

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
Teresa Johnescu, Member of Council

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MINUTES April 15, 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 April 15, 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; Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Director, Bureau of Housing Services; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

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

I. Public Comment:

Todd Moritz, resident, discussed parking issues on N. Franklin St. in that there are two garages on the street, and the garage employees and customers take up all the parking spaces on the street. He said sometimes the cars are parked there for days. He said there are even cars that have been parked there for 10 years. He said he contacted the Planner and Zoning Officer and reported it, but to no resolve. He said they have flatbeds parked on the street, they are working on cars, and oil is all over the street and sidewalk. He said he doesn't want to leave his neighborhood, but he might have to do that because he is at his wits end.

Monica Kruger, Director of Health, announced that last week was National Public Health Week and she applauded health workers for their service. She stated that the health department is celebrating over 40 years of community service. She also discussed federal funding cuts that have affected the City of York. She said grants awarded during the COVID-19 pandemic for infrastructure and public health services are under attack and that Governor Josh Shapiro and 22 other states are taking legal action against the decision to cut funding, which has resulted in a temporary restraining order to stop termination of these funds. She said their funding cuts are now under review, and they are fighting to keep those funds but are looking at other options if the funding isn't dispersed and how those cuts will affect their programs.

Benjamin Praster, President of the FOP, asked that City Council take action into investigating Human Resources and Business Administration. He said they went through contract negotiations and were working outside of a contract for years. He stated that FOP members were entitled to backpay, but

unfortunately, backpay was not calculated correctly; some were paid significantly less while others were paid significantly more. He said the FOP started contacting HR to get this corrected. He said he requested a meeting to discuss this but no one from the administration was available. He said he doesn't understand why the calculations are not readily available to review because these numbers didn't just come out of thin air. He said he believes the administration made a bunch of errors and they are trying to cover it up. He asked Council to look into this and hold the administration accountable.

There being no further discussion, the public comment session adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:15 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

V. Moment of Silence was observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [April 1, 2025](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

► **PAWC Discount Program** - Tawana Dean, Senior Manager, Customer Compliance, Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) - Brief presentation on discount program for city residents.

Tawana Dean, Senior Manager of Customer Compliance, outlined multiple assistance programs for wastewater customers, including:

◆ A Bill Discount Program for households earning below 200% of the federal poverty level.

◆ A payment arrangement plan, called the "Overage Management Plan," which reduces monthly bills and forgives overdue balances over time.

◆ Grants of up to \$500 for eligible customers with income up to 250% of the federal poverty level.

◆ Conservation kits to reduce water usage and costs. These programs aim to prevent service terminations and support struggling households in the York area. Applications can be processed through community partners like Dollar Energy Fund, Salvation Army, and others.

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 16th.

► **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 30th.

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)

Announcement: The Comprehensive Plan 2044 is still undergoing final edits and therefore will not be considered for final passage this evening.

Subdivision/Land Development/HARB: None

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions

1. Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5 - A Bill
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue/expenditures for CDBG/HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2024 budget.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Final Passage of Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget by appropriating revenue/expenditures for CDBG/HOME grant funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2024 budget, which was introduced by Washington at the April 1st meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Bupp, Bill No. 5, Ordinance No. 5, PASSED by the following vote: Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 6 - A Bill
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (In the amount of \$10,000.00 for other professional services.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Treasurer

Final Passage of Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 6, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget in the amount of \$10,000.00 for other professional services to authorizing hiring of an additional staff person for the Treasurer's office, which was introduced by Buckingham at the April 1st meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Bill No. 6, Ordinance No. 6, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 7 - A Bill
Amending the FY2025 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures for the funding received from the County of York as a pass-through for an award from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for a subgrant of Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover (Federal 21.027 CG) funds, in the amount of \$33,438.89 to fund purchase of laptops and school supplies for students attending HACC through the GVI initiative.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Final Passage of Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 7, Session 2025, A Bill amending the FY2025 Budget. by appropriating revenue and expenditures for the funding received from the County of York as a pass-through for an award from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for a subgrant of Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover (Federal 21.027 CG) funds, in the amount of \$33,438.89 to fund purchase of laptops and school supplies for students attending HACC through the GVI initiative, which was introduced by Washington at the April 1st meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 7, Ordinance No. 7, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

4. Final Passage of Bill No. 8, Ordinance No. 8 - A Bill
Amending Article 181 "General Provisions" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (To include an eligibility and application process for appointments to city boards, authorities, commissions and committees; establish attendance requirements and notification procedures; and outline compensation and conflicts of interest)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Council (Johnescu)

Motion to amend. Councilwoman Johnescu made a motion to amend Bill No. 8 as follows:

1. Relocated Sections 181(d) and (e) to Section 181.06
2. Add the word "Vacant" to section 181.07(a)
3. Remove Section 181.09 in its entirety

Councilwoman Johnescu said after review by the Mayor, he requested that section 181.09 requiring a "thank you" letter be sent to outgoing board members be removed. She said she agrees that we cannot legislate professionalism, but she hopes that this will be a normal policy and practice to recognize our outgoing members for successful completion and service on our boards and authorities.

The motion to amend was seconded by Washington and passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 8, Ordinance No. 8, as amended, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

5. Final Passage of Bill No. 9, Ordinance No. 9 - A Bill Amending Article 513 "Vehicle Operation and Parking" of the Codified Ordinances. ([View](#)) (To include parking restrictions during special events at the York Fairgrounds)
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Business Administration (Parking)

Final Passage of Bill No. 9, Ordinance No. 9, Session 2025, A Bill amending Article 513 "Vehicle Operation and Parking" of the Codified Ordinances to include parking restrictions during special events at the York Fairgrounds, which was introduced by Bupp at the April 1st meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Bupp, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 9, Ordinance No. 9, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

New Business - Introduction of Bills

6. Introduction of Bill No. 10 - A Bill Approving the inclusion of year 2024 ordinances into the codified ordinance book. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: City Clerk

Introduction of Bill No. 10, Session 2025, A Bill authorizing the inclusion of the 2024 ordinances into the Codified Ordinance book, was introduced by Bupp, read by short title, and deferred until the May 6th meeting of Council.

New Business - Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

7. Resolution No. 28 - A Resolution Approving the appointment of M. Rosario as a member of the Redevelopment Authority. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 28, Session 2025, A Resolution approving the appointment of Melissa Rosario as a member of the York City Redevelopment Authority to fill the unexpired term of Aaron Anderson, which term shall expire April 28, 2028, was introduced by Bupp, read at length, motion made by Bupp, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 28 came up for discussion.

Vice President Buckingham said she is delighted about this appointment because Ms. Rosario

owns a business in the city and over the past year, she has been a member of the RDA project committee and has contributed greatly.

Blanda Nace, Executive Director, RDA, said Ms. Rosario has been serving on the RDA's project committee and it's wonderful to get a qualified member who is up to speed. He then announced that yesterday was the 75th birthday of the existence of RDA , which was created by City Council in April of 1950.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 28 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

The City Clerk administered Ms. Rosario the oath of office. President Washington thanked all who serve on our boards and authorities.

8. Resolution No. 29 - A Resolution Requesting an amendment to the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Years 202-2024 for CDBG & HOME. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (BHS)

Resolution No. 29, Session 2025, A Resolution requesting an amendment to the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Years 202-2024 for CDBG & HOME was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Bupp, Resolution No. 29 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp thanked Director Harvey-Bethea for responding to her questions about the numbers on the 2024 HUD Action Plan report and stated that she has been wonderful to work with.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 29 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

- XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None
- XII. Council Comment: None
- XIII. Administration Comment: None
- XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative session of City Council is scheduled for May 6, 2025. There being no further business, the April 15, 2025 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:35 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