

Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Sandie Walker, President of Council
Edquina Washington, Vice President of Council
Lou Rivera, Member of Council
Betsy Buckingham, Member of Council
Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Member of Council

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MINUTES March 21, 2023 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Walker called the March 21, 2023, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Lou Rivera, Edquina Washington, Vice President, and Sandie Walker, President, with President Walker presiding.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Acting Business Administrator; Joe Jefcoat, Treasurer; and Don Hoyt, Assistant Solicitor.

City Council staff in attendance: Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

I. Public Comment:

Deb Volker, Nana's Oven, Penn Market, said there is grant money on the table and people have been coming into the market checking things out. She said the bedrock importance is that this is the longest run covered farmers' market and Penn Market has the most minority and women owned businesses of any market in York. She said she opened her stand seven years ago. She said it was the ideal location and she thought it would get more attention sooner. She stated that they are working at achieving racial equity at the market. She said we have many stand owners that are of color, and we are all greeting each other and hugging each other and it warms her heart. Ms. Volker said it's important that every resource that has been allocated to the market be spent so that it can continue to grow. She said Council has allocated money for the market but unfortunately it was diverted by the mayor. She said at the last board meeting, she was told that communication would be made with market owners.

Mark Simpson, Ethel's BBQ and Catering, Penn Market, said he heard about an RACP grant for \$1.5 million to be matched by the city. He said another resident said he heard the grant was for \$5 million. He said another public official said the grant was signed last year, yet another city official said he doesn't see the time, money, or effort in investing in Penn Market. He said Governor Shapiro is visiting Penn Market for lunch and he's going to take him on a tour to outline the deterioration. He said even though the market is robust, we are working under risk. We don't even have a sprinkler system. He said it's important that we understand vendors came to the market because of the promises of a grant that is being sat on, and it's frustration and disappointing. He said Blanda Nace, Chief Opportunity Officer for the City of York, said the grant is due to expire. He stated that he will let Governor Shapiro know

about this. He said York County needs to know the true meaning of what's behind Penn Market.

Marie Rohleder, resident, said she walks home after leaving Council meetings and she doesn't feel safe because there are no lights in the parking lot or at the door entrance and there are trees with people sleeping under them. She said we all should be frightened walking out of City Hall in the dark because if someone is really annoyed with you, there are plenty of places for them to hide before they strike. She said she can't imagine City Hall without the protection of lights. She stated that there are cameras, but no lights. So, for the safety of all visiting this building, lights are necessary.

Rebecca Palmer, J&B Soul Food, Penn Market, said she acquired her business in June of 2022. She said she was told the market would be renovated but from what she understands, no renovations will happen this year. She said they are supposed to get heating and air conditioning. She explained that in the winter it's freezing, and she has to have her own heat. The patrons have to walk around the market in their winter coats. In the summer, she said they have to deal with extreme heat. She said they are a diverse group of vendors and it's a loving and friendly environment. However, with the direction management is going, she said they have problems with that direction. She said management is favoring some vendors over others. She said we are there equally and should be treated equally but we are not. She said renovations need to happen for the market to continue to thrive.

Dr. Felicia Dennis, Penn St. Market Vendor, said she agrees with comments made by vendors. She said there is a wonderful vibe happening at the market. We were promised that a grant would have matching dollars to renovate the market. She said this is the oldest market in York and she hopes the administration doesn't sit on this funding. She stated that we need to move on this and we've gotten a lot of publicity over the past few weeks. She stated that visitors travel from out of town, and we want to showcase this historic building. She said it would be tragic to allow the grant to expire before funding is committed to renovations. Dr. Dennis stated that is a diverse group of people that work in and visit the market. She said she hopes that we'll have answers soon on when this funding will be expended toward Penn Market renovations.

There being no further discussion, the public comment session adjourned at 6:17 PM.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:17 PM.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023. 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, March 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 22nd.
 - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 29th.
- 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.)

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions

1. Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5 - A Bill
Amending Article 145 "Police Department." ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police Department

Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5, Session 2023, A Bill amending Article 145, Police Department of the Codified Ordinances, which was introduced by Buckingham at the March 7 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion Washington, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 6 (TABLED) - A Bill
Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (\$53K for Financial Assistant)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Treasurer

Final Passage of Bill No. 6, Session 2023, A Bill amending the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$53,000 for a Financial Assistant position in the Treasurer's office, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 6 came up for discussion.

President Walker said after Council's last committee meeting, there was a Business Administration meeting. During that meeting, questions and discussion arose regarding this position.

Administrator Robertson said essentially the administration understands the concerns of the Treasurer and we have had discussions to take back the responsibilities the deputy treasurer is still doing in regard to refuse billing and accounts. She said we met with Deputy Treasurer Wanda Ruffin and discussed what she's currently doing and what we can do to relieve her of those extra duties. She said there are many steps involved in this process but we are working on this to relieve Deputy Treasurer Ruffin of those extra duties so she can focus on the duties of Deputy Treasurer.

Councilman Rivera asked if the Treasurer was privy to these conversations.

Treasurer Jefcoat said he was not privy to these conversations.

Councilman Rivera said we have been talking about this for months and now we're back to square one and he's confused. Councilwoman Dennis said she agrees with Councilman Rivera's comment.

President Walker said she is favor of moving this forward legislation forward, but she suggests we table this item to allow the Treasurer and the Administration to work this out.

Motion to table. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to TABLE Bill No. 6. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 7, Ordinance 6 - A Bill Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (For Bureau of Health by appropriating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Family Planning Program, in the amount of \$21,242.00.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development | Health
- Final Passage of Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 6, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023 Budget for the Bureau of Health by appropriating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Family Planning Program, in the amount of \$21,242.00, which was introduced by Washington at the March 7 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Rivera, Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 6 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.
4. Final Passage of Bill No. 8, Ordinance No. 7 - A Bill Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (For (1) Police Department to fund salaries and overtime for the Violence Intervention Team and overtime for the Patrol Division of \$400,000; (2) Fire Department to fund apparatus purchases by appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$500,000; (3) Health Bureau to fund General Fund expenses for program services by appropriating revenue in the amount of \$30,000.00; (4) Economic & Community Development to fund the Community Ecosystem Initiative by appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$70,000.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Fire | Police | Health
- Final Passage of Bill No. 8, Ordinance No. 7, Session 2023, A Bill amending the 2023 Budget as follows: (1) Police Department to fund salaries and overtime for the Violence Intervention Team and overtime for the Patrol Division of \$400,000; (2) Fire Department to fund apparatus purchases by appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$500,000; (3) Health Bureau to fund General Fund expenses for program services by appropriating revenue in the amount of \$30,000.00; (4) Economic & Community Development to fund the Community Ecosystem Initiative by appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$70,000, which was introduced by Washington at the March 7 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 8, Ordinance No. 7, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.
5. Final Passage of Bill No. 9, Ordinance No. 8 - A Bill Amending Article 153 "Vehicle Operation & Parking." ([View](#)) (Subsection 513.18(b) "Application Process" and 513.18(c)(5) "Nonexclusive Right" to remove the fee for a handicapped parking space and to allow spaces to be assigned.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration | Parking
- Final Passage of Bill No. 9, Ordinance No. 8, Session 2023, A Bill amending Article 153 "Vehicle Operation & Parking," Subsection 513.18(b) "Application Process" and 513.18(c)(5) "Nonexclusive Right" to remove the fee for a handicapped parking space and to allow spaces to be assigned, which was introduced by Buckingham at the March 7 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 9, Ordinance No. 8, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

6. Final Passage of Bill No. 10, Ordinance No. 9 - A Bill
Amending the FY2023 Budget. ([View](#)) (For the York City Human Relations Commission by appropriating money not otherwise appropriated for the Holliday Diversity Luncheon Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the amount of \$13,500.00.)
Introduced by: Lou Rivera
Originator: Human Relations Commission

Final Passage of Bill No. 10, Ordinance No. 9, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2023 Budget for the York City Human Relations Commission by appropriating money not otherwise appropriated for the Holliday Diversity Luncheon Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the amount of \$13,500.00, which was introduced by Rivera at the March 7 meeting of Council, and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Rivera, seconded by Buckingham, Bill No. 10, Ordinance No. 9, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

7. Final Passage of Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 10 - A Bill
Amending the FY2022 Budget. ([View](#)) (For the Public Works Department to pay the final invoices to Kinsley Construction for King Street Bike Lane work expenditures from PennDot funding, in the amount of \$75,100.00)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Final Passage of Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 10, Session 2023, A Bill amending the FY2022 Budget for the Public Works Department to pay the final invoices to Kinsley Construction for King Street Bike Lane work expenditures from PennDot funding, in the amount of \$75,100.00, which was introduced by Dennis at the March 7 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Dennis, seconded by Buckingham, Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 10, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

Introduction of Bills: None

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

City Clerk Thompson informed Council that Agenda items #12 & 13 were removed at the request of the Administration.

Motion to consider consent agenda. A motion was made by Rivera, seconded by Dennis, to consider agenda items 8-11 & 14 as a consent agenda. The motion PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

President Walker asked if there were any items Council wishes to pull from the consent agenda. There were no requests.

President Walker asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Motion to approve consent agenda items. A motion to approve consent agenda items 8-11 & 14 was made by Rivera, seconded by Dennis, and PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Rivera, Washington, Walker – 5; Nays – 0.

8. Resolution No. 21 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 21, Session 2023, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be covered in the applications filed by Ream Roofing for work to be done at 325 E. King St., and Gal Witmer for work to be done at 140 N. Beaver St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

9. Resolution No. 22 - A Resolution Approving a preliminary/final subdivision plan. ([View](#)) (Submitted by Crispus Attucks for 31-37 E. Maple St.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development | Planning

Resolution No. 22, Session 2023, A Resolution approving a preliminary/final subdivision plan submitted by Land Works – Joshua George, on behalf of Crispus Attucks, for 31-37 E. Maple St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

10. Resolution No. 23 - A Resolution Approving the Teamsters Local 776 Collective Bargaining Agreement. ([View](#)) (1/1/23-12/31/25)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration | Human Resources

Resolution No. 23, Session 2023, A Resolution approving the Teamsters Local 776 Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of 1/1/23-12/31/25, was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

11. Resolution No. 24 - A Resolution Authorizing submission of the 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report ([View](#)) (2022 CAPER)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development | Bureau of Housing Services

Resolution No. 24, Session 2023, A Resolution Authorizing submission of the 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (2022 CAPER), was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

12. Resolution No. (PULLED) - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with The PROGRAM, Its About Change. ([View](#)) (For GVI program)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Agenda item #12 was pulled at the request of the Administration.

13. Resolution No. (PULLED) - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with The PROGRAM, Its About Change. ([View](#)) (For Trauma Responder)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Agenda item #13 was pulled at the request of the Administration.

14. Resolution No. 25 - A Resolution Authorizing a Letter of Support. ([View](#)) (Phase II of a Public Safety Network – cameras)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Resolution No. 25, Session 2023, A Resolution authorizing a letter of support for Phase II of a Public Safety Network was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

President Walker said there has been a lot of discussion over the past several months regarding the SafeNet System. She outlined the various initiatives and community meetings that have taken place. She encouraged the public to review Council's Public Safety Digest (Click [here](#) to view Digest) that outlines Council's action items relating to public safety. She said this letter of support will provide a lot of information that is need so that when the decision for infrastructure comes to Council, Council and the public will be informed. She said Lancaster has a 3rd party company operating its camera system but there is nothing else to replicate from other than Lancaster. She said the stability, infrastructure, and operation will be addressed in Phase II.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment:

President Walker addressed the comments made by Penn Market vendors during public comment. She said Council's ARPA recommendations (Click [here](#) for link to view Council's ARPA recommendation plan) are updated regularly and that Council approved funding for the market to meet the necessary match about a year ago. She said after the RDA meeting, vendors reached out to her and she sent an email to Blanda Nace of the RDA, and he replied. She said the RDA will provide a detailed update. She encouraged anyone who has a vested interest in Penn Market to become involved and engaged in the process. She said attend meetings and become members of committees and boards. She said time is ticking and some funding may need to be raised but we'll all become more informed after an update from the RDA. She said be assured that Council showed its support by approving \$750,000 toward Penn Market renovations. She said we hope for some sort of resolution soon.

XIII. Administration Comment

Administrator Robertson said to keep our fire department in your prayers as we come up on the five-year anniversary of the loss of two firefighters and those firefighters who were hurt during the building Broad St. building collapse.

XIV. Adjournment: The next meeting of Council is scheduled for April 4, 2023 at 6PM in Council Chambers. There being no further business, the March 21, 2023 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:38 PM.

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


Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk


Sandie Walker, President of Council