

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
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MINUTES October 3, 2023 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Walker called the October 3, 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, Business Administrator; Steve Buffington, Building Code Official; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

- I. Public Comment: None
- II. Call Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:01 PM.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [September 19, 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, October 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on October 11th.

► **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on October 18th.

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: None

1. Final Passage of Bill No. 51, Ordinance No. 50 - 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

Final Passage of Bill No. 51, Ordinance No. 50, Session 2023, A Bill amending the 2023 budget in the amount of \$613,209.00 for monies not otherwise appropriated for Fund 50 for purchase of new fire apparatus, which was introduced by Washington at the September 19, 2023 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded Buckingham, Bill No. 51, Ordinance No. 50 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

2. Final Passage of 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)

Final Passage 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, which was introduced by Washington at the September 19, 2023 meeting of Council, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 90 came up for discussion.

BCO Buffington said this will allow us to slowly increase costs that have not been increased since 2012 and that costs have drastically increased since that time. He said if we periodically make smaller increases, it will be much easier for property owners and tenants to sustain.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 90 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of 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)

Resolution No. 91, Session 2023, A Resolution amending fees for Article 1730 “Foreclosure Property Registry and Maintenance” of the Codified Ordinances, which was introduced by Washington at the September 19, 2023 meeting of Council, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Resolution No. 91 and came up for discussion.

BCO Buffington said this brings our fees more in line with other municipalities across the commonwealth. He said this is for properties foreclosed on and are sitting with nothing being done to them. We can reach out to the deed holder that owns the property and require them to do necessary maintenance.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 91 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business/Consideration of Consent Agenda

There was no motion to consider a consent agenda. Therefore, Council considered each item individually.

4. Resolution No. 101 - A Resolution Approving the preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by SpiriTrust Lutheran. ([View](#)) (To subdivide housing from office bldg. at 1050 Pennsylvania Ave.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution 101, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by SpiriTrust Lutheran for work to be done at 1050 Pennsylvania Ave., was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Resolution No. 101 came up for discussion.

Craig Smith, RGS Associates, said this plan is straightforward. He said there will be about two acres that will retain the cottages and one acre that will subdivide the current office building. The current office building is underused, so they want to subdivide and sell the property. He said they worked through the comments of the city and Planning Commission.

Bob Rundle, SpiriTrust, said the homes on Kelly Dr. are individual homes and are not part of the subdivision.

Councilman Rivera asked how the proposed warehouse along Pennsylvania Ave. would affect their business.

Mr. Rundle said they are worried about the truck traffic, noise, and safety of the senior residents pulling out onto the roadway, and children walking.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 101 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

5. Resolution No. 102 - A Resolution Accepting the recommendations of HARB in denying an application ([View](#)) (403 E. King St.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 102, Session 2023, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in denying an application for work to be done at 403 E. King St., was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Resolution No. 102 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Buckingham said she drove by the property and stated that anything they do to that property would be an improvement.

President Walker said she also rode by the property and agrees with Councilwoman Buckingham, but the HARB minutes are lacking detail, but reflect that the applicant didn't appear at the HARB meeting. She asked if the applicant could come before HARB in the future.


BCO Buffington, HARB member, said they can come back to HARB. He said the current board is the most reasonable board he's seen in place for a long time. He stated that there are some things that applicants are not allowed to do, and economic issues are something that HARB is not supposed to take into consideration; they have to follow the Secretary of Interior Guidelines. He said if someone doesn't show up to the meeting, and the application doesn't meet the criteria, the application will be denied.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 102 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0. Therefore, Council approved the recommendations of HARB, and the application was DENIED.

- XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None
- XII. Council Comment: None
- XIII. Administration Comment: None
- XIV. Adjournment: The next meeting of City Council is scheduled for October 17, 2023, at 6PM. There being no further business, the October 3, 2023 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:21 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