

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 October 7, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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2025 MEETINGS: Click [here](#) to view 2025 Council Meetings Dates

CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the October 7, 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; Nancy Griffin, Planner; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

I. Public Comment:

David Newby (resident) spoke about comments made by HRC Director Clare Twoomey on the city's social media and her personal page, which he feels indicates a lack of fairness and possibly involves sexism, heterophobia, and racism. He stated that if such comments were made by any other person, they would have been removed from their position. Mr. Newby asked if clients can be assured of fair treatment given the executive director's comments. He urged the city to ask for her resignation or remove her from the position.

Dominick Pepper (resident) addressed the wastewater rate increases imposed by the Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC). He noted the numbers are staggering, citing that a typical 2500-gallon usage rate nearly doubled, from approximately \$22.83 to \$44.77. He calculated that usage up to 8,000 gallons jumped by 177%. Mr. Pepper cited PAWC's claim that this funds infrastructure post-their 2022 acquisition of the York Water System, but argued residents should not bear the cost of prior mismanagement. He also highlighted the unfair practice of PAWC billing wastewater based on total water usage, including water used for gardening. He filed an informal complaint with the PUC but was told they have limited authority. Mr. Pepper urged Council to draft a resolution compelling PAWC to disclose the reason for the rate increases, pressing the PUC to investigate the hikes, conduct public hearings in York, and demand justification for their rates and billing practices, noting successful precedents in Scranton and Dunmore.

Nate Jamison (Penn Market vendor) stated that his lease was terminated over a personal dispute between him and his manager. He expressed a need for more oversight and renovations at Penn Market. He urged Council to push the RDA to provide more information on the status of Penn Market, noting renovations were scheduled for 2019 but have not yet happened in 2025.

Shareef Hameed (resident) spoke about a Warehouse on Albemarle St. that looks severely damaged, stating it looks "like an atomic bomb hit it". He noted that bricks are falling off the building onto the sidewalk where children walk to school. He asked when the area will be cleaned up.

Kelly Summerford (Africa Festival) was present to surprise President Edquina Washington with an award for outstanding community work. Representing the Africa Cultural Festival, he explained they are watching leaders in South Central PA. He read and presented the Community Leadership award to President Washington, stating she was selected for doing impressive things to make a difference in the community.

President Washington thanked the Africa Festival for the award and said she is pleased to serve her community.

There being no further comment, the public comment session was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:15 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [September 16, 2025](#) (legislative); [September 24, 2025](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements: None
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 20125 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on October 15.
 - **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on October 22nd.
- 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. 65 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 65, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in

issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be covered in the application for work to be done at 117 S. Newberry St., was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 65 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution Denying the subdivision/land development plan for the Towns at York Creek. ([View](#)) (For improvements at 550 W. College Ave.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)
3. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution Denying the subdivision/land development plan for the Lofts at York Cree. ([View](#)) (For improvements at 550 W. College Ave.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions: None

New Business – Introduction of Bills

4. Introduction of Bill No. 26 - A Bill Vacating the 12' x 12' terminus of N. Court Ave. ([View](#)) (At the incursion into 15 E. Philadelphia St.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)
Note: In accordance with §12916(b) of the 3rd Class City Code, street vacations must sit for 28 days and advertised for 3 consecutive weeks prior to consideration of final passage. Therefore, this Bill will be considered for final passage on or after 11/5/25.

Introduction of Bill No. 26, Session 2025, A Bill vacating the 12' x 12' terminus of N. Court Ave. at the incursion into 15 E. Philadelphia St., was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the November 5, 2025 meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. 27 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (For the Economic & Community Development department for Fund 29 to correct the budgets for the Job Training for the Community, Delinquent Property Tax, and First Time Homebuyer programs resulting in a budget reduction of \$853,023 and adding additional funds for Lifepath Christian Ministries and the Veteran Housing Support program in the amount of \$350,000.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Introduction of Bill No. 27, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget for the Economic & Community Development department for Fund 29 to correct the budgets for the Job Training for the Community, Delinquent Property Tax, and First Time Homebuyer programs resulting in a budget reduction of \$853,023 and adding additional funds for Lifepath Christian Ministries and the Veteran Housing Support program in the amount of \$350,000, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the October 21, 2025 meeting of Council.

6. Introduction of Bill No. 28 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (For Public Works department for Fund 29 to correct the budget for the Market St. Bridge Replacement program resulting in a budget increase of \$48,237 and reducing the funds for Princess Street Center program in the amount of \$350,000.)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Introduction of Bill No. 28, Session 2025, A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget for Public Works

department for Fund 29 to correct the budget for the Market St. Bridge Replacement program resulting in a budget increase of \$48,237 and reducing the funds for Princess Street Center program in the amount of \$350,000, was introduced by Dennis, read by short title, and deferred to the October 21, 2025 meeting of Council.

7. Introduction of Bill No. 29 - A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (For Bureau of Health by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for additional funds received from the Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania, Inc., for the Family Planning Program to provide for under-reimbursed expenses for STD testing and outreach for the grant period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the total amount of \$5,882.36.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 29, Session 2025, A Bill Amending the FY2025 Budget for the Bureau of Health by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures for additional funds received from the Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania, Inc., for the Family Planning Program to provide for under-reimbursed expenses for STD testing and outreach for the grant period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the total amount of \$5,882.36, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the October 21, 2025 meeting of Council.

8. Introduction of Bill No. 30 - A Bill Amending Article 951 "Municipal Solid Waste Management Act. ([View](#)) (Subsection 951.16 "Minimum Charges and Vacancy Credits" of the York City Codified Ordinances, to provide property owners with fourteen (14) or more residential units the option to opt out of the City's designated trash collection service and allowing for the election of private trash collection plan while maintaining a minimal administrative fee.)
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Solicitor's Office

Introduction of Bill No. 30, Session 2025, A Bill Amending Article 951 "Municipal Solid Waste Management Act", Subsection 951.16 "Minimum Charges and Vacancy Credits" of the York City Codified Ordinances, to provide property owners with fourteen (14) or more residential units the option to opt out of the City's designated trash collection service and allowing for the election of private trash collection plan while maintaining a minimal administrative fee, was introduced by Bupp, read by short title, and deferred to the October 21, 2025 meeting of Council.

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

9. Resolution No. 66 - A Resolution Authorizing a budget transfer. ([View](#)) (For a transfer of **American Rescue Plan Act "ARPA"** funds in the FY2024 City Budget for the Trauma Informed Care (#00424) and GVI & Credible Messenger (#00426) programs to cover personnel expenses in the amount of \$165,532.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Finance/Police

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to read Resolution No. 66 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 66, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing a budget transfer for a transfer of **American Rescue Plan Act "ARPA"** funds in the FY2024 City Budget for the Trauma Informed Care (#00424) and GVI & Credible Messenger (#00426) programs to cover personnel expenses in the amount of \$165,532, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 66 came up for discussion.

Business Administrator Kim Robertson explained that this was a cleanup of the budget, shifting funds from contractual services to salaries and FICA for positions hired at the end of 2024 to ensure the budget balances.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 66 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

10. Resolution No. 67 - A Resolution Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of York. ([View](#)) (For Wi-Fi infrastructure)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Solicitor's Office

Resolution No. 67, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of York for Wi-Fi infrastructure, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 67 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

11. Resolution No. 68 (Referred to the 10/29/25 committee mtg) - A Resolution Supporting advancement of the YorkSafeNet Security Camera System and authorizing access to city infrastructure. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: YorkSafeNet

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Washington, seconded Dennis, to read Resolution No. 68 by short title. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 68, Session 2025, A Resolution supporting advancement of the YorkSafeNet Security Camera System and authorizing access to city infrastructure, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 68 came up for discussion.

Sonny Banks (resident) opposed the cameras, arguing the city finds millions for surveillance but not funds for youth centers, housing, or employment. He stated investment should be in people, not policing, viewing the system as a means of control, citing precedents in Baltimore and Lancaster.

Jasmine Rivera (resident) raised concerns because SafeNet is a private company, and the proposal lacks clarity on the type of cameras and data collection. She worried that private employees controlling public equipment blurs accountability.

Jim Tompkins (resident) supported the cameras, recounting his experience as a violent crime survivor who could have had closure if video evidence existed. He was tired of advice from people who haven't been victims. He asked if Council had researched the initiative, as he had not seen paperwork.

Sherry Washington (President, York NAACP) opposed the proposed \$4.5 million, 140-camera project in its current form due to civil rights concerns, racial equity, privacy, and lack of democratic accountability. She asked Council to pause the initiative and require strict policies, transparency, quarterly reports, and a community oversight board. She noted the language regarding "extenuating circumstances" for viewing private homes was vague and concerning.

Brian Goodin (resident) stood opposed, demanding accountability and transparency. He questioned why millions are prioritized for surveillance rather than ensuring police wear body cameras.

Dominic Davis (resident) encouraged Council to pull back, suggesting that gun violence among youth requires investment in youth programs (under 10 and 15) rather than technology that could become mere entertainment. He said he knows there has been a lot of violence, but statistics and more community input is needed.

Lester Abbott (resident) supported moving forward, noting that this initiative has been in the works for five years. He argued that waiting for the "perfect policy" would result in lives being lost. He said there will always be new technology and in five more years, there will be even more technology. He said we should move forward and install cameras for the safety of our citizens. He urged approval for safety, though he suggested the east side needed more cameras than currently mapped.

Markay Rogers (resident) opposed immediate approval, stating policies must be in place first. She said she was carjacked in front of her house a few years ago. She said she heard about the police installing cameras for seniors and she inquired but heard nothing. She said she understands the desire for cameras but stressed that the policy must define who has access, when, and why, before rights to privacy are violated. She urged Council to table the resolution. She said we are trusting you to make the decision that is right for the residents of the City of York.

Melanie Yan (resident) expressed concern about crime in York City but opposed the installation of citywide surveillance cameras. She described the proposal as a violation of privacy and shared that her home security cameras failed to capture recent package thefts. She urged council to consider alternative approaches, stating that the proposed solution could harm rather than help the public.

Manuel Gomez (resident) urged Council to "pump the brakes" on the proposed surveillance initiative. He stated that discussion at the committee level was limited and disjointed and expressed concern over contradictions between the LogosWorks proposal, which suggests technology has been selected, and Mr. Monroy's comments indicated that the discussion is still preliminary. He questioned whether Council has fulfilled its mission, citing a lack of collaboration and public transparency. He raised concerns about the financial impact and the absence of press quotes or community input. He emphasized that the feasibility study did not recommend facial recognition, a technology he described as flawed and potentially harmful to civil liberties. He warned that the scope and risks of the proposed system remain unclear and called for a more collaborative and cautious approach.

Natasha Kara (resident) strongly supported the cameras. As a victim of two crimes (one being a hit-and-run that went unsolved), she argued that increased collaboration leads to delays in implementation.

Tina Charles (resident) raised concerns about who would control the proposed surveillance cameras and whether individuals with access would undergo background checks. She questioned how extenuating circumstances would be defined to justify viewing into private homes. Charles urged Council to "pump the brakes" and consider holding town hall meetings to ensure broader public engagement, noting that not all residents can attend Council sessions. She emphasized the need for clear communication about how the cameras would function, their impact on civil liberties, and how non-English-speaking residents would be informed.

Barry Ness (resident) noted that surveillance is already common in places like Walmart but emphasized the need for deeper discussion around civil liberties. He questioned who would be held liable if issues arise, what the overall cost to the city would be, and how the initiative would impact municipal finances. He also asked how the system would integrate with the police department and called for further debate on the proposal.

Aida Garcia (resident) expressed concern that while the police department has invested in equipment and vehicles, more attention is needed on youth development and basic life skills such as cooking and sewing to help keep young people off the streets. She opposed 24-hour surveillance and raised concerns about potential ties to ICE. Garcia urged the police to serve all neighborhoods equitably and offered her support in efforts to engage and assist local youth.

Samantha Dorm (former resident) stated that in her professional role she regularly assists departments in securing funding for camera systems, though she was not representing any entity. A lifelong York City resident with 26 years of experience in government and law enforcement, Ms. Dorm expressed support for finding a middle ground on the surveillance initiative. She noted that a major technology provider recently paused similar efforts due to concerns about data requests from immigration authorities, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding sensitive information. Ms. Dorm urged Council to address public concerns transparently and acknowledged the police department's desire for tools to enhance safety. She cautioned against the community working in silos and highlighted the availability of grants for guidance counselors, asking whether relevant data is being shared to support those applications. She stressed the need for a clear implementation strategy and accountability for those monitoring surveillance systems.

Tom Caltagione (President of a Biotechnology Company) stated that his firm develops antibodies for diagnostics and therapeutics and runs a training program for emerging scientists. Mr. Caltagione said he supports the installation of cameras, citing the need for visibility and protection. While acknowledging privacy concerns, he believes increased surveillance can contribute to public safety.

Dominick Pfeffer (resident) expressed support for the proposed camera initiative, provided there is clear oversight and safeguards in place. He acknowledged concerns about who would control the cameras and emphasized the need for due diligence in shaping policy. Pfeffer shared that he worries about his children walking even short distances in the neighborhood and believes surveillance could enhance safety if properly managed.

Danisha Rivera (resident) expressed strong concern over allocating \$4.5 million to ease police operations, calling the amount excessive. She questioned the city's priorities, citing personal experiences with being pulled over for minor violations like car tint and noting that she already uses home security cameras. Ms. Rivera emphasized the need to focus on pressing community issues such as youth support and homelessness.

Brian Goodin (resident) stated that the core issue is accountability, not opposition to public safety. He emphasized the need to hold individuals accountable, particularly those in positions of power, who may take advantage of the community.

Otto Monroy, President of LogosWorks, clarified that LogosWorks is a nonprofit serving as a consultant to Better York. He explained that their role in the body-worn camera initiative mentioned earlier was limited to acting as a fiscal sponsor to facilitate grant funding, with ownership and oversight remaining solely with the respective police departments. Mr. Monroy emphasized that accountability is central to the proposed YorkSafeNet structure and stated that substantial public information has already been submitted. He reiterated LogosWorks' commitment to transparency and offered continued consultation as needed.

Michael Muldrow, Police Commissioner, thanked the community for engaging in respectful dialogue. He strongly advocated for the proposed surveillance system, citing his 27 years of service and a 75% reduction in violent crime as evidence of effective, transparent policing. Commissioner Muldrow emphasized that his commitment is to the entire community, not select neighborhoods, and urged Council to approve the initiative to protect vulnerable residents, including autistic children, elderly individuals with dementia, and families unable to afford

private security systems. He confirmed that all officers currently wear body cameras and stressed the importance of maintaining transparency. Commissioner Muldrow highlighted ongoing efforts to support youth, mental health advocacy, and leadership development. He acknowledged public concerns but warned against missing an opportunity to enhance safety. Referencing the success of cameras in Penn Park, he called the proposal a first step and encouraged Council to develop a clear policy and implementation strategy. He concluded by urging action for the sake of future generations and reaffirmed his duty to speak up for community safety.

Sherry Wasihington (President, York NAACP) asked that Council implement civil rights impact review and establish a public community oversight board to monitor future public technology proposals.

Tanoe Sweeney (resident) expressed support for the proposed camera initiative. She noted that individuals with personal surveillance systems, such as Ring cameras, should be aware that these devices can potentially be accessed by third parties.

Motion to refer to committee and statement: Council President Edquina Washington acknowledged recent public feedback and emphasized that Council's role is to listen to the community, data, and evolving needs—not to vote based on personal beliefs. She provided background on the YorkSafeNet initiative, noting that it has been under discussion since 2021, with formal resolutions passed in 2022 and 2023. She summarized outreach efforts by Parker International Security Firm, which included forums, media engagement, and 220 completed surveys, most from city residents. While some opposition was noted, only 10% of survey respondents opposed the initiative. Washington commended civic engagement, especially from Manuel Gomez, and encouraged continued public participation. In response to tonight's comments, **she moved to return the item to committee for further discussion at the October 29 committee meeting.** She said no further public comment would be received at this time, but the upcoming committee meeting will offer another opportunity for input. She invited Council and administration to share reflections before the vote. (Click [here](#) to read full statement)

Buckingham/Johnescu – Opposed to Moving to Committee:

Vice President Buckingham and Councilwoman Johnescu both opposed placing the item back in committee, arguing that the resolution itself contains contingencies requiring continued collaborative engagement on governance, policies, and maps. Councilwoman Johnescu stated she did not see what would change in three weeks. Vice President Buckingham noted that the previous Council unanimously requested LogosWorks return with these safeguards. They agreed with an earlier comment that allowing the resolution to advance represents a "middle ground".

Bupp/Dennis – Supports Moving to Committee:

Councilwoman Bupp and Councilwoman Dennis supported placing the item back in committee. Councilwoman Bupp noted that she appreciated the feedback and felt a pause was needed to address privacy and reporting concerns, especially given past failures like the expensive Shot Spotter program. Councilwoman Dennis agreed, emphasizing the need for clear policies and procedures to ensure accountability persists even after Commissioner Muldrow leaves. She noted that having clear procedures is crucial to prevent the system from being used to "terrorize our community".

Business Administrator Kim Robertson clarified that the \$4.5 million required is not planned city funds. While maintenance funds might be considered in the future, the current funding is external.

Vote on committee referral: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Dennis, to place Resolution No. 68 on the October 29, 2025 committee agenda. The motion PASSED by the

following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Dennis, Washington – 3; Nays – Johnescu, Buckingham – 2.

Resolution No. 68 will be placed on the 10/29/25 committee agenda for further discussion.

12. Resolution No. 69 - A Resolution
Appointing probationary police officers. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor / Police

Resolution No. 69, Session 2025, A Resolution approving the following as probationary police officers: Gregory Moessinger, Justin Seager, Israel Carrion-Cruz, Jacob Hillner, Brayden McIntire, Nathan Raffensberger, and James Smith, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 69 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Buckingham addressed a constituent's concern regarding large item pickup, noting the resident was unable to get a response by phone. She clarified that citizens no longer call in but must schedule large item pick up online. She provided instructions: go to the resident page, look under "refuse trash curbside collection service," scroll down to "schedule large item," and click the link. An unnamed resident confirmed that QR codes are also available on the newsletter for scheduling. Resident Tanoe Sweeney added that many elders and those without flyers are unaware of the change and are not tech savvy, urging Council to improve outreach.

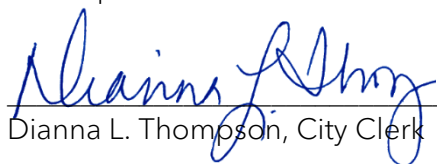
Councilwoman Bupp announced that a memorial service for Amy Mummert, a beloved artist and community organizer who passed away, would be held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. at Union Lutheran Church, 408 W. Market St..

City Clerk Dianna Thompson spoke regarding previous social media backlash directed at Councilwoman Johnescu concerning proposed legislation to regulate street naming/dedication. Clerk Thompson stressed that the proposed regulation was not racist as purported but was actually a preventative measure to establish necessary procedures (like applications and council oversight). The purpose was to safeguard against future misuse. Clerk Thompson emphasized the importance of preventing scenarios where a future mayor might name a street after individuals with violent histories or unethical reputations. She expressed support for revisiting the measure to ensure accountability and integrity in the process.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the October 7, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 8:06 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