



# The City of York Pennsylvania

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

Sandie Walker, President  
Edquina Washington, Vice President  
Lou Rivera, Member  
Betsy Buckingham, Member  
Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Member  
Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk  
P: (717) 849-2246  
F: (717) 812-0557  
dthompso@yorkcity.org

## COMMITTEE MINUTES January 25, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Fire/Police	Public Works	Comm & Econ Development	Business Admin	Rules & Admin
Washington Dennis Buckingham	Dennis Washington Rivera	Washington Walker Buckingham	Buckingham Walker Rivera	Rivera Washington Dennis

**\*Bold text indicates Chairperson**

Note: General Committee is chaired by Council President or designee and includes all Council members.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Walker called the January 25, 2023 committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Edquina Washington, Vice President, and Sandie Walker, President.

**Members of the Administration in attendance included:** Kim Robertson, Acting Business Administrator; Nona Watson, Director of Economic & Community Development; Blanda Nace, Chief Opportunity Officer; Michael Muldrow, Police Commissioner, William Sleeper, Fire Chief; Chaz Green, Director of Public Works; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Don Hoy, Assistant Solicitor.

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

- I. Called committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Committee Issues for the **February 7 & 21, 2023** legislative Agendas as follows:

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ISSUES CHART](#)

### COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Resolution authorizing substantial amendments to the FY2021 Annual Action Plan to approve HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. (Presentation: Kate Molinaro, M & L Associates)

Kate Molinaro, M & L Associates joined the meeting using the Zoom video platform. She began her presentation but her live video feed was experiencing sound problems and kept freezing. Since the issue couldn't seem to resolve, Nona Watson, Director of Community & Economic Development, who was in attendance, took the lead on the presentation.

Director Watson explained that HUD advised us that we were eligible to receive \$1,980,626 in funding to address the need for homelessness assistance and supportive services. In the report, you will find that the City held public hearings on the Allocation Plan and the comments of various agencies, groups and citizens were taken into consideration. The City also conducted a work session with City staff, members of City Council and the Mayor to summarize the unmet needs heard during consultation sessions. Extensive stakeholder consultations were held during the month of June 2022. During that time, the City engaged with a variety of shelter and service providers serving each of the qualifying populations. City and County staff focused on identifying the Qualifying Populations and their unmet housing and service needs. She

said the public response we received to plan is that residents would like to see more affordable housing units and that they are looking to do an 8-unit housing project to address those needs.

Vice President Washington said if we are awarded this funding, are we able to put in a caveat that the organizations that may get the opportunity to build homes, and those offering rental opportunities, that families with financial hardships and poor rental records won't be pushed off and denied because this adds to the homelessness crisis.

Ms. Molinaro said when an RFP is issued for a developer, you can include in the RFP that the owner has low barriers and identify partners that offer lower barrier services.

President Walker asked about information that has not been updated in the plan.

Ms. Molinaro said that information will be updated after the public hearing currently being held tonight on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall in the Pullo Conference Room.

President Walker said she is looking forward to the conclusion of this process because homelessness is an issue in our community.

**DECISION:** A motion made by Washington, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **2/7/23** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Washington, Walker, Buckingham - 3; Nays - 0.

**2. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the County of York. (\$319,729 for the Healthy Moms - Healthy Babies Program.**

Monica Kruger, Director of the York City Bureau of Health, explained that this is to continue the city's services with the county for the Healthy Moms - Healthy Babies program through June 30, 2023.

**DECISION:** A motion made by Washington, seconded by Walker, to place this item on the **2/7/23** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Washington, Walker, Buckingham - 3; Nays - 0.

**GENERAL**

---

**3. SafeNet Project Presentation (Cameras) (Submitted by: Aaron Anderson, LogosWorks)**

Aaron Anderson, LogosWorks, said Better York solicited a 3 phased study and the first phase was concluded looking at whether a camera network was advisable. The report was done by Montez Parker and Steve Butler. The second phase is requesting LogosWorks to lead the SafeNet Project. We are trying to determine Council's role in the approval process, if any. The location of the cameras includes a feasibility and sustainability study to determine who is paying for this project which would be phase 1. Phase 2 would look into planning such as governance, best practices, design & engineering component, and a financial component. Phase 3 would be pre-construction. This is a two-year study leading to that final 3<sup>rd</sup> step of funding it, building it, and turning it over to the non-profit that would be overseeing SafeNet. We believe we need the city's approval depending on what infrastructure is being use. We are ready to proceed with this proposal at this point. We don't have a resolution at this point so we're still trying to figure out what that mechanism looks like.

President Walker thanked Mr. Anderson for getting the information to Council and that the information is confidential at this time. She said Council started to get involved with this in about August. There were questions she had for over a year which are gray for her. She said how do we get from point A to point B. She said Police Commissioner Muldrow and Lt. Dan Lentz did what they could to give us a better understanding of how things can look in York. We visited Lancaster to see how their system worked and we met with a board member from LSC. Seeing things in person lead to more questions and heightened that gray area.

Any action from the city is not an endorsement but if Council is to vote on a resolution, we need to be sure that it's in the best interest of our community. She said she looks forward to more meetings and more discussions.

Ryan Brinkerhoff, resident, asked if LogosWorks is looking to retain counsel.

Mr. Anderson said yes, and they will investigate the best structure for this initiative.

Mr. Brinkerhoff said he meant City Council.

Mr. Anderson said they will be employing their own staff and then contract out for expertise.

Manuel Gomez, resident, thanked Mr. Anderson for the information. The big component for him is oversight and transparency and how does it fit into the overall technology path. He said it won't operate on its own so how will it play into Commissioner Muldrow's intent to have an advisory group and has this been considered in the evolution of this project. Is this something being done with us or to us. He said he's not sure at this point. He said hopefully we can hear what we will see and have a hand in as a community.

Mr. Anderson said a camera network has to have substantial community buy in. It has to be done in a way to protect civil liberties. He said it is his intent as a servant of the community, to study the best ways this can be done and how we can improve it while protecting civil liberties. We want an end product that serves all.

Commissioner Muldrow said the technology advisory group he suggested is that the difference with this item is that the city police nor the city Council will have control of this system. This is different from the ShotSpotter and Drone as we would be using these ourselves so that's why we wanted to have that community input and a technology advisory group to oversee those initiatives.

Manuel Gomez asked if facial recognition will be used with this system.

Mr. Anderson said it's too early to ask at this point and we are aware that there are concerns about that. We will study these aspects and associated costs. He said one of the benefits of a non-profit group overseeing this is that a nonprofit organization is owned by the community and is representative of the community. I would put members on that board that are suspicious of this technology.

Commissioner Muldrow said he is a proponent of the Lancaster model. The Lancaster system has the capability of using facial recognition, but they don't use it. He said they brought in proponents to facial recognition to be on the board.

Mr. Gomez said Commissioner Muldrow has been consistent and he appreciates that. He said he just wants to make sure we establish those guidelines, and he supports policy-based discussion. We have to be sure as that we guide this the right way even though it's early in the process. He said he is always open to dialogue, and we have good members of the community so his expectations will be high. He said there will be accountability concerns so when information is available that can be shared, please share.

Ryan Brinkerhoff, resident, said he has a degree in Political Science from York College so he's familiar with projects such as these. He said non-profits are not suited for this type of governance. The reality is that this removes accountability of this organization to the city and places it in the hands of the funders. If we hand this over to a non-profit, there is no guarantee that it will be governed correctly and thus no accountability.

President Walker said this is going to take a lot of work and the original request was for Council to approve infrastructure but hopping from Point A to Point B is not the way to go. We look forward to updates as we would like to keep the public updated. She thanked Better York for starting something that is going to call

for further discussion in the future.

**DECISION:** As this was just a presentation, no further action was considered. **UPDATE:** After the committee meeting, Mr. Anderson of LogosWorks requested a resolution for infrastructure be placed on Council's February legislative agenda. No recommendation to place said item on the agenda has been considered at this point.

#### 4. ARPA funding requests for 2023.

Acting Business Administrator Kim Robertson said the Mayor has been working with city Directors, the Administration and City Council to move forward with additional ARPA projects that he has based off of immediate needs and Council's ARPA recommendations. There were several 2022 projects that were rolled over to 2023. This is the next round of funding projects the Mayor recommends. She said she has two meetings with the ARPA consultants (Anser) this week and they are working with her to make sure our reporting is current. She said she provided all of our projects thus far and they are already throwing things out to us, so this is a work in progress. The projects we have already started, we are making sure our reporting is correct for those. She said we will get the details when we have our kick-off call to be sure everyone knows their roles. Dan Hevner, Deputy Business Administrator, has been set up as the contact for the city to make sure we are working as a team and are on the same page. We are on our way to having our reporting all caught up and we have started the process of determining eligibility and making sure our T's are crossed and I's are dotted. We are aware that this next bunch of recommendations for ARPA expenditures is at Council's discretion.

Councilwoman Buckingham said she would feel much more comfortable meeting with Anser, our ARPA consultant before moving forward.

Vice President Washington asked how much for ShotSpotter.

Lt. Dan Lentz, Police Dept., said it's approximately \$205,000 for the first year for about 2 square miles.

President Walker said she has made it clear that she too would like to meet with Anser. She said we haven't received any updates on the ARPA process so the consultant will be able to give us an update. We'll set up an informational meeting with Anser very soon.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said with ShotSpotter, there is question as to where they would be installed and there was discussion on the boundaries that requires further discussion. He asked if there would be another opportunity to discuss this. He said he would like to see that we make sure this is programmatic. He said stakeholders should be notified about this ShotSpotter system and given an opportunity to provide public testimony.

President Walker said we'll have meetings with Anser and when and if ShotSpotter or any other ARPA funded project comes up for consideration, discussion will be had before Council votes on any legislation on expenditures.

Councilwoman Buckingham said that a probationary period was discussed during the Think Tank.

Commissioner Muldrow said they are committed that before any roll out, that we continue to work with the Think Tank before developing policy and continue to meet quarterly.

Councilwoman Buckingham said she was part of the Think Tank and she felt it was important to hear the community so we understand where there community stands on this.

Regina Mitchell, York Housing Authority, CONE, again requested funding to help with removing the contaminated dirt at Thackston Phase II project site and for costs for drywall. The contaminated soil has

become an issue and they cannot make their deadline unless the soil is removed in a timely manner. She said within the next 30 days, we will be occupying units but on the south side we cannot get completion until we identify funding for the contaminated soil and drywall which is about \$450,000 with \$350,000 for removal of the contaminated soil and \$100,000 for drywall. We cannot remove the soil except to a regulated site. She again asked for Council's consideration in providing that gap funding so that we can continue to service the housing needs of our residents. (Note: Ms. Mitchell attended Council's 11/30/22 meeting requesting ARPA funding to remove contaminated soil and for drywall. Click [here](#) to read the minutes of the 11/30/22 committee meeting.)

Ryan Brinkerhoff, resident, said he found that ShotSpotter is at best a controversial system and he discussed some case studies. There was an increase in 911 calls and to police departments because of baseless alarms. He said there was no data verification for the system. Results were not attributed to ShotSpotter but was a result of a variety of factors so there is no data to back up the product ShotSpotter is selling. He said he agrees with Mr. Gomez that there is a need for further public discussion. He said there are better options that we can explore to help our city instead of sending our money to a for-profit company.

Ron Keefman, ShotSpotter, said the report discussed by Mr. Brinkerhoff was done by college students. He said they have had outside analysis done by individuals with Ph.D.'s and there was not a large number of false positives. He said there is a guarantee of performance of 25 meters with 99% accuracy. We are in over 140 cities which speaks volumes. They realize that ShotSpotter gets public safety to respond which saves lives and engages immediate neighborhoods which leads to community trust. We have the data to support our guarantee.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said there was a high-profile shooting that was missed by ShotSpotter, so the question was raised as to how this was missed. He said they noted in the service agreement about when ShotSpotter's are calibrating it cannot distinguish between fireworks and gunshots. So, keep that in mind. We need to lead with our expectations. What is the anticipated timeframe for us here in York and how long will it take to meet that threshold of accuracy. Service level agreements - what does it mean for us. He then referenced ShotSpotter failures reported in Durham, NC. situation. He said he has spoken to some law enforcement in other jurisdictions and accuracy doesn't seem to be much of an issue with ShotSpotter. So, understand what you are purchasing and what is being offered. Some of our previous concerns are morphed into other things.

Mr. Keefman responded that the artificial intelligence's main function is to field out those sounds that do not match the acoustics. He said gunfire is rather linear. He said he doesn't know what took place in Durham. He said the gunfire may have been missed if it was during the period of calibration. We don't guarantee gunfire under 25 calibers, or anything shot indoor or in a vehicle because it may be suppressed. He said the calibration period will be discussed with the city fully before we would go live. In that build up phase, a policy will be developed, and training will take place.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said he thought he would be aware of what happened in Durham so that it serves as a guide. He asked what is the opinion of reclassifying data from ShotSpotter. You seem to rely on the artificial intelligence and other times you move that discussion to your trained ears and burn both ends of the rope. What do you rely on, he asked.

Mr. Keefman said there are strict guidelines that machine filtration takes first then human interaction for review. We also use forensic experts. He went on to describe how ShotSpotter processes its data through training, technology, and time. Adding a human layer best serves our customers.

Commission Muldrow thanked Mr. Keefman of ShotSpotter for being here to answer questions. He said he was originally not a fan of the product. What ended up selling him is the difference between now and 16 years ago. Sixteen years ago, when we paid all that money for ShotSpotter, it was a recording device that sat in our station, when triggered, an officer would run back to the office, listen to the call, and

determine what the sound was and then dispatch patrol. It was a complete waste of money. There are now professionals and artificial intelligence that is determining the data which is a huge improvement from 16 years ago. This is one more tool to make our community safer. He thanked Mr. Gomez for his comments and for his participation in discussions on ShotSpotter.

Michael Walker, resident, said in 2021 there was a report by the Chicago Inspector General questioning the operational value of ShotSpotter. Do you have a formal response to that report, and can you provide a link so we can review that. He then discussed a report on a gentleman named Michael Williams who was jailed based on ShotSpotter. The 2021 report questioned transparency, methodology and how that information is used in investigations. The transparency of how this technology is used in criminal investigations comes into question. He said lives are being affected by this particular system. Demographically it's instituted in communities of color, so we need to be sure this technology and program is fair and unbiased.

Mr. Keefman said we can send a written statement to the Council as we do have a response available. What ShotSpotter does is determine what is gunfire so that we can have a public safety response to save lives. ShotSpotter will tell the police what, when and where. We don't conclude the who or why. So, the Michael Williams case our data did not concur with the prosecutor and Mr. Williams was eventually released. He said their system is found in areas where there is high crime and that happens to be high in areas including communities of color, and those areas underserved and unprotected.

Michael Walker said one of the critical issues is in reviewing the Michael Williams case was there being the presence of a particular gun in that particular vicinity. He said he believes that's what ShotSpotter confirmed, which led to Mr. Williams' arrest. These alerts need to be true and specific enough that everyone in that neighborhood isn't being pulled into the pool.

Mr. Keefer said he believes the York City Police Dept will adhere to the law and constitutional rights. There are a lot of factors in place including probable cause, evidence, and intelligence.

Commissioner Muldrow said the detection of gunshots are now determined in two ways, phone calls from residents that heard shots, or our officers who are familiar with weapons and hear what we think is a gunshot and we get on the radio and report it for dispatch. So those are our two ways now of detecting shots. If we are satisfied with that in 2023 as detecting gunfire, that's what it will be.

Ryan Brinkerhoff, resident, said ShotSpotter paid someone to make report so it's not unbiased. He said he is looking forward from the response by ShotSpotter.

**DECISION:** Members of Council will meet with Anser, the city's ARPA consultant, for recommendations on how to move forward with ARPA funding and projects.


---


III. Council Comment: None

IV. Administration Comment: None

V. Next Committee Meeting **March 1, 2023** in Council Chambers. Committee agenda items due by 12 noon on 2/22/23.

VI. Adjournment: There being no further discussion, the January 25, 2023 committee meeting of Council adjourned at 7:33 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandie Walker, President of Council