

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 November 21, 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 November 21, 2023, meeting to order at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham (via telephone), 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; Nona Watson, Director of Economic & Community Development; Dan Hevner, Assistant Business Administrator; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

- I. Public Comment: None
- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of November 8, 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:
 - ▶ **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on November 22nd.
 - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on November 29th.

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. 52 - A Bill
Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (ARPA - \$3,500,000.00 for Affordable Housing & Homeowner Relief programs)
Introduced by: Sandie Walker
Originator: Council (Walker)/Economic & Community Development/Finance

Bill No. 52, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023 budget in the amount of \$3,500,000.00 for Affordable Housing & Homeowner Relief programs, which was introduced by Walker at the November 8 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Walker, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 52 came up for discussion.

President Walker said during the committee meeting she said she wanted to add \$500,000 for veterans' support services but was advised by Assistant Solicitor Flower that she could not amend the Bill tonight because 24 hours public notice needed to have taken place to consider making an amendment.

Marilyn Hake, resident, asked how residents can apply for relief programs and what will be the criteria to qualify.

President Walker said that will be determined by the mayor. She said our consulting firm, Anser Advisory, will be hashing out the details before we offer the program to residents. She said funding is in the 2023 budget and will roll over to 2024.

Motion to table: A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Washington, to table Bill No. 52 until the 12/5/23 meeting. The motion to table passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 53 - A Bill
Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (ARPA - \$550,000.00 for a Blighted Property Reduction Program)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development/Redevelopment Authority

Bill No. 53, Session 2023, President Walker said she has some outstanding questions about the accounting numbers and the blight process, and therefore said she would like to table this Bill until the 12/5/23 meeting.

Motion to table: A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Washington, to table Bill No. 53 until the 12/5/23 meeting. The motion to table passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 54, Ordinance No. 51 - A Bill
Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (\$289,500.00 - Pass through from the County of York for an award from PCCD for a Juvenile Engagement Officer, laptops & school supplies for HACC students)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Final Passage of Bill No. 54, Ordinance No. 51, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023

Budget in the amount of \$289,500.00 for a Pass through from the County of York for an award from PCCD for a Juvenile Engagement Officer, laptops & school supplies for HACC students, which was introduced by Washington at the November 8 meeting of Council, came up for final passage. There being no comment, on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 54, Ordinance No. 51 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

Introduction of Bills

4. Introduction of Bill No. 55 - A Bill
Adopting the FY2024 City Budget. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor/Business Administration

Introduction of Bill No. 55, Session 2023, A Bill adopting the FY2024 Budget (\$69,640,979.00), was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the 12/5/23 meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. 56 - A Bill
Adopting the FY2024 Tax Rate ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor/Business Administration

Introduction of Bill No. 56, A Bill adopting the 2024 tax rate (\$18.97 on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation), was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the 12/5/23 meeting of Council.

New Business

6. Resolution No. 111 - A Resolution
Appointing Madeline Torres Ocasio to the York City Human Relations Commission. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 111, Session 2023, A Resolution appointing Madeline Torres Ocasio as a member of the York City Human Relations Commission to serve until 7/16/26, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 111 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

As Ms. Ocasio was in the audience, the City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to her.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None.

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Washington said Happy Thanksgiving to all and be mindful that it can be a hard time for some individuals so please be kind. She said there are resources available to meet the needs of those in need in our community. She urged residents to check on your neighbors and drop off a meal to someone in need.

President Walker said the 2024 proposed budget is available online. She said Council is in receipt of an email from a citizen with concerns about the 2024 budget and the Wastewater Treatment Plant proceeds. She said she will request a response to those concerns by 11/30/2023 from the mayor.

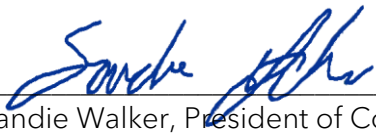
XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of the City Council is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the November 21, 2023, meeting of Council adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer): None



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Sandie Walker, President of Council