor can move forward and work in the best interest of the city. He said he feels the mayor did a decent job in getting input from the community in the ARPA process. Although there wasn't an overwhelming number of responses, he said, responses were received and should be honored.

Eric Kirkland, resident, said the city has been allocated \$35 million in ARPA funding and that the mayor decided to jumpstart the process by utilizing \$6 million for services recommended by the ARPA committee. He said he hopes that instead of penalizing those who participated in the process, he would like to see a leadership group come together and put together a plan for the remaining funding. He said to have the city shut down is unacceptable and the issue is lack of leadership.

Stephanie Seaton, resident, asked Council to not override the veto because the funds allocated for the ARPA funding is a benefit to our city residents. She said this has been a process and that she participated in the survey and listened to the information put forth. She stated that a person that's homeless is not going to show up at a Council meeting because their main concern is shelter, so they rely on a voice to help them. She said it's time for the petty politics to be pushed aside and do what's best for the citizens of the city.

Written public comment was received from Ryan Supler, Acting Chair of the Alliance of Neighborhood Associations of York, PA, urging Council to override the mayor's veto. A full copy of Mr. Supler's statement is attached to these minutes located in the City Clerk's archives.

Councilman Rivera stated that Councilwoman Walker has served this community well and she has the right to question the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) process. He said he doesn't agree with the amendment made to the budget to remove a portion of ARPA funding, but he wanted to acknowledge Councilwoman Walker's work in our community. He said he sat on the ARPA committee, and that the mayor put together a committee of very good leaders who worked hard to come up with its recommendations for funding. He said wasn't at the last meeting when the organizations were chosen by the committee to receive funding. He also applauded Melanie Baldwin, the city's Grants Administrator, for her work in this process. Councilman Rivera then stated that he did not appreciate the mayor's Facebook posts or Monday Morning Message where he made Council out to be the bad guys with regard to ARPA funding. He said the knew there was a challenge to the recommendations was possible and to pit residents against Council was unacceptable and now here we are the day before New Year's Eve sitting here looking to override the mayor's veto.

Vice President Walker said this resolution is the amended budget. The veto doesn't include the majority of ARPA funding. She stated that she appreciates the public input and I looks forward to work with the administration to make sure we are making the best decisions for our community.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 145 PASSED by the following vote: YEAS - Washington, Ritter-Dickson, Walker, Nixon - 4; Nays - Rivera - 1.

The veto is hereby OVERRIDED and the FY2022 Budget is hereby APPROVED.

After the vote, President Nixon stated that after four years, communication between the Mayor and Council has been at best strained and at worst non-existent. This was not due to Council disrespect or ignorance but rather the dictatorial attitude of the mayor. He said friction has existed since the very beginning and he hopes that the new Council and the mayor will have regular meetings so that open communications exist. He went on to say things get done when we have open discussion and compromise. Further, he said he hopes Council and the mayor work together over the next two years to allocate ARPA funds for the future stability of our city and its taxpayers. We should not rush short sighted into spending these funds. We have several years to allocate the monies and spend it. Unfortunately, the urge for immediate, temporary solutions was greater than the patient, long view for the future, he said.

IV. Adjournment: There being no further discussion or business, the December 30, 2021 special meeting of Council adjourned at 10:19 AM



Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk



Henry Hay Nixon, President of Council