

# 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 4, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofYorkPA/>

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Washington called the March 4, 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, Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President with President Washington presiding.

**Members of the Administration included:** Michael Helfrich, Mayor; India Banks, Interim Director of Public Works; Dave Rudolph, Electrical Superintendent; Safire Linares, Environmental Services; Scott Miller, Chief of Staff; Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

### I. Public Comment:

Mayor Helfrich Spoke about bringing back the Mother's Day Street Fair. He encouraged people to reserve tables and bring Mother's Day Street Fair back to what it used to be. He also asked York Countians to come to the event to participate as a vendor at the street fair. He said their new events team, the Artists Foundation, is amazing.

Alfonso Todd, Artists Foundation, said they have over 20 years of experience. He said he spoke with the mayor about reimplementing city events where the blueprint has already been laid out. He said they look forward to bringing events back to York and that they don't want to reinvent the wheel; they just want to enhance what York already has.

Talisha Smith, Artists Foundation, said she handles the community relations part of the foundation and helps the community to understand that the events may already be funded be we need support to help pull events together. She said she advertises via social media to get the word out about events and opportunities.

Ralph Washington, a local partner and musician better known as Ralph Real, said he has worked a lot with youth development programs and projects. He said youth development has always been dear to his heart. With entertainment, he said this will just enhance what we already have in place. He outlined some of his events.

President Washington said she is looking forward to upcoming events.

- II. Call Legislative Meeting to Order 6:09 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Moment of Silence
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [February 4, 2025](#) (legislative); and [February 26, 2025](#) (committee). All yeas.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
  - **Council Public Hearing ([Comprehensive Plan 2044](#))**: Scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers for the purpose of taking public comments on the proposed revision of the comprehensive plan, after which, that same evening, City Council will consider adoption of the proposed Comprehensive Plan, York 2044, including all attachments and maps.
  - **Legislative Meeting**: The next legislative meeting of Council will be held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, immediately following the 6:00 p.m. public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan 2044. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 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. 14 - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 14, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in approving a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 15 E. Philadelphia St., was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 14 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions: None

#### New Business – Introduction of Bills

- 2. Introduction of Bill 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)

Introduction of Bill No. 2, Session 2025, A Bill amending the 2025 budget for Parks & Recreation

by appropriating money not otherwise appropriated (MNOA) for Fund 20 for building repairs, in the amount of \$20,400.00, was introduced by Dennis, read by short title, and deferred to the 3/18/25 meeting.

3. Introduction of Bill 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)

Introduction of Bill 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, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the 3/18/25 meeting.

4. Introduction of Bill 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

Introduction of Bill 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, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the 3/18/25 meeting.

### **New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda**

5. Resolution No. 15 - A Resolution  
Appointing Sarah O'Brien as an alternate member of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu  
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 15, Session 2025, A Resolution appointing Sara O'Brien as an alternate member of the Historic Architectural Review Board to serve in said capacity until the first Monday of January 2023, was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 15 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

6. Resolution No. 16 - A Resolution  
Authorizing a contract with Goods Disposal for refuse/recycling curbside and container collection services. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: Public Works (Environmental Services)

Resolution No. 16, Session 2025, A Resolution awarding a 5-yr. contract to Goods Disposal for refuse/recycling curbside and container collection services was introduced by Dennis, read at length, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 16 came up for discussion.

Mayor Helfrich said the current contract is due to expire April 30, 2025. The new contract will begin May 1, 2025. Public Works sought proposals three times for this service. Due to the nature of hauling refuse in all cities, finding a garbage hauler was challenging. Ultimately, he said they received one bid from Goods Disposal Service. He said bringing some services in-house will be a cost saving measure totaling \$4,376,405, which is an increase of \$1.745 million for the first year, or 66% over our current contract. We have sought ways to reduce this increase by rebidding a contract for the city's dumpsters and bringing large item pick up in-house. He stated while smaller costs are being worked on, our best estimates of cost increases are an additional \$18.14 per month for residential units, and \$36.28 per month for commercial customers. This was the best deal we could come up with since trash must be collected, he said.

Councilwoman Johnescu asked when will the public see the increase in their refuse bill.

Mayor Helfrich said in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, residents might see a slight increase. He said there is an annual escalator in the contract, which is to be expected. He said it's hard to say the exact amounts.

Don Newcomb, President, Goods Disposal, was in attendance. He said they have provided hauling services in the county for 30 years and that he's looking forward to serving the City of York.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 16 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

7. Resolution No. 17 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the County of York. ([View](#)) (Healthy Moms-Healthy Babies Program for the period of 7/1/24-6/30/25 - \$500,000.00)  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 17, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the County of York for the Health Mons-Healthy Babies program for the period of 7/1/24 - 6/30/25 in the amount of \$500,000.00 was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 17 came up for discussion.

Business Administrator Robertson said this is the yearly agreement they have with the County of York for the Healthy Moms-Healthy Babies contract.

Councilwoman Bupp said this will help city nurses connect with residents who need maternal assistance.

Vice President Buckingham said she has been asked to participate in the Maternal Health Coalition that includes the York City Bureau of Health and other organizations. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for March 13 at the Yorktowne Hotel. She said they have been working on getting this coalition together for years and they look forward to working together.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 17 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Buckingham said she was doubtful about the changes made at the intersection of Roosevelt Ave. and W. Philadelphia St., but the change is working out great.

XIII. Administration Comment

Mayor Helfrich spoke about the Dollar Energy Presentation and how some of our costs will go up. Dollar Energy can potentially reduce rates in gas, electricity and sewer. He said we are working hard to find ways to reduce costs for those who are most in need.

President Washington said she invited a representative from PA American Water to attend Council's April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to discuss their discount program available to our residents.

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for March 18, 2025, at 6PM in Council Chambers. There being no further business, the March 4, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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

  
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Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

  
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Edquina Washington, President of Council

