

# 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 Wednesday, May 21, 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 May 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, Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President with President Washington presiding.

**Members of the Administration included:** David Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor; Saffire Linares, Environmental Services Supervisor; Michael Muldrow, Police Commissioner; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

I. Public Comment:

Elizabeth Ackies, resident, spoke about her 17-year-old daughter being able to purchase 225mg of a Delta 8 and Delta-9 products from a store located at the corner of 609 or 607 W. Philadelphia St. She said her daughter ended up in the hospital from consuming these products. She stated that she contacted the police who took 3 hours to show up. She said her daughter has also been able to purchase vapes and edibles. She said this seems to be the norm for these smoke and chill stores to serve to underaged children. She said she hopes something can be done to prevent these stores from selling to children.

President Washington thanked Ms. Ackies for sharing and said her information will be forwarded to the administration.

There being no further comment, the public comment period was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:04 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

V. Moment of Silence was observed.

- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [May 6, 2025](#) (legislative). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
- **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on May 21st.
  - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on May 28th. Notice: This will be Council's last meeting before its summer recess. After the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Council won't meet again until July 15th.
- 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. 35 - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 35, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 101-102 N. George St. and 118 S. Beaver St. , was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 35 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. 11, Ordinance No. 11 - A Bill  
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (1. Police Department to fund vehicles, reporting software, video surveillance software, video conferencing device, a small drone, and overtime for the Violence Intervention Team in the total amount of \$420,000.00; 2. Fire Department to fund duty officer vehicles for \$334,509; 3. Health Bureau to cover expense of Medical Director in the amount of \$115,491.00.)  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Police

Final Passage of Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 11, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget as follows: 1. Police Department to fund vehicles, reporting software, video surveillance software, video conferencing device, a small drone, and overtime for the Violence Intervention Team in the total amount of \$420,000.00; 2. Fire Department to fund duty officer vehicles for \$334,509; 3. Health Bureau to cover expense of Medical Director in the amount of \$115,491.00, which was introduced by Washington at the May 6 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 11 came up for discussion.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said he sent Council suggested language to supplement the standing drone policy. He said these are based off credible institutions. He said data retention was a major issue for him and there was no policy for retention. He said his request is 24 hours for any

data captured that's considered relevant. He said we shouldn't be piecemealing a drone policy.

**Motion to amend.** Councilwoman Bupp recommended amending language to add the following language to Section One of the bill, "WHEREAS, City Council requests with the passage of this Bill that the City of York Police Department review and revise as appropriate its policies pertaining to the use of drones in policing;" The motion was seconded by Washington and passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Dennis, Washington – 3; Nays – Johnescu, Buckingham – 2.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 11, as amended, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 12, Ordinance No. 12 - A Bill  
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (For the Highway Bureau of the Public Works Department by appropriating money not otherwise appropriated (MNOA) for Fund 10 for bridge maintenance, in the amount of \$60,793.00.)  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: Public Works (Highway)

Final Passage of Bill No. 12, Ordinance No. 12, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget for the Highway Bureau of the Public Works Department by appropriating money not otherwise appropriated (MNOA) for Fund 10 for bridge maintenance, in the amount of \$60,793.00, which was introduced by Dennis at the May 6 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Dennis, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 12, Ordinance No. 12, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

4. Final Passage of Bill No. 13, Ordinance No. 13 - A Bill  
Amending Article 1761 "Licensing and Inspection of Tenant Occupied Residential and all Institutional Occupancies" of the City of York Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (To establish requirements for local supervision of residential rental units and providing definitions, therefore.)  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Council (Buckingham) / Economic & Community Development (P&I)

Final Passage of Bill No. 13, Ordinance No. 13, Session 2025, A Bill amending Article 1761 "Licensing and Inspection of Tenant Occupied Residential and all Institutional Occupancies" of the City of York Codified Ordinances to establish requirements for local supervision of residential rental units and providing definitions, therefore, which was introduced by Buckingham at the May 6 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 13 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp stated concerns with the definition of disruptive conduct fund in section 1761.03. She said it addresses defines disruptive conduct by a tenant but there is no penalty or action that the landlord has to take to address that conduct. She feels definition lacks sufficient reinforcement and needs more teeth.

Councilwoman Johnescu thanked Vice President Buckingham and DCED staff for working on this legislation and said this is long overdue. She said our renters deserve a better quality of life and she hopes this moves the needle in the right direction.

Vice President Buckingham said she has been working on this for several months with DCED staff. She said her main concern was that out-of-state landlords be required to have a local manager because we have had landlords as far away as Hawaii. So, the amendment to have local management was needed and we were able to make other amendments as well.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said some of the language disturbs him such as it doesn't have to be a criminal offense it's just the presence of a police officer or multiple calls to the police. He asked what protections there are to protect women against violence. He questioned how we can protect those who have already been harmed by domestic violence. He asked Council to keep in mind that we have a vulnerable population. He said this language is similar to prior language that was problematic. He said if he's playing music too loud is that going to be an offense under this ordinance.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 13, Ordinance No. 13, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Bupp - 1.

### **New Business – Introduction of Bills**

5. Introduction of Bill No. 14 - A Bill  
Consenting to the assignment of shared policing responsibilities for Penn State York. ([View](#))  
(To change from Spring Garden Twp. to York County Regional Police Dept.)  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Solicitor's Office

Introduction of Bill No. 14, Session 2025, A Bill consenting to the assignment of shared policing responsibilities for Penn State York to change from Spring Garden Township to York County Regional Police Department was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the June 3 meeting of Council.

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

6. Resolution No. 36 - A Resolution  
Updating signatory authority and language relating to the College Ave. Bridge project. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: York County Planning Commission

Motion to read by short title: A motion was made by Washington, seconded Johnescu, to read Resolution No. 36 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 36, Session 2025, a Resolution updating signatory authority and language relating to the College Ave. Bridge project, was introduced by Dennis, read by short title, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 36 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Buckingham spoke about the intersection of Roosevelt and Philadelphia St. and that it has been condensed from two lanes into one lane. She said she was pleased to see that. She then spoke about Connect York, founded by Kevin Jackson. She said this is a wonderful resource that helps people connect to a wide array of services they may need. The website is [www.connectyork.org](http://www.connectyork.org).

Councilwoman Dennis applauded Ms. Ackies for coming forward to speak about this epidemic of these stores selling Delta 8 and 9 products to our children. She said she's happy her daughter survived, and she hopes others step forward if their children are being sold these products.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislation session of Council is scheduled for June 3, 2025 at 6PM in City  
York City Council Minutes – May 21, 2025

Council Chambers. There being no further business, the May 21, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:29 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