

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

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MINUTES January 17, 2023 6:00 p.m.

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FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofYorkPA/>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WhiteRoseCommunityTV>.

2023 MEETINGS: Click [here](#) to view 2023 Council Meetings Dates

CALL TO ORDER: President Walker called the January 17, 2023, 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, 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; Joe Jefcoat, Treasurer; William Sleeper, Fire Chief; and Jason Sabol, Assistant Solicitor.

City Council staff in attendance: Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

I. Public Comment:

Ryan Brinkerhoff discussed parking issues during construction in his neighborhood. He said the neighbors are on edge with their parking because they never know when the construction is going on and they are afraid of getting parking violations. He asked that the construction contractor provide better signage as to when they'll be working because to shut down parking for weeks at a time is creating a problem for the neighborhood.

Franklin Williams stated that he reached out to Lettice Brown who spoke at Council's [1/3/23](#) meeting about the proposed warehouse to be built on Pennsylvania Ave. He said a Facebook page has since been created to inform residents about the project. He then discussed the proposed 2023 budget process and areas that he felt were not handled appropriately.

Marie Rohleder said many residents attended several meetings for the Strategic Comprehensive Plan and the College Ave gym and said she feels her time was wasted and that Council and the Administration did not do an adequate job of coordinating what was going on.

There being no more discussion, the public comment period adjourned at 6:15 PM.

II. Call Legislative meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

III. Roll Call

- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 3, 2023](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and approved them unanimously as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements:
 - ▶ **Wayfinding Signage Project:** Brief presentation by Jonathan Desmarais, Director, Downtown Inc, on wayfinding signage in Downtown York. Click [here](#) to view presentation.
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - ▶ **Committee Meeting:** The next Council committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on January 18th.
 - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 1st.
- 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, Ordinance No. 2 - A Bill
 Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (Amending the [FY2023](#) City Budget for Housing Services' Community Development Block Grant budget reflecting updates of additional actual rollover funding amounts in the Rehabilitation program in the amount of \$164,661.93.)
 Introduced by: Edquina Washington
 Originator: Economic & Community Development | BHS

 Final Passage of Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1, Session 2023, A Bill Amending the [FY2023](#) City Budget for Housing Services' Community Development Block Grant budget reflecting updates of additional actual rollover funding amounts in the Rehabilitation program in the amount of \$164,661.93, which was introduced by Washington at the January 7th 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.
2. Final Passage of Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 2 - A Bill
 Amending the FY2022 Budget. ([View](#)) (Amending the [FY2022](#) City Budget for the Public Works Department to account for revenue and expenses associated with the property at 1601 Toronita Street in the amount of \$138,201.25.)
 Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
 Originator: Public Works

 Final Passage of Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 2, Session 2023, A Bill Amending the [FY2022](#) City Budget for the Public Works Department to account for revenue and expenses associated with the property at 1601 Toronita Street in the amount of \$138,201.25, which was introduced by Dennis at the January 3rd meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Dennis, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 2, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

Introduction of Bills

3. Introduction of Bill No. 3 - A Bill
Increasing the salary of the City Treasurer. ([View](#)) (\$50,000 effective January 2024)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Treasurer

Introduction of Bill No. 3, Session 2023, A Bill increasing the salary of the City Treasurer to \$50,000 effective January 2024, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the February 7th meeting of Council.

Items for consideration of consent agenda

Motion to consider consent agenda. A motion was made by Rivera, seconded by Buckingham, to consider agenda items 4-6 as a consent agenda.

President Walker asked if Council requests to pull any items from the consent agenda. No items were requested.

President Walker asked if there was any Council, Administration, or public comment on the consent agenda items. There was none.

Motion to approve consent agenda. A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Buckingham, to approve consent agenda items 4-6. The motion PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

4. Resolution No. 2 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 2, Session 2023, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in authorizing certificates of appropriateness for work to be covered in the applications filed by Joe Musso for work to be done at 141 E. Clarke Ave., and Scott Hartzel for work to be done at 316-320 N. George St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda of Council.

5. Resolution No. 3 - A Resolution
Appointing probationary firefighters. ([View](#)) (E. Keller, B. Garland, A. Jackson, J. Daryman, C. Lease, Z. Stough, & L. Love)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor | Fire/Rescue

Resolution No. 3, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the appointment of the following as probationary firefighters: Erik Keller, Barry Garland, Andrew Jackson, Jacob Daryman, Coby Lease, Zeb Stough, and Logan Love was approved unanimously by consent agenda of Council.

6. Resolution No. 4 - A Resolution
Authorizing a budget transfer. ([View](#)) (For additional electric utility expenses)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 4, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing a budget transfer for the Department of Public Works to cover additional electric utility expenses was approved unanimously by consent agenda of Council.

XI. Council Comment:

President Walker said there was a resident that reached out to her and asked about the paving on George St. She said there are concerns about manholes and why the manholes weren't done prior to paving and why the manholes were not leveled. She said she would send this concern to the administration and will also ask the administration about the parking concerns brought up during public comment.

President Walker then responded to comments made by Mr. Williams during public comment about the budget process. She said if we are spending ARPA funds, we have to do our due diligence.

President Walker also responded to the comment made by Ms. Rohleder during the public comment. She said your concerns about the Comp Plan should be directed to the administration. She said staff turnover and vacancies have been creating delays in some city processes and she thought that when Council repealed the residency, it would help solve the hiring problems, but it has not.

Lastly, President Walker applauded all organizations who held Dr. Martin Luther King ceremonies and said it was good to see people in person again.

Councilman Rivera asked Acting Business Administrator Kim Robertson if she has seen more people applying for positions since the residency has been repealed.

Acting BA Robertson responded that she would have to consult with Human Resources but in general they have been able to fill some positions that have been lingering on for a while. But of the applications they are reviewing now, she said they are all city residents. She said she thinks we are successful in getting applications; however, skills set is another issue.


Acting BA Robertson then responded to President Walker's comment about manholes. She said the utility that is doing the construction is who is responsible for getting the manholes back into correct position.

XII. Administration Comment: None

XIII. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for 6:00 PM on February 7, 2023. There being no further business, the January 17, 2023 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:40 PM.



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Sandie Walker, President of Council