

# 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 December 19, 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 December 19, 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, 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; Attorney Lynnette Carter (filling in for Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower).

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

- I. Public Comment: None
- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:00 PM
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of December 5, 2023. Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and approved them unanimously.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements: None
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
  - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The Reorganization meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on December 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - ▶ **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

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. 57. Bill No. 56 - A Bill Amending Article 545 "Public/Private Property Towing" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (To amend fees and update definitions)  
Introduced by: Lou Rivera  
Originator: Council

Final Passage of Bill No. 57, Ordinance No. 56, Session 2023, A Bill amending Article 545 "Public/Private Property Towing of the Codified Ordinances to update fees and include the definition of "salvor" which was introduced by Rivera at the December 5, 2023 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Rivera, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 57 came up for discussion.

Mike Darrah, Darrah's Automotive and Recycling, Inc., said they are looking to get these rates updated since they haven't been updated since 2016. With the increase in fees and fuel, he said it was time to update these prices. He then outlined the towing process and how towed vehicles are stored or disposed of.

Elsbeth Bupp, resident, asked how they came up with the numbers because there are some increases as high as 50%, and if 25% of cars get abandoned, that leaves 75% owned by the public and if they are having distress, then changing the 90 days to 20 days before vehicles are towed might create a hardship. She asked if other tow companies have the same types of expenses and how do we determine who tows.

Mr. Darrah said the 20 days impound before the vehicle is declared abandoned is state law found in Title 75 "Vehicle Code". He said 90 days is hard because the yard gets filled up. As for the rates, there have been no increases since 2016. He said the City of York's tow ordinance fees are the lowest in the state. He said all towers need to be salvors so that was added to the ordinance.

President Walker said in looking at the 90 days being reduced to 20 days, she suggested that we look at that number and maybe come to a compromise.

Mr. Darrah said the storage rate continues throughout, if they can't pick it up in 20 days, by 90 days the bill will be 10 times higher.

President Walker said we should consider if there is a situation that is out of their control but might not be financial.

Mr. Darrah said the 20 days was taken straight from Title 75 "Vehicle Code," which is a state law.

Elsbeth Bupp, resident, asked at what location of cars crushed.

Mr. Darrah said after the abandoned vehicle process, which can take 90 days to a year, it's one year after that before it the vehicle is disposed of as scrap. He said we don't crush vehicles, they get shredded.

Gerald Darrah, Darrah's Automotive and Recycling, Inc., said the abandoned vehicle process is so that we can own it, then it goes through a process to verify they are not stolen. We then send

the vehicle's information to Harrisburg, and they tell the lien holder they have 30 days to clean the car. If they don't come, we file more paperwork with Harrisburg and if the vehicle holds value, we can sell it at auction, which needs to go through advertising. If no one buys it at auction, then the car is ours and we can do what we want with it.

Councilwoman Buckingham said they have 20 days, but the process continues after that, and the owner has additional time to step up.

President Walker said if there are issues that occur from a resident, they can reach out to the police department.

Gerald Darrah said there are two abandoned vehicle police officers for the City of York, and they notify the owner to give them time to address the vehicle before it gets towed.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 57, Ordinance No. 56, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

### Introduction of Bills

2. Introduction of Bill No. 58 - A Bill Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (ARPA - \$1,330,000.00 carryover - Nonprofit Recovery Program) Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration (Finance)

Introduction of Bill No. 58, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2024 budget in the amount of \$1,330,000.00 of ARPA funding for the Nonprofit Recovery Program, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to 1/2/2024 meeting of Council.

### New Business - Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

Motion to consider consent agenda. A motion was made by Rivera, seconded by Dennis, to consider 3-9 as a consent. 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 agenda items from the consent agenda. Councilwoman Buckingham requested to pull agenda item #9.

President Walker asked if there was any Council, Administration or public comment. There was none.

Motion to approve consent agenda items. A motion was motion made by Buckingham, seconded Washington, to approve agenda items 3-8. The motion PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

3. Resolution No. 119 - A Resolution Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#)) Introduced by: Lou Rivera  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 119, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriated for the applications filed for work to be done at 135 W. Philadelphia St., 353 E. King St. 3, and 119 E. Market St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

4. Resolution No. 120 - A Resolution  
Approving the 2024 stated meetings of Council. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: City Council (City Clerk)

Resolution No. 120, Session 2023, A Resolution establishing year 2024 legislative and committee meetings of Council was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

5. Resolution No. 121 - A Resolution  
Approving various appointments. ([View](#)) (K. Watkins to HRC; H. Beard to RDA)  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 121, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the appointment of Kevin Watkins as a member of the York City Human Relations Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of Debra Martinez, which term shall expire July 16, 2024, the appointment of Hanna Beard to the York City Redevelopment Authority to fill the unexpired term of Teen Vabares, which term shall expire April 28, 2026, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

6. Resolution No. 122 - A Resolution  
Authorizing a budget transfer for Public Works. ([View](#)) (For additional electrical expenses)  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 122, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing a budget transfer for Public Works in the amount of \$45,000 to pay for additional electrical expenses was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

7. Resolution No. 123 - A Resolution  
Approving the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligations. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 123, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Firefighter's Pension Fund in the amount of \$4,775,491, the Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$4,343,759, and the Officers & Employees Retirement Fund in the amount of \$1,823,128, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

8. Resolution No. 124 - A Resolution  
Approving a settlement agreement with PA American Water Company. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 124, Session 2023, A Resolution approving a settlement agreement with PA American Water Company, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

9. Resolution No. 125 - A Resolution  
Awarding a contract for Stop Loss insurance. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 125, Session 2023, A Resolution awarding a contract to SunLife for stop loss insurance, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 125 came up for discussion.

Business Administrator Robertson said this is a yearly occurrence as a precaution to cover us from paying high claims and that the insurance will take over and cover the amounts over our cap. She outlined how stop loss insurance is handled. She said requests for proposals are advertised by our broker and normally no one else submits a proposal. However, this year, Sun Life did. Our brokers wanted to give Pareto an opportunity to counter but Pareto declined to counter, so our brokers suggested we go with SunLife.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 125 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker - 5; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Councilwoman Dennis thanked President Walker and Councilman Rivera for their service since this is their last meeting. She said we appreciate the work you have put in and we hope you stay in the loop.

Councilman Rivera said being a public servant is a difficult job. He thanked the City Clerk for all of her hard work throughout the years. He said it was a pleasure working with President Walker. He congratulated Business Administrator Robertson on her new position as BA. He congratulated Elsbeth Bupp for being elected to Council. He outlined the accomplishments of Council throughout his years. He said God has things in store for him and he enjoyed his time.

President Walker said it has been a pleasure to serve the residents and she doesn't take it lightly. She said she has been serving the public for 14 years and she thanked the residents for electing her. She said we take an oath to serve with fidelity and she has been serving since she was 26 years old, and she is now 40 years old. Through the ups and downs and being unable to sleep at night was worth it because she felt she was making the best decisions for the City of York. She thanked all for their support. She said she'll be around because this is her heart. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

City Clerk Thompson spoke kind words of President Walker and Councilman Rivera and said they will be missed.


XIII. Administration Comment

Business Administrator Robertson said she has worked with President Walker since she worked for the city back in 2008. She said it was great to meet Councilman Rivera.

XIV. Adjournment: The Reorganization meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6PM in Council Chambers. There being no further discussion, the December 19, 2023 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:31PM.

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

  
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Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

  
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Sandie Walker, President of Council