

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 February 4, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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

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 was absent.

Members of the Administration included: Dave Rudolph, Electrical Superintendent; Nancy Griffin, Planner; William Sleeper, Fire Chief; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

- I. Public Comment:
- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 21, 2025](#) (legislative); [January 29, 2025](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

► Bicycle & Pedestrian Project Update - Nancy Griffin, City Planning, and Dave Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor to give a brief update on the Bicycle & Pedestrian project. (Click [here](#) to view presentation)

Nancy Griffin, City Planner, said the Bike Share Project will boast a bike share system with 12 docking stations (11 in York City and 1 in Spring Garden Township), each hosting 5 bikes and will be designed to have a modern look. She said they will get public input and collect public data to help with the project.

Dave Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor, said some of the data collected will include bike share locations because the locations are not set in stone. Also, once the stations are installed, if this doesn't produce the numbers they anticipated, the locations can be shifted.

Vice President Buckingham asked if these are the pay-to-ride bikes. Mr. Rudolph said, yes. Vice President Buckingham asked what YAMPO stands for. Mr. Rudolph said York Area Municipal Planning Organization. He said he and Ms. Griffin serve on this committee as the city's representatives.

President Washington asked when the project will begin.

Ms. Griffin said it's in the beginning stages now and we have a meeting next Thursday.

Mr. Rudolph added that tonight's presentation is part of the planning process.

President Washington asked once the grant is received, when will the stations be installed.

Ms. Griffin said it will depend on the County because they are funding the project. She said the city has no financial obligation in this project.

► **Downtown Inc Update** – Sarah O'Brien, Director, to give a brief report on Downtown Inc's 2024 Year End Review & 2025 Sneak Peek. (Click [here](#) to view presentation)

Ms. O'Brien gave a brief background of Downtown Inc as well as their mission and goals. She said Downtown Inc's current BID (business improvement district) is set to expire this year, so they will be coming to Council requesting renewal of the BID. She said they will not be asking for a milage increase. She then did a PowerPoint presentation highlighting 2024 accomplishments and plans for 2025. She said public restrooms will be returning to downtown. To review the presentation, please click [here](#).

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 12th.

► **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 19th.

IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals:

► **FOP Contract** – Council heard from Business Administrator Kim Robertson the status of the FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement. The agreement is still being finalized. A tentative date for consideration of final passage is slated for Council's 2/18/25 legislative meeting.

► **Comp Plan 2044** – City Council heard from Jessica Fieldhouse, C.S. Davidson, the Comp Plan process and answered questions from Council. Public comment on the Comp Plan is still being received. Submit comments to Nancy Griffin, City Planner, at 101 S. George St., York, PA. Council set a public hearing on the Comp Plan for 3/18/25 at 6PM in Council Chambers. Council will consider adoption of the plan that same evening.

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. 10 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Historic York

Resolution No. 10, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 50 N. George St., was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 10 came up for discussion.

Vice President Buckingham said she wasn't clear about the minutes so she contacted a member of HARB to get better clarification.

Todd Fogdall, C.E.O., Appell Center, said they spoke with HARB about one of their Capital Projects. They are first replacing the marquee sign that is over the door of each theater. The newer element is to replace poster cases. There are currently 8 in total, and they'd like to replace those with digital signs. The signs are set to align with whether the sun is out or not, so they are not just glaring bright at night. He said it will look more like a poster that is being illuminated.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 10 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - 0.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions: None

New Business – Introduction of Bills: None

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

2. Resolution No. 11 - A Resolution
Approving various appointments/reappointment to boards. (B. Kline from ZHB alternate to regular; N. Englar appt. to Housing Authority; E. Kirland reappt. to General Authority) ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Council / Mayor

Resolution No. 11, Session 2025, A Resolution appointing Blade Kline from an alternate member to a regular member of the Zoning Hearing Board to fill the unexpired term of Corey Carden, which term shall expire January 1, 2029; approving the appointment made by the Mayor of Nathan Englar as a member of the York Housing Authority, to fill the unexpired term of James Crosby, which term shall expire the first day of April 2029; and approving the reappointment made by the Mayor of Eric Kirkland as a member of the York City General Authority, which term shall expire the first Monday of January 2030, was introduced Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 11 and came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp said she is aware that Mr. Kirkland has his origins in York City but she doesn't know if he actually lives in the city and asked if someone can speak to his residency.

Councilwoman Johnescu said Mr. Kirkland does reside in the city.

There being no further discussion. Resolution No. 12 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - 0.

City Clerk Thompson administered oath of office to Mr. Kline and Mr. Englar.

President Washington thanked them for their willingness to serve and encouraged residents to apply to the various vacancies on the city's boards and authorities.

(UPDATE: Mr. Englar is not a resident of the City of York and therefore is ineligible to serve on the Housing Authority Board. The Housing Authorities Law, Act of May 28, 1937 (P.L. 955) as amended (35 P.S. §1541 et seq.), requires members of the Housing Authority Board to be city residents. Therefore, a vacancy still exists on the board.)

3. Resolution No. 12 - A Resolution Appointing probationary firefighters. ([View](#)) (A. Lake, E. Somerville, M. Young, A. Caruso, W. Hapke, J. Webb, & J. Forchu)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Fire/Rescue

Resolution No. 12, Session 2025, A Resolution approving the appointment of the following as probationary firefighters: Aiden Lake, Eli Somerville, Michael Young, Austin Caruso, William Hapke, Justin Webb, and Jordy Forchu, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 12 came up for discussion.

Chief Sleeper said these will replace retired firefighters, but they still do not have a full complement of firefighters.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 12 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 4; Nays – 0.

4. Resolution No. 13 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the County of York. ([View](#)) (Opioid Settlement Funds - \$315,338.92 for 1/1/25 - 12/31/27)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 13, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the County of York and the York County Planning Commission for York County Opioid Settlement Funds in the amount of \$315,338.92 for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027 to coordinate the overdose fatality review team, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 13 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 4; Nays – 0.

- XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None
XII. Council Comment: None
XIII. Administration Comment

Fire Chief Sleeper said the fire station project is moving forward and he thanked Rep. Carol Hill-Evans for her support.

Rep. Carol Hill-Evans said today they received the Governor's budget proposal. If we can get what he wants, the future looks bright for the Commonwealth. She said each week she puts out a newsletter and asked for residents to sign up for it. She said we will be holding budget hearings in Harrisburg, and they are open to the public. She said if anyone has questions to contact her office at (717) 848-9595.

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

Shareef Hameed, resident, spoke about the homelessness epidemic and how inhumane it is to see residents out in the cold. He spoke about Anthony Zorbaugh who has a mobile shelter, and he suggested we bring one here to York. He said he would like the city to consider using ARPA funding to purchase mobile shelters. He then thanked the city administration, President Washington and Councilwoman Buckingham for supporting honoring the late Mr. Claire Sexton and Mr. Keith Beatty by dedicating street signs in their names. He also talked about Mr. John Jamison and his contributions to the Parkway Homes area with his convenience store. He said he would like to see Mr. Jamison get his flowers while he's still alive and since he is still active.

XV. Adjourned: There being no further discussion, the February 4, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Edquina Washington, President of Council