

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 April 2, 2024 6:00 p.m.

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>.

2024 MEETINGS: Click [here](#) to view 2024 Council Meetings Dates

CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the April, 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; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

Franklin Williams, resident, thanked Council for reopening public comment at the end of the meeting during the last meeting. He said he appreciates common people speaking from the heart. He spoke about Dequan Williams and said he never knew him, but he knew him from his death, and he thinks about him often. He said on October 17, 2015, on Kelly Dr., Dequan lost his life after being shot by police. He said his mother called 911 and said her son was off his medication and she needed help. He said tasers don't always work and tasers were deployed on Dequan, but they didn't work because he heard he was wearing a heavy vest. He spoke about the case and that the shooting was declared justifiable. He said he couldn't see how it was justified. He then spoke about the church that Ms. Carol Colbert spoke about at the last meeting. He said the building they are using was not taken from them. He said the property changed hands several times.

Manuel Gomez, resident, spoke in support of the residential redevelopment overlay. He said we need to get rid of the capriciousness that defines our city. He said he wants Council to give the procedural nod to the County Planning Commission so we can move the process forward. He said the process is haphazard, and we need to do something. He thanked Councilwoman Dennis for her comment on safety, Councilwoman Johnescu for her questions, and President Washington for pointing out marginalized groups. He urged residents to watch the 3/27/24 committee meeting.

There being no further comment, the public comment session was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:13 PM.

- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [March 19, 2024](#) (legislative); and [March 27, 2024](#). (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements:
- ▶ City Council met in Executive Session on March 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Caucus Room, 101 S. George St., York, PA, to discuss a real estate matter.
 - ▶ Proclamation - Proclaiming April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month ([View](#))
- President Washington read the proclamation.
- Ashlyn Drummond, Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, YWCA, Paula Copeland, and Kim Bracey, YWCA, were in attendance and accepted the proclamation. Ms. Drummond said SAM calls attention to the community that sexual assault impacts everyone in our community. She said we have sexual assault awareness activities throughout the month at the YWCA. She announced several events happening around the community related to sexual assault awareness. Please call 1-800-262-8444 hotline or visit www.ywca.org for more information.
- President Washington thanked the YWCA for all they do for our community.
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
- ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 10th.
 - ▶ **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 17th.
- IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals:
- ▶ **Residential Redevelopment Overlay** - Council discussed at length a proposal to amend Article 1303, Districts, Maps, and Boundaries of the Codified Ordinance, which identify the city's various zoning districts, dimensional requirements, and permitted uses, to establish a Residential Redevelopment Overlay. Jessica Fieldhouse of C.S. Davidson, and the city's Chief Opportunity Officer, Blanda Nace, were in attendance and outlined the legislation. Council requested the legislation remain in committee for further discussion. (Click [here](#) to view proposed legislation)
- 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

Introduction Passage of Bills

1. Introduction of Bill No. 8 - A Bill
Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (Appropriating revenue/expenditures for CDBG and HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from FY2023 budget)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)
Introduction of Bill No. 8, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget by appropriating revenue/expenditures for CDBG and HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from FY2023 budget, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the April 16 meeting of Council.

2. Introduction of Bill No. 9 - A Bill
Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (Appropriating additional revenue/expenditures for a Pocket Park/Outdoor Waiting Area in Fund 26 Special Projects - \$40,000)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Introduction of Bill No. 9, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget by appropriating additional revenue/expenditures for a Pocket Park/Outdoor Waiting Area in Fund 26 Special Projects in the amount of \$40,000, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the April 16 meeting of Council.

3. Introduction of Bill No. 10 - A Bill
Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (Appropriating additional revenue/expenditures for a Raise Your Flag Initiative in Fund 26 Special Projects - \$13,000)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Mayor

Introduction of Bill No. 10, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget by appropriating additional revenue/expenditures for a Raise Your Flag Initiative in Fund 26 Special Projects in the amount of \$13,000, was introduced by Johnescu, read by short title, and deferred to the April 16 meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill No. 11 - A Bill
Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (As follows: (1) Police Department to fund vehicles, security surveillance towers, replacement radios, a golf cart style vehicle, and overtime for the Violence Intervention Team in the total amount of \$621,250.00; (2) Fire Department to fund replacement radios for \$279,000.00; (3) Health Bureau to fund a match to the County of York for the Lead Reduction Program in the amount of \$30,000.00)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Business Administration (Finance)(Police/Fire/Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 11, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget as follows: (1) Police Department to fund vehicles, security surveillance towers, replacement radios, a golf cart style vehicle, and overtime for the Violence Intervention Team in the total amount of \$621,250.00; (2) Fire Department to fund replacement radios for \$279,000.00; (3) Health Bureau to fund a match to the County of York for the Lead Reduction Program in the amount of \$30,000.00, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the April 16 meeting of Council.

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

Motion to consider a consent agenda. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to consider agenda items 5-9 as a consent agenda. Vice President Buckingham requested to pull agenda item #5 from

the consent agenda.

Motion to consider 6-9 as a consent agenda. A motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, to consider agenda items 6-9 as a consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

President Washington asked if there was any Council, Administration, or public comment on consent agenda items. Councilwoman Bupp commented on agenda item #9. See discussion below.

There being no further comment, on motion of Washington, seconded by Bupp, agenda items 6-9 were APPROVED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

5. Resolution No. 28 - A Resolution Appointing members to various boards. ([View](#)) (C. Carden to ZHB; J. Dodson to Civil Service)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 28, Session 2024, A Resolution appointing Corey Carden as a regular member of the Zoning Hearing Board to fill the unexpired term of Elsbeth Bupp, which term shall expire January 1, 2029, and appointing M. Joellen Dodson as a member of the Civil Service Board to serve until the first Monday of January 2026, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 28 came up for discussion.

Ms. Dodson thanked Council for considering her. She said she was told this is a necessary position to be filled. She stated that she has lived here her entire life and she's happy to serve her community and she will make decisions with thought and due diligence.

Mr. Carden said he is excited to be a full-time member on the ZHB.

All yeas. City Clerk swore in applicants.

Council members Washington, Buckingham and Dennis thanked both for their service to the City of York. To learn more about boards/authorities, visit:
<https://www.yorkcity.org/government/authorities-boards-and-commissions/>

City Clerk Thompson administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Dodson and Mr. Carden.

6. Resolution No. 29 - A Resolution Authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds with PA DCED. ([View](#)) (\$1M for neighborhood street improvements to Penn St.)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 29, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing the filling of a proposal for funds with the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development for \$1 million for neighborhood street improvements to Penn St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

7. Resolution No. 30 - A Resolution Authorizing the Director of Public Works to sign a temporary easement agreement. ([View](#)) (For the College Ave. Bridge Project)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 30, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works to sign a temporary easement agreement with the County of York for the College Ave. Bridge Project,

was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

8. Resolution No. 31 - A Resolution Authorizing agreements for roof replacement and generators. ([View](#)) (\$2,476,740 for the roof replacement at City Hall, the Police Station, the Eagle Fire Station, and the roller rink from Garland/DBS, Inc and Ream Roofing; \$1,258,303 for new generators for City Hall and 4 fire stations from Winter Engine-Generator Services, Inc and Lobar Associates)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 31, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing agreements for roof replacement and generators as follows: \$2,476,740 for the roof replacement at City Hall, the Police Station, the Eagle Fire Station, and the roller rink from Garland/DBS, Inc and Ream Roofing; \$1,258,303 for new generators for City Hall and 4 fire stations from Winter Engine-Generator Services, Inc and Lobar Associates, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

9. Resolution No. 32 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. ([View](#)) (For purchase of 110 Tasers - \$508,000)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Resolution No. 32, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of 110 tasers for \$508,000.00, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

Councilwoman Bupp said she is not opposed to tasers. She said she is focused on quantity and if there is an opportunity to save money. She gathered additional information for why it is beneficial for each officer to have their own taser and therefore supports this resolution.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment:

Councilwoman Bupp said the [ARPA dashboard](#) has been updated. Business Administrator Robertson said we are still in the final review process, but it looks much better, and we encourage all to take a look. She outlined some of the updates.

XIII. Administration Comment

Administrator Robertson said the Civil Service Board falls under Business Administration and she's looking forward to working with Ms. Dodson.

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for April 16, 2024 at 6PM in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the April 2, 2024 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:38 PM.

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



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Edquina Washington, President of Council