

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

Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk
Email: dthomps@yorkcity.org



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

Telephone: (717) 849-2246
Fax: (717) 812-0557

Website: www.yorkcity.org

MINUTES March 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: President Edquina Washington called the March 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, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President with President Washington presiding.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Interim Director, Bureau of Housing Services; Monica Kruger, Director of health; Nancy Griffin, City Planner; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

Alyssa Jackson (Dover, PA): Expressed ongoing concerns regarding the safety of York residents and spoke strongly against the presence of ICE agents. She stated that ICE should not be allowed to "terrorize" residents and urged the city and the state of Pennsylvania to "fight back" against their presence

C. Kim Bracey (Resident): Provided a detailed statement regarding Michael Doweary, a York City native and CPA. She highlighted his career as a former Business Administrator for York and his appointment by two governors as a receiver for the City of Chester during bankruptcy proceedings. She clarified that during his previous tenure in York; he helped implement a five-year financial plan that resulted in a property tax reduction. She emphasized that Doweary seeks results over recognition and that his expertise is a benefit to the current administration's transition.

Fabi Meza (Resident): Shared a personal account of lifelong discrimination. She described a June 2025 incident in West York where her father and three co-workers were profiled and pulled over by ICE agents disguised as other officers. She recounted being told they were in a "targeted" or "suspicious" area but received no further explanation. She expressed the fear her 55-year-old mother feels daily and called for a resolution to interfere with such activities.

Evangeleen Morris (Resident): A 17-year-old junior at William Penn Senior High School, spoke about her participation in a peaceful protest on February 5, 2026. She stated that people are being judged by the color of their skin and emphasized the need for love and unity. She shared the difficulties of facing racial comments and anger from adults during the protest and hurtful online remarks. She stood up for the reputation of her school and urged others to work for fairness and respect.

Don Hake (Resident): Discussed property inspections at 18 S. George St. He noted that in decades of ownership, he has never received a passing grade on a first inspection and urged Council to investigate the process. He questioned requirements for smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in total-electric buildings, as well as a mandate for drip pans under washer/dryer units that he argued was not in the 2015 Property Maintenance Code. He asked if there had ever been refunds for failed inspections.

There being no further comment, the public comment session adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:21 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [February 17, 2026](#) (legislative); [February 25, 2026](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - ▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 11th.
 - ▶ **Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on March 18th.
- IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals: See February 25, 2026 committee minutes. ([View](#))
- 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. 17 _____ - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 17, Session 2026, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 103 N. Newberry St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 17 came up for discussion.

Joe Musso: Representing owner Rhon Friend, requested that Council amend the HARB recommendation. While HARB had approved the window, he said they mandated two vertical cosmetic dividers intended to align with the windows on the second floor. Musso argued these dividers:

- Were purely visual and not structural.
- Would result in different-sized panes, which he claimed would look unusual and had not been seen elsewhere in the city.
- Effectively defeated the purpose of a picture window for the business.

Rhon Friend: Added that his business, Friend's Salon, had been in York since 2001. He explained that they had downsized from 101 to 103 N. Newberry St. and were hoping Council would allow the true picture window as originally proposed.

HARB's Justification

Sarah O'Brien: Serving as an alternate HARB member, clarified that the board's primary concern was structural integrity. HARB requested an evaluation by a structural engineer to ensure that removing the support column between the two existing windows to install a single large unit would not cause the upper wall to collapse. Regarding the aesthetics, O'Brien noted that the proposed horizontally oriented window was modern in appearance and violated design guidelines. The dividers were a compromise to make the window more in keeping with the original facade.

Council Deliberation:

Councilman Supler: Confirmed that the HARB-approved condition would essentially create three separate panes. He later thanked Mr. Friend for his long-term commitment to doing business in the city.

Councilwoman Bupp: Questioned why HARB was stepping into structural issues, which Musso argued was out of their purview and strictly a matter for the Building Code Official (BCO). Bupp also inquired about the UN2 zoning and whether other businesses on the block had similar windows, to which Planner Nancy Griffin replied that there was at least one other business with a similar front. Bupp ultimately felt that if HARB approved the window itself, the applicant should be able to dress it as they see fit.

Vice President Buckingham: Stated she was surprised HARB even approved a picture window because it architecturally changes the face of the historic building. She stated she would not support the request.

Councilwoman Johnescu: Noted that HARB was an advisory board and initially felt they were only discussing structural concerns rather than imposing aesthetic restrictions.

Administration Comment: Nancy Griffin (Planner) explained the permitting process, noting that the BCO receives the minutes and would oversee the structural requirements during the building permit phase regardless of HARB's specific aesthetic recommendations.

Public Comment: Manuel Gomez supported the applicant, describing the business as a bedrock in that neighborhood. He reminded Council that HARB is an advisory board and its directions are not imperatives.

Motion to amend: A motion was made by Supler, seconded by Bupp, to remove the portion of the approval that requires the vertical separations. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Washington - 4; Nays - Buckingham - 1.

Final vote: There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Washington, seconded by Johnescu, to approved Resolution No. 17, as amended. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Washington - 4; Nays - Buckingham - 1.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions: None

New Business - Introduction of Bills

2. Introduction of Bill No. 1 - A Bill Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (\$164,550.00 for a PennDot Green Light Go grant for Rt. 30 at PA Ave., Fairlane Ave. & Roosevelt Ave.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works

Introduction of Bill No. 1, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget in the amount of \$164,550.00 for a PennDot Green Light Go grant to upgrade the signalized intersections on Route 30 at Pennsylvania Ave., Fairlane Ave. & Roosevelt Ave., was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to 3/17/26 meeting of Council.

3. Introduction of Bill No. 2 - A Bill Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (\$52,000.00 for Plans of Safe Care services)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 2, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget in the amount of \$52,000.00 for Plans of Safe Care services on a countywide basis, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to 3/17/26 meeting of Council.

4. Introduction of Bill No. 3 - A Bill Amending the CDBG Budget. ([View](#)) (To reflect unexpended funding rollovers from 2025 to 2026)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Introduction of Bill No. 3, Session 2026, A Bill amending the CDBG Budget to reflect unexpended funding rollovers from 2025 to 2026, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to 3/17/26 meeting of Council.

New Business - Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

5. Resolution No. 18 - A Resolution Allocating ARPA funding to the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) ([View](#)) (\$1 million for the Codorus Creek remediation project.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Resolution No. 18, Session 2026, A Resolution allocating ARPA funding to the York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) in the amount of \$1 million for the Codorus Creek remediation project, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 18 came up for discussion.

Appearance of Conflict of Interest:

Councilwoman Johnescu: Reiterated discussion from the [February 25, 2026](#), committee meeting regarding whether YCEA's status as a current city contractor under DECD created a conflict of interest.

Assistant Solicitor Flower: Clarified that no legal conflict exists because YCEA has no oversight over ARPA projects and would not be responsible for monitoring their own grant program. She noted that a conflict check is performed for every grant award, and there was no legal concern from the city's perspective.

Councilman Supler: Expressed continued concern regarding the optics of the situation. He noted that during the prior committee meeting, he had requested a more formalized document to address these optics and ensure transparency, but he stated that he had not yet seen such a document.

Councilwoman Bupp: Shared her own hesitancy regarding the \$1 million allocation, though for different reasons. She stated that she personally believed the money could be spent better on housing. Despite this preference, she chose to support the resolution because of the strict timeline for ARPA funding, which is set to expire in one year. Bupp argued that a new housing project likely could not be up and running in time to utilize the funds, whereas the Codorus Creek project has had beautiful plans in place since 2017 and is ready to progress.

Public Comment: Manuel Gomez (Resident): Agreed that Supler's request for formal documentation was a fair request.

Final Vote: There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 18 passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Supler - 1.

6. Resolution No. 19 - A Resolution Allocating ARPA funding to LifePath Christian Ministries. ([View](#)) (\$100,000.00 for operation support)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Resolution No. 19, Session 2026, A Resolution allocating ARPA funding to LifePath Christian Ministries in the amount of \$100,000.00 for operation support was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 19 came up for discussion.

Abstention Request: Councilman Supler requested approval to abstain as he is employed by LifePath. A motion to approve the abstention was made by Washington, seconded Buckingham, and passed unanimously.

Final Vote: There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 19 passed by the following vote: Yeas: Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - 0; Abstain - Supler - 1.

7. Resolution No. 20 - A Resolution Allocating ARPA funding to Crispus Attucks. ([View](#)) (\$100,000.00 for job training)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Resolution No. 20, Session 2026, A Resolution allocating ARPA funding to Crispus Attucks in the amount of \$100,000.00 for job training (for a total ARPA allocation of \$200,000), was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 20 passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

8. Resolution No. 21 - A Resolution Authorizing a permanent/temporary easement agreement. ([View](#)) (Parcel 09-237-05-0002.00-00000 with the RDA and York Realty Partners)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Solicitor's Office

Motion to read by short title: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, to read Resolution No. 21 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 21, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing a permanent/temporary easement agreement between the York City Redevelopment Authority and York Realty Partners granting the city perpetual and temporary access rights necessary for the operation, inspection, maintenance, and repair of the City's stormwater pumping station (Parcel 09-237-05-0002.00-00000), was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 21 passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

9. Resolution No. 22 - A Resolution Establishing Council's liaison assignments. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Council

Resolution No. 22, Session 2026, A Resolution assigning Council liaisons to departments and various boards of the City of York, was introduced by Bupp, read at length, and on motion of Bupp, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 22 passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

- XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None
XII. Council Comment

Councilwoman Johnescu: Questioned the process for accessing city contracts, asking if a Right to Know (RTK) process was required.

Solicitor Flower: Stated that while the public must use RTK, Council should have access. She noted that an ordinance requires contracts over \$10,000 to be filed with the Clerk and Solicitor, but this has not been consistently happening. She mentioned that the administration is working on a central repository via OpenGov, which is a procurement mechanism, not just accounting.

City Clerk Thompson: Explained that she currently lacks the tools or storage capacity to house the enormous amount of contracts processed daily but supported an online central database.

President Washington: Reminded residents they can schedule large item pickups online at www.yorkcity.org or by calling (717) 843-1240. She also encouraged residents to apply for open city positions.

Councilman Supler: Congratulated Beaver Street Bistro and Men in the Kitchen on ribbon cuttings and thanked ECHO Latino Americano 809 for the Dominican Republic Independence Day celebration. He expressed concern over homeless encampments near Bantz Park as the Code Blue season ends April 1st. He noted that the Human Relations Commission (HRC) update and bias-motivated conduct are moving forward. He thanked Clerk Thompson for forwarding to him six professional services contracts that he requested from the Administration and noted the Controller's website had been updated.

Councilwoman Bupp: Thanked public speakers and encouraged Youth Council participation. She addressed Columbia Gas meter installations, noting that residents in historic areas can request side placements or smaller meters under PA Code 5918 and can file complaints with the PUC. Regarding the Codorus Creek project, she stated she would have preferred the funds go to housing but supported the resolution because ARPA funding expires soon.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the March 3, 2026 legislative meeting of Council adjourned at 7:09 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