

# Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Edquina Washington, President of Council  
Betsy Buckingham, Vice President of Council  
Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Member of Council  
Teresa Johnescu, Member of Council  
Elizabeth Bupp, Member of Council

Dianna L. Thompson-Mitchell, City Clerk  
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## MINUTES January 2, 2024 6:00 p.m.

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Council meetings are streamed LIVE for viewing only on the following social media platforms:

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofYorkPA/>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WhiteRoseCommunityTV>.

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

### CERTIFICATES OF ELECTIONS

The following Certificates of Election were verified and are on file at the York County Bureau of Elections and copies attached to these minutes:

1. Edquina Washington to the Office of York City Council for a term of four years beginning the first Monday of January 2024.
2. Teresa Johnescu to the Office of York City Council for a term of four years beginning the first Monday of January 2024.
3. Elizabeth Bupp to the Office of York City Council for a term of four years beginning the first Monday of January 2024.
4. H. Michael Buckingham to the Office of York City Controller for a term of four years beginning the first Monday of January 2024.
5. Joe Joefcoat to the Office of York City Treasurer for a term of four years beginning the first Monday of January 2024.

### II. Swearing in of Officers – 6:00 PM

City Clerk Thompson administered the oath of office to Councilwomen Edquina Washington, Teresa Johnescu, and Elizabeth Bupp; Controller H. Michael Buckingham; and Treasurer Joe Jefcoat.

### III. CALL TO ORDER: City Clerk Dianna L. Thompson called the January 2, 2024, reorganization meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Elizabeth Bupp, Teresa Johnescu, Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, and Edquina Washington.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

City Council Staff in attendance included: Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk.

- IV. Roll Call
- V. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- VI. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VII. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [December 19, 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:
  - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on January 10th.
  - ▶ **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 17th.
- 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. 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)

Final Passage of Bill No. 58, Ordinance No. 1, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget for ARPA carry over funds in the amount of \$1,330,000.00 for a Nonprofit Recovery Program and administrative services, which was introduced by Buckingham at the December 19 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 58 came up for discussion.

Monica Kruger, Director of Health, asked if there is a schedule for when the outstanding ARPA funds will be expended .

Administrator Robertson said there has been discussions between Council and the administration, but they do not have a specific time frame, but they hope to prepare something by the January committee meeting. She said we need to clean up the allocation and expenditure process.

Councilwoman Washington said we have an ARPA dashboard posted on the city's website, and it's continually updated so, she encouraged residents to take a look. (Click [here](#) to view dashboard)

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 58, Ordinance No. 1, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

**Introduction of Bills:** None

## New Business

2. Resolution No. 1 - A Resolution Adopting the Rules and Procedures of Council. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

Resolution No. 1, Session 2024, A Resolution adopting the Rules and Procedures of Council, was introduced by Washington, and on motion Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 1 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu said that she has noticed that there weren't any reports of committees throughout 2023 and she doesn't know why. She said she looked at the role of committees and its Council's opportunity to meet with Directors to understand what's going on and to report concerns from the public. She said we should shine a light on this and let the community know how the city is working on their behalf. She then asked if introduction of bills should be included in the subpoints. She said it's on the agenda as a topic to cover. She then discussed the consent agenda and said she wishes to do away with that because our residents should hear what's being discussed and have a moment to reflect. She said during her campaign, residents told her they felt nothing was getting done in government. She said if we shine a light on what we're doing, residents will be better informed.

Marilyn Hake, resident, said the consent agenda has a lot of stuff grouped together and it's hard to know what's going on sometimes. She said consent agendas should be used for routine business.

City Clerk Thompson briefly explained the committee structure and that legislative content and information is dispensed to the public using various means.

Councilwoman Buckingham said our meetings can be viewed online, and our agendas are also posted online and have clickable links to legislation under Council's consideration.

Councilwoman Johnescu stated that there are a lot of residents, especially the elderly who do not have cell phones, are not online and don't have access to items posted online and that can be a problem. She said that some items on the committee agenda weren't flushed out during committee. She went on to detail that there were only two Council meetings that ran over an hour with the shortest Council meetings being 9 minutes and 3 minutes with the average meeting for the year being 33 minutes. She said she feels we should have the time to give the citizens of the City of York. She said we'd all like a shorter meeting, but she would like to err on the side of being informative.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if we can change the rules of Council down the road to remove the consent agenda option.

City Clerk Thompson explained that the consent agenda is an option of Council, not a rule. She said Council votes on whether to consider a consent agenda and if the majority votes to consider it, then a consent agenda will be considered. She stated that the Council President will ask if there are any items Council members wish to remove from the consent agenda at which time you are allowed to request items be pulled for further discussion. The public is always given the option to comment on each piece of legislative before Council votes.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 1 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Buckingham, Johnescu, Dennis, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

3. Resolution No. 2 - A Resolution  
Electing a Council President. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

City Clerk Thompson said the floor is open for nominations to fill the position of Council President.

Councilwoman Buckingham nominated Edquina Washington for Council President. The motion was seconded by Dennis. There being no comment from Council or the public, the City Clerk called for the vote.

Councilwoman Johnescu stated she would like to abstain. City Clerk Thompson said you can only abstain if you have a financial interest. Councilwoman Johnescu said Robert's Rules of Order allows for abstention if you feel you don't have enough information to make an informative decision. City Clerk Thompson said you cannot abstain for lack of information and that Councilwoman Johnescu needs to either vote yes or no. Councilwoman Johnescu said she hasn't learned enough about any Council member to select leadership and would therefore have to vote no.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 2 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Buckingham, Dennis, Washington - 4; Nays -Johnescu - 1.

4. Resolution No. 3 - A Resolution  
Electing a Vice President of Council ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

City Clerk Thompson said the floor is open for nominations to fill the position of Council Vice President.

Councilwoman Washington nominated Betsy Buckingham for Council Vice President. The motion was seconded by Dennis.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she would have to vote no for the same reasons previously stated.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 3 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Buckingham, Dennis, Washington - 4; Nays - Johnescu - 1.

5. Resolution No. 4 - A Resolution  
Establishing Council's seating order. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

Resolution No. 4, Session 2024, A Resolution establishing seating order of Council was introduced by Dennis and seconded by Washington. There being no discussion, Resolution No. 4 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Buckingham, Johnescu, Dennis, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

6. Resolution No. 5 - A Resolution  
Establishing voting order. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

Resolution No. 5, Session 2024, A Resolution establishing voting order of Council was introduced by Washington and seconded by Buckingham. There being no discussion,

Resolution No. 5 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

7. Resolution No. 6 - A Resolution  
Establishing committee assignments. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

Resolution No. 6, Session 2024, A Resolution establishing committee assignments of Council was introduced by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, and came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if the liaison to the York County Board of Commissioners should be the Council President since the previous Council President held that role.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she's honored to be the liaison. No members of Council objected.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 6 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

8. Resolution No. 7 - A Resolution  
Establishing the bond for the Treasurer. ([View](#)) (\$5 million)  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

Resolution No. 7, Session 2024, A Resolution establishing the bond for the City Treasurer at \$5,000,000.00, was introduced by Dennis, and seconded by Buckingham. There being no discussion, Resolution No. 7 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

9. Resolution No. 8 - A Resolution  
Establishing the bond for the Controller. ([View](#)) (\$10,000.00)  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: City Council / City Clerk

Resolution No. 8, Session 2024, A Resolution establishing the bond for the City Controller at \$10,000.00, was introduced by Buckingham and seconded by Dennis. There being no discussion, Resolution No. 8 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

XII. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XIII. Council Comment

Councilwoman Bupp said she is proud to have been entrusted by the residents to serve on Council. She read a statement on unity, structure, neighborhood improvement, and working together to get things done. She said we need the public's input. She encouraged residents to get involved and if you don't have a neighborhood association, start one.

Councilwoman Dennis said she is grateful for the former Council and she's excited to serve under the new leadership of President Washington and Vice President Buckingham and is looking forward to working with the new members of Council. She said she hopes we continue to work together. She thanked former Mayor Bracey for her leadership.

President Washington thanked the residents of York for trusting her to serve and said it's an honor to serve our community every single day. She said she is looking forward to a prosperous year and

working together with the Administration and the community in making York City a better place to live, work, play and pray.

XIV. Administration Comment

Administrator Robertson welcomed the new Councilmembers and said she is proud to be a part of the administration and Council combo where we are all women and that should be addressed, and she looks forward to working with this group of women and let's get some stuff done.


XV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers. There being no further business, the January 2, 2024 reorganization meeting of Council adjourned at 6:42 PM.

XVI. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer)

Former Mayor C. Kim Bracey said she couldn't be prouder about this all women leadership and said she's available to help. She congratulated President Washington and Vice President Buckingham on their leadership roles and thanked all for their willingness to serve our community.

Treasurer Joe Jefcoat said on behalf of the males, we're excited to work with you, and we've made a lot of progress over the years, and he looks forward to our growth.

Public comment was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

  
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Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

  
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Edquina Washington, President of Council