

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
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Minutes June 2, 2026 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Edquina Washington called the June 2, 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: Sandie Walker, Mayor; Jim Gross, Interim Director of Public Works; Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Interim Director of Economic & Community Development; Captain Dan Lentz, Police; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

Manuel Gomez (Resident) addressed the Council regarding the Smallwood Act ([Article 136](#)), which was amended approximately eighteen months ago. He noted that while the amendment required the establishment of an Equal Business Opportunity Committee and various reporting initiatives, the committee has yet to be formed, and no semiannual reporting has occurred. Mr. Gomez urged the new administration to prioritize the implementation of the Act to honor the legacy of former Councilman Lee Smallwood.

Jason Querry (York City Human Relations Commission) announced the upcoming diversity event titled "A Mosaic of York City," scheduled for September 17, 2026, at the Valencia Ballroom. He emphasized that the event aims to celebrate the unique differences and values that make the city a vibrant place.

Mina Edmondson (Resident/Director of Martin Library) reported on the success of the fifth annual Block Party held on May 31, which welcomed over 675 attendees. She detailed the "Summer Quest" program running from June 1 to August 16, offering free literacy and activity programs for all ages, including free breakfast and lunch for youth under 18.

Todd Clay (Resident) expressed concerns regarding the homeless encampment at Bantz Park, arguing against the displacement of individuals who have built a community and accumulated necessary wares. He also criticized the city's Pledge of Allegiance ritual, stating he could not pledge allegiance to a government involved in international conflicts. Furthermore, he highlighted that the Redevelopment

Authority (RDA) is projected to reach \$1.4 million dollars in expenditures for the Penn Street Market while losing approximately \$2 million dollars annually, and he urged the RDA to improve its maintenance of blighted lots.

Lester Abbott (Resident) said it is amazing hearing people who watch these meetings and it's impressive that county residents actually tune in. He then commended the redevelopment of 852 E. Market St. and expressed gratitude for the return of outdoor dining on N. George St. without the use of concrete barriers. He encouraged residents to vote in the upcoming November general election to hold the administration accountable for immigration reform.

There being no further comment, the public comment session adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order: 6:16 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [May 20, 2026](#) (legislative); [May 27, 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, July 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on July 15th.
 - **Council Committee Meeting:** There are no committee meetings during the months of June-August as Council observes its summer recess.
- 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. 46 _____ - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 46, Session 2026, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be done at the following properties: 370 E. Market St., 152-156 N. George St., 301 E. Philadelphia St., and 225 E. Market St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 46 passed by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0

2. Resolution No. 47 - A Resolution Accepting the recommendations of HARB in denying a Certificate of Appropriateness. ([View](#)) (253 W. Philadelphia St.)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 47, Session 2026, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in denying a certificate of appropriateness for work to be done at 253 W. Philadelphia St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 47 came up for discussion.

Raymond Hecker, applicant, requested that Council overturn the denial, citing the significant financial burden of using composite windows, which would cost \$6,000 dollars compared to the \$4,300 dollars for vinyl windows. He said the \$1,700 saved could be used for other home repairs.

Councilwoman Johnescu said HARB member Dennis Kunkle called and told her that the vinyl windows on the first floor were installed by previous owner. She said the windows don't disturb the visual. She said she can sympathize with this applicant because she too lives in the historic district and described the challenges she faces. She said the plans are they will not change the window dimensions. Mr. Hecker said that is correct.

Vice President Buckingham stated that during her tenure on the Council, HARB has denied applications for windows based on the need for consistency. She said these denials occurred even in instances where the proposed windows looked appropriate or nice.

Councilman Supler asked if this was the applicant's primary residence. Mr. Hecker said it is not and clarified that the house was currently in a condition that made it unlivable, though he was working on it with the intention of eventually turning it into a rental unit.

Todd Clay (Resident) said he thinks HARB dislikes vinyl windows, yet many of them are beautiful and many times you can't tell they are vinyl.

Councilwoman Bupp asked about the visibility and color of the second-floor windows from the street. Mr. Hecker stated that there is not much room for someone to even look up at the second floor while standing on the sidewalk directly in front of the home. He said there is a small tree in front of the building that further obstructs the view. He noted that if someone were driving by the property, it would be very difficult to look up and notice that the windows are a different color (a darker tan compared to the light brown on the first floor) or made of a different material.

There being no further discussion, Council overturned HARB's recommendation to deny a certificate of appropriateness by the following vote: Yeas: Supler - 1; Nays: Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 4. Therefore, the certificate of appropriateness is approved, and the applicant can move forward with the project.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 5 (FAILED) - A Bill Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (For Fund 29 "ARPA" to correct budgets resulting in the transfer of \$4,792,190.00 \$4,584,865.45)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Economic & Community Development

Final Passage 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~~ \$4,584,865.45, which was introduced by Johnescu at the April 7 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Johnescu, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 5 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp stated that she hears and sees the comments indicating that York City has a housing issue, which she noted is also a nationwide concern. She asserted that there is a specific opportunity to add 13 units of affordable housing through a plan developed by the Redevelopment Authority (RDA). While acknowledging that time is short, she stated that the RDA feels confident that with an allocation of affordable housing funds, they can spend the money within the current year to comply with federal requirements for the project.

Bupp emphasized that the RDA is the city's entity and they do the city's work. She expressed her belief that the Council needs to take a chance on this opportunity by retaining the original \$2.5 million dollars in the project so it can be assigned to the RDA as a new subrecipient. She argued that if everyone's focus remained on making this opportunity work, there is no reason why it should not succeed. She admitted that she did not know what specific roadblocks might appear but proceeded to propose a formal amendment.

Proposed amendment #1. Councilwoman Bupp's proposed amendment sought to leave the \$2.5 million dollars in the affordable housing project (Project 490) while reducing a commensurate amount from other line items in the budget. Specifically, she proposed:

- Removing \$999,000 dollars from the police department's allocation.
- Reducing funds for the Sylvia Newcomb Center by a commensurate amount.

She noted that the Sylvia Newcomb Center already had \$1.3 million dollars allocated to it and suggested that the proposed additional funds could be redirected to the housing effort.

Bupp clarified that the RDA's project would not involve building from the ground up, which would be more time consuming. Instead, the plan involved the acquisition of an existing building and performing maintenance and repair work to cure it and make it livable.

Mayor Walker and President Washington characterized the attempt to start and complete a housing project by the December 31, 2026, federal deadline as impossible and ludicrous.

Vice President Buckingham noted that she had heard the RDA director state earlier that day that they could pursue affordable housing without ARPA funds but were more concerned about funding for the Penn Street Market.

Failed Motion to Amend: Councilwoman Bupp's motion to amend the bill died because it did not receive a second from any other council member.

Councilwoman Johnescu suggested tabling the bill to allow the administration to meet with stakeholders and RDA to create a reflective, balanced amendment rather than making changes on the fly.

Proposed Amendment #2: Councilman Supler suggested a partial acceptance of some of the items on this list.

Proposed Amendment #3: Councilwoman Bupp stated that she believed the Council could possibly proceed with a partial amendment to the budget reallocations. She noted that the administration had requested \$1.5 million dollars be allocated to the Penn Street Market. To fund this, she pointed out that the administration had already chosen to reduce the Reprogram

project by \$954,000 dollars. Bupp acknowledged that the situation was "messy" because they did not have the specific language of the amendment in writing for all members to review. She stated that the amendment did not necessarily need to balance out at that exact moment because the Council could return to the budget later, though she proposed taking \$550,000 dollars from the Sylvia Newcomb building renovation to reach the necessary \$1.5 million dollar total.

Vice President Betsy Buckingham was hesitation about this proposal. She noted that she had spoken directly with the Redevelopment Authority (RDA) director that morning, and he was very clear that they urgently needed the money for the Penn Street Market. As such, Buckingham stated she would be reluctant to take any money away from the Penn Street Market project.

Councilwoman Bupp clarified her position by stating she didn't say to take money from Penn Market, explaining that her plan was to find the \$1.5 million dollars to give to the market by recapturing it from other areas.

Vice President Buckingham warned that if the city failed to use the ARPA funds, the financial burden for these infrastructure projects would eventually lay on the taxpayers. Bupp suggested that the city had other options, unless we decide to sell the building.

President Washington's Summary of Motions: President Edquina Washington clarified for the public and the Council that there were three separate motions being considered at that time:

- The original motion to approve Bill No. 5 as it was initially presented in the agenda.
- Councilwoman Bupp's proposed amendment to change several different line items.
- Councilman Supler's suggestion to perform a partial amendment or partial acceptance of specific items on the list.

Councilwoman Bupp then made a formal motion to amend, specifically requesting that:

- \$1.5 million dollars be allocated to the Penn Street Market.
- Reprogram funds be reduced by \$954,720 dollars.
- The Sylvia Newcomb building renovation (Project 479) be reduced by \$545,280 dollars to balance the request.

Mayor Walker responded by stating that this proposal was not feasible. She reminded the Council that the administration had already met with them and with Councilwoman Bupp multiple times to discuss these allocations. The Mayor emphasized that if the money had to be returned to the federal government due to a failure to meet deadlines, that responsibility would rest solely on Council.

Failed Motion on Amendment #3: Councilwoman Bupp's motion to amend the bill died because it did not receive a second from any other council member.

Motion to approve Bill No. 5 as presented. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, to approve Bill No. 5 as originally presented by the administration, which came up for discussion.

Manuel Gomez (Resident), presented an internal memo from Accenture, dated November 3, 2025. He stated that testimony given by Accenture during a previous committee meeting contradicted the official guidance from Accenture directly to the Department of Economic Development contained in that memo. He stated the memo was significant because it provided a chronological listing of the collapse of the original intent for Project 490. He said that Accenture should answer for this contradiction, noting that while Accenture bears no risk, the city carries all the liability and risk, a responsibility that always fall on Council.

Gomez quoted the memo's advisory that the city should develop a contingency plan, which might include issuing a new RFP or reallocating funds to alternative, eligible affordable housing initiatives. He corrected that any replacement projects should align with SLFRF category 2.15 Housing Support: Affordable Housing to maintain original intent. He noted that anywhere "490" appears in the deallocation column, it refers to these housing funds. He said the memo was signed by Jennifer Maldonado. Gomez argued that Accenture's claim that they do not make these types of advisories regarding how to allocate funds was directly contradicted by the memo.

Mr. Gomez said the city has been up against the gun before we cashed the first check and that the federal timeline did not creep up on them. He insisted that the memo be part of the official historical record, noting that when federal oversight eventually swoops in, the city is unlikely to receive grace due to its high-risk status.

Kelly Swan identified herself as a realtor, an affordable housing investor, and a property manager, and is married to a 30-year veteran of the police force. She stated that investing in affordable housing overturns the root cause of violence by providing residents with stability and prosperity. While she admitted she did not know the specifics of how funds would be reallocated, she urged the Council to reconsider and give weight to investing in public and affordable housing to help the community.

Michael Walker (Resident) offered a rebuttal to Mr. Gomez's comments, and use of the annulment analogy are confirmed with one specific date correction. Mr. Walker introduced a memo from the previous administration, which was introduced into the record on December 16, 2025. This memo stated that the housing project involving Four Square Development and Construction had been determined to be "not viable". Walker noted that while he agrees with Gomez that affordable housing is a necessity, they were dealing with the wrong timeline. He corrected that the timeline for Mr. Gomez stops on November 3rd, 2025 (the date of the Accenture memo), not 11/23/25. He argued that the actual timeline for the project stopped on December 12th, 2025.

Mr. Walker distinguished between a "divorce" and an "annulment," stating that the previous administration "annulled" the project on December 12, 2025. He explained that an annulment treats a situation as if it never existed. He argued that because the project was annulled, anything associated with it, including Accenture's November 3rd memo, no longer had a foundation. Therefore, Accenture's current advice to place funds in other approved projects is not a conflict.

Mr. Walker then emphasized that you cannot create a new project in 2026 because the federal deadline for approving projects was December 31, 2024. He warned that if funds are not moved to eligible projects that have already been approved, the city will lose them. He stated that the new administration was forced into this amendment by the previous administration's annulment of the project.

Todd Clay (Resident) stated that during the development of Newton Square, the developer informed the community that there was no way to create low-income housing from existing properties because the numbers don't work. Consequently, the project was shifted to moderate-income housing. He questioned the Council on their options for future projects, specifically asking if an open bid could be put out to the public or if such projects are legally required to go through the Redevelopment Authority (RDA). He said because the complexities of the ARPA funding and housing projects were over most people's heads, the best course of action would be for the Council to this bill.

Fred Walker (Four Squares Development & Construction) identified himself as a disabled veteran who personally benefited from affordable housing. He stated that he has dedicated his career to helping others in the community by building properties. He emphasized that his team

did not fail to meet requirements. He requested the record reflect that the project was canceled in December 2025 by the previous administration because they determined it was no longer considered viable.

Mr. Walker noted that his company invested significant time, resources, professional expertise, and capital into the project. He said they participated in all meetings and responded immediately and diligently to all requests for information. He clarified that the project ended because "the direction changed" and the former administration's priorities shifted, not because of an inability to perform. He stated that it is inaccurate and unfair to blame the current administration for these past decisions. He went on to say the cancellation signaled that affordable and veteran housing was no longer a priority. He upheld that his organization acted professionally, transparently, and in good faith and stood ready to move forward to strengthen neighborhoods and provide economic opportunities.

Wanda Miller identified herself as a person with "lived experience of homelessness" who became homeless in 2012. She said she originally moved to York from Lancaster and utilized various supportive services, including those from Bell Socialization. Ms. Miller highlighted a critical shortage of both affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. She described housing as an investment and stated that having stable housing was essential to her recovery. Specifically, she noted that when she first received housing, she was dealing with mental health issues, including PTSD, and having a stable home allowed her to get her life sorted out and eventually sit on boards and contribute to the community. She stated that she is currently on SSI (Supplemental Security Income), which is a very low income. Because of this, she can no longer afford to rent from a private landlord and expressed gratitude for the programs, specifically Bell Socialization, that allow her to remain housed.

Caren Fountain-Thomas (Resident) stated she grew up in York City and has often heard that people are a product of their environment. She opined that when an environment is less than livable it creates distress for residents. She emphasized that if the city does not invest in itself, its children, and its residents who are less fortunate, it will continue to produce that environment, but investing properly will show the fruits of that labor. She then challenged the definition of affordable housing, noting that seeing a one-bedroom apartment for \$1,400-\$1,500 a month is not affordable for those on a fixed income of \$1,000 to \$1,100 a month.

Michael Walker (Resident) thanked the previous speakers and noted that during Mayor Walker's campaign, there was a clear commitment specifically to affordable housing. He stated that the current issue is being conflated; it is not a lack of commitment but rather the legalities and time constraints of ARPA funding that make a new housing project not viable at this stage.

Mr. Walker then corrected a previous statement made by a Councilwoman Bupp, declaring that it is not factually correct to say the RDA belongs to the city. He explained that the RDA is its own entity with its own board, finances, objectives, agendas, and charter. He noted the RDA was actually a competitor during the initial RFP process for the project in question.

Sheena Fountain (Speaker) stated she has been participating in community prayer walks to be part of the solution to violence and hopelessness. She stated that poverty and hopelessness is a direct connection to violence and that when people feel they have no hope, violence follows. She asked Council if the proposed funding for policing was being requested because the administration knows that poverty and homelessness will increase if funds are not placed into affordable housing.

Manuel Gomez (Resident) stated that he concurred with the Fountain family but completely disagreed with both Michael and Fred Walker. He argued that the current proceedings should not involve Four Square Development, noting that the company didn't execute and they failed to complete their side of the RFP process. He dismissed the "annulment" argument, stating that

the rejection of all bids is a routine and common city process. He also stated that the chronological timeline in the internal memo was not his timeline and was immaterial to the fact that the project was not completed.

Michael Walker (Resident) stated his mention of Mr. Gomez in his comments was not a personal attack but a reference to the timeline Gomez presented. He reiterated that the facts show the project was annulled by the previous administration, which removed the foundation for previous advisories like the Accenture memo. He defended Fred Walker's right to clarify his position and argued that Gomez's claim that Four Square "failed" was not factual, noting that if they had failed, the December 12, 2025, memo would have explicitly stated that.

Mayor Walker noted that an email was sent to Council clarifying that by April 2026, the RDA was unable to provide the required documentation for project readiness, rendering them not a viable option for the funds. She mentioned that RDA Chairman Michael Black provided an evaluation ranging from roughly \$900,000 to \$1.8 million for the SOHO project. She reaffirmed her support for affordable housing but stated this specific project is not feasible given the federal spending deadline.

Mayor Walker then listed what will not be funded if Council does not pass Bill No. 5 as follows:

- \$400,000 for senior homeowners to address urgent repairs.
- \$1.5 million for the Penn Street Market.
- Funding for the Sylvia Newcomb Center, leaving it without basic infrastructure repairs.
- Funding for eight police officers and associated violence intervention programs.
- The Parks Master Plan, including a \$1 million record contribution from the state DCNR.

Mayor Walker stated that the issue is not a lack of support for affordable housing, but that the city is simply running out of time.

Councilwoman Johnescu began by invoking the legal standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" to characterize her uncertainty regarding whether the funds could be legally applied to the affordable housing initiatives discussed throughout the evening. She stated that the conflicting substantive information and narrative presented by various speakers and administration officials left her insufficiently confident that the proposed reallocation would successfully pass a future audit process. Additionally, she noted that there were various scopes and limitations regarding the use of these federal funds that she felt had not been adequately addressed. Consequently, she concluded that she had to vote "no".

Vote on Bill No. 5: There being no further discussion, Bill No. 5 FAILED by the following vote: Yeas - Buckingham, Washington - 2; Nays - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu - 3.

Back to Proposed Amendment #2 for Bill No. 5: Councilman Supler made a motion for partial passage of some of the items presented as follows:

- Approve funding for codes read from the left side of the administration's worksheet 704, 492, 448, 449, 463, 486, 499, and 498 to accepting those reallocations to the projects that have corresponding new amounts listed on the right side of the administration's worksheet.

Councilman Supler said his intent is to find a middle ground by allowing certain reallocations to proceed while excluding the more controversial items that had been debated throughout the evening.

Vice President Buckingham confirmed that this motion intentionally provided nothing for the Penn Street Market (Project 447), affordable housing (Project 490), or the senior emergency

housing rehab (Project 493). It also excluded the Parks Master Plan and Sylvia Newcomb Center.

Failed Motion on Amendment #2: Councilman Supler's proposed amendment did not receive a second and therefore, the motion dies.

Conclusion: Bill No. 5 FAILED.

New Business – Introduction of Bills

4. Introduction of Bill No. 11 - A Bill Amending Article 307 "Incentive Programs for Dwelling Improvements" (ReTAP) ([View](#)) (To align the application, review, and abatement notice process with the requirements of the City of York.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Treasurer

Introduction of Bill No. 11, Session 2026, A Bill amending Article 307 "Incentive Programs for Dwelling Improvements" (ReTAP) of the Codified Ordinances, to align the application, review, and abatement notice process with the requirements of the City of York, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the July 21 meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. 12 - A Bill Amending Article 308 "Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Program (LERTA)" ([View](#)) (To align the application, review, and abatement notice process with the requirements of the City of York.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Treasurer

Introduction of Bill No. 12, Session 2026, A Bill amending Article 308 "Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Program (LERTA)" of the Codified Ordinances, to align the application, review, and abatement notice process with the requirements of the City of York, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the July 21 meeting of Council.

6. Introduction of Bill No. 13 - A Bill Amending the FY2026 Budget for the Bureau of Health. ([View](#)) (By appropriating revenue and expenditures as follows: (1) \$90,575 for the Healthy Moms Healthy Babies Home Visiting Program (SAP# 4100095409); (2) \$29,200.00 for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP); (3) \$52,000 for an award of funds from the County of York, Department of Human Services, Children, Youth and Families Agency to provide Plans of Safe Care (POSC) services on a countywide basis; (4) \$17,800.00 within the Immunization Program grant (SAP# 4100100295) for immunization services; (5) \$55,645.00 in Federal funding and \$94,352.00 for State funding within the HIV Prevention Program grant (SAP# 4100095584) to provide HIV/AIDS and STD prevention programs and outreach; (6) \$19,736.84 within the Family Planning Program to provide STD testing and outreach; and (7) \$107,490.00 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement to support public health emergency preparedness and response initiatives.)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 13, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget for the Bureau of Health, was introduced by Johnescu, read by short title, and deferred to the July 21 meeting of Council.

New Business

7. Resolution No. 48 - A Resolution Reappointing members to the Human Relations Commission. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 48, Session 2026, A Resolution reappointing Mina Edmondson, Karen Crosby,

Madeline Torres Ocasio, and John Eyster, to the York City Human Relations Commission to serve until July 16, 2029, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 48 came up for discussion.

Motion to table. Councilman Supler moved to table the legislation. Supler based his request on an email previously circulated liaison positions and potential Sunshine Act violations. He argued that these concerns should be addressed as part of a broader review process.

President Washington disagreed with the motion to table, asserting that Supler's concerns were not relevant to the specific action of reappointing commission members. She clarified that the memo she had sent to the Council was regarding concerns raised from within the Human Relations Commission itself and did not bear on the qualifications or the reappointment of the individuals listed in the resolution.

Solicitor Flower explained that the Council's discretion is not necessarily limited and that they could legally choose to either table the resolution for further study or proceed with a vote on the reappointments.

Failed Motion to Table. Supler's motion did not receive a second and therefore the motion died.

Mina Edmondson, HRC Chair, spoke in support of the reappointments. She stated that the individuals being considered have served the commission well and have dedicated significant time and energy to serving the residents of York City.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 48 passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 4; Nays – Supler – 1.

8. Resolution No. 49 - A Resolution Authorizing a contract with Motorola Solutions. ([View](#)) (For mobile video/body-worn cameras)
Introduced by: Ryan Supler
Originator: Police

Resolution No. 49, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing a contract with Motorola Solutions for mobile video/body-worn cameras, was introduced by Supler, read at length, and on motion of Supler, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 49 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp explained that the resolution indicates a figure of **\$24,486.22 dollars**, which she clarified represents the amount the agreement was **under budget** compared to what the police department had initially allocated for the equipment per year. Bupp expressed that she would much prefer the resolution to explicitly state the actual total annual cost of \$74,513.78 to ensure full transparency.

Motion to amend. A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Bupp, to include the annual cost of the agreement at \$74,513.78. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 49, as amended, passed by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Committee Waiver Requests for Immediate Action

Notice: A request has been submitted seeking Council's approving of waivers to the committee requirement for the purpose of authorizing action on the items listed below. Approval of this waiver shall require the affirmative vote of four members of Council.

Motion to waive committee requirement. A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Washington, to waive the committee requirement as requested. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Jim Gross, Interim Public Works Director, stated that agenda items 9-12 are no longer viable since Bill No. 5 did not pass..

Mayor Walker said as a result of Council’s failure to pass Bill No. 5, no work will be done for these parks.

9. Resolution No. (PULLED) - A Resolution Authorizing a contract with Willow Playworks. ([View](#)) (For the Bantz Park playground project - \$169,451.60)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works
10. Resolution No. (PULLED) - A Resolution Authorizing a contract with General Recreation Inc. ([View](#)) (For the Bantz Park playground project - \$80,150.00)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works
11. Resolution No. (PULLED) - A Resolution Authorizing a contract with Willow Playworks. ([View](#)) (For the Arles Park playground project - \$172,164.50)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works
12. Resolution No. (PULLED) - A Resolution Authorizing a contract with General Recreation, Inc. ([View](#)) (For the Arles Park playground project - \$83,505.00)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works
13. Resolution No. 50 - A Resolution Awarding a contract to Lobar Site Development Corp. ([View](#)) (For the Beaver St. Bridge, Bridge 358 Superstructure - \$702,750.00)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 50, Session 2026, A Resolution awarding a contract to Lobar Site Development Corp. for the Beaver St. Bridge Superstructure Project in the amount of \$702,750.00, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 50 came up for discussion.

Interim Director Gross explained that all city bridges are subject to mandatory inspections every two years. He said that the Beaver Street Bridge had received a poor rating during its most recent inspection. Gross warned that if the contract for repairs was not approved, the city would have to immediately implement weight restrictions, effectively banning large trucks from utilizing the bridge. He further stated that if these repairs were not undertaken now, he anticipated the bridge would likely be ordered closed following its next scheduled inspection.

Michael Walker (Resident) criticized Council members Supler, Johnescu, and Bupp specifically. He argued that by approving this resolution after blocking the ARPA funding, the Council was choosing to prioritize a bridge over community parks and other vital neighborhoods services.

Dr. Felicia Dennis (Former Councilwoman/City Resident expressed her deep "disgust," characterizing the outcome of the meeting as a shipwreck. She asserted that the Council's earlier vote on Bill No. 5 had collapsed a much larger plan for the city's parks. She stated the domino effect of their actions to not approve, stating that certain Council members were being puppeted by individuals who did not want to see the community move forward. She thanked Mayor Walker for her efforts to manage the city despite inheriting a shipwreck from the previous administration.

Councilwoman Bupp admitted that she had initially hoped the bridge project could be delayed. However, she stated that Director Gross's explanation regarding the bridge's poor rating and the risk of closure convinced her that the work was an unavoidable necessity.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 50 passed by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Vice President Buckingham expressed that she was bitterly disappointed by the failure of Bill No. 5. She stated that when she originally ran for office, public safety and the well-being of the city's children were her primary concerns. She explained that the city engaged the consulting firm Accenture to guide the administration through the complex American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) process because the city lacked the internal capacity or specialized understanding to manage it alone. Buckingham noted that Accenture experts had assured the Council through committee meetings and emails that the proposed reallocations were fully compliant with federal regulations. She shared her deep frustration that the city would not be able to move forward with park improvements or the transfer of funds to public safety, calling the outcome a bitter disappointment. While acknowledging the community's concern for affordable housing, she emphasized that this specific debate was about the strict federal timeline for utilizing the money. She further remarked that York is not the only community to reach the end of the funding period and realize that certain funds must be reallocated to meet deadlines.

President Washington stated she was extremely disappointed with the Council's actions regarding the ARPA funding. She reminded those in attendance that the Council has maintained an ARPA plan that is clearly visible on the city website and updated regularly. She noted that the city has already allocated funding to numerous projects, including affordable housing, support for the unhoused, and minority and women owned businesses. Washington characterized the evening's opposition as "sensationalization," arguing that individuals were picking certain topics to run with without considering the whole picture. She utilized a book analogy to illustrate her point, stating that some were reading page 912 and 913 and claiming to know the entire story without having read page one. She asserted that the Council's vote effectively removed funding from parks where children need safe places to play and stripped away rehabilitation funds for seniors who have already paid their debt to the community. She stated it was unfair to pull all funding over one or two points of disagreement. She warned that with less than six months remaining to spend the money, starting a new affordable housing project now would be impossible and ludicrous. She stated that the vote was an utter disrespect to the community and the extensive work already performed.

Councilwoman Johnescu clarified that the failure of the bill was not the end of financing for important city projects. She stated that the result simply addressed what failed and did not mean the door was closed on community needs. Johnescu explained that the Council could still allocate funding and rebalance the budget to ensure audit compliance while moving ahead with critical projects like playgrounds and senior home repairs. She emphasized that these items could appear on the next agenda and that the current outcome simply halted the process for further re-examination and discussion.

Councilman Supler agreed with Johnescu that this was not the final say on these matters. He observed that the proposed reallocations would have pulled money from various affordable housing incentives and youth programs, suggesting that previous characterizations of the bill were not entirely accurate. Supler pointed out that the eviction at Bantz Park occurred earlier that same day, stating that the issue of the unhoused is a problem occurring right here and now. He urged the Council not to put on blinders and to focus on finding real solutions through available services. Supler then offered congratulations to the graduates of William Penn, York Tech, and other local programs. He also wished the community a Happy Pride Month and read a portion of a proclamation from Governor Shapiro recognizing June 2026 as Pride Month in Pennsylvania.

XIII. Administration Comment

Mayor Walker thanked her administration and the consulting firm Accenture for months of work required to get to the bottom of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) figures and reconcile the accounts. She stressed her commitment to transparency, stating that since she became Mayor, she has prioritized ensuring that the Council receives all necessary information and that any questions emailed to her office have been answered.

She went on to say she served on the City Council for eight years. She admitted that during her tenure as a legislator, she would not have fully understood the complex day-to-day operations, approvals, and procedures required to bring a project to the point of final approval.

She then rebutted the idea that the administration was ignoring the city's problems, stating no one has blinders on and no one is saying that this is over. She explained that the months of work put into ARPA were intended to provide the Council with feasible options for addressing the remaining funds. She stated that she was comfortable with the team's efforts and felt they had exhausted all opportunities to see the process through to the finish line.

Mayor Walker discussed the urgency of the situation, noting that because the Council observes a summer recess and was not scheduled to meet again until the end of July, there would be no time for further action unless a special meeting was called. She reiterated her pride in her team, stating everyone had stepped up to make the plan work. She also directed the public to the ARPA recommendation plan on the city website, which contains all documentation regarding project eligibility and approved scopes of work.

Lastly, Mayor Walker congratulated the Class of 2026, specifically mentioning the wonderful graduation program at William Penn Senior High School. She then went on to describe the clear out of the homeless encampment at Bantz Park as an emotional time but stated the operation went off without a hitch. She thanked the city teams, the county, and the social service providers who partnered with the administration, noting that services were made available to anyone who wished to take advantage of them. She stated that the administration's goal was to address that area, and they had successfully done so.

- XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the June 2, 2026 meeting of Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk


Edquina Washington, President of Council