

# 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  
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## MINUTES January 21, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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2025 MEETINGS: Click [here](#) to view 2025 Council Meetings Dates

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Washington called the January 21, 2025, 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, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President with President Washington presiding. Councilwoman Felicia Dennis teleconferenced into the meeting.

**Members of the Administration included:** Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Capt. Dan Lentz, Police Dept.; Blanda Nace, Chief Opportunity Officer; Michal Shanabrook, Emergency Management; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

### I. Public Comment

Manuel Gomez, resident, spoke about the standing executive order regarding York being a sanctuary city and that it doesn't prevent us locally from cooperating with ICE. He talked about license plate scanners and with these hits may come through showing immigration violations. He said was told it is for information purposes only, but he would like to that in writing. He stated that the talk now is that they will incentivize local government to give up their autonomy and he asked what's the mayor, Council and the police department's intention. He said certain grants may be incentivized and he wants to see on the record what our stance is and are we going to protect our freedom or will we voluntarily become bounty hunters for the Federal government.

Michael Walker, resident, said there were misconceptions stated at a previous Council meeting by two individuals that relocated from Texas. He said York is made up of hard-working residents and crime has gone down because of examples of compassion and leadership every day. He spoke about President Trump's immigration policies and asked if we are ready to protect our immigrant community because doing nothing is not a good option. He asked what is your plan and what is your stance. He said will you stand by and let fear take over or will you protect our immigrant population. He asked Council to refine the Trust Act legislation and asked the mayor to work with Council to get this legislation in place.

There being no further public comment, President Washington adjourned public comment at 6:09 p.m. and immediately convened Council's legislation session.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:09 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 7, 2025](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
  - Proclamation: Proclaiming January 2025 as National Poverty Awareness Month in the City of York, PA. ([View](#)). President Washington read the proclamation and presented it to Robin Rohrbaugh, C.E.O., Community Progress Council (CPC). Ms. Rohrbaugh thanked Council for the proclamation, and she briefly discussed the challenges of poverty and CPC's mission, goals and services to address poverty and teach self-sufficiency. She thanked everyone for their support and for helping them move forward.
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
  - **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on January 22nd.
  - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on January 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)

#### Subdivision/Land Development/HARB:

- 1. Resolution No. 4 - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 4, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 215 S. George St., and 113 S. Pine St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Bupp Resolution No. 4 came up for discussion.

**Motion to amend.** A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, to amend the resolution to include 200 W. Market St., which was omitted from the text of the resolution in error. Assistant Solicitor Flower questioned a possible violation to the Sunshine Act since this wasn't included on the Resolution. City Clerk Thompson stated that it was a mere oversight, but the Resolution provided a link to the HARB minutes which clearly showed HARB's approval of 200 W. Market St. and that it's omission from the text of the Resolution was a typographical error. Assistant Solicitor Flower said she feels that since the link was included and showed HARB's approval of the application, she sees no violation by amending the Resolution to add 200 W. Market St. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, to approve the amendment, which passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 4, as amended, passed by the following vote:  
Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

### Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (For Parks & Recs by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for maintenance, repairs, and improvements to the city's war monuments and sculptures - \$10,097.72)  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: Public Works / Parks & Recreation

Final Passage of Bill No. 1, Ordinance No. 1, Session 2025, A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget for Parks & Recs by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for maintenance, repairs, and improvements to the city's war monuments and sculptures for a grant received from the York County Community Foundation in the amount of \$10,097.72, was introduced by Dennis, read at length, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 1 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu thanked YCCF for their donation and said grants like this allow us to keep money in our coffers for other uses.

Councilwoman Bupp echoed Councilwoman Johnescu's statement and asked if these are new accounts.

Business Administrator Robertson said yes, and the accounts were specially created for this type of grant funding.

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

### New Business – Introduction of Bills: None

### New Business

3. Resolution No. 5 - A Resolution Adopting the York County 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Dept. of Emergency Management

Motion to read by short. A motion was made by Buckingham, second Washington, to read Resolution No. 5 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 5, Session 2025, A Resolution adopting the York County 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 5 passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington -5; Nays -0.

4. Resolution No. 6 - A Resolution Authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds. ([View](#)) (For a grant in the amount of \$100,700.00 for the Green Light-Go grant through PennDot, with 20% local match of \$20,140.00, to upgrade equipment in the controller cabinets for US Route 30 intersections)  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration (Grant for Public Works)

Resolution No. 6, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing the filing of a proposal for funds for a grant in the amount of \$100,700.00 for the Green Light-Go grant through PennDot, with 20% local match of \$20,140.00, to upgrade equipment in the controller cabinets for US Route 30 intersections, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 6 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp asked who wrote the grant.

Business Administrator Robertson said the Public Works team worked on this, but it's more of an application than a grant writing piece. She said money was budgeted to do this project but if we get this grant, we can get all intersections upgraded and we can use some of that money for our match.

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

5. Resolution No. 7 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Wagman Construction. ([View](#)) (For preconstruction consulting services and construction management services, and an ARPA Funding Addendum, in the amount of \$35,000.00 for seven months of preconstruction services.)  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Community & Economic Development

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, second Johnescu, to read Resolution No. 7 by short title. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 7, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Wagman Construction for preconstruction consulting services and construction management services for the Sylvia Newcombe Center, and an ARPA Funding Addendum, in the amount of \$35,000.00 for seven months of preconstruction services, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 7 came up for discussion.

Vice President Buckingham said she is excited to see this project move forward because it will benefit our community and police department.

Councilwoman Bupp said our residents are looking forward to this community center and some residents shared input on what they'd like to see happen with the center if that option is on the table.

President Washington said this is a great way to show our ARPA dollars at work and this is a wonderful project that will benefit our entire community. She said this is a great way to utilize this space because it has been vacant for years.

Police Commissioner Muldrow thanked Blanda Nace, Council and the Administration, as well as Capt. Lentz who has been serving as his project manager, and Diaz Woodard who has been a partner in this journey. He stated that Mr. Diaz has committed himself to this project and started a business to be able to facilitate this dream. He stated that the exciting thing about this is that this is poised to be so much more than a traditional recreation center; it will be a community center benefiting our entire community. He said he remembers a child telling him we are all city kids be we all don't dribble. He said this location will provide opportunities and meet the needs of everyone in our community. Commissioner Muldrow described that there will be dance, theater, and fashion design classes, kids will be fed, they can buy sundry items, we'll provide laundering facilities, kids will have an opportunity to learn a trade, and so much more. He said we will continue to lobby for funding to support our goals. He said our community is so full of

talent but we can't always afford brick and mortar facilities so this will be a wonderful and life changing program.

Marie Rohleder, resident, said she is thrilled to hear about this and many years ago this building was a community center, and she taught many programs there. She said for her program, there was a fee for city residents and a higher fee for non-city residents but most of the attendees were not city residents, so this is a huge step in the right direction.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said he can't see that neighborhood without seeing Crystal Sexton's face. He said the things she did for the youth in the community was unmatched and that she is a legacy. He suggested we have something at the center in her name to honor her work and dedication.

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

6. Resolution No. 8 - A Resolution  
Approving various contracts for insurance services. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 8, Session 2025, A Resolution approving the following contracts for insurance services for 2025:

Old Republic International Corporation - For general/professional liability, Commercial Property/Inland-Marine, and Business Auto and Business Auto - Fire Truck Physical Damage  
W. R. Berkley Corporation - For Commercial Umbrella - Primary  
Zurich - For crime  
AXIS - for cyber  
AXA XL Group of Companies - For Police Professional Liability and Public Officials & Employment Practices Liability

The Resolution was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 8 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if there is a change of coverage.

Administrator Robertson said there is no change of coverage, but we are looking for an extra level of coverage that we be done separately. She said the final quotes weren't ready when we did the budget, but we work with a broker, and they help us come up with an estimate. Fortunately, this amount comes in slightly under our estimate which is why we can now consider additional coverage.

Councilwoman Bupp then asked if we made any claims against any of these policies in 2024 and who handles those claims and are there policies/procedures in place.

Administrator Robertson said these insurances cover things like our police, car insurance, property insurance, so yes, we have claims, and this is funded through risk management. So, if a city employee says a stone flew off a grass trimmer and it hit a car, they will contact HR (Risk Management). We have an HR generalist who is responsible for workers' compensation and liability. We have one central reporting, and that information is sent off, so the process begins. Our solicitor is involved in the process. For reporting, she said everyone knows when a claim is imminent, so employees know to tell people to contact our Human Resources Office, and the determination will be made whether we were at fault.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 8 passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington -5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. 9 - A Resolution Approving the York Public Employees Association (YPEA) bargaining agreement. ([View](#)) (For the period of Jan. 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2027)  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration (HR)

Resolution No. 9, Session 2025, A Resolution approving the YPEA 2025-2027 bargaining agreement, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Bupp, Resolution No. 9 passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

President Washington thanked all organizations who provide services to our resident, but she especially appreciates those who are helping to house the homeless during these cold temperatures and she hopes that more organizations will open their doors to provide services to our homeless.

XIII. Administration Comment

Administrator Robertson said there were some hiccups getting the refuse bills out, but they will be hitting your mailbox now, and if there are any questions about your bill, contact our Finance Dept. She reminded residents that this is now a quarterly bill so it will be higher. We will send out press releases to follow up on the process and to provide payment options. She said OpenGov can be used to pay online, and it will give you the option to see historical data for your payments. She encouraged residents to go online and check it out and she appreciates everyone's patience as they work through the kinks in taking back the refuse billing collections.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if autopayment is still available.

Administrator Robertson said since York Water is no longer collecting payment, residents need to pay attention to their bills to see how to make payment.

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislation meeting of Council is scheduled for February 4, 2024 at 6PM in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the January 21, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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

  
Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

  
Edquina Washington, President of Council