

# 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 May 6, 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 6, 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 Dennis telephoned into the meeting.

**Members of the Administration included:** David Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor; Safire 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:

Matt Jones, restaurant owner, spoke about the concrete barricades installed by the mayor to allow for outdoor dining. He said roads are made for vehicle traffic and to have dining next to this type of traffic is undesirable. He discussed a street seating analysis he created that included outdoor dining uses, hours and costs.

Brina Williams Jones, restaurant owner, said she has a business near restaurant row, which is located adjacent to the Philadelphia Street garage. She expressed concerns about the visual impact of the barricades, suggesting they send an unintended message to visitors. She noted that she had sent a series of questions to the mayor about the traffic and pedestrian safety implications of the barricades. Additionally, she expressed concerns about the aesthetic impact of the structures on her business and other businesses and requested the mayor prepare a communication plan for affected businesses. She said the mayor, however, left it to businesses to inform other stakeholders.

Roth Preap, resident, said this solution of putting up a concrete barricade does not meet the goals of the business community. He said the mayor is leaving it up to the business owners to beautify these barricades. He said there is no data to substantiate the move to install concrete barricades. He said these barricades cause traffic jams and safety obstacles.

Nicole Young, resident, said she lives in downtown York and said she is upset about the barricades. She said none of the residents or businesses received notice of the barricades. She said she has a disability, and she used the loading zone to unload her groceries, but she cannot do that now because

of the barricades. She asked what the protocol is if an emergency vehicle needs to get to her building because now, they can't because of the barricades. She said no one wants to eat at fine dining when they are staring at a concrete barricade with chips of paint falling off. She suggested temporary barriers, not anything permanent.

Shareef Hameed, resident, said July of last year there was a huge fire in the 400 block of Albemarle St., and it is now an eyesore. He stated that residents have reported bricks falling into the street and they want to know what the plan for this building is. He then asked about the vape legislation he brought up at a previous meeting. President Washinton said that legislation is currently being researched.

Brian Goodin, resident, said Downtown Inc and the Economic Alliance were allowed to use AI to track downtown traffic. He said this is just the surface of AI capabilities. He asked if Council members understand what this type of AI is all about. He read the definition of Placer AI and described what it does. He said it's a mirror and a map that reflects how people move, live and spend. He likened it to a monopoly game. He said this tool can strip local identity and increase rent. He said on the other hand it can be used to build the economy. He asked if a privacy review was conducted before authorizing its use in the city. He said if this is being authorized without proper homework, it can work to increase systemic racism. He spoke about digital redlining where digital tools are used to exclude certain communities for service, like what Placer AI can do. He asked Council to create a policy to report how their AI is being used and what is being collected. He asked if Placer AI could be halted until a policy can be put in place before irreversible damage is done.

There being no further discussion, President Washington adjourned the public comment session at 6:34 p.m. and immediately convened Council's legislative session.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:34 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Moment of Silence
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [April 15, 2025](#) (legislative); [April 23, 2025](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
  - ▶ **David Gonzalez, York County Economic Alliance** - Gave a brief presentation on YCEA's Economic Action Plan. Click [here](#) to view presentation.
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
  - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on May 14th.
  - ▶ **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.
- 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. 30 - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 30, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in approving a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 127 N. Broad St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 30 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. 10, Ordinance No. 10 - A Bill  
Approving the inclusion of year 2024 ordinances into the codified ordinance book. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp  
Originator: City Clerk

Final Passage of Bill No. 10, Ordinance No. 10, Session 2025, A Bill approving the editing and inclusion of year 2024 ordinances into the codified ordinance book, which was introduced by Bupp at the April 15 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Bupp, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 10, Ordinance No. 10, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

## New Business – Introduction of Bills

3. Introduction of Bill 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

Introduction of Bill 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, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the May 21 meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill 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)

Introduction of Bill 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, was introduced by Dennis, read by short title, and deferred to the May 21 meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill 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)

Introduction of Bill 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, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the May 21 meeting of Council.

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

6. Resolution No. 31 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Madden Fabrication. ([View](#)) (For purchase of two (2) Portland Loo single occupant public toilets - \$500,000.)  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 31, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Madden Fabrication for the purchase and installation of two Portland Loo single occupant public toilets in the amount of \$349,450.00 (the remaining amount will be used spent toward maintenance of the toilets), was introduced by Dennis, read at length, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 31 came up for discussion.

Sarah O'Brien, Downtown Inc, showed a replica of the Portland Loo and outlined the design and location for the toilets. She thanked Council for their consideration in approving this purchase.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she saw this on a visit to Portland and people were using them. She said she sees a real need for this type of facility and she's excited to see them get installed in our community.

Brian Goodin said he thinks \$500,000 is a lot for two toilets. He said we don't invest in the people and businesses that are already here, but we want to invest in people who don't live here. He said we have broken youth and broken neighborhoods, but we don't pump thousands of dollars into that.

Dylan Satter, resident, said he lives next to Central Market, and he agrees we need public facilities like this, but he agrees the cost seems kind of high.

Nicole Young, resident, said although the cost seems high, she feels this is a great investment to support tourism and she's excited to tell people this is something we are offering in our city.

Councilwoman Johnescu said these will be useful to our homeless community as well, not just for our tourists.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 31 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

7. Resolution No. 32 - A Resolution Awarding a contract for Dumpster and Roll Off Services. ([View](#)) (Penn Waste, Inc. - \$184,199.40)  
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis  
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 32, Session 2025, A Resolution awarding a contract for Dumpster and Roll Off services to Penn Waste for \$184,199.40, was introduced by Dennis, read at length, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 32 came up for discussion.

Lester Abbott, resident, said he's a little confused about the recycling and was this to change on May 1<sup>st</sup> because he put out his recycling according to the old schedule but they still picked it up.

Saffire Linares, Environmental Services Supervisor, said she asked the contractor to be lenient on our residents until they get use to the change in collection. She said recycling will be collected at the end of the week, but yard waste will still be collected at the beginning of the week. She said we are going to put something together for our residents to make this clearer.

Vice President Buckingham thanked Ms. Linares for clearing this up because she's had other constituents ask the same question.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 32 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

8. Resolution No. 33 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Re-Program York LLC. ([View](#)) (To provide a therapeutic performance arts-based program for students for 2025-2026 - **ARPA funds \$196,300.**)  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 33, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Re-Program York LLC to provide therapeutic performance arts-based program initiatives for the 2025 summer and 2025-2026 school year utilizing ARPA funds in the amount of \$196,300.00 was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 33 came up for discussion.

Commissioner Mike Muldrow said he's excited about this program, which is an investment in our kids and schools. He said this has been a long time coming and with this small ARPA allocation it would allow us to initiate a call to action to support our schools, families and youth to help them be their best. He said if you know Mr. Woodard, you know what he stands for. He stated that Mr. Woodard is positioned to foster greatness into our kids and our community. He said we need what Mr. Woodard brings, and he celebrates him and his efforts to implement this program.

Diaz Woodard, CEO, Re-Program York, shared that they have been working on this initiative for approximately three years and are fully prepared to launch once approval is granted. He highlighted that the program would provide access to K-8 students, with an estimated 30-50 children per school benefiting from services. He said these funds will enable them to deliver high-quality programs for the community's youth. He highlighted the program's goal of supplementing school activities, allowing for an exact schedule to be established once the schools finalize their plans. He stated that while the summer program will enhance the existing summer school curriculum, the most significant impact is expected to take place during the school year.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 33 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

9. Resolution No. 34 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with PMA Companies. ([View](#)) (For Worker's Comp insurance for 2025-2026)  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 34, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with PMA Companies to provide workers' comp insurance for the 2025-2026 year, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 34 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment

Councilwoman Bupp said she has been looking at the finances with good conversation about where the City stands. She stated that because we are behind in our annual audits, even though we just got the 2019 completed and presented, the State DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) does not consider us for some of their grants. She added that while our neighbor Lancaster has been able to win over \$9 million over the past 3 years in direct PA DCED grants, we are currently ineligible.

She went on to say that she wants to encourage the Administration to prioritize the completion of the 2020-2024 annual financial reports and audits as a top priority. While we do not want to increase the budget, she said, Council can approve adjustments to it and has in the past approved the use of rollover funds. She said spending for additional help (in Finance) to complete the financial reports and audits toward this goal would make us eligible for this type of State grant funds which would help in the environment.

She closed by saying she feels, on behalf of Council, that she can say we want to help and to work collaboratively with the Administration to do whatever it takes to get our financial audits completed, get the financial information to the State, and improve the City and the quality of the finances for the City.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislation meeting of Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6PM in City Council Chambers. The meeting is being held on Wednesday in observance of Tuesday's primary election.

There being no further business, the May 6, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 7:15 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