

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 September 19, 2023 6:00 p.m.

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

I. Called Public Hearing to Order at 6:00 PM.

Council in attendance: Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Lou Rivera, Edquina Washington, Vice President and Sandie Walker, President, with President Walker presiding.

Administration in attendance: Dave Rudolph, Electrical Bureau, and Traffic Safety Committee member; Sgt. John Reisenweber, Police Dept., and Traffic Safety Committee member; Kim Robertson, Acting Business Administrator; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

President Walker explained that tonight's public hearing is to receive public testimony on the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) in denying designation of a Residential Parking Permit Area for Creston Rd. She explained the rules of the public hearing and that Council will vote on the TSC's recommendations during tonight's legislative agenda. See agenda item #9. (Click [here](#) to view documents)

Sgt. John Reisenweber, TSC, said Residential Parking Permit Areas is found in [Article 516](#) of the Codified Ordinances, and lays out the rules and procedures designating and enforcing RPPA's and how to manage them. He briefly explained the process to request an RPPA. He described the area for the request, which is Creston Rd., and stated that the TSC held a public hearing, with only two residents in attendance who made comments. He said that those residents agreed that the parking concern is only affecting one end of Creston Rd. and not the whole block. Sgt. Reisenweber explained that a resident on Rathton Rd. was parking several cars on Creston Rd. which is why a resident petitioned for an RPPA. However, the residents of Creston Rd. didn't support it and we therefore recommended the request be denied.

Dave Rudolph, TSC, said he rode this route at night and early in the morning and he never saw an issue with parking because most residents have off-street parking.

Sgt. Reisenweber said there is a lack of an overall issue affecting the whole area. An RPPA designation would require all residents to obtain and pay for parking permit and we didn't want to do that to them especially when the evidence didn't support it.

President Walker asked if there was any Council, Administration, or public comment. There was none. There being no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

II. Public Comment called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Franklin Williams, resident, said he had cataract surgery a few months ago and it has helped him tremendously. He said if you are over 20 years old, please have an eye checkup regularly because you won't know if you're developing glaucoma until you start losing your vision, so you want to catch it early. He said the surgery was a breeze.

There being no further comment, President Walker adjourned the public comment session at 6:10 p.m. and immediately convened in legislative session.

Council in attendance: Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Lou Rivera, Edquina Washington, Vice President and Sandie Walker, President, with President Walker presiding.

Administration in attendance: Dave Rudolph, Electrical Bureau; Sgt. John Reisenweber, Police Dept.; Kim Robertson, Acting Business Administrator; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

III. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:10 p.m.

IV. Roll Call

V. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VI. Moment of Silence was observed.

VII. Action on previous meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023. Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VIII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements: None

IX. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 20th.

► **Legislative Meeting:** Scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 27th.

X. Status of Prior Committee Referrals: No reports.

XI. 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. 48, Ordinance No. 47 - A Bill Amending the FY2023 Budget. (View) (By appropriating revenue/expenditures for CDBG/HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to the Queen St. Project and budget edits with reconciliation with HUD system)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Final Passage of Bill No. 48, Session 2023, A Bill amending the 2023 budget by appropriating revenue and expenditures for CDBG/HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to the Queen St. Project and budget edits with reconciliation with HUD system, which was introduced by Washington at the September 5, 2023 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 48 came up for discussion.

Richard Miller, Affordable Housing Advocates, said this project is much needed in this section of Queen St., which sits directly across from former Hess gas station. He said they are looking to build a three-bedroom, one bath house with a garage. He said he thinks this will be a catalyst to push other renovation projects forward.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 48, Ordinance No. 47, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 49, Ordinance No. 48 - A Bill Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue/expenditures for the Immunization & Vaccines grant in the amount of \$50,000.00)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Final Passage of Bill No. 49, Ordinance No. 48, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023 Budget by appropriating revenue/expenditures for the Immunization & Vaccines grant in the amount of \$50,000.00, which was introduced by Washington at the September 5, 2023 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 49, Ordinance No. 48, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 50, Ordinance No. 49 - A Bill Amending the FY2023 City Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating expenditures from the **American Rescue Plan Act "ARPA"** funds for a Nonprofit Recovery Program for impacted 501(c)3 and 501(c)19 entities located within or provides services within the City of York in the amount of \$1,030,000.00.)
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Business Administration

Final Passage of Bill No. 50, Ordinance No. 49, Session 2023, A Bill amending the 2023 Budget by appropriating expenditures from the **American Rescue Plan Act "ARPA"** funds for a Nonprofit Recovery Program for impacted 501(c)3 and 501(c)19 entities located within or provides services within the City of York in the amount of \$1,030,000.00, which was introduced by Walker at the September 5, 2023 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Walker, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 50 came up for discussion.

Administrator Robertson said this program in general had been introduced by various people within city government and is in full support of the mayor's administration. We have been working with Nona Watson, Director of Economic & Community Development, and Anser Advisory to make this program meets the project eligibility for nonprofits needing additional help because of COVID. She said plan is in place so that we can roll out this program and start awarding grants because we have deadlines approaching for ARPA funding allocations.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said he likes the project when it comes to the disbursement of ARPA funding, but he asked why there weren't any goals. He said the Anser template calls for a minimum of three key performance indicators (KPI's) but wonders if this is the best practice. This almost seems preliminary and will only occur to get the money out. What about outcome-based goals, are they forthcoming. He said the project statement and description are lacking but he has no problem with the project.

President Walker said with the timing we need to get this funding allocated. Our goal is to make sure the Administration is recommending the best projects for the administrative work that Anser is doing but we will rely on the Administration's reasoning. There is nothing that's outcome based so this is something that won't be rushed out.

Councilwoman Buckingham said each program will be verified for income loss to ensure they qualify so this will be more thorough than it appears.

Administrator Robertson said we have one KPI out of three, but the goal is to make these nonprofits be able to provide services. Anser has given us all kinds of additional plans in the background, the rollout of the grant, and the application and criteria for scoring and priority. We are not quite sure yet what kind of turnout we'll have application-wise, but the determination will determine if we have over a million dollars' worth of requests.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 50, Ordinance No. 49, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

4. Final Passage of Resolution No. 84 - A Resolution Establishing fees for Article 1713 "Floodplain Management" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)
(Note: Fee legislation must sit for one meeting; therefore, this Resolution will be considered for passage on or after 9/19/23.)

Final Passage of Resolution No. 84, Session 2023, A Resolution establishing fees in accordance with Article 1713 "Floodplain Management" of the Codified Ordinances, which was introduced by Washington, at the September 5, 2023 meeting, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, and came up for discussion.

City Clerk Dianna Thompson explained that she worked with the City Planner Nancy Griffin and MS4 Coordinator Lettice Brown to establish fees for Article 1713 as no fees were previously established. The City Clerk said she researched various other municipalities' fees and established fees that would best suit this article.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 84 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

5. Final Passage of Resolution No. 85 - A Resolution Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: HARB
(**Note:** A motion to remove from the table will need to be made prior to consideration of final passage.)

Motion to remove from table. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, to remove Resolution No. 85 from the table for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Final Passage of Resolution No. 85, Session 2023, a motion accepting the recommendations of HARB in approving an application for work to be done at 213 S. Pine St., which was introduced by Buckingham at the September 5, 2023 meeting and read at length, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 85 came up for discussion.

President Walker said she had an opportunity to see the property and the proposed improvements. To give a brief background, President Walker said HARB approved the

applicants request to install vinyl windows at the rear of the property but denied installing them at the front of the property.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said he supports installation of these vinyl windows at the front of the house, and he hopes the best for the homeowners.

Franklin Williams, resident, said he listens to HARB's meeting. He doesn't understand how the previous Council and Administration wanted to put that section of Pine St. block in the historic district. He said he would like to see assistance for the homeowner to help with costs to do renovations. He said he believes this was considered in the past, but nothing came of it. HARB doesn't have the final say, Council does. He explained the process of the Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission and said the processes are similar.

Motion to amend. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to amend the resolution to include the following language: BE IT FURTHER, that Council hereby approves installation of vinyl windows on the front of the property as submitted by the applicant in the original application. She said this will allow installation of vinyl windows in both the front and rear of the house. The motion to amend PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 85, as amended, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

Introduction of Bills/Resolutions

6. Introduction of Bill No. 51 - A Bill
Amending the 2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (In the amount of \$613,209.00 for MNOA for Fund 50 for purchase of new fire apparatus)
Introduced by Edquina Washington
Originator: Fire/Rescue

Introduction of Bill No. 51, Session 2023, A Bill amending the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$613,209.00 for monies not otherwise appropriated for Fund 50 for the purchase of fire apparatus, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the October 3, 2023 meeting of Council.

7. Resolution No. 90 - A Resolution
Amending fees for Article 1761 of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (Click [here](#) to view Article 1761)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Permits/Inspections)
(**Note:** Fee legislation must sit for at least one meeting. Therefore, this resolution will be considered for final passage on or after 10/3/23)

Introduction of Resolution No. 90, Session 2023, A Resolution amending fees for Article 1761 "Licensing and Inspection of Tenant Occupied Residential and all Institutional Occupancies" of the Codified Ordinances, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and deferred to the October 3, 2023 meeting of Council.

8. Resolution No. 91 - A Resolution
Amending fees for Article 1730. ([View](#)) (Click [here](#) to view Article 1730)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Permits/Inspections)
(**Note:** Fee legislation must sit for at least one meeting. Therefore, this resolution will be considered for final passage on or after 10/3/23)

Introduction of Resolution No. 91, Session 2023, A Resolution amending fees for Article 1730 "Foreclosure Property Registry and Maintenance" of the Codified Ordinances, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and deferred to the October 3, 2023 meeting of Council.

Creston Rd. Resolution

9. Resolution No. 92 - A Resolution Considering the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee in denying a Residential Permit Parking Area. ([View](#)) (For Creston Rd.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Traffic Safety Committee
(Note: A public hearing was held this evening, September 19, 2023 at 6PM in Council Chambers to received testimony on said request. Please see Section I of these minutes for hearing testimony.)

Resolution No. 92, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the Traffic Safety Committee's recommendation to DENY a Residential Permit Parking Area for Creston Rd., was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 92 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

Supplemental Agenda

10. Resolution No. 93 - A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to sign a York Wayfinding Signing Agreement. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor's Office
(**Note:** A motion to waive Rule 215 and include as part of the consent agenda will need to be approved.)

Motion to waive Rule 215. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded Washington, to waive Rule 215 to consider a supplemental agenda containing one item. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 93, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a York Wayfinding Signing Agreement, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 93 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

Motion to consider consent agenda. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to consider agenda items 11-18 as a consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

President Walker asked if Council wishes to pull any items from the consent agenda.

President Walker asked to pull agenda items 11, 14, and 18. She said agenda item #12 was pulled at the Controller's request as the contract has not been finalized.

President Walker asked if there was any Council, Administraiton or public comment on agenda items 13, 15, 16 and 17. There was no comment or discussion.

Motion to approve consent agenda. A motion was made by Rivera, seconded by Washington, to approve agenda items 13, 15, 16 & 17, the motion to approved PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis,

11. Resolution No. 94 - A Resolution Appointing Kimberly Robertson as Business Administrator. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor
(**Note:** Council, letters of support are included in your agenda packets.)

Resolution No. 94, Session 2023, A Resolution appointing Acting Business Administrator Kimberly Robertson as Business Administrator, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 94 came up for discussion.

President Walker stated that Council is in receipt of several letters of support for Ms. Robertson's appointment. She said Council appreciates the time each person has taken to express your support. She said the past two years were rough because of COVID, and Ms. Robertson adjusting to filling multiple roles and she thanked her for filling in the gap. We still don't have an HR Director and we need to get that filled to relieve Ms. Robertson of those additional duties. She thanked Ms. Robertson for balancing the conversations between the administration and Council.

Manuel Gomez, resident, thanked Ms. Robertson for serving in this liaison capacity between the administration and Council.

Franklin Williams, resident, said he doesn't know what to add and he agrees with the positive sentiments, and he supports Ms. Robertson's appointment.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 94 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

Business Administrator Kim Robertson said she is humbled by the outpouring of support, and she is pleased to hear that she's appreciated. She said we are family, and we are working together to make our community better.

12. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement for legal services for the City Controller's Office. ([View](#)) (Gawthrop Greenwood, PC)
Introduced by: Lou Rivera
Originator: Controller

13. Resolution No. 95 - A Resolution Approving the preliminary/final land development submitted by Wire Mesh Products. ([View](#)) (501 E. King St. for an addition to existing bldg.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 95, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the preliminary/final land development submitted by Wire Mesh Products for 501 E. King St. for an addition to an existing building, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

14. Resolution No. 96 - A Resolution Approving the preliminary/final subdivision and land development plans submitted by WellSpan York Hospital Surgical & Critical Care Tower. ([View](#)) (1001 S. George St. – to combine parcels & construct new tower in place of Ketterman bldg.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington

Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 96, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the preliminary/final subdivision and land development plans submitted by WellSpan York Hospital Surgical & Critical Care Tower for 1001 S. George St. to combine parcels & construct a new tower in place of the Ketterman building, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Resolution No. 96 came up for discussion.

Request to abstain. President Walker requested to abstain as she serves on the WellSpan Central Region Board. A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Rivera, to authorized President Walker's abstention. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington - 4; Nays - 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 96 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington - 4; Nays - 0; Abstain - Walker - 1.

15. Resolution No. 97 - A Resolution Approving the preliminary/final land development plan submitted by the Children's Aid Society. ([View](#)) (Parcel 84 - W. Poplar St. - to construct group home/day care bldg. with play area and parking lot) Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 97, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the preliminary/final land development plan submitted by the Children's Aid Society for Parcel 84 - W. Poplar St. - to construct a group home/day care building with play area and parking lot, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

16. Resolution No. 98 - A Resolution Approving the preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of York. ([View](#)) (218-22- N. Pine St. - to combine parcels into one) Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 98, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of York for 218-22- N. Pine St. to combine parcels into one, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

17. Resolution No. 99 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Fire Line Equipment. ([View](#)) (For purchase of ladder truck and engine - \$2,446,780.00) Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Fire/Rescue

Resolution No. 99, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Fire Line Equipment for purchase of ladder truck and engine in the amount of \$2,446,780.00, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

18. Resolution No. 100 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the York City School District. ([View](#)) (Part-time School Resource Officer for 7/1/23-7/30/24 - \$75,000) Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police
Requests for Future Meetings

Resolution No. 100, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the York City School District for a part-time School Resource Officer (SRO) for the period of 7/1/23 - 7/30/24 in the amount of \$75,000.00, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 100 came up for discussion.

Request to abstain. President Walker and Councilwoman Dennis requested to abstain as they are both employed by the York City School District. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Rivera, to authorize said abstentions. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Buckingham, Rivera, Washington - 3; Nays - 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 100 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Buckingham, Rivera, Washington - 3; Nays - 0; Abstain - Dennis, Walker - 2.

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Washington said she had a chance to drive around with the Public Works staff to see the pavilions in our city parks. She said they are all absolutely beautiful.


XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for October 3, 2023 at 6PM in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the September 19, 2023 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:57 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