

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 5, 2023 6:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Walker called the August 15, 2023, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: 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; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

Pamela Clayton, resident, said she is a 47-year resident and taxpayer. She presented colored pictures of properties that have weeds overgrown along the curb and overgrown trees. She then talked about 455 S. George St., which is a vacant property, and stated that kids are playing in it and a tree is growing inside the house. Lastly, she talked about the former Hess gas station that has been vacant for years. She said it looks terrible. She asked who owns it and who can take care of it.

President Walker said she will forward Ms. Clayton's complaints to the Codes dept.

Vice President Washington said a few years ago, the city planted those trees and there was an agreement that the city would take care of those trees. There was discussion about cutting down the trees, but no written agreement was made so we're not sure who would be authorized to cut them down or trim them.

There being no further discussion, President Walker adjourned the public comment session at 6:05 p.m. and immediately convened in legislation session.

II. Call Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:05 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of August 15, 2023. Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements: None
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:00PM in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 13th.
 - ▶ **Public Hearing** - Scheduled for September 19, 2023 at 6PM in Council Chambers to receive public testimony on a request for a Residential Permit Parking Area (RPPA) for Creston Rd.
 - ▶ **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 6:00PM in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 20th.
- 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. 46, Ordinance No. 45 - A Bill
Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (ARPA - \$200,000 for LifePath Christian Ministries)
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Final Passage of Bill No. 46, Ordinance No. 45, Session 2023, A Bill amending the 2023 budget by allocating ARPA funding in the amount of \$200,000 to LifePath Christian Ministries, which was introduced by Walker at the August 15 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Walker, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 46, Ordinance No. 45, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 47, Ordinance No. 46 - A Bill
Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Year 1 funding received from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for a grant of Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (Federal 21.027 CG) funds for the Law Enforcement Support Initiative, in the amount of \$488,910.00.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Final Passage of Bill No. 47, Ordinance No. 46, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023 Budget by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Year 1 funding received from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for a grant of Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover (Federal 21.027 CG) funds for the Law Enforcement Support Initiative, in the amount of \$488,910.00, which was introduced by Washington at the August 15 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for discussion.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said we need to have some kind of impact framework where we can weigh the pros, cons and associated risks. He said there seems to be no discussion but there needs to be because we need to be more proactive. He said one misuse will impact your ability

on what to do in the future because when people see it, the community will define it on their own. He said we can do much better on this type of technology.

There being no further discussion, on motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 47, Ordinance No. 46, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

Introduction of Bills/Resolutions

3. Introduction of Bill No. 48 - 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)

Introduction of Bill No. 48, Session 2023, A Bill Amending the FY2023 Budget 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, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the September 19 meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill No. 49 - 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)

Introduction of Bill No. 49, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023 budget by appropriating revenue/expenditures in the amount of \$50,000 for the Immunization and Vaccines grant, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the September 19 meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. 50 - 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

Introduction of Bill No. 50, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023 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, was introduced by Walker, read by short title and deferred to the September 19 meeting of Council.

6. Introduction 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 at least one meeting. Therefore, this resolution will be considered for final passage on or after 9/15/23)

Introduction of Bill No. 84, Session 2023, A Bill establishing fees for Article 1713 "Floodplain Management" of the Codified Ordinances, was introduced by Washington, read by short title,

and deferred to the September 19 meeting of Council.

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 7-11 as a consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

President Walker asked Council if there are any times Council wishes to pull from the consent agenda.

Councilman Rivera requested to pull agenda item #7.

Motion to approve consent agenda items. A motion was made by Rivera, seconded by Dennis, to approved Agenda items 8-11. The motion to approved PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. 85 (TABLED) - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 85, Session 2023, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be covered in the application for work to be done at 213 S. Pine St., was introduced by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, and came up for discussion.

Marcus Wright, Aspen Home Improvements, said they are the contractor for the homeowner. He said they want to install vinyl windows for this property. HARB approved the back side of the home and the front side entry door but said they were not allowed to approve vinyl windows for the front of the house. HARB said they would have to appeal to Council. He said other houses on the block have vinyl windows and he's trying to do the right thing by getting approval from the city. The homeowner wanted to go with the recommendations of HARB but the material they are recommending is so extensive. He said the current windows are in such bad shape and are not energy efficient. He said the windows they want to install are energy efficient and will help make the property look better. They homeowner has plans to upgrade the property and bring it back to its original glory. Mr. Wright said while the homeowner is fixing up their home, it's encouraging other neighbors to do the same.

President Walker asked for pictures, which Mr. Wright provided.

Mr. Wright so none of the structure will change with installation of these windows. He said they are not asking to redesign the home; they just want to make it look better.

Michael Butcher, and Luis Moncada, owners, said they have been renovating the home because the character has been wiped from it. Mr. Butcher said the windows they want to install are identical to the original windows, they are just vinyl. He said it's hard for us to move forward because of HARB's decision to not allow them to use vinyl windows. He said they've done a lot of clean-ups around the neighborhood.

Vice President Washington asked if there will be a color change to the windows. Mr. Butcher so, no.

Councilwoman Buckingham asked if wood windows are behind the storm windows. Mr. Butcher said, yes.

Mr. Butcher said the windows they want to install are efficient, affordable, and come with a long warranty.

Councilman Rivera asked what HARB did not approve.

Mr. Buther said HARB said they have to stick to the rules of what can and cannot be installed on the front of the property. As such, HARB denied their request to install vinyl windows on the front of the house. He said they said if we did not like their decision, to come to Council. They said they were scheduled 3 weeks ago to have these installed.

Motion to table. President Walker said she would like to go look at the windows and would like to table this. Therefore, she made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Dennis and passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0. Therefore, Resolution No. 85 is tabled and will be deferred to the September 19, 2023 Council meeting.

8. Resolution No. 86 - A Resolution Approving the preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by Faith United Church of Christ. ([View](#)) (For the property located at 425 Pacific Ave.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 86, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by Faith United Church of Christ for the property located at 425 Pacific Ave. passed unanimously by consent agenda.

9. Resolution No. 87 - A Resolution Appointing Sandie Walker to the Vacant Property Review Committee. ([View](#)) (To fill the unexpired term of Lou Rivera)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 87, Session 2023, A Resolution appointing Sandie Walker to the Vacant Property Review Committee to fill the unexpired term of Lou Rivera, which term shall expire January 1, 2024 passed unanimously by consent agenda.

10. Resolution No. 88 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Willow Playworks. ([View](#)) (To install a poured in place rubber surface for a new playground at Williams Park)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works (Recreation & Parks)

Resolution No. 88, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Willow Playworks to install a poured in place rubber surface for a new playground at Williams Park at a cost of \$87,190.00. Purchases will be funded by \$26,500 received from a PA American Water grant program and the remaining \$60,690 will be paid using CDBG Funding, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

11. Resolution No. 89 - A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement. ([View](#)) (For joint maintenance and repair services for traffic control devices)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 89, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for joint maintenance and repair services for traffic control devices, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings:

Public Hearing - September 19, 2023 (6PM) - To receive public testimony on the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee for a residential parking permit area for Creston Rd.

XII. Council Comment: None

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next meeting of City Council is scheduled for September 19, 2023, at 6PM in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the September 5, 2023 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:27 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