

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 August 19, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the August 19, 2025, meeting to order at 6:01 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 Supervisor; Nancy Griffin, Planner; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

I. Public Comment:

Rodney Overvy, a Navy veteran, stated he spent the last 40 years in Sydney, Australia, and found Australians welcoming. He came to America in April and described his experience with "Prodigy" as life-changing in providing assistance to veterans. He encouraged Council to support Prodigy in continuing to assist veterans.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

V. Moment of Silence was observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [July 15, 2025](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, September 2,

2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on August 27th.

► **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 17th.

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. 51 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 51, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 438 W. Market St., and 211 S. Beaver St., was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 51 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

2. Resolution No. 52 - A Resolution
Approving a land development waiver submitted by Dean's List Realty. ([View](#)) (1237 Roosevelt Ave.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 52, Session 2025, A Resolution approving a land development waiver submitted by Dean's List Realty for the property located at 1237 Roosevelt Ave., was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 52 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu noted she had been following this application and found previous discussions circular and unclear. She was confused about what was being approved, especially regarding the old Spataro's building. She asked City Planner Nancy Griffin to explain.

City Planner, Nancy Griffin, explained, a land development (LD) waiver, means the applicant states they don't need one. She said the property is 100% impervious. Initially, the applicant planned to demolish the front building (old Spataro's) for parking for an expansion of two levels on the motel behind it, but a property line dispute was resolved. The area is no longer needed for parking, so the bond for public improvements (Phase 2) is no longer required as the applicant is not demolishing the front part.

Councilwoman Johnescu questioned the lack of clear plans for Council review.

Mr. Dean, the applicant, stated he submitted full building scope and parking layout plans to the city about two years ago, including multiple pre-development meetings. He obtained a variance for parking, needing only one per unit, eliminating the need to tear down the front building. He too questioned why blueprints were not provided to Council when he submitted this to the city previously.

Councilwoman Bupp asked about the project timeline. Mr. Dean said he's waiting for material prices to decrease. He indicated that additional approvals won't take place until this plan is

approved. He said his last project was 20 N. Penn St..

City Planner Griffin clarified that the additional review Mr. Dean mentioned is with building codes, not Planning.

Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower explained that Council is not approving the previously submitted plans; Mr. Dean is seeking a waiver because he is not changing the building's footprint. He still needs to undergo code review for the interior of the building.

President Washington asked about the total occupancy. Mr. Dean said 32.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 54 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Johnescu - 1.

3. Resolution No. 53 - A Resolution Approving a land development waiver submitted by Site Design Concepts. ([View](#)) (For AMZ Manufacturing for the property located at 2206 Pennsylvania Ave.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 53, Session 2025, A Resolution Approving a land development waiver submitted by Site Design Concepts for AMZ Manufacturing for the property located at 2206 Pennsylvania Ave., was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 53 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if Lutheran Village is adjacent to the property.

Adam Anderson, from Site Design Concepts, confirmed the property is at 2206 Pennsylvania Ave. He showed the plan, outlining the project area. He clarified that the building expansion (2400 sq ft, orange on the plan) is moving closer to the cul-de-sac of Pennsylvania Avenue, which is the end of the public right-of-way, not necessarily up north towards Lutheran Village and that it still meets building setback requirements.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 53 PASSED by the following vote: YEAS - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions

4. Final Passage of Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 17 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget for the Parks & Recreation Bureau. ([View](#)) (By appropriating additional revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$10,645.00 for a grant received from the York County Community Foundation for the Continental Square large planter landscaping and watering.)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works (Parks & Rec)

Final Passage of Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 17, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget for the Parks & Recreation Bureau by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$10,645.00 for a grant received from the York County Community Foundation for the Continental Square large planter landscaping and watering, which was introduced by Dennis at the July 15, 2025 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. There being no discussion, Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 17, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

5. Final Passage of Bill No. 19, Ordinance No. 18 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 City Budget for Bureau of Health. ([View](#)) (In the amount of \$53,239.26 due to a reduction in funding and the reallocation of existing funds awarded from the Family Health Council of Central PA to align with the revised program priorities to provide STD testing and outreach services for the period of 7/1/25-12/31/25.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Final Passage of Bill No. 19, Ordinance No. 18, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 City Budget for Bureau of Health in the amount of \$53,239.26 due to a reduction in funding and the reallocation of existing funds awarded from the Family Health Council of Central PA to align with the revised program priorities to provide STD testing and outreach services for the period of 7/1/25-12/31/25, which was introduced by Washington at the July 15, 2025 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Bill no. 19, Ordinance No. 18, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business – Introduction of Bills

6. Introduction of Bill No. 20 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 City Budget for the Bureau of Health. ([View](#)) (As follows: **(1)** By reallocating existing appropriations within the Healthy Moms Healthy Babies Home Visiting Program Grant (SAP# 4100095409) to align with current program priorities; **(2)** By reallocating existing appropriations within the HIV Prevention Program grant (SAP# 4100095584) to align with current program priorities; **(3)** Amending due to a reduction of anticipated funds within the Immunizations Program Grant (SAP# 4100089411) to align with adjusted program priorities; **(4)** by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Infectious Diseases grant (SAP #4100087734); **(5)** By allocating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP); and **(6)** By allocating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for Women’s Health Services.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 20, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 City Budget for the Bureau of Health as follows: **(1)** By reallocating existing appropriations within the Healthy Moms Healthy Babies Home Visiting Program Grant (SAP# 4100095409) to align with current program priorities; **(2)** By reallocating existing appropriations within the HIV Prevention Program grant (SAP# 4100095584) to align with current program priorities; **(3)** Amending due to a reduction of anticipated funds within the Immunizations Program Grant (SAP# 4100089411) to align with adjusted program priorities; **(4)** by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Infectious Diseases grant (SAP #4100087734); **(5)** By allocating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP); and **(6)** By allocating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for Women’s Health Services, was introduced by Washington, read by short title and deferred to the September 2, 2025 meeting of Council.

7. Introduction of Bill No. 21 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget the Police Dept. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures for the grant received for GVI outreach from the Arthur J. & Lee R. Glatfelter Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000.00.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Introduction of Bill No. 21, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget the Police Dept. by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the grant received for GVI outreach from the

Arthur J. & Lee R. Glatfelter Foundation, in the amount of \$10,000.00, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the September 2, 2025 meeting of Council.

8. Introduction of Bill No. 22 - A Bill Establishing Article 196 "Youth Council Committee" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Council (Washington)

Introduction of Bill No. 22, Session 2025, A Bill establishing Article 196 "Youth Council Committee" of the codified ordinances, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the September 2, 2025 meeting of Council.

9. Introduction of Bill No. 23 - A Bill Amending Article 702 "Unlawful Manufacture of Firearms" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (To add restrictions relating to use of rapid-fire devices.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Council (Washington)

Introduction of Bill No. 23, Session 2025, A Bill amending Article 702 "Unlawful Manufacture of Firearms" of the codified ordinances to add restrictions relating to the use of rapid-fire devices, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the September 2, 2025 meeting of Council.

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

10. Resolution No. 54 - A Resolution Awarding a contract to Kinsley Construction. ([View](#)) (For the 2025 Street Improvements Project)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works (Highway)

Resolution No. 54, Session 2025, A Resolution awarding a contract to Kinsley Construction in the amount of \$363,240.10 for the 2025 Street Improvements Project, was introduced by Dennis, read at length, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 54 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Note: Councilwoman Johnescu requested information from Electrical Supervisor David Rudolph verification of which streets are being improved, which was provided by Supervisor Rudolph email. Click [here](#) to view streets. Said copy is also attached to Resolution No. 54 located in the City Clerk's archives.

11. Resolution No. 55 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with PSx, Inc. ([View](#)) (For purchase of new parking access & revenue control systems for the city's three parking garages - \$298,181.00)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration (Parking)

Resolution No. 55, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with PSx, Inc. for the purchase of new parking access and revenue control systems for the city's three parking garages, which said agreement is in the amount of \$298,181.00, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 55 came up for discussion.

Vice President Buckingham explained this updates the ticketing and internal operating system for parking garages, as the city has no human presence in them. This is a standard upgrade every 3-5 years as software becomes obsolete.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if an RFP was issued. Business Administrator Kim Robertson stated that PSx, Inc. is the current contractor and part of the state's COSTARS program, so competitive bidding was not required.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if there is a 2025 budget line item for this purchase. Administrator Robertson confirmed it's in the Capital Fund, Fund 50, with lines for each garage totaling almost \$2 million for projects this year, providing sufficient funding.

Councilwoman Bupp inquired if an IT evaluation was done to determine the need for this purchase. Administrator Robertson stated they've known for about 6 months that the current system is no longer sold and a new, beneficial cloud-based system with streamlined processes (like pay-and-scan) was available. Systems are typically good for about 5 years.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if there's a link to the financial system. Administrator Robertson stated there's no direct link to the general ledger for revenue; information is pulled out, sent to finance, and loaded by the treasurer's office.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if the new system helps prevent hacking problems. Administrator Robertson confirmed it does, as it's cloud-based and has no access to internal servers, also mentioning redundancies including cellular service as backup for internet to prevent service limitations experienced in the past.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 55 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

12. Resolution No. 56 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with All City Management Services. ([View](#)) (For 2025-2026 school crossing guard services)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Dennis, to read Resolution No. 56 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 56, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with All City Management Services for year 2025-2026 school crossing guard services was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 56 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu offered the following comments:

- "What is before me is the failure to complete an expected RFP process in a timely manner.
 - Last year, it was agreed that the high price of this contract would trigger an RFP
 - I asked about the RFP in February, and again in April and was told it was coming both times.
 - It was apparent at the July meeting that the process had not played out in timely fashion when Council member Bupp asked for an update. We were told that the RFPs were complete and under review. Note that last year, the contract was presented for approval at the June meeting and then again in July.
- The vendor was costly and is now at a contract rate of \$642,978.00. Most troubling was the daily average absentee rate at 15% (5 of 36 failing to report) leaving children at risk
- There was no opportunity for Council review of the proposals. I have no metrics indicating that the 17.52/hour pay rate improved performance.

- A local vendor submitted the lowest bid at \$598,680.00 with a pay rate at \$17.00/hour. This is a savings of \$53,298.00. I imagine that a local vendor, leveraging a relationship with community members, may achieve a better attendance rate.
- I also note that not only did the local vendor produce the lowest bid, but in accordance with Act 136, should have been awarded the contract.
- This contract is dated effective last month, July. Council is being asked to approve a contract after the fact (school has started) without proper review. I find this unacceptable.
- This seems a 'contract of convenience' rather than a contract that is good for the community."

President Washington asked Business Administrator Kim Robertson about the rubric for determining the bidder, given the lower local bid was not awarded.

Administrator Robertson explained the decision was based on a combination of services provided and unit cost. The current vendor (ACMS) has been with the city for 10 years, is well-established nationally, and the city is satisfied with their service. The lowest bidder had no prior experience providing this specific service, and the city did not want to rely on a new business for such an important service. ACMS also offered a higher hourly pay rate (\$18/hour) to guards, almost an additional \$1,000 per school year, and a unit cost rate \$4,000 less than the previous year.

President Washington asked if this went through the Article 136 procurement process.

Administrator Robertson confirmed it went through the Article 136 process, which gives extra points but doesn't guarantee the award.

Councilwoman Bupp asked about penalties if the city breached the 60-day termination notice clause. Administrator Robertson said she was not aware of any penalty.

Councilwoman Bupp asked how companies were notified of the decision. Administrator Robertson stated the decision is not final until Council approval; official notification via the procurement system would follow.

Administrator Robertson confirmed school started today and services began. ACMS was aware the agreement was coming before Council and had operations ready, ensuring no lapse in coverage. She added that ACMS has been very cooperative, even lowering their hourly rate to retain the city as a customer.

Vice President Buckingham asked if this is not approved, we would have 60 days to institute a new service company. Administrator Robertson said she would have to confirm with the city solicitor.

Councilwoman Dennis noted that ACMS is providing services in hopes of approval. Administrator Robertson said yes, and added that if not approved, the city would need to work with them for coverage until a new vendor is in place, clarifying that there would still be crossing guards.

Administrator Robertson explained the RFP was opened and closed in June, but unforeseen confidential internal circumstances delayed the final review, which was not because of the company's failure to submit paperwork.

Councilwoman Bupp wished backup providers were present to confirm if they could still meet requirements and scale up in two months, as school started today.

Public Comment on Resolution No. 56:

Tenoa Sweeney, resident, questioned why the same vendor (ACMS) was being considered when a local vendor offered the same service at a lower price. She alleged the guard at Market and West St. has not been at their post. She suggested a local provider might offer better attendance.

Ray Marshall, resident, suggested exploring volunteer options for crossing guard services to reduce financial burdens and paperwork.

Manuel Gomez, resident, questioned the unit of measurement and if that impacted the decision process, noting the bid was advertised in May. He advocated for a local provider and suggested Council members use the procurement portal to track proposals and timelines.

Councilwoman Dennis commented that a non-local company doesn't know the children or families, and that local providers are good for building relationships and trust within the community.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 56 **FAILED** by the following vote: Yeas – None; Nays – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5. The motion did not pass, and the resolution failed.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Councilwoman Bupp thanked Business Administrator Kim Robertson for timely sharing the 2nd Quarter ARPA report, noting that treasury.gov lists all ARPA reports countrywide. She asked for an update on the ARPA dashboard.

Administrator Robertson explained that the consultant company had a change of ownership, and the new company's policy and issues with a new website make it uncertain if the current dashboard structure can be updated. They are exploring other options for sharing information.

Councilwoman Bupp stated that \$19.5 million of the \$35 million ARPA funding has been spent as of June 30, 2025.

Councilwoman Bupp asked for an update on the 2020 financial statements.

Administrator Robertson stated they are being moved to a compiler to be cleaned up for auditors, so the process has started, and they hope to have the audit done by the end of the year, despite a slight delay.

Councilwoman Bupp said she was pleased in seeing a pop-up line dance group and applauded Cecilia Harris, who created the "Miracles in Motion" line dance group. Harris, who recovered from a medical issue, is doing monthly line dancing events at the Elks and upcoming events in the downtown square on First Fridays, and at Union Lutheran on Monday evenings.

Vice President Buckingham applauded York Habitat for Humanity, recalling a ribbon-cutting in July for the 100th house in York City (707 S. Pine St.) and a groundbreaking for the Chestnut St. project. She highlighted Habitat's work in promoting homeownership and providing a "hand up, not a handout".

Councilwoman Dennis wished K-8, 9-12, and college students an amazing 2025-2026 school year.

- XIII. Administration Comment: None
- XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of City Council is scheduled for September 2, 2025 at 6PM in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the August 19, 2025 legislative meeting of City Council adjourned at 6:55 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