

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 1, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the April 1, 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: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Dave Rudolph, Electrical Superintendent; Joe Jefcoat, Treasurer; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

I. Public Comment:

Shareef Hameed, resident, said he and other residents are concerned about vaping stores opening near our schools. He said one store opened just today and is 150 ft. from Lincoln Elementary, another one opened on the corner of Salem Ave. and Penn St, and yet another one on the corner of Pershing Ave. and Market St., which is a block away from York High. He said they are selling very addictive items in their stores. He stated that he brought this issue to the school district's attention and that kids are buying these items and selling them to their peers. He said these shops are popping up in black and brown communities and/or near schools. He said the zoning law in Philadelphia is stores selling these products had to be 500 ft. from schools. He also stated that he used to live in North Carolina and the zoning law was that the sale of vape products had to strictly be 1,000 ft. away from schools and placement of these items couldn't be eye level to the children and had to be located behind the register. He said this can turn into a public epidemic because these vaping liquids are habit forming.

Brian Goodin, resident, said he and a few residents stood outside of an establishment selling vapes to bring awareness to its dangers. He said early on he was concerned because it targeted teens. He gave health statistics associated with adolescent vaping and how dangerous they are to individuals' health. He said one business in particular seems to have selected their location with such calculation to target areas with poverty and addiction. He said that business has expanded to six locations. He said they not only sell vape products, but they also sell "crispy, crunchy chicken" used to lure a particular demographic. He said they are approaching Council for a call to action. He said we call on Council, law enforcement and officials to investigate these facilities and establish legislation to regulate these facilities.

Councilwoman Johnescu said with the Comprehensive Plan we'll be redoing our zoning ordinance, so this is good information.

Michael Walker, resident, said he emailed the City Clerk information he sent to State Representative Hill-Evans regarding state and local ordinances on how to move forward with legislation to address this vape selling issue. He then discussed KRATOM which is a legal opioid that people use instead of heroin, and it too is addictive. He also discussed garage crack and said it is dangerous and there are no regulations for it. He then spoke about the Federal government canceling all temporary visas and how we have thousands of residents whose visas will be canceled. He don't have a plan in place for when that happens, including how this will affect work visas. He said this will cause repercussions that we're not prepared for. We have Haitian neighbors, and they don't have assistance to bring awareness to them on this issue. When everything shuts down, we are going to have a swath of folks who won't know what to do. We'll have job loss and evictions. He said he have to prepare for this and what's going to happen to our community during that timeframe. York is one of the hotspots for temporary visa holders. We are going to be a target for ICE. He implored Council to think about this and to implore the Administration to prepare because it's coming a lot faster than he thought.

Cindy Martin, resident, said there is an alley between Bergman and Dallas St. with a bunch of holes. She said she reported it, but they just drop tar and don't tamp it. Also, said the sidewalk on Edgar St. is all crumbled and she has fallen because of it.

Doloris Minya, resident, said the YMCA has a Welcoming Center and if anyone in the Haitian community needs any assistance, they can refer them to Jose Santiago at the YMCA to help these folks out.

Shareef Hameed, resident, again spoke and said people in cars and bikes are speeding up and down S. Albemarle St. and E. Princess St. He said there are no speed limit signs posted, and people are speeding like it's a racetrack. He said he's concerned about the kids from Phineas Davis Elementary who walk down that street.

Councilwoman Bupp said she'll bring this issue at the Traffic Safety Committee.

There being no further discussion, the public comment session adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:24 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [March 18, 2025](#) (legislative); [March 26, 2025](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them was written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 9th.
 - **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 16th.

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. 22 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: HARB
Kevin Byard, spoke on 247 E. Princess St., and explained that they want to have the ability to display time, temperature and what's on the menu.

Resolution No. 22, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 287 W. Market St. and 247 E. Princess St., was introduced by Bupp, read at length, and on motion of Bupp, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 22 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. 5 - A Bill
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue/expenditures for CDBG/HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2024 budget.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Introduced of Bill No. 5, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget by appropriating revenue/expenditures for CDBG/HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2024 budget, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the April 15th meeting of Council.

3. Introduction of Bill No. 6 - A Bill
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (In the amount of \$10,000.00 for other professional services.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Treasurer

Introduction of Bill No. 6, Session 2025, A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget in the amount of \$10,000.00 for other professional services to authorizing hiring of a staff person in the Treasurer's office, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the April 15th meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill No. 7 - A Bill
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures for the funding received from the County of York as a pass-through for an award from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for a subgrant of Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover (Federal 21.027 CG) funds, in the amount of \$33,438.89 to fund purchase of laptops and school supplies for students attending HACC through the GVI initiative.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Introduction of Bill No. 7, Session 2025, A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the funding received from the County of York as a pass-through for an award from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for a subgrant of Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover (Federal 21.027 CG) funds, in the amount of \$33,438.89 to fund purchase of laptops and school supplies for students attending HACC through the GVI initiative, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the April 15th meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. 8 - A Bill Amending Article 181 "General Provisions" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (To include an eligibility and application process for appointments to city boards, authorities, commissions and committees; establish attendance requirements and notification procedures; and outline compensation and conflicts of interest)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Council (Johnescu)

Introduction of Bill No. 8, Session 2025, A Bill amending Article 181 "General Provisions" of the Codified Ordinances to include an eligibility and application process for appointments to city boards, authorities, commissions and committees; establish attendance requirements and notification procedures; and outline compensation and conflicts of interest, was introduced by Johnescu, read by short title, and deferred to the April 15th meeting of Council.

6. Introduction of Bill No. 9 - A Bill Amending Article 513 "Vehicle Operation and Parking" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (To include parking restrictions during special events at the York Fairgrounds)
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Business Administration (Parking)

Introduction of Bill No. 9, Session 2025, A Bill Amending Article 513 "Vehicle Operation and Parking" of the Codified Ordinances to include parking restrictions during special events at the York Fairgrounds, was introduced by Bupp, read by short title, and deferred to the April 15th meeting of Council.

New Business

7. Resolution No. 23 - A Resolution Approving appointments to various boards. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 25, Session 2025, A Resolution reappointing of Barronita Banks to the York City Housing Authority Board which term shall expire the first Monday of April 2030; Appointing James Sawor to the York Housing Authority Board, to fill the unexpired term of James Crosby, which term shall expire the first Monday of April 2029; and Appointment Albert L. Kuhner, Jr. to the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority (SARAA) which term shall expire the first Monday of January 2030, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 23 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

As Mr. Sawor was in attendance, City Clerk Thompson administered him the oath of office.

President Washington encouraged residents to apply for openings on our various boards and authorities.

8. Resolution No. 24 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Good's Disposal Services. ([View](#)) (For collection of large items)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works (Environmental Services)

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded Dennis, to read Resolution No. 24 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 24, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Good's Disposal Services for collection of large items, as introduced by Dennis, read by short title, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 24 came up for discussion.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said there has been a lot of chatter regarding contracts, bids and transparency. He asked how many bidders there were for this contract.

Supervisor Rudolph said three bids.

Mr. Gomez said if people don't come forward in the bidding process, it doesn't mean a controversy and if people step up, the more the better.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 24 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

9. Resolution No. 25 - A Resolution Authorizing the mayor to sign documents relating to a DCNR grant. ([View](#)) (Grant application for the Farquhar Park Master Plan Improvements Project)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works (Parks/Recreation)

Resolution No. 25, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing the mayor to sign documents relating to a DCNR grant application for the Farquhar Park Master Plan Improvements Project, was introduced by Dennis, read at length, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 25 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

10. Resolution No. 26 - A Resolution Authorizing the Treasurer to retain independent counsel. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Treasurer

Resolution No. 26, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing the Treasurer to retain independent legal counsel, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 26 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

11. Resolution No. 27 - A Resolution Modifying the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the County of York. ([View](#)) (Agreeing to modify the criteria applicable to members of the York County Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Solicitor's Office (York County Planning Commission)

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Washington, seconded Buckingham, to read Resolution No. 27 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 27, Session 2025, A Resolution modifying the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the County of York agreeing to modify the criteria applicable to members of the York County Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals, to authorize members to be appointing with training and experience which may consist of licensure as an architect or engineer, experience in the construction industry, and training and experience as an inspector or plan reviewer, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 27 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

12. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution
Adopting the York 2044 Comprehensive Plan. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Agenda item #12 was pulled at the request of the city's administration as final amendments were still being made to the Comprehensive Plan 2044 document.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

Councilwoman Dennis thanked the YWCA for recognizing Council for its work on behalf of the community.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for April 15, 2025 at 6PM in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the April 1, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:41 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