

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 March 18, 2025 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>.

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

I. Called Public Hearing to order at 6PM - [Comprehensive Plan, York 2044](#)

Hearing Purpose: The public hearing is being held to receive public comment on the proposed revision to the Comprehensive Plan, York 2044, including all attachments and maps. The York2044 Comprehensive Plan is a visionary roadmap designed to transform the City of York over the next two decades. It addresses critical areas such as property improvement, homelessness prevention, access to health services, food security, economic development, neighborhood cohesion, transportation, and environmental sustainability. A complete copy of the plan may be viewed in the City Planner's Office located at 101 S. George St., York, PA or by visiting the city's website (<https://www.yorkcity.org/decd/bureau-of-planning-and-zoning/>).

City Council in attendance: Elizabeth Bupp, Teresa Johnescu, Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President.

Administration in attendance: Michael Helfrich, Mayor; Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Nona Watson, Director, Economic & Community Development; Jada Richardson, Director, Bureau of Housing Services; Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Program Analyst, Bureau of Housing Services; Blanda Nace, Chief Opportunity Development Officer, RDA; Monica Kruger, Director Health; David Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor; Lettice Brown, Public Works; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor. Assistant Solicitor Flower was not in attendance but was on call and available through teleconference.

Special Guest in attendance: Jessica Fieldhouse, C.S. Davidson; and Mike Pritchard, York County Planning Commission.

President Washington read an opening statement on the purpose of tonight's public hearing and outlined the decorum of the hearing.

Jessica Fieldhouse, C.S. Davidson, provided opening comments on the Comp Plan, the process and its purpose.

Order of Business:

Opening Statement - Council President

Call Public Hearing Called to Order

Comments from the City's Administration
Comments from City Council
Public Comment
Adjournment

IMPORTANT NOTICE: City Council planned to consider adoption of the Comprehensive Plan 2044 at tonight's meeting. However, the Administration wishes to incorporate comments from tonight's public hearing into the plan, as well as make final amendments to language in the plan. Consequently, this will create a delay in the adoption process, and as such, Council will consider adoption of the Plan at its April 1, 2025, meeting.

Tonight's public hearing was recorded by York Stenographic Services, 986 Northbriar Dr., York, PA 17404. Said recording will remain on file for a period of 3 years. For a full transcript of the hearing, please contact York Stenographic Services at (717) 854-0077.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

- II. General Public Comment convened at 6:45 p.m. – No public comment.
- III. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:45 p.m.
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- VI. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VII. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [March 4, 2025](#). A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Buckingham, to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements: None
- IX. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 20th.
 - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 27th.
- 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)

Subdivision/Land Development/HARB:

- 1. Resolution No. 18 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Elsbeth Bupp
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 18, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be covered in the following applications: .

Application filed for work to be done at 10 W. King St.; Application filed for work to be done at 164-166 W. Market St.; and Application filed for work to be done at 135 S. Beaver St., was introduced by Bupp, read at length, and on motion of Bupp, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 18 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she attends city board meetings regularly and it was refreshing to hear about this project at 164-166 W. Market St. and the applicant did a wonderful presentation during the HARB meeting.

Councilwoman Bupp asked about the recommendation to cover the windows in the elevator shaft at 10 W. King St.

Councilwoman Johnescu said the windows are rotten and it's best for the structure that they be covered.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 18 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. 2, Ordinance No. 2 - A Bill
Amending the 2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (For the Parks & Recreation by appropriating money not otherwise appropriated (MNOA) for Fund 20 for building repairs, in the amount of \$20,400.00)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works (Parks & Recreation)

Final Passage of Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 2, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget for the Parks & Recreation Bureau by appropriating money not otherwise appropriated (MNOA) for Fund 20 for building repairs, in the amount of \$20,400.00, which was introduced by Dennis at the March 4th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion made by Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 2 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp said she's looking forward to having a discussion with Business Administrator Robertson about how prior years' reserve funds affect available balances.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 2, Ordinance No. 2, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3 - A Bill
Amending the 2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Healthy Moms - Healthy Babies Program, in the amount of \$145,198.00)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Final Passage of Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3, Session 2025, A Bill amending the 2025 Budget by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Healthy Moms - Healthy Babies Program, in the amount of \$145,198.00, which was introduced by Washington at the March 4th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Bill No. 3 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu said this is grant money so that the Bureau of Health can carry out this program and she's grateful this funding is available.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 3, Ordinance No. 3, PASSED by the following vote:

Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

4. Final Passage of Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 4 - A Bill
Amending the 2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Justice Assistance Grant for the period of 10/1/2024-9/30/2027, in the amount of \$50,725.00 for state/local initiatives, technical assistance, strategic planning, research and evaluation, data collection, equipment, supplies, contractual support and criminal justice information systems)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Final Passage of Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 4, Session 2025, A Bill amending the 2025 Budget by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Justice Assistance Grant for the period of 10/1/2024-9/30/2027, in the amount of \$50,725.00 for state/local initiatives, technical assistance, strategic planning, research and evaluation, data collection, equipment, supplies, contractual support and criminal justice information systems, which was introduced by Washington at the March 4th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 4, Ordinance No. 4, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business – Introduction of Bills: None

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

5. Resolution No. 19 - A Resolution
Approving substantial amendments to the HOME ARP Allocation Plan. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Dennis to read Resolution No. 19 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 19, Session 2025, A Resolution approving substantial amendments to the HOME ARP Allocation Plan, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 19 came up for discussion.

President Washington thanked the Department of Economic & Community Development for considering and prioritizing our elderly population in this plan.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if the public hearing held on March 12 received any public comment.

Director Jada Richardson, Bureau of Housing Services, said they held a public hearing, but it was not well attended. She said the plan is on the city's website for anyone who'd like to view it.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 19 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

6. Resolution No. 20 - A Resolution
Approving submission of the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (2024 CAPER) to HUD. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis to read Resolution No. 20 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 20, Session 2025, A Resolution approving submission of the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (2024 CAPER) to HUD, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 20 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Resolution No. 21 - A Resolution Approving the FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement (1/1/24 – 12/31/26). ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Business Administration / Police

Resolution No. 21, Session 2025, A Resolution approving the Fraternal Order of Police Collective Bargaining agreement for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 21 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

XII. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XIII. Council Comment

President Washington reminded residents, businesses and organizations to be mindful of driving speed as our younger community members are out playing since the weather is warming up. She then said that Parks and Recreation has sponsorship opportunities available to help fund our summer programs (click [here](#) for more information). She then outlined several parks and recreation programs. Lastly, she congratulated the PA House of Representatives for passing the Crown Act. She stated that it passed with a bipartisan vote of 194-8. She encouraged those who are passionate about the CROWN act to contact their legislators and encourage adoption.

Councilwoman Dennis thanked York City School Board Directors Diane Brown, Ryan Supler, and Margie Orr for attending tonight's meeting.

XIV. Administration Comment: None

XV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for April 1, 2025 in Council Chambers. There being no further business, the March 18, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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


Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk


Edquina Washington, President of Council