

# 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 February 3, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Council meetings are streamed LIVE for viewing only on the following social media platforms:

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

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Betsy Buckingham called the February 3, 2026, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Ryan Supler, Elizabeth Bupp, Teresa Johnescu, and Betsy Buckingham, with Vice President Buckingham presiding. President Edquina Washington was absent due to illness.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Jim Gross, Interim Director of Public Works; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

### I. Public Comment:

**Marilyn Hake (Resident):** Commended Councilwoman Johnescu for her efforts regarding transparency and appointing qualified individuals to city boards. She primarily expressed opposition to the mayoral decision to close North George Street (from Philadelphia to North Street) during the summer. She argued this closure negatively impacts businesses like Gas Alley, the York Elks Lodge, and Liquid Hero. She noted that out-of-town visitors for Revs games and Elks rentals often struggle to navigate to parking when the main entrance is blocked. She suggested closing the street only at Gas Alley to allow for outdoor dining without cutting off critical business access and parking.

**Don Hake (Resident/Taxpayer):** Presented four specific questions to the Council regarding tenant-occupied units. He inquired about the total number of such units in the city and questioned the fairness of a \$76 certificate fee for uninspected units, noting landlords must print the certificates themselves. He asked Council members if their personal residences had ever been inspected and if they would agree to pay similar fees to support public health. Finally, he asked for the failure rate of initial inspections, stating he had never seen a property pass on the first try and noted that reinspection fees must be paid in advance. He requested a formal response from the administration.

**Todd Clay (Resident):** Discussed the sale of the Dentsply property, questioning the status of Hope Garden and whether its stakeholders were consulted regarding redevelopment plans. He strongly argued against the city or Redevelopment Authority (RDA) taking ownership of private parcels, characterizing it as becoming a "buyer of last resort" at taxpayer expense. He criticized the proposed taxpayer-funded renovations for Penn Market, including new electric, plumbing, and HVAC systems,

suggesting that vendors should instead rent private spaces that meet their needs. Additionally, he argued that HARB (Historical Architectural Review Board) guidelines make renovations unaffordable, citing a church on West Market Street as an example, and called for the elimination of both the RDA and HARB.

**Alyssa Jackson:** Expressed deep concern over an increased ICE presence in York, which she claimed is causing residents to fear leaving their homes. She urged the city to be proactive by prohibiting ICE agents from wearing masks or driving unmarked vehicles and requiring them to identify themselves.

**Travis Fisher (Art Teacher):** Shared concerns for his students and their families regarding the psychological and economic impacts of parental deportation. He noted that not signing a 287(g) agreement is insufficient for protection, citing instances in other cities where residents were still detained. He proposed four specific ordinances: requiring judicial warrants for detentions, prohibiting masks and unmarked vehicles for agents, codifying that local officials will not be deputized for federal enforcement, and limiting the sharing of resident data with federal authorities.

**Philip Given (Resident/Business Owner):** Spoke as an ally to the immigrant community, acknowledging the bravery of those sharing their stories. He identified the Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) field office at 1605 Clugston Road as the "heart of ICE," managing arrests and deportations across South Central Pennsylvania. He warned against the "slow normalization" of aggressive street-level policing, stating that public safety is compromised when residents are too afraid to call the police or seek city services. He urged Council to take proactive action rather than just issuing statements.

**Angela Ramirez-Garcia:** Pled for Council to support the immigrant community, including naturalized citizens and DACA recipients. She shared personal stories of family members being taken by ICE in the 1990s and expressed fear that such events are recurring. She emphasized that immigrants are the "foundation of this country" and requested clarity on how the city will protect those who may be racially targeted.

**Aaya Manzo Garcia:** Stated she is a first-generation Mexican American and college graduate who questioned the purpose of ICE operations at the local federal facility. She reported seeing ICE agents stationed in high-Latino areas and pulling over vehicles, which she argued creates an atmosphere of fear rather than criminal enforcement. She spoke with pride about her parents' hard work in construction and fields and stated she was speaking up to be a "voice for those who are scared".

**Lily Hoffmaster:** Inquired about the budget allocated to law enforcement and ICE surveillance in Pennsylvania. She requested an itemized list of surveillance funds and asked how the local police force would respond if ICE attempted to enter a home or school without a warrant. She also expressed concern for the 12,000 Haitian immigrants in York whose Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is ending.

**Don Hake (Second Comment):** Commended the speakers for their moving comments and urged the community to remain peaceful to achieve their goals.

There being no further discussion, the public comment session adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:32 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [January 20, 2026](#) (legislative). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

► **Youth Council Committee:** City Council reminds local youth that applications are now open for the Youth Council Committee. Additional details are available at [www.yorkcity.org](http://www.yorkcity.org).

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 11th.

► **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on February 18th.

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. 10 - A Resolution  
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))  
Introduced by: Ryan Supler  
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 10, Session 2026, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be covered in the following applications: 29 S. Queen St., and 305, 309, and 311 S. George St., was introduced by Supler, read at length, and on motion of Supler, seconded by Bupp, Resolution No. 10 came up for discussion.

**Request for abstention.** Councilwoman Johnescu requested to abstain her vote as she is the owner of one of the properties. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Bupp, to authorize the abstention. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Buckingham - 3; Nays - 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 10 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Buckingham - 3; Abstain - Johnescu - 1; Nays - 0.

**New Business - Introduction of Bills:** None

**New Business - Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda**

2. Resolution No. 11 - A Resolution  
Approving billing rates for Transportation Resource Group. ([View](#)) (2026 billing rates for engineering services)  
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham  
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 11, Session 2026, A Resolution approving 2026 billing rates for Transportation Resource Group (TRG), was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded Johnescu, Resolution No. 11 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp noted that we receive this contract annually. She asked whether TRG is currently in the middle of any projects, whether the rate change would affect the budget for those projects, how frequently the City uses their services, and what specific services we rely on

them for.

Interim Director Jim Gross noted TRG is not currently working on active projects but will assist with a Green Light Go grant for Route 30 signal improvements.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 12 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johescu, Buckingham - 4; Nays - 0,

3. Resolution No. 12 - A Resolution Approving billing rates for C.S. Davidson. ([View](#)) (2026 billing rates for engineering services) Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 12, Session 2026, A Resolution approving the 2026 billing rates for C.S. Davidson, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 12 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp asked whether C.S. Davidson is currently in the middle of any projects, whether the rate change would affect the budget for those projects, how frequently the City uses their services, and what specific services we rely on them for.

Director Gross explained that C.S. Davidson is involved in a number of ongoing efforts. He noted that Jeff Shue of C.S. Davidson serves as the engineer of record, and several active projects are underway. Most of the work has already been budgeted in the 2026 budget. Gross added that current examples include the N. George Street Bridge over Willis Run and the Farquhar Park Redevelopment Project, among others.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 12 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Supler, Johnescu, Buckingham - 4; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

**Councilman Supler:** Highlighted his attendance at a York County safety collab meeting and the America 250PA kickoff. He congratulated Halman Smith on his School Board appointment and encouraged residents to clear snow for student safety. He also promoted Black History Month films at the Capitol Theater and expressed concern for those in creek encampments during the cold, disclosing his employment with Lifepath Christian Ministries.

**Councilwoman Bupp:** Shared concerns about cars being towed on snow emergency routes and encouraged using the city website for trash delay alerts. She emphasized that city financial audits have been incomplete since 2020 and stressed the need for an experienced municipal accountant and a new Business Administrator.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the February 3, 2026 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

  
Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk

  
Betsy Buckingham, Vice President of Council