

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
Elizabeth Bupp, Member of Council
Teresa Johnescu, Member of Council

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MINUTES March 19, 2024 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the March 19, 2024, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Elizabeth Bupp, Teresa Johnescu, Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President.

Members of the Administration included: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Nona Watson, Director of Economic & Community Development; Blanda Nace, Chief Opportunity Officer; Nancy Griffin, City Planner; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

Chasity Frederick, resident and City Bureau of Health employee, said she had questions about [ARPA Dashboard](#) and it shows that we have \$28 million left and when you hover your mouse over the allocations, it shows a budgeted amount, an obligated amount, and a total expenditure. She asked for clarification and said it's hard to understand the dashboard and she's concerned about us losing funds because the amount of unexpended funds is alarming. She then asked if Council has to approve every dollar allocated and expended for ARPA funds. She said the Bureau of Health applied for ARPA funding but was told funding was not available.

President Washington said the Administration can provide her information about the dashboard and amount of ARP funding remaining.

Attorney Derek Maninfior, CGA Law Firm, said he represents business owner Themis Sacarellos, and stated that he attended Council's [February 6, 2024](#) meeting to express his client's interest in entering into a lease agreement with the City of York for the property located at 1601 Toronita St. Attorney Maninfior submitted to Council a copy of the Letter of Interest he said he provided to city officials. He said there has been some delay and feet dragging in getting responses from the city. He asked if there is any interest in entering into a lease with Mr. Sacarellos. He said we just need some type of response from the city. He said Mr. Sacarellos owns several businesses and has an interest in the economic vitality of the city.

Mr. Sacarellos said the property sits in Manchester Twp but is owned by the City of York. He said

he has developed a lot in that area, which he listed. He is currently redeveloping the former San Carlos Restaurant. He said his offer is solid.

President Washington said she'll be sure the city's administration receives a copy of the letter.

There being no further discussion, President Washington adjourned at 6:09 PM and immediately convened in legislative session.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:09 PM.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024. 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, March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 20th. (Click [here](#) to view agenda)
 - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 27th.
- 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. 4, Ordinance No. 5 - A Bill Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Year 2 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 \$539,802.00)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Final Passage of Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 5, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Year 2 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 \$539,802.00, which was introduced by Washington at the March 5, 2024 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. There being no discussion, on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 5, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 6 - A Bill Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) **{1}**To appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for the Fund 26 Special Projects account for Environmental Lead Investigations in the amount of \$3,500.00; **{2}** To appropriate revenue and expenditures for the intergovernmental agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Projects, in the amount of \$22,481.00; **{3}** To appropriate revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Women’s Health Services, in the amount of \$75,000.00; and **{4}** To appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for the Fund 26 Special Projects – Health account in the amount of \$700.00.)

Introduced by: Edquina Washington

Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 6, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget as follows: **{1}**To appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for the Fund 26 Special Projects account for Environmental Lead Investigations in the amount of \$3,500.00; **{2}** To appropriate revenue and expenditures for the intergovernmental agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Projects, in the amount of \$22,481.00; **{3}** To appropriate revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Women’s Health Services, in the amount of \$75,000.00; and **{4}** To appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for the Fund 26 Special Projects – Health account in the amount of \$700.00, which was introduced by Washington at the March 5, 2024 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. There being no discussion, on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 6, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 7 - A Bill Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) **{1}** Appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for the “Holliday Diversity Luncheon” Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the amount of \$9,999.00; and **{2}** Appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for workforce development trainings and support services in Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the total amount of \$136,000.00.)

Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp

Originator: Human Relations Commission

Final Passage of Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 7, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget as follows: **{1}** Appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for the “Holliday Diversity Luncheon” Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the amount of \$9,999.00; and **{2}** Appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for workforce development trainings and support services in Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the total amount of \$136,000.00, which was introduced by Bupp at the March 5, 2024 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Bupp, seconded by Buckingham, Bill No. 6 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp said this is a luncheon named after Dr. Federick Holliday and you can visit the City Human Relations Commission [website](#) for information on the dinner and other events and services of the YRCHRC.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 7, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

4. Final Passage of Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 8 - A Bill Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating expenditures from the **American Rescue Plan Act “ARPA”** funds for new roofs and generators for several City buildings in the amount of \$3,735,043.00)

Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu

Originator: Mayor

Final Passage of Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 8, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget by appropriating expenditures from the **American Rescue Plan Act “ARPA”** funds for new roofs

and generators for several City buildings in the amount of \$3,735,043.00, which was introduced by Johnescu at the March 5, 2024 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Johnescu, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 7 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu thanked Building Maintenance Superintendent Dave Rudolph for stating the need for roofing replacements and generators and going through the purchasing process and materials. She said he explained that using slate on both City Hall and Police Station roofs will give us a life of 75 years, and that we will not be asked to replace these roofs in our lifetime. She said funding is coming out of the flat amount from COVID losses and not from programs helping people.

Marie Rohleder, resident, said nothing has been said about lighting. She said last year when she first complained about the poor lighting in City Hall's parking lot, she asked about the possibility of adding lighting when they were repairing the roof. She said walking by City Hall in the dark is not fun.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 8, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

Introduction of Bills: None

New Business

5. Resolution No. 24 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 24, Session 2024, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in approving a certificate of appropriateness for work to be covered in the applications filed for work to be done at 316 W. Princess St., and 45-47 N. Duke St., and to deny a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 164 W. Market St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 24 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

6. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution
Approving the preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by Statewide Partners, LLC. ([View](#))
(146-150; 208-236 N. Beaver St. - One lot, multifamily residential & commercial development)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

7. Resolution No. 25 - A Resolution
Approving the preliminary/final land development plan submitted by Apple Service Center. ([View](#)) (1060 Marbrook Ln. & 1128 Roosevelt Ave. - Construction of service center)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 25, Session 2024, A Resolution approving the preliminary/final land development plan submitted by Apple Service Center for construction of a service center at 1060 Marbrook Ln. & 1128 Roosevelt Ave., was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 25 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu said Apple is now owned by Coccia, so would this affect the name on the plan.

Tom Englerth, Site Design Concepts, said the name is not changing and that the owner certification will be signed, and we were told the name remains the same.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 25 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

8. Resolution No. 26 - A Resolution Approving the 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Bureau of Housing Services)

Resolution No. 26, Session 2024, A Resolution approving the 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER), was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 26 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu thanked Bureau of Housing Services Director James Crosby for his presentation during the [committee meeting](#) and said she could spend a considerable amount of time explaining the benefits of this report. She said she was pleased to see all of the things we're getting done.

Councilwoman Bupp said she too appreciates Mr. Crosby's communications and for answering her questions and that she's excited to see the public's comments from the hearings.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 26 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

Requests for committee waiver & action

The following items have been submitted for consideration of waiving the committee requirement to authorize its inclusion for action on tonight's legislative agenda.

Motion to waive committee requirement: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, to waive the committee requirement to permit consideration of agenda item #9. The motion to waive was approved by the following vote: Yeas - Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Bupp - 1.

9. Resolution No. 27 - A Resolution Authorizing a transfer of ARPA funds. ([View](#)) (\$508,728.00 for purchase of 110 new tasers)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Resolution No. 27, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing a transfer of ARPA funds in the amount of \$508,728.00 for the purchase of 110 new tasers for use by the Police Department, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 27 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if we're doing a complete replacement of tasers, what is our current inventory, the age, and what all is included in this \$508,728.

Administrator Robertson said we have 108 officers and 36 tasers. She said the tasers are end of life and when damaged, they have to be fully replaced. The \$508,728 quote is what we'll need for five years. It includes tasers, cartridges, training cartridges, holsters, training, software, holding docks and whatever else we'll need for the 5-year period and then after 5 yrs. we'll need to set up some sort of maintenance agreement. So, this will have our police department set up for 5 yrs.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if there is a written policy on use of tasers. Administrator Robertson said yes, which is why they are required to have them because it's in the general order of the police dept.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if we have to provide a taser to each officer. Administrator Robertson said that would be the best practice because it puts our officers at less risk because you don't know who will have to be the one to use the taser.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if we have any statistics on their use. Administrator Robertson said the general orders of the police dept oversees the equipment and use of weapons. She said she doesn't have statistics, but we are just trying to replenish our stock.

Councilwoman Bupp said she would like to see a written policy on taser use. Administrator Robertson said she would forward her request to Police Administration.

Councilwoman Dennis said she thinks this is a good option because the thing that sticks out to her is what is the less lethal weapon our officers can use to gain control of a subject. She said as we see what's going on across the country with lethal force, having another method to save lives is a better option. She applauded the police department for considering this option.

Councilwoman Bupp said she is for the less lethal method, but she would like to know the statistics to see if we really need tasers.

Councilwoman Dennis said the statistics come into play when we look at the deaths from lethal force.

President Washington said Councilwoman Bupp can contact Police Commissioner Muldrow for more information.

Carolyn Colbert, resident, said she was there when an officer used deadly force on a mental health patient, and she didn't understand why they used lethal force. They did use a taser, but it didn't work on him, but she didn't see the need to use lethal force either. She said the victim's mother told them he had mental health problems and tasing may have no effect, but lethal force was not called for.

Administrator Robertson said Cpt Lentz said beside the recent incident in Spring Garden Twp., there has been no use of deadly force.

Tonoa Sweeney, resident, said it appalls her that someone would suggest having guns instead of tasers. She said anything that can save a life is the option we should take.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 27 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Bupp - 1.

10. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution Authorizing application for DCNR funds. ([View](#)) (Land & Water Conversation Fund Program - \$250,000 with \$125,000 match for design & construction costs associated with the Parks Master Plan) Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works
(**Note:** Council will need to accept and approve a motion to waive the committee requirement prior to acting on this item. If the committee requirement is not waived, this item will be placed on the 3/27/24 committee agenda.)

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

- XII. Council Comment
- XIII. Administration Comment
- XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for April 2, 2024 at 6PM in Council Chambers. There being no further business, President Washington adjourned the legislative session of Council at 6:48 PM and resumed public comment as there was on person wishing to address the Council.
- XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer): Called to order at 6:48PM.

Carolyn Colbert, resident, and member of Recovery House of Worship, 701 W. King St., under Pastor Reggie Hunter. Mr. Colbert said the area around 701 W. King St. is infested with drug activity and that they are there to help the community. She said they have been putting in offers to purchase the property, but the cost is out of their reach. She said their services are expanding because they are working together with other community outreach services. She asked why the city can't help them because they are trying to help the community. She said this area needs their services.

There being no further comments, President Washington adjourned the public comment period at 6:54 PM.



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Edquina Washington, President of Council