

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 April 7, 2026 6:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Edquina Washington called the April 7, 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, with President Washington presiding.

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:

Margie Oden (Resident) reported an ongoing issue with a neighbor in the 100 block of E. Jackson St. who keeps seven dogs. She stated the dogs keep her awake all night and, because they are not let out regularly, the resulting odor affects her house and backyard. Despite providing pictures to city authorities, she claimed no action had been taken. President Washington asked Ms. Oden to complete a public comment form for the administration to review.

Mina Edmondson (Resident and Chair of the York City Human Relations Commission) provided an update on the Commission's activities. She noted the loss of a staff member to the Economic and Community Development department. She shared that the Commission has been meeting since the start of the year to address record-keeping, organization, and budget transparency to ensure the HRC remains a strong and viable resource for the community.

There being no further comment, the public comment session adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:05 p.m.

III. Roll Call

IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

V. Moment of Silence was observed.

VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [March 17, 2026](#) (legislative); [March 25, 2026](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.

VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements

▶ **Refuse Billing:** The York City Refuse Department wishes to inform residents that the 2nd quarter refuse bills, scheduled to be issued by April 16, 2026, will be delayed due to an Open Gov software update. As a result, the payment due date will be extended to June 15, 2026. Residents may email questions or concerns to refuse@yorkcity.org.

▶ **Fishing Derby:** Thank you to the York City Parks & Recreation Bureau, our volunteers, and all the sponsors who helped make the 27th Annual William Shaffer Trout Fishing Derby a success. The derby was held this past Saturday (April 4th) at Kiwanis Lake, where families and young anglers enjoyed a great morning of fishing in honor of William Shaffer's legacy. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this long-standing York tradition.

▶ **Easter Egg Hunt:** The City of York also held its Annual Easter Egg Hunt this past Saturday (April 4th) at Kiwanis Lake, where families enjoyed games, activities, and a fun afternoon of hunting for eggs. Thank you to the York City Parks & Recreation Bureau, community partners, volunteers, and our event sponsors - Inch & Co. and Patient First - for helping to make this year's celebration a success for York City children and their families.

▶ **Grand Opening:** Prodigy Spectrum Management, a York-based non-profit dedicated to expanding veterans' care services, will be hosting its Grand Opening of the "Prodigy Spectrum Thrifty Village" on Friday, April 10, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., at 1275 W. Market St., York, PA. The public is invited to attend.

▶ **Youth Council:** City Council is pleased to announce that it has received applicants for the Youth Council Committee. Although the application window for the current program year has closed, the application will remain open for those interested in future program years. President Edquina Washington and Councilwoman Teresa Johnescu will be leading the start-up of the program. After reviewing eligible applicants, formal appointment recommendations are expected to appear on Council's April 21, 2026 legislative agenda for approval.

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

▶ **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 15th.

▶ **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on April 22nd.

IX. Reports of the Youth Council Committee: None

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

Resolution No. 26, Session 2026, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be covered in the applications for work to be

done at 35 N. Queen St., 132 S. George St., and 158 S. Pershing Ave., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 26 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

2. Introduction of Bill No. 4 - A Bill
Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (For a grant received from the York County Community Foundation for the Korean War Memorial Endowment Fund - \$8,085.00)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works

Introduction of Bill No. 4, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget for a grant received from the York County Community Foundation for the Korean War Memorial Endowment Fund in the amount of \$8,085.00, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and deferred to the April 21st meeting of Council.

3. Introduction of Bill No. 5 - A Bill
Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (For Fund 29 "ARPA" to correct budgets resulting in the transfer of \$4,792,190.00)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Introduction of Bill No. 5, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget for Fund 29 "ARPA" to correct budgets resulting in the transfer of \$4,792,190.00, was introduced by Johnescu, read by short title, and deferred to the April 21st meeting of Council.

New Business

4. Resolution No. 27 - A Resolution
Reappointment of members to various boards. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Ryan Supler
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 27, Session 2026, A Resolution approving the following as recommended by the Mayor: **1)** Reappointment of Jason Query as a member of the York City Human Relations Commission to serve until July 16, 2028; **2)** Reappointment of Gal Witmer as a member of the Consolidated Board of Appeals to serve until the first Monday of October 2026; **3)** Reappointment of Kacey French as a member of the Consolidated Board of Appeals to serve until the first Monday of October 2027; and **4)** Reappointment of Patricia Maher as a member of the Consolidated Board of Appeals to serve until the first Monday of October 2028, was introduced by Supler, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 27 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu stated that decisions made by our Boards, Commissions, and Authorities shape the well-being of the City. While I thank those who serve as members of these bodies, I remain concerned about how the Boards are functioning. This concern extends itself to the Board of Appeals. One action the Board of Appeals takes is judgement of challenges to individual instances of enforcement. The Board should be weighing the fairness and appropriateness of an enforcement action in accordance of the ordinance as written without regard to personal level of agreement or disagreement with the ordinance. In my ongoing effort to update the Neighborhood Improvement Ordinance, conversations with City Staff indicate a

problem in the area just mentioned. The result is a chilling effect, a narrowing of the scope of enforcement. Poor enforcement of trash and property maintenance ordinances remains a primary concern across the City. We need to assure that members of all boards receive adequate training and appropriate oversight. I continue to believe that affirmation of appointments is more than a mere formality.

Carman Banzaca (York County), who identified herself as a former supervisor of Jason Query, spoke against his reappointment. She stated she doesn't feel he should be in a capacity to make judgement on anything dealing with money based on prior alleged misconduct.

Mina Edmondson, (City Human Relations Commission), spoke in support of Mr. Query, stating he has served well for three years and that his legal history was irrelevant to his qualifications. She emphasized that commissioners do not handle funds directly.

Councilman Supler noted he had received feedback concerning Mr. Query's previous background and potential access to funds via his appointment to the Diversity Dinner committee. Despite a solicitor's review, Supler stated there was still lingering concern and requested Mr. Query's vote be separated from the others.

Motion to amend. Supler made a motion to separate the vote on number 1 (Query) from 2-4 (Witmer, French, Maher). The motion was seconded by Bupp and passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

Procedural clarification. Following this vote, procedural confusion ensued. It was discovered that during the initial reading of the resolution, the City Clerk had inadvertently omitted Mr. Query's name, reading only items 2, 3, and 4. President Washington suggested redoing the entire process, but Assistant Solicitor Flower provided a legal clarification: once a motion is on the floor, it must be voted upon or withdrawn. She advised that since the motion to divide had already successfully passed, there was no procedural harm in addressing the reappointments separately.

Query pre-vote discussion: A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Bupp, to approve the reappointment of Jason Query as a member of the York City Human Relations Commission to serve until July 16, 2028, and came up for discussion.

Solicitor Flower reiterated that HRC qualifications are defined by city ordinance and are limited to sympathy with the role. She confirmed there are no outside qualifications regarding personal history or extraneous factors. The individual HRC commissioners don't have roles in handling of money.

Vice President Buckingham noted that certain prior legal matters only legally apply as a disqualification for elected officials, not appointed positions, to which Solicitor Flower agreed.

Mina Edmondson (City Human Relations Commission) again reinforced that the commission favored the reappointment and that all funds go through city accounts.

Vote on Query: There being no further discussion, on prior motion of Johnescu, seconded by Bupp, Resolution No. 27 reappointing Jason Query to the York City Human Relations Commission passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Supler - 1.

Vote on Witmer, French, Maher: There being no further discussion, on motion of Washington, seconded by Bupp, Resolution No. 27 reappointing Gal Witmer, Kacey French, and Patricia Maher, passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Johnescu - 1.

5. Resolution No. 28 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Utility Services Group, Inc. ([View](#)) (For purchase of a CCTV Truck with operator, Jet/Vac Truck with operator, and Flagger Services - not to exceed \$100,000.00)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works

Motion to read by short title: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, to read Resolution No. 28 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 28, Session 2026, A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Utility Services Group, Inc. for purchase of a CCTV Truck with operator, Jet/Vac Truck with operator, and Flagger Services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded Washington, Resolution No. 28 came up for discussion.

Director Jim Gross explained this is the second year of a multi-year program to inspect and map the city's stormwater system. He confirmed that this system is entirely separate from the main sewer lines handled by PA American Water Company.

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

6. Resolution No. 29 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with C.S. Davidson. ([View](#)) (For professional engineering services - Farquhar Park - \$147,000.00)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works

Motion to read by short title: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, to read Resolution No. 29 by short title only. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 29, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with C.S. Davidson for professional engineering services for a development plan at Farquhar Park in the amount of \$147,000, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 29 came up for discussion.

Vice President Buckingham noted this is step one of the Farquhar Park Master Plan, focusing on new bathrooms and a playground, funded in part by a matching grant from the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

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

7. Resolution No. 30 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Simply Spatial, LLC. ([View](#)) (For systems used for rapid mapping/tracking of disease cases - \$139,000.00)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 29, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Simply Spatial, LLC for systems used for rapid mapping/tracking of disease cases in the amount of \$139,000.00, was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 30 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp raised a specific question regarding the financial accounting of the contract. She noted that the account listed for the expenditure was Fund 26, rather than the city's General Fund (Fund 10). She asked for clarification to understand why the project was being billed to this specific account.

Health Director Krueger clarified that the grants paying for this project have specific legal requirements dictating how the money must be spent, and this mapping system aligns with those mandates. She stated that none of the funding is taxpayer money coming from general city funds. A portion of the money came from COVID-19 funding provided to local public health departments specifically to modernize data systems and laboratories. She emphasized that the money was being utilized exactly as the grant providers intended.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 30 passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Councilman Supler reiterated his commitment to finding solutions for individuals living in encampments at Bantz Park and noted recent feedback about bias-motivated conduct following a committee meeting. He plans to meet with the Mayor later this month to discuss next steps. Supler then highlighted several events, including ribbon cuttings for Valley Youth House, Mano a Mano Community Center, and Elite Buys Homes. He also discussed witnessing 20 new American citizens sworn in on March 26, congratulated the CPC's "Getting Ahead" graduates, and recognized the YCEA for its annual dinner. Lastly, he offered best wishes to the Artemis II crew for a safe return from space, noting their record-setting distance from Earth since Apollo 13.

Councilwoman Bupp urged residents to review Bill No. 5, which outlines how the remaining \$10 million in ARPA funds will be allocated this year, including about \$5 million in line-item adjustments, and encouraged the public to bring questions to the next legislative meeting. She also announced progress on the long-pending Comprehensive Plan, noting it will soon be available on the city website. Finally, she congratulated Kasey French on her reappointment to the Consolidated Board of Appeals and highlighted her work leading "The Village," stating she may brief Council on the program in the future.

XIII. Administration Comment

Director Jim Gross introduced Jared Hollingshead as the city's new building and electrical superintendent.

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the April 7, 2026 legislative meeting of City Council adjourned at 6:38 p.m.


Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk


Edquina Washington, President of Council