

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
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MINUTES November 5, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the October 21, 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; Michael Muldrow, Police Commissioner; 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 at 6:01 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Moment of Silence
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [October 21, 2025](#) (legislative); [October 29, 2025](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the Minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

President Washington congratulated Mayor-elect Sandie Walker and thanked her for establishing the Mayor-Elect Transition and Accountability Team (TAT). She thanked Mayor-elect Walker for personally reaching out to her, noting this gesture speaks volumes about her commitment to collaboration and transparency. She explained that the transition team would reach out to individual members of City Council to listen to concerns, understand legislative priorities, and gather recommendations.

President Washington encouraged her fellow Council members to be open, candid, and cooperative in these conversations. While Council has no formal role in the administrative transition, she said they hold responsibility to represent constituents. She encouraged current leadership to work in good faith with the Mayor-elect's team to ensure a smooth, transparent, and well-informed handoff, emphasizing that the process is about continuity, professionalism, and public service, not politics. She also welcomed newly elected council member Ryan Supler and congratulated Council Vice President Betsy Buckingham on her successful reelection bid.

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

- **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on November 12th.
- **Council Committee Meeting:** No committee meetings are held during the months of 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. 77 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 77, Session 2025, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be done at 103 N. Newberry St., 20 N. Penn St., and 462-464 W. Market St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 77 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 26, Ordinance No. 29 - A Bill
Vacating the 12' x 26' terminus of N. Court Ave. ([View](#)) (At the incursion into 15 E. Philadelphia St.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)

Final Passage of Bill No. 26, Ordinance No. 29, Session 2025, A Bill vacating the 12 ft. x 26 ft. terminus of N. Court Ave. at the incursion into 15 E. Philadelphia St., which was introduced by Washington at the October 7th meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 26, Ordinance No. 29 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

New Business – Introduction of Bills: NONE

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

3. Resolution No. 78 - A Resolution
Approving the 2026 Annual Action Plan. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Washington, seconded Dennis, to read Resolution No. 78 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 78, Session 2025, A Resolution approving the 2026 Annual Action Plan was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 78 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Councilwoman Bupp thanked Acting Director of Economic & Community Development, Tammy Harvey-Bethea for providing very good answers to Council's questions during the committee meeting.

4. Resolution No. 68 (FAILED) - A Resolution Supporting the advancement of the YorkSafeNet Public Security Camera System and authorizing access to city infrastructure. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: YorkSafeNet
Note: Resolution No. 68 was introduced at Council's October 7 meeting, referred to the October 29 committee meeting, and released from committee meeting for action tonight.

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded Johnescu, to read Resolution No. 68 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 68, Session 2025, A Resolution supporting the advancement of the YorkSafeNet Public Security Camera System and authorizing access to city infrastructure, which was introduced by Washington at the October 7th meeting of Council, referred to Council's October 29th committee meeting, and released from committee for action this evening, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 68 came up for discussion.

Motion to amend. Councilwoman Bupp made a motion to amend Resolution No. 68 to integrate operational and civil liberty safeguards. The proposed amendment focused on scope limitation and infrastructure ownership, data rights and accountability, and governance and public oversight. A summary of the amendments are as follows (click [here](#) to view full text of proposed amendments):

- The proposed amendment included limiting the number of city-owned poles used to **55**, aligning with the initial 2019 feasibility study draft map.
- It required the City to maintain full ownership of all municipal infrastructure used.
- It incorporated YorkSafeNet's proposed operating policies guaranteeing constitutional safeguards, including prohibiting facial recognition functionality and limiting footage retention to no more than 30 days.
- Police would be required to abide by network policies, demonstrate a legal rationale for each request for footage, and a publicly available log must detail all requests.
- It required the formal establishment of a Citizens Advisory Board for ongoing public input and oversight, with the Mayor recommending appointments subject to Council approval.

Vote on motion to amend. The motion to amend was seconded by Dennis and FAILED by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Dennis -2; Nays – Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 3.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if there was any language from her proposed amendments that the Council wanted to consider. President Washington responded that since the full amendment was voted down, no further action on those amendments is needed.

Councilwoman Johnescu stated that this action is only to allow the use of infrastructure and allows for fundraising to begin, emphasizing that this is not the end and further resolutions and work must be done.

Councilwoman Dennis agreed but stressed the need for tight language from the beginning to ensure contingencies are placed, supporting the idea of taking steps by only installing 55 cameras initially.

Michael Walker (Mayor Elect Transition Team co-chair) confirmed Mayor-elect Walker is not in opposition to the resolution. He formally asked whether the city solicitor issued an opinion on whether YorkSafeNet, as a nonprofit using city polls and working with the Police Department, constitutes a "state actor" under constitutional law. He noted that once the system operates on city property, the same legal accountability (including Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments) applies to the entity. He asked if the Pennsylvania Criminal History Record Information Act (KREA) was reviewed or incorporated, noting that after reviewing official documents, no reference to KREA compliance was found. He asked that these questions be formally addressed to protect the city's integrity and ensure compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and Right to Know laws.

Todd Clay (resident) questioned the interest of LogosWorks and requested a business plan laying out principles and goals. He asked who would watch the cameras 365 days per year, noting this information is not spelled out. He agreed that a civilian oversight board with 50% control is needed and expressed concern about the legislation being rushed.

Ryan Brinkerhoff (resident) stated that the PISF document was poorly prepared, contained numerous errors, and that citing it in the proposal was offensive. He noted that the figures in the report were taken from a pie chart without actual data, arbitrarily assigning a 68% approval rate. He recalled that the Mayor had previously apologized and assured residents the project would not move forward without additional public input, which he said has not occurred. Mr. Brinkerhoff criticized the feasibility study for relying on only 20 interviews, calling it inadequate for a program of this scale. He reminded Council that residents were told at public forums the cameras would be used to address gun violence and murder, but the findings now suggest expanded use for school traffic and general public safety. He urged Council to disregard the 68% approval figure and emphasized the need for more public input. He asked what further permissions YorkSafeNet would require once infrastructure is approved. Mr. Brinkerhoff expressed disappointment that Council rejected Councilwoman Bupp's proposed amendments, calling it a serious mistake to rush the process. He encouraged Council to pause and allow residents' voices to be heard.

Brian Goodin (resident) stated that he agreed with the comments made by Mr. Brinkerhoff and Mr. Clay. He recalled opposing the camera initiative in 2021 and expressed concern that, despite the system, there remains little visible police presence on York's most troubled blocks. He questioned whether officers had been pulled from street patrols to support the camera program. Mr. Goodin noted that organizations such as Better York, LogosWorks, and York College are backing the project, yet none have engaged directly with the public. He also raised concerns about Eric Menzer, former Economic & Community Development Director, being involved in the effort and his past association with a former mayor whom Mr. Goodin described as racist. He criticized the pace of the project, suggesting Council was showing favoritism by approving certain initiatives, and concluded by saying, "the opposite of poverty is justice."

Ian Manley (resident) noted that several important points had been raised. He referenced a statement indicating that additional steps remain in the process and cautioned that the further the City proceeds, the more difficult it may become to maintain control. He expressed concern that the City could become too invested in the project and later find it difficult to disengage once significant commitments have been made.

Manuel Gomez (resident) expressed dismay that Councilwoman Bupp's amendments were not given more consideration. He questioned why Councilwoman Johnescu, typically strict on policy, appeared to take a more laissez faire approach in this case. Gomez noted that the program has been steered largely by the police department, from camera placement to overall oversight, and stressed that the public must be fully informed about its scope, which many residents did not realize was so expansive. He raised concerns about how data collection would be limited, asking whether issues like dirt bikes or graffiti would trigger requests, and urged Council to codify clear policies. Gomez said LogosWorks had been responsive but formal standards are needed, particularly regarding data storage and auditing. He added that he would not want to serve on the advisory board under current conditions and recommended exploring memorandums of understanding as outside groups approach the City for data.

Travis Gryman (resident) said he finds it disturbing that he found out about this camera system via Facebook posts rather than public outreach. He suggested the camera system is an attempt to outsource security.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 68 FAILED by the following vote: Yeas - Johnescu, Buckingham - 2; Nays - Bupp, Dennis, Washington - 3

5. Resolution No. 79 - A Resolution Authorizing forgiveness of penalties and interest. ([View](#)) (For 629 S. Pershing Ave. for tax year 2023)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Tax Forgiveness Review Committee

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded Washington, to read Resolution No. 79 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 79, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing forgiveness of penalties and interest for 628 S. Pershing Ave. for tax year 2023, was introduced by Johnescu, read by short title, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Bupp, Resolution No. 79 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

6. Resolution No. 80 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the York County SPCA. ([View](#)) (For animal care & housing services for 2026)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded Dennis, to read Resolution No. 80 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 80, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the York County SPCA for animal care and housing services for year 2026, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 80 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp thanked the SPCA for their services, specifically highlighting their Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) program and encouraging residents to spay and neuter cats.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 80 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

7. Resolution No. 81 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with All City Management Services. ([View](#)) (For 2025-26 school crossing guard services)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Dennis, seconded Buckingham, to read Resolution No. 81 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 81, Session 2025, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with All City Management Services for year 2025-2026 school crossing guard services, was introduced by Introduced Washington, read by short title, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 81 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu reiterated existing concerns regarding attendance, failures in reports, metrics regarding pay raise effectiveness, and the safety risk posed by guards stopping fast-moving traffic.

Patricia Pohl (ACMS Vice President of Operations) explained that the company was incorporated in 1985 and has provided 40 years of service. Headquartered in California, ACMS operates with local supervisors, including two assigned to York. She noted that a third-party review conducted with City staff about 10 years ago reduced the number of sites from 52 to 36. Ms. Pohl emphasized that ACMS provides industry-leading training and addresses issues quickly when notified, acknowledging that mistakes can occur. She shared contact information for local supervisor Shelby Shaeffer at (717) 650-7232 and shelby@thecrossingguardcompany.com. Ms. Pohl highlighted the company's mission to protect children in the communities they serve, mentioned the advancement of two staff members, and expressed appreciation for the partnership with City staff in transitioning the program. She concluded by saying ACMS looks forward to continued service with the City.

Vice President Buckingham shared concerns as well, citing an incident where a crossing guard's parked car impaired driver vision at a stop sign and asked if training opportunities are offered to employees.

Ms. Pohl asked if residents know who to contact with concerns, and Vice President Buckingham responded that she had called a local number. Ms. Pohl emphasized the importance of offering more transparency to the community, noting that ACMS operates 24/7. She highlighted training as the company's strongest asset, acknowledging the challenges of monitoring each guard and prioritizing pedestrian safety. She stated that when issues are reported, ACMS has a strong record of addressing them promptly.

Nataline Williams (resident) asked if ACMS employees undergo drug tests. Ms. Pohl stated drug testing is not included unless designated by the municipality in the contract.

Richard Yingling (ACMS employee) identified himself as a recovering meth addict who has been clean for 8.5 years and said he would welcome drug testing. He emphasized the difficulty of the job, noting that guards prioritize children's safety by placing themselves between kids and vehicles, and shared that he has nearly been hit while ensuring students cross safely. Yingling stated that his supervisor provides regular oversight and thorough training, which he values. Although he does not know the other ACMS speakers, he said he enjoys his work and the opportunity to help children. He concluded by saying that drug testing should be part of the program.

Romona Kinard (resident) was grateful for the ACMS contact information, noting that youth are not listening to crossing guards and encouraged the community to teach children proper safety.

Todd Clay (resident) questioned the placement of crossing guards, noting their absence near Logos Academy and York High on his street. Ms. Pohl explained that guard assignments are directed by the City based on a "safe route to school" study, which can be revisited. She emphasized that crossing guards often make the difference between a close call and a tragedy and credited their work as one reason York has not experienced such incidents.

Donnel Pride (ACMS employee) noted that while many people complain about crossing guards, drivers are often the source of the problem. He described the corner where he works, explaining that although there is a stop sign, some drivers believe they don't need to stop, creating dangerous situations. Mr. Pride said this job is difficult and crossing guards don't always receive respect. He stated that he is not there just for a paycheck, but rather because he enjoys working with the youth and keeping them safe. He added that any "bad apples" among the guards are identified and addressed by the company.

Tracy Hill-Hedgepeth (ACMS employee) said she took this job because she enjoys working with people. She said while she sometimes feels disrespected by others and unacknowledged by upper management, she takes pride in her job. She explained that her day begins at 6:30 a.m., standing with her stop sign to protect children, and she addresses issues immediately as they arise. Ms. Hill-Hedgepeth emphasized the importance of management being "in the trenches" to fully understand the challenges crossing guards face.

Councilwoman Johnescu expressed respect for the work of the crossing guards but noted she still has concerns..

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 81 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Dennis, Buckingham - 3; Nays - Johnescu, Washington - 2.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Councilwoman Dennis asked that the community pray for the families affected by a major fire today on Green St. and for families who were victims of violence over the weekend. She also congratulated elected officials on winning seats.

XIII. Administration Comment

Business Administrator Robertson announced that the Fire Department is hosting an open house at the Rex Laurel Firehouse (51 S. Duke St.) on Friday, November 7th, between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., following a major renovation. She encouraged attendees to visit and see the building.

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the November 5, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 7:20 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