



The City of York Pennsylvania

Office of City Council
101 S. George St.
York, PA 17401

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COMMITTEE MINUTES September 24, 2025

6:00 p.m.

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Fire/Police	Public Works	Econ & Comm Development	Business Admin	Rules & Admin
Washington Buckingham Dennis	Dennis Washington Johnescu	Washington Buckingham Johnescu	Buckingham Johnescu Bupp	Bupp Washington Dennis

***Bold text indicates Chairperson**

Note: General Committee is chaired by Council President or designee and includes all Council members.

CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the September 24, 2025, committee 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.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Michael Muldrow, Police Commissioner; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

- I. Called committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Committee Issues for the **October 7 & 21, 2025** legislative Agendas as follows:

GENERAL (Washington, Chair; All Council Members)

1. Ordinance vacating a portion of N. Court Ave. ([View](#))

Submitted by: Solicitor's Office

► Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025

Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower explained that an ordinance is required to vacate a portion of a public street. The proposal is to vacate the last 26 feet of the alley, which is part of a plan related to 15 E. Philadelphia Street discussed on July 15. The width of the alley will not change, and the applicant's attorney assured the city that the alleyway will not be blocked.

Councilwoman Johnescu stated that she walked the corridor after being confused by Google Maps. She spoke with local business owners who were unaware of the application but noted it did not appear to impact their businesses.

Councilwoman Bupp questioned if the change would make it difficult for vehicles on Court Ave. to turn around and exit.

Assistant Solicitor Flower said there was a plan for 15 E. Philadelphia on July 15, and this is part of that plan. Those lines are the direct result of a survey. There is no width change. Whether it terminates 26 ft sooner won't affect how people turn around. She said she spoke to the applicant's attorney, and he assured her that alleyway will not be blocked off.

Councilwoman Bupp asked once vacated, is it true it cannot be undone. Solicitor Flower said we would have to go through a special process to do that.

Mikey Naper, Gifted Horse Brewing Company, asked that they be kept abreast of any developments on this application. He said it doesn't seem it will affect them much and the applicant has been in contact with them.

Patrick Winter, World-A-Cuts, expressed concern about the potential for future issues if the new business fails and the loss of what he considered valuable parking space. He stated the alley has been open to all businesses for 20 years and should remain that way.

Assistant Solicitor Flower clarified that the city is not vacating the entire alley, only the last 26 feet where she believes no one is currently parking, so the main alley itself will not be affected.

Councilwoman Johnescu thanked Solicitor Flower for the needed clarification.

DECISION: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Dennis, to place this item on the 10/7/25 agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the County of York - Wi-Fi infrastructure ([View](#))

Submitted by: Solicitor's Office

► Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025

Assistant Solicitor Flower stated that the city had already allocated ARPA funds for this. The County needs to place Wi-Fi points on city-owned Gamewell system wires located on traffic and telephone poles. The city is authorizing priority placement on the poles and will retain the rights to the location if the county abandons it. This has been cleared with Chief Sleeper and Electrical Supervisor Dave Rudolph. John Dolmetsch of Wifinium was present to answer questions. She said Mr. John Dolmetsch, Wifinium, is present to answer questions.

President Washington asked if the city would bear the costs for permits. Solicitor Flower confirmed the county will cover costs for three years. President Washington then asked if the poles near the school will be used.

John Dolmetsch, Wifinium, said a separate MOU will be done with the school to use the poles. First Energy owns the poles, but the city owns the Gamewell system. If we can use that spot, it will make the project easier. He said we want to remove the telegraph wire and replace it with Wi-Fi equipment.

Councilwoman Bupp raised a concern about potential conflicts with SafeNet's future camera placements. Mr. Dolmetsch, whose team is also engineering the SafeNet project, stated there should be no conflict and noted the county is paying for power upgrades that will benefit other projects.

DECISION: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, to place this item on the 10/7/25 agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

3. Resolution supporting advancement of the York SafeNet Public Security Camera System ([View](#))

Submitted by: York SafeNet

► Legislative Agenda: T/B/D (Oct. 7 agenda requested)

Eric Menzer, Chairman of the Board of SafeNet, presented the proposal, emphasizing it comes from the SafeNet collaboration, with LogosWorks as a partner. He mentioned Lancaster's public safety network as a model and then briefly explained that project.

Otto Monroy, President of LogosWorks, noted that since Council passed a resolution in 2023, they have formed a 501(c)(3), built a board, and worked with Barley Snyder to develop policies before launching the camera network. He said most camera networks are launched without policy, so he applauded Council for its due diligence. The plan includes 140 camera locations identified in consultation with the police department. He said those policies are included in Council's packet. He said they identified prominent funders and from those conversations they believed CapEx funding would be the best approach.

Vice President Buckingham noted that the SafeNet initiative was once a prominent focus, and she personally attended several community meetings during its early stages. She said that civil liberties were a major concern throughout those discussions. She shared that Commissioner Muldrow had invited Council members to visit municipalities utilizing public safety camera systems and that she participated in those visits, which included Wilmington and Lancaster. In Wilmington, the system was publicly owned and operated by the city and police department, allowing for direct engagement and observation of the system in use. In contrast, Lancaster's system was privately managed, and the differences in structure and operation were evident. During the Lancaster visit, she said members of Council witnessed a live incident response, which offered insight into the system's functionality.

Vice President Buckingham acknowledged public apprehension regarding cameras, particularly fears of intrusion into private residences. She clarified that the camera systems in question do not have the capability to see inside homes.

Vice President Buckingham then shared a key challenge raised by the commission: crime patterns have evolved significantly over the past decade, requiring a collaborative, multi-agency approach. She expressed support for the system's scalability and adaptability.

Lastly, she said concerns were raised regarding the absence of formal policies and procedures. In discussions with Lancaster officials, it was noted that their system, implemented in 2006, lacked documented protocols at the time. Community feedback was mixed; while some residents opposed the system, others expressed frustration that their blocks were excluded and advocated for camera coverage in their areas.

Councilwoman Johnescu noted that she resides on the unit block of South Queen Street, where police frequently knock on her door to request access to her security camera footage. She explained that while helpful, this informal approach can delay investigations. She emphasized the value of a formalized camera registration system as a critical tool for addressing such issues as crime, locating missing children, or assisting individuals with dementia. Replacing door-to-door inquiries with a streamlined system, she said, would significantly enhance public safety and investigative efficiency.

Vice President Buckingham said some residents may hesitate to assist police investigations due to concerns about retaliation, and expressed support for implementing a formal system that could hopefully alleviate those fears.

Councilwoman Johnescu suggested obtaining data from the Penn Park camera to demonstrate the effectiveness of such a tool.

Commissioner Muldrow stated that the installation of cameras in Penn Park was well-timed. After the project was completed, he said he waited four months before requesting an analysis and footage data. The analysis compared crime data from the four months before the cameras were installed to the four months after they were in place. During the initial period, 28 incidents, including fights, disorderly conduct, assaults, and shots fired, were recorded. In the subsequent four months with cameras in place, only two incidents occurred. He emphasized that the City was transparent about the camera deployment, and that this openness contributed to the positive impact.

Manuel Gomez, resident, expressed appreciation that policies were being developed prior to camera installation, noting this proactive approach is often difficult to achieve. He did, however, raise concerns about public perception, suggesting that many community members may feel they are under constant surveillance. Mr. Gomez said he was surprised that no mention had been made of artificial intelligence or facial recognition technologies and urged Council to address these issues directly. He cautioned that such technologies, if left unconstrained, could be used in ways that infringe on personal privacy, including the ability to see into private spaces.

Mr. Gomez went on to emphasize the importance of implementing safeguards, such as termination clauses and usage limitations, to prevent unchecked automation. He recommended the creation of a public registry to ensure transparency and accountability. While commending the police department for its responsiveness, he urged Council to pause this initiative, warning that moving forward without a clear use-of-force policy or defined standards for system access could result in irreversible consequences. He asked how frequently officers would request access and what protocols would govern those requests. Mr. Gomez said that authorizing this system without addressing AI and facial recognition constraints would be a serious and potentially unrecoverable decision and called for Council to halt the process for further examination.

DECISION: A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, to place this item on the 10/7/25 legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 4; Nays – Bupp – 1.

PUBLIC WORKS (Dennis, Chair; Washington, Johnescu)

4. Bill amending the FY2025 Budget - Market St. Bridge & Princess St. Center ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, Business Administrator for Public Works

► [Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025](#)

Business Administrator Robertson explained this is a "clean up" to reallocate ARPA funds before the 2026 deadline. The amendment moves \$350,000 originally earmarked for the Princess Street Center project to other initiatives: \$250,000 for housing support and \$100,000 for LifePath. She noted the center requires at least double that amount to become useful for housing a daycare, and without the full funding, the money would be lost.

Councilwoman Dennis expressed disappointment that funding for the Princess Street Project had been reduced to zero, noting that the community had been eagerly anticipating its progress. She asked whether any alternative funding sources were available.

Administrator Robertson responded that no additional funding is currently available. She explained that the original funding was specifically earmarked for renovations to support the return of a daycare center to the facility. Although the mayor had proposed retaining \$50,000 for basic maintenance, that amount was insufficient to meet the requirements needed to house a daycare. Because the funds could only be used for renovations, and those renovations could not be completed, the decision was made to remove the allocation from the budget and reallocate the funds elsewhere to avoid losing them.

Councilwoman Dennis referenced improvements at Penn Street Market, such as roof and door replacements, and asked whether the Princess Street Center Project could at least begin with some funding to address smaller maintenance issues. She emphasized that the center remains of major importance to the community.

Administrator Robertson clarified that the Penn Street Market improvements were part of a matching requirement for a RACP grant, which made that situation different.

Councilwoman Bupp questioned if money from the \$8 million remaining in department 400's budget could be used for the Princess Street Center. Administrator Robertson replied that those funds are already allocated for other major projects.

Councilwoman Johnescu pointed out what appeared to be a copy-and-paste error in the 4th Whereas clause of agenda this item and agenda item ##7. Business Administrator Robertson clarified that there is a difference because the action involves moving funds from one project to another.

President Washington asked how the decision was made to reallocate funds from the Princess Street Project to other programs.

Administrator Robertson explained that the mayor had delayed action on the center to explore its potential uses. In the meantime, the mayor received funding requests from community organizations such as LifePath and Prodigy Spectrum, which had been repeatedly raised as priorities. Accenture reviewed these proposals and confirmed they met ARPA funding requirements. After weighing all options, the mayor recommended redirecting the funds to support those initiatives.

President Washington inquired whether the LifePath funding was intended for building improvements. Administrator Robertson responded that she believed the funding was for operational support of an existing facility. President Washington confirmed that this would meet ARPA requirements, and Administrator Robertson agreed, noting that LifePath's original funding had already been approved and this allocation would support continuation of their project.

Councilwoman Bupp noted that the Princess Street Center funding had been part of the highway budget, which also includes the Market Street Bridge. Referring to Department 400 from the September 16, 2025 meeting, she observed that approximately \$8 million remained in that budget. She asked whether any of those funds, particularly the \$350,000 being moved from Public Works to Economic Development, could be used for the Princess Street Project. She expressed agreement with Councilwoman Dennis's earlier concern about why funding could not be directed toward the center.

Administrator Robertson responded that the projects under line item 400 were already committed to major initiatives, and the City was confident those obligations would be met.

Councilwoman Bupp asked whether formal agreements had been executed for the reallocated funding. Administrator Robertson stated that no agreements were currently in place, which allowed flexibility in reallocating the funds.

Councilwoman Dennis questioned the urgency of reallocating funds now, given that they are available until 2026. Administrator Robertson replied that the goal was to ensure the funds are spent promptly to avoid the risk of losing them.

DECISION: A motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Washington, to place this item on the 10/7/25 agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

5. Resolution authorizing various FY2025 ARPA approved funding agreements ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, Business Administrator for DECD

► Legislative Agenda: October 21, 2025

Business Administrator Robertson explained that the funding for these initiatives is drawn from various buckets, allowing for flexibility in reallocating funds. She noted that funding for Prodigy Spectrum is being placed within the Economic Development budget, while the other three projects will be supported through an existing allocation for community job training. The original agreement had mistakenly listed \$1,000,000 instead of the intended \$400,000, and that error is being corrected. The revised amount will cover most of the intended allocation. One additional agreement falls below the threshold requiring Council approval. Administrator Robertson confirmed that all projects have been reviewed by Accenture and meet ARPA funding requirements. She said she would provide Council with the relevant project agreements and descriptions for the October 21 meeting.

La'Velle Howell, representing Prodigy Spectrum, shared that the organization provides housing and support services for homeless and displaced veterans. Initially operating from a small facility, they expanded within a year due to growing demand. Services include three daily meals, structured activities, and ongoing support to address underlying challenges such as missed appointments and hoarding behaviors that often lead to eviction. Located at 626 W. Market Street, Prodigy Spectrum continues to assist veterans as they transition to independent living, including home visits to ensure medication adherence and appointment attendance. Mr. Howell shared a story of a veteran who, after securing a new apartment, expressed fear about leaving the program, underscoring the deep bonds formed through their services. She then gave additional examples of the program's positive impact.

Abdula Jamison, founder of the APJ Foundation, spoke about his personal journey, having lost his son to gun violence. In response, he established the foundation to address the evolving mindset of local youth and the territorial dynamics he observed. While cameras may serve as deterrents, he emphasized that true change begins with self-worth and emotional support especially for youth from single-parent households. The foundation focuses on skill development, including budgeting, trades, and mental health support. Mr. Jamison stated that the new funding will allow them to expand their services. He also noted that while the current age range served is 16-21, they hope to broaden that scope to include financial literacy and homeownership education.

President Washington, who serves on the Board of the APJ Foundation, commended Mr. Jamison for transforming personal tragedy into a meaningful community resource. She praised the program's impact on skill-building and care for its participants.

AliceAnne Frost, representing the York Community Resource Center, described plans to expand Tech Centro, located on East Market Street. She explained that the center was established in a previously blighted building and now serves as a bilingual workforce development hub. Current offerings include English as a Second Language, GED preparation in both English and Spanish, and job training aligned with in-demand careers. The center recently graduated a group of students from a 20-week medical course, with continued support provided post-graduation. Additional programs include evening classes, CNA certification, and social services. The organization takes a holistic approach and is planning to open a second facility focused on trades education. While bilingual, she said the center welcomes all community members.

Administrator Robertson added that Crispus Attucks had received funding a year ago and recently requested additional support. With new resources available, the City is allocating an additional \$100,000 to expand their job training efforts through the Career Focus Institute. She provided an overview of the programs under their umbrella.

Manuel Gomez, resident, expressed strong support for the APJ Foundation, calling Mr. Jamison a hero, and stating that this type of programming is essential for crime prevention and community transformation. He praised Mr. Jamison's work and emphasized the importance of investing in high-demand services that foster positive change.

Councilwoman Dennis commended Prodigy Spectrum for its dedication to serving veterans and encouraged them to continue their impactful work.

DECISION: A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, to place this item on the 10/21/25 legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas Washington, Buckingham, Johnescu - 3; Nays - 0.

6. Ordinance amending the FY2025 Budget - Health (\$5,882.36 for STD testing & outreach) ([View](#))

Submitted by: Amanda Ziegler, Health

► [Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025](#)

Administrator Robertson stated this amendment updates the Health department's operating budget to match a grant budget, enabling them to expend funds for STD testing and outreach services and get reimbursed.

DECISION: A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, to place this item on the 10/7/25 legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas Washington, Buckingham, Johnescu - 3; Nays - 0.

7. Ordinance Amending the FY2025 Budget - DECD (Budget corrections & Lifepath funding) ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, Business Administrator for DECD

► [Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025](#)

Administrator Robertson explained that this as housekeeping to update ARPA budgets. The changes include correcting a job training line item to \$1,000,000, adding \$100,000 to LifePath, correcting a delinquent tax program error, reducing the first-time homebuyers line item, and adding \$250,000 for veteran's housing support.

Councilwoman Bupp noted a potential discrepancy of \$29,000 in the ARPA report's revised budget, which Administrator Robertson said she would investigate.

DECISION: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Johnescu, to place this item on the 10/7/25 legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas Washington, Buckingham, Johnescu - 3; Nays - 0.

POLICE (Washington, Chair; Buckingham, Dennis)

8. Resolution appointing probationary police officers ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, Business Administrator for Police

► [Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025](#)

Administrator Robertson stated that the police academy is currently underway, with another session scheduled soon. At this point, there are vacancies among the eight officer positions funded through ARPA. While the original plan did not include extending this funding into 2026, the administration is now evaluating continued funding support for these roles. She requested that Council allow time until the October 7 agenda deadline to finalize the number of vacancies and determine how many appointments may be extended, noting that the figures are still being clarified.

Manuel Gomez, resident, expressed a desire for greater transparency in the officer selection process.

DECISION: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to place this item on the 10/7/25 legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas Washington, Buckingham, Dennis - 3; Nays - 0.

9. Resolution authorizing a budget transfer (\$165,532) ([View](#))
Submitted by: K. Robertson, Business Administrator for Police)
► [Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025](#)

Administrator Robertson explained that this adjustment is part of a budget cleanup. At the end of 2025, several ARPA-funded positions were brought in-house as employees. While the original intent was to categorize these roles under "Other Contractual Services," that approach was not feasible, so the positions were transitioned to City employment. This budget amendment ensures proper alignment to cover associated employee expenses.

Councilwoman Bupp noted that there are still figures listed under "Other Contractual Services" and asked whether those funds had been used for other purposes. Administrator Robertson clarified that the listed amount reflects the original budget for the year, and funds are now being reallocated to cover salaries. When asked if the remaining balance would be used, Administrator Robertson confirmed that it would be used to support trauma response and credible messenger programs.

DECISION: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Dennis, to place this item on the 10/7/25 legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas Washington, Buckingham, Dennis - 3; Nays - 0.

RULES & ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (Bupp, Chair; Washington, Dennis)

10. Bill amending Article 951 "Municipal Solid Waste Management Act - To include a private trash collection option for certain properties" ([View](#))
Submitted by: Solicitor's Office for Public Works
► [Legislative Agenda: October 7, 2025](#)

Assistant Solicitor Flower explained that under Article 951.16, every dwelling unit is required to have refuse service. The current ordinance allows properties with 50 or more units to opt out of municipal trash collection, but this threshold has proven impractical, particularly due to space limitations for placing toters. The proposed amendment reduces the opt-out threshold from 50 units to 14, offering greater flexibility for smaller multi-unit properties. Properties choosing to opt out must coordinate with the Finance and Refuse Departments to establish a private trash contract and ensure proper waste management. Proof of a valid contract is required to prevent illegal dumping.

Councilwoman Bupp expressed concern about the necessity of additional language in the ordinance. Solicitor Flower responded that while she does not favor embedding obligations for the City itself into the ordinance, she supports including language that clarifies responsibilities for property owners to ensure mutual understanding. Councilwoman Bupp asked whether other references to "50 units" in the ordinance would need to be updated. Solicitor Flower clarified that those references pertain to fee structures, which remain unchanged and serve as a cap.

Manuel Gomez, resident, shared that he has received feedback from business owners who support this increased flexibility.

DECISION: A motion was made by Bupp, seconded by Washington, to place this item on the 10/7/25 legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas Washington, Bupp, Dennis - 3; Nays - 0.

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- III. Council Comment: None
- IV. Administration Comment: None
- V. Next Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items due by 12 noon and 10/22/25.
- VI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the September 24, 2025 committee meeting of City Council adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Edquina Washington, President of Council