

Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Edquina Washington, President of Council
Betsy Buckingham, Vice President of Council
Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Member of Council
Elizabeth Bupp, Member of Council
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MINUTES November 18, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofYorkPA/>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WhiteRoseCommunityTV>.

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the November 18, 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, 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, Acting Director of Public Works; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

- I. Public Comment: None
- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 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 [November 5, 2025](#) (legislative). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

► **STEAM Academy (Educators Lexi Bierman & Sarah Goodyear):** Third graders will share resources they created for families moving to York. – Presentation did not occur.

► **Proclamation:** Proclaiming “Pennsylvania’s Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week” and “Red Shirt Day” in the City of York. ([View](#))

President Washington read the proclamation at length. The proclamation detailed that homelessness persists in many communities across the Commonwealth, affecting both urban and rural areas. Its purpose is to educate the public about the prevalence of youth experiencing homelessness, the barriers they face in attending school, and the McKenna Vento Homeless Assistance Act which schools must comply with. The resolution emphasized the need for resources, noting the shortage of affordable housing for displaced minors and that many shelters will not accept children under 18 without a parent or guardian. The Act is highlighted for providing stability through safe spaces, nutritious meals, access to washing facilities, hygiene items, and clothing closets.

President Washington presented the proclamation to Sonia Pitz, Executive Director of PA Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness.

Ms. Pitz thanked the Council for the opportunity and continued support, noting that President Washington has been part of the awareness week for the entirety of its 12-year history.

President Washington urged the community to support homeless youth and refer them to available services. She encouraged residents to wear red on Friday, November 21st, and to start conversations in their workplaces, families, among friends, and in places of faith to raise awareness and provide resources. Wearing red is intended as a powerful visual statement that students experiencing homelessness are seen, supported, and valued, using hashtags such as #RedShirtDay, #IWillBeYourVoice, and #LetsHaveAConversation.

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on **Mon., November 24th**.

► **Council Committee Meeting:** No committee meetings held in November & December.

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. 82 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 82, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 1 S. George St., 2 S. George St., and 323 W. Mason Ave, was introduced by Bupp, read at length, and on motion of Bupp, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 82 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp commented on the 323 W. Mason Ave. address, explaining that it was the former Trimmer Printing building, owned by her great-grandfather, William Trimmer. She recalled being there as a child in the 1960's when they were closing the business, where he printed donation cards for local churches and sold stationery. She said she was pleased with the redevelopment and noted that there is a "ghost sign" reading "TP Tinting" on the rear of the property, which she hopes remains.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 82 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas -

Bupp, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - 0.

2. Resolution No. 83 - A Resolution Conditionally approving the preliminary/final subdivision/land development plan submitted by Warehaus. ([View](#)) (550 W. College Ave. - Towns at York Creek)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Resolution No. 83, Session 2025, A Resolution conditionally approving the preliminary/final subdivision/land development plan submitted by Warehaus for 550 W. College Ave. (Towns at York Creek), was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 83 came up for discussion.

Jeff Stough, Warehaus, was present and showed Council a colored rendering of the plans. He explained that the resolution grants requested waivers and partial waivers to the subdivision land development ordinance, as the Planning Commission recommended approval because the plan generally conforms to standards if the waivers are granted.

Councilwoman Bupp noted that some of the waivers, such as those related to setbacks and required parkland/open space, are acceptable due to the project's adjacency to the creek.

Mr. Stough explained that they coordinated their plans to match up with the extension of the rail trail that runs through the park and the property. Discussion confirmed that the plan includes recreational areas and park areas (represented by random blue areas on the rendering) throughout the complex, including improvements connected to Martin Luther King Park.

Vice President Buckingham stated she was pleased to see the project move forward, acknowledging it was the previous Dentsply property and had been a long work in progress.

Mr. Stough confirmed they had received all their permits, including the ENS permit, and anticipated construction potentially starting in January.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 83 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - 0.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions: None

New Business - Introduction of Bills

3. Introduction of Bill No. 31 - A Bill Approving the 2026 York City Budget. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor / Business Administration (Finance)
Introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, deferred to later meeting.

Introduction of Bill No. 31, Session 2025, A Bill appropriating sums required for specific purposes of city government during 2026, prohibiting certain transfers, and repealing inconsistent ordinances (adopting the 2026 York City Budget), was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the December 2 meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill No. 32 - A Bill Approving the 2026 Tax Rate. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor / Business Administration (Finance)

Introduction of Bill No. 32, Session 2025, A Bill establishing the tax rate for 2026 at \$18.97 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the December 2 meeting of Council.

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

5. Resolution No. 84 - A Resolution Appointing/Reappointing members to Downtown Inc. ([View](#)) (York Business Improvement District Authority - YBIDA)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 84, Session 2025, A Resolution consenting to the following reappointment and appointments as recommended by the Mayor:

Sarah Malinsky (Reappointment), serving until the first Monday of January 2031.
Mickey Knaper (Appointment), serving until the first Monday of January 2027.
Ryan McKinley (Appointment), serving until the first Monday of January 2030.

The Resolution was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Bupp, Resolution No. 84 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp spoke kindly of Mr. McKinley, having heard him speak recently at the Downtown Inc. fall update about the positive developments he is contributing, and she thanked Mr. Knaper for being a wonderful force downtown.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 84 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - 0.

President Washington welcomed the new members and encouraged residents to apply for the various openings on the city's boards and authorities, emphasizing the value of volunteers' voices, ideals, and creativity.

The City Clerk administered the oath of office to all three appointees.

Supplemental Agenda

6. Resolution No. 85 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Royal Square Development & Construction. ([View](#)) (For the Comfort Station Stabilization Project - \$90,067.00)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works

Motion to Waive Rule 215: A motion to waive Rule 215 was made by Buckingham, seconded by Bupp, and passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 85, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Royal Square Development & Construction in the amount of \$90,067.00 for the Comfort Station Infill and Stabilization project, was introduced by Dennis, read at length, and on motion of Dennis, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 85 came up for discussion.

Dave Rudolph, Acting Director, Public Works, explained that the project's main components are the removal of the balusters and covering over the stairs at the comfort stations. The project originated when Royal Square Development & Construction, while working on the old Futer Bros. building, realized the City owned a portion of the basement area underneath their

building, which required infill construction due to sidewalk collapse and deterioration. He said the comfort station stabilization was added because it faces the same issue; the structure is near collapse and needs infill for stabilization and safety, as it currently rains inside during wet weather.

Mr. Rudolph apologized for bringing the item late, explaining that the cost exceeded his set budget and required Council approval. He also noted they missed the initial HARB requirement, thinking it was just sidewalk work, but were informed that the vertical structure of the railings made it a HARB project.

Councilwoman Bupp questioned why the fragile balusters, which would cost six figures to replace, should be kept at all if the structure is not expected to be opened up again for decades. She suggested storing them against a wall instead of incurring extra expense.

Mr. Rudolph clarified that storing the balusters (possibly in one of the restrooms) would actually save money compared to paying to have them hauled out to a landfill. He confirmed that the cost of rebuilding them was greater than the cost of tearing them down, redoing the concrete, and making the structure safe. He also noted that since they are manufactured in Baltimore, the recent Key Bridge incident would likely increase travel time and raise the cost of replacement even further.

Mr. Rudolph said he hopes that the stabilization, combined with the removal and replanting of trees, would improve the look of the downtown square and make it a better area for events.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 85 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment:

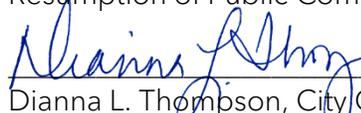
Vice President Buckingham shared that she attended a community conversation last Thursday night at Martin Library titled "Does My Safety Matter". She noted the event coincided with the GVI (Group Violence Initiative) callout. The panel included Sarah O'Brien (Downtown Inc.), Jamie Norpal (York Safety Collaboration), Police Officer Reinert (with Victory, the therapy dog, housed at City Hall), and Patricia White (York County Area Agency on Aging). Vice President Buckingham called it a "great conversation" that addressed misconceptions and realities about safety in downtown York, encouraging the public to attend if the opportunity arises again.

Councilwoman Bupp encouraged residents to view the October 28th budget hearing with the Mayor and Business Administrator on the City of York Facebook page. She emphasized the importance of paying attention to the budget, noting that the city is proposing doubling the use of funds from the Wastewater Treatment Plant proceeds to balance the 2026 budget. She stated that Council had just received the numbers that evening and urged people to review the budget, including the \$80 million general fund, and prepare any comments for the next legislative meeting on December 2, 2025.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the November 18, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:33 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