

Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Sandie Walker, President of Council
Edquina Washington, Vice President of Council
Lou Rivera, Member of Council
Betsy Buckingham, Member of Council
Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Member of Council

Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk
Email: dthomps@yorkcity.org



Office of York City Council
101 S. George St.
York, Pennsylvania 17401

Telephone: (717) 849-2246
Fax: (717) 812-0557

Website: www.yorkcity.org

MINUTES February 1, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Notice: 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.
3. You may email comments to the City Clerk at dthomps@yorkcity.org. Comments must be received by 4pm the day of the scheduled meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: President Walker called the February 1, 2022, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Lou Rivera, Edquina Washington, Vice President, and Sandie Walker, President, with President Walker presiding.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Acting Business Administrator; Melanie Baldwin, Grants; and Jason Sabol, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

Joan Maruskin, resident, submitted the following questions:

1. Why did City Council wait to stop the ARPA process until 150 plus groups had completed applications, the committee had read all of them and awarded the funds?

2. Why does council feel, an unbiased consultant should be used (instead of the committee) to guide us in allocating funds and what amount of money would be spent to hire a consultant?
3. Please explain why Council does not have faith in the York organizations proposed in the 2022 budget as stated at the December meeting.
4. If funds are not distributed as recommended, how will that money be used? If funds are distributed, who will decide who gets funded?
5. On Jan. 1, it was stated that Council will use a qualified professional to administer the funds. What does that mean specifically?
6. Council has stated that they will present a plan to the mayor and may need a mediator. Why? What changes have been made to the proposed funding and who made them? And if a mediator is needed who be the mediator?
7. A second round of grant applications and funding was planned. Will that happen? Why or Why not?
8. Simply put, please explain the who's, what's, when's, where, and how's of City Council reaching this point in the ARPA funding process and the who, what, when, where, why, and how that will be used for the situation to be resolved and the funding distributed.

President Walker asked Ms. Maruskin to submit her questions via email for a response.

There being no further discussion, the public comment session adjourned at 6:10 PM. President Walker then called the legislative meeting to order.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:10 PM.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 18, 2022](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and approved them as written by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.
- VII. Proclamations, Awards and Announcements
Executive Session: Council will meet in executive session with the city's assistant solicitor, this evening, February 1, 2022, immediately following Council's legislative meeting. The closed session will be held pursuant to Section 708(a) (4-5) of 65 Pa. C.S. §§ 701, et seq, as amended by Act of June 30, 2011, No. 56 also referred to as the Sunshine Act. The purpose of the executive session is to hear information in connection with issues on which identifiable complaints are expected and information on matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law.
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 9th.
- 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.)

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions

1. Final Passage of Bill No. 1 - A Bill
Vacating a public street. (2nd Ward - unnamed street between E. Clarke Ave. and E. Philadelphia St.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington ([View](#))
Originator: Economic & Community Development | Planning

Final Passage of Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1, Session 2022, A Bill vacating a public street right-of-way a portion of an unnamed street between East Clarke Avenue and East Philadelphia Street, which was introduced by Washington at the January 4, 2022, meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1, passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

New Business

2. Introduction of Bill No. 2 - A Bill
A Bill amending the 2022 City Budget. (Amending the FY2022 City Budget as follows: **(1)** Bureau of Health by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement, in the amount of \$759,081.66; **(2)** Bureau of Health by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Epidemiology, Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhanced Detection grant, in the amount of \$2,840,636.17; **(3)** Business Administration by appropriating expenditures for the Department of Justice COVID-19 grant (CESF 2020-VD-BX-1733), in the amount of \$36,282.26. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration | Health

Introduction of Bill No. 2, Session 2022, A Bill amending the 2022 budget as follows: **(1)** Bureau of Health by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement, in the amount of \$759,081.66; **(2)** Bureau of Health by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Epidemiology, Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhanced Detection grant, in the amount of \$2,840,636.17; **(3)** Business Administration by appropriating expenditures for the Department of Justice COVID-19 grant (CESF 2020-VD-BX-1733), in the amount of \$36,282.26, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the February 15th meeting of Council.

3. Resolution No. 14 - A Resolution
Appointing Russalina Nolden to the York City Planning Commission. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 14, Session 2022, A Resolution appointing Russalina Nolden as a member of the York City Planning Commission, which term shall expire January 1, 2026, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 14 passed by the following vote: Yeas - Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker- 4; Nays - Dennis - 1.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment:

President Walker the following statement:

“Without beating a dead horse, we must understand that ARPA funds were meant to help municipalities recover from the negative impacts of this pandemic first. Though one of the over 60 expense categories could be used to assist non-profit organizations, there needed to be a plan and

framework in place as a guide for how the entire \$35.3 million dollars would be spent before taking action. We also must understand that as a municipal entity, the City of York was not eligible for federal assistance that non-profits and businesses were eligible for such as the EDIL and forgivable PPP loans that have been supporting our businesses and non-profits throughout the pandemic. Simply put, there needed to be some type of strategic plan for the City of York and its operations, businesses, and nonprofit organizations before taking action. This was the concern from the beginning. The Mayor made it clear that he did all that he was going to do. Since there was not a plan in place, City Council had to create one. (Click [here](#) to view Council’s ARPA Recovery Plan Recommendations)

The approximately 26-page recovery plan recommendation is directly aligned with the final interim rules and regulations issued on January 6, 2022. These final interim regulations give the City of York even more flexibility and discretion in the use of these once-in-a-lifetime funds. Waiting for these final regulations allowing increased fund flexibility is another reason why we were concerned with the rush to distribute the funds. By waiting a few more weeks for the final rule, we can make even better decisions now and for the future. In this recovery recommendation plan, you will find an executive summary, expense categories, and use of funds to include initiatives such as our proposed \$2,500 essential worker bonus and over \$8 million dollars in assistance to homeowners, senior citizens, residents on fixed income, veterans, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

One of the things that I’ve learned over the years as a locally elected official is that there often are gray areas between societal matters and government matters. Locally elected officials have to navigate that area on a continual basis. In this case, we had to base recommendations off of initiatives that will ease burdens of our residents now and in years to come. We appreciate all of the work that has been done, especially by those who volunteered within our community. Your work is recognized and even highlighted in this plan. We believe these funds are part of the strategic foundation that will help lay the framework for a Better York going forward.”

- XIII. Administration Comment: None
- XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for February 15, 2022. There being no further business, the February 1, 2022, meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.
- XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer): None



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Sandie Walker, President of Council