

# Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Edquina Washington, President of Council  
Betsy Buckingham, Vice President of Council  
Elizabeth Bupp, Member of Council  
Teresa Johnescu, Member of Council  
Ryan Supler, Member of Council

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## MINUTES January 20, 2025 6:00 p.m.

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

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

2026 MEETINGS: Click [here](#) to view 2026 Council Meetings Dates

- I. **Press Conference** - 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA.  
Council will introduce the new Youth Council Committee and announce the opening of the application period. ([Read press release](#))

**CALL TO ORDER:** City Clerk Dianna L. Thompson called the January 20, 2026, reorganization meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Ryan Supler, Elizabeth Bupp, Teresa Johnescu, Betsy Buckingham, and Edquina Washington.

**Members of the Administration in attendance included:** Adam Smith, Interim Fire Chief; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

- II. Public Comment

Natalie Williams (ACMS Cross Guard) expressed concerns regarding the hiring process at ACMS (All City Management Services), noting that a supervisor, and his girlfriend, handled her documentation despite allegedly being a regular guard. She alleged they appeared to be "high" and expressed fear regarding identity theft after her social security card was handed off. Regarding pay, she stated \$28.50 was advertised, but she is only receiving \$18. She further noted issues with crossing non-students (adults and pets), a lack of communication from management, and poor-quality uniforms. She mentioned that a supervisor had ordered jackets that were never received and that guards are threatened with write-ups for sitting in their cars during freezing temperatures (below 25°F), despite paperwork suggesting otherwise.

Annie Spellman (ACMS Crossing Guard) reported that she crosses at Roosevelt and Maryland Aves and felt spied on by a supervisor. She stated her phone was cut off, preventing her from clocking in, and expressed resentment over her treatment after 11 years of good service.

Kerry Lowery (Former ACMS Employee) stated he was fired for no apparent reason despite having a perfect attendance record of clocking in and out every day.

Monica Green (Former ACMS Employee) alleged wrongful termination in retaliation for voicing concerns to the HR department in California. She stated she was fired without warning by after speaking up.

Alyssa Jackson expressed deep concern regarding ICE presence and aggressive ice crackdowns in the community. She asked Council what steps they would take to protect undocumented neighbors and residents who are afraid to leave their homes.

Marlene Elien (ACMS Crossing Guard) recalled that guards were previously allowed to sit in cars during extreme cold. She noted that after a previous supervisor left, there was no local management to call for years until "Staff Member A" arrived. She claimed this "Staff Member A" worked for a month without pay and eventually secured new equipment for the guards. She stated that management's attitude shifted negatively after a park picnic where management allegedly complained about the guards' appearance. She questioned why "Staff Member A" was fired and asked Council to investigate why efficient workers were being terminated by corporate management.

Jackeline Alvarez raised concerns about ICE and the city's role in protecting residents from unnecessary force or violation of rights. She asked if other York County municipalities would join the 287(g) program and urged Council to provide a transparent response within the next few weeks. (UPDATE: Mayor Sandie Walker issued a Press Release on January 22, 2026 that the City of York will not sign a 287(g) agreement - [View](#))

Margie Orr (York City School Board Director) spoke in support of the ACMS employees and requested direction on who hired the agency. She noted the School District pays half the contract bill but was never invited to negotiations. She expressed disappointment that a viable local York contractor was overlooked and stated that the School District has put their portion of the payment on hold due to reports of discrepancies, racism, and unfair firing.

There being no further discussion, the public comment session adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

- III. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:19 p.m.
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Pledge of Allegiance
- VI. Moment of Silence
- VII. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 5, 2026](#) (Reorganization). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VIII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

► **Youth Council Committee:** City Council is now accepting applications for its new Youth Council Committee through March 23, 2026. • Open to York City students in grades 10-12, this committee serves as an advisory body that empowers young residents to voice their ideas, influence local decision-making, and develop leadership skills. • How to Apply: Visit <https://www.yorkcity.org/government/city-council/youth-council-committee/> • Contact: City Clerk Dianna L. Thompson at (717) 849-2246 or [dthompso@yorkcity.org](mailto:dthompso@yorkcity.org) for more information.

- IX. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on January 21st.

► **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on January 28th.

X. Status of Prior Committee Referrals: No reports.

XI. 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. 5 - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 5, Session 2026, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be covered in the applications filed for work to be done at 209 E. Philadelphia St., and 308 S. George St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 5 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions: None

New Business – Introduction of Bills: None

### New Business

2. Resolution No. 6 - A Resolution  
Reappointing members to the Planning Commission. ([View](#)) (N. Gaines, D. Moore, II, & C. Velez)  
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp  
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 6, Session 2026, A Resolution reappointing Nacole Gaines, Dana Moore, II, and Christopher M. Velez as members of the York City Planning Commission to serve in said capacity until the first Monday of January 2030, was introduced by Bupp, read at length, and on motion of Bupp, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 6 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu read the following: “As we sit here with this business before us, in Ross Township, a Pittsburgh suburb, my brother is before the Township Commissioners making his case and accepting questions, completing an interview, in his bid to become seated on the Equal Opportunity Board. There are four applicants for one seat. One of the applicants is the incumbent. Expiring board terms are declared vacant. The incumbent must reapply and applications are accepted from interested residents. My brother is gay. He is an advocate for his community and strongly supports Civil Rights protections for all. Like many of us, he is concerned about the current national climate. He is a great candidate; I am not saying this because he is my little brother. I find this approach to filling Board vacancies interesting.

Boards, Commissions, and Authorities make decisions that impact the community; these positions are important. I have stated several times that in the two years I have attended Planning Commission meetings I have not seen a single denial of an application. I try to figure out the intersecting positions of the City Staff who always recommend denial and the Commissioners who always approve. In all but a couple of cases, the approval has been unanimous. I do not have access to the packets. There is typically little discussion. I learn as much as I can from what is

presented.

Two cases stand out in 2025. In March, an application was presented for a property on Roosevelt Avenue. An attorney for the neighboring property shared that the property line was being disputed in court, suggesting that the application be tabled. The application was approved. It moved to Zoning, where after a lengthy discussion, the solicitor persuaded the members to table the application. The application came back to both after the matter was settled, amended to account for the correct property line. In May, the operator of three recovery homes requested approval for a fourth, all in the 400 block of West Market. I could recall other group homes approved in this area called Doctor's Row and wondered if the Commissioners remembered this. Planning Commission approved the application leading to further concentration of this use in one neighborhood. Zoning also approved this application. Doctor's Row is really group home row. The concern over this additional group home resulted in an e-mail to Council from a WECCO business owner. She requested that the City deny the application.

I responded to this constituent, explaining that Planning and Zoning already approved the application. I further explained that Council has no authority over the decision of the boards. Council only has authority in appointment of board members.

This brings me back, finally, to Ross Township. I learn from their protocol that the appointment of individuals to our boards is an important matter and shapes outcomes affecting the well-being of our community."

There being no further comment, Resolution No. 6 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Johnescu - 1. Councilwoman Johnescu said the only way to effect change, although she appreciates the commitment, is to vote no.

3. Resolution No. 7 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with LifeTeam Inc. ([View](#)) (For emergency medical response services - \$225,000.00 for period 1/1/26 continuing for 5 yrs.)  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Fire/Rescue

Resolution No. 7, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing a 5-yr. agreement with LifeTeam Inc for emergency medical response services (ambulance) at a cost of \$225,000.00, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 7 came up for discussion.

Fire Chief Adam Smith explained this was a renewal of an expired contract and LifeTeam was the only bidder.

Councilman Supler noted the cost has remained stable since 2022.

Councilwoman Bupp inquired about monthly reports and invoices. Chief Smith anticipated LifeTeam will continue to provide reports and invoices are handled by Business Administration and funded in the Fire Departments budget.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 8 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

4. Resolution No. 8 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with the County of York. ([View](#)) (For Plans of Safe Care services for period 1/1/25 - 6/30/26)  
Introduced by: Edquina Washington  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 8, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the County of York for Plans of Safe Care services for the period of January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 8 came up for discussion.

Monica Kruger, Director of Health, explained that this program supports infants under one year old affected by prenatal drug exposure, as required by Act 54 of 2018.

Councilman Supler questioned the compensation cap of \$38,117.76 referenced in Exhibit "C" which was not included in the original documentation, but he was able to obtain before tonight's meeting. Director Kruger clarified this supports a part-time position and the city would request more funds if costs exceeded that amount.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 8 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

5. Resolution No. 9 - A Resolution Increasing fees for zoning services. ([View](#)) (Zoning/Misc. Fees, Land Development/Subdivision, and Stormwater)  
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu  
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Planning)  
(**Notice:** In accordance with [Article 111.10\(c\)](#), fee legislation must sit for at least one meeting. Therefore, this Resolution will be considered for final passage on or after 2/3/26)

Resolution No. 9, Session 2026, A Resolution increasing fees for zoning services, was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 9 came up for discussion.

**Motion to refer to committee.** Councilwoman Bupp moved to refer the resolution to the committee, which was seconded by Johnescu. Vice President Buckingham and President Washington requested that the administration attend the committee meeting to explain the reasoning behind the fee increases to the public. There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 9 was referred to the 1/28/26 committee meeting by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0. (**UPDATE:** At the request of the Administration, Resolution No. 9 was pulled from the 1/28/26 committee agenda.)

XII. Requests for Future Meetings

XIII. Council Comment

Councilman Supler stated that he wanted to give a shout out to the Advantage Program for putting on the "I Have a Dream Conference" at Logos Academy. He also congratulated York College of Pennsylvania's Knowledge Park, Nasim & Co, and Kitsch-enette for their respective ribbon cuttings and grand openings. He also thanked the administration for removing the George Street wall, and to the York City Police Department for apprehending the suspect for the Jan 11th slaying of a 31-year-old. Also, he said although it isn't perfect, it's better than what it was, for the Queen and North Street area road improvements. He also commented on the Youth Council that he hopes for many submissions to where there is a need to place students into the student representative role to the York city school board, and to filling the Junior Human Relations Commission. He then shared that he hopes to hear resolutions soon on the Jan 11th shooting of a 14-year-old, as well as the homeless encampments especially along the creek from Grantley to Richland. He then shared that he has been working on some legislative updates to the HRC and HARB ordinances for continuous improvement, as well as crafting Hate Crimes legislation in response to an alleged gay bashing last summer downtown, which highlighted gaps in protections under the law for the LGBT community. He has also been asked to look into regulating data centers, further combating the trash pollution, and really anything with housing.

He announced his city communication lines are up and running, and people are welcome to reach him at rsupler@yorkcity.org, phone: 717-676-2259, and on Facebook @RyanSuplerCityCouncil. Final comment related to crossing guard contract and thanking those coming out to speak on that matter.

Vice President Buckingham applauded the Advantage Program for a wonderful event and noted that MLK services at Crispus Attucks and Bible Tabernacle highlighted King's work beyond the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Councilwoman Bupp highlighted Daniella Gabrielle Smallwood's inspirational speech at the Logos event regarding the "GPS" (Goals, Position, and Strategy) coaching exercise. For information on her 7-day coaching exercise, visit: [www.dgexperiences.com/gps](http://www.dgexperiences.com/gps).

XIV. Administration Comment: None

XV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the January 20, 2026 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:42 pm..

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

  
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Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

  
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Edquina Washington, President of Council