

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 July 21, 2026 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Edquina Washington called the July 21, 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; Joe Jefcoat, Treasurer; Nancy Griffin, Planner; Gere LaVelle, Finance Director; David Mackereth, Chief of Staff; Adam Smith, Fire Chief; Josh Houston, IT Director; and Gedd Sweikert, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

President Washington read a statement regarding the Quo Warranto action filed by the District Attorney's office. She stated that many community members care deeply about the issue, but Council would not be taking public comment on the matter as it is an active legal process handled by the court system. She clarified that Council lacks the authority to decide the matter at this stage and will allow the judicial process to move forward without interference. Once the legal process is complete, any responsibilities falling to the Council will be addressed openly and with full transparency. She then opened the floor to general public comment and requested that public comments be kept to five minutes or less.

Marilyn Hake (Resident) encouraged residents to attend the York Fair to support the Northeast Neighborhood Community 4H Club, which is in its fourth year. She noted that Elks 213 fully funds the club and that members will be volunteering at the 4H milkshake stand outside Memorial Hall. She highlighted that children recently returned from an overnight camp in Adams County and have experienced activities like science experiments and ice skating for the first time. She said she was proud of the personal growth of the students.

Sasha Kuhn (Resident) reported a significant increase in drug trafficking and prostitution since she and her fiancé purchased property in January. She mentioned that individuals have trespassed and done drugs on her property. Kuhn stated that she witnessed a woman being beaten in an alleyway. She also

expressed concern for the children at Lincoln Charter School who witness drug use in the park.

Stephen Fuller (Resident) elaborated on details regarding the crime Ms. Kuhn described, stating he has footage of drug deals and a man beating two prostitutes. He criticized the York City Police for a 38-minute response time to a report of people smoking crack in his yard, noting he could walk to the station and back in that time. He claimed an officer did not care to see his footage. Fuller shared that an older neighbor was violently beaten and kicked the previous morning, resulting in a broken collarbone, yet the attacker was released in less than 24 hours with charges of simple battery and harassment. He stated residents are looking to install cameras and share access but noted it is pointless if police response does not increase. He said until things change he'll continue to show up to these meetings.

There being no further public comment, the public comment session adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:11 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Please join us in a moment of silence to honor the life and service of former Councilwoman Antonietta "Toni" Smith. (Note: A [Proclamation](#) honoring Councilwoman Smith's legacy was formally presented to the family at the memorial service.)
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [June 2, 2026](#) and [July 7, 2026](#). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
 - Downtown Inc – Sarah O'Brien, Director – Downtown Inc mid-year update. ([View](#))
 - SARAA (Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority) – Timothy Edwards, Executive Director – Update on Harrisburg International Airport (HIA) operations and activities. ([View](#))
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on August 12th.
- 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: None

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions

1. Final Passage of Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 9 - 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

Final Passage of Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 9, 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,

which was introduced by Buckingham at the June 2, 2026 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. There being no discussion, on motion of Buckingham, seconded Washington, Bill No. 11, Ordinance No. 9, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 12, Ordinance No. 10 - 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

Final Passage of Bill No. 12, Ordinance No. 10, Session 2026, A Bill amending Article 308 "Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Program (LERTA) to align the application, review, and abatement notice process with the requirements of the City of York, which was introduced by Buckingham at the June 2, 2026 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. There being no discussion, on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Bupp, Bill No. 12, Ordinance No. 10, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 13, Ordinance No. 11 - 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)

Final Passage of Bill No. 13, Ordinance No. 11, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget for the Bureau of Health 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, which was introduced by Johnescu at the June 2, 2026 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. There being no discussion, on motion of Johnescu, seconded Washington, Bill No. 13, Ordinance No. 11, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

4. Final Passage of Bill No. 14, Ordinance No. 12 - A Bill Amending the FY2026 City Budget. ([View](#)) (For the Economic and Community Development Department, Police, and Recreation and Parks, for Fund 29 to correct the budgets for the programs resulting in a budget transfer of \$4,584,865.45 and adding the additional funds for supporting programs in the amount of \$4,584,865.45.) Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Council (Johnescu)

Final Passage of Bill No. 14, Ordinance No. 12, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 City Budget for the Economic and Community Development Department, Police, and Recreation and Parks, for Fund 29 to correct the budgets for the programs resulting in a budget transfer of \$4,584,865.45 and adding the additional funds for supporting programs in the amount of \$4,584,865.45, which was introduced by Johnescu at the July 7, 2026 special meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Johnescu, seconded Bupp, Bill No. 14 came up for discussion.

Motion to amend: President Washington made a motion to amend Bill No. 14 as follows:

Add		Amended
429 Penn Street Market Renovations	1,208,000.00	1,500,000.00
454 Blighted Properties (RDA)	1,800,000.00	1,000,000.00
458 Police	458,000.00	477,681.67
462 Parks Master Plan-QCT	318,865.45	318,865.45
466 YCPC Lead Grant Program	50,000.00	50,000.00
479 Sylvia Newcomb	300,000.00	638,318.33
483 Senior Emergency House Repair	300,000.00	350,000.00
702 City Roof	175,000.00	225,000.00
703 City Building Generator	25,000.00	25,000.00
	4,584,865.45	4,584,865.45

The motion to amend was seconded Buckingham and came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Bupp noted the 466 Lead Program was a new \$50,000 addition.

Councilman Supler asked RDA Chair Michael Black if the reduction for blighted properties would affect their vision for affordable housing at 30SOHO.

Mr. Black stated that the RDA was grateful for the funding and could definitely move forward with the project as presented, keeping the vision for 30SOHO alive.

Vice President Buckingham explained that while she supports the compromise, it's important for everyone to understand that funds cannot be disbursed immediately. She clarified that checks cannot be written until each project is thoroughly vetted and approved as an eligible and compliant use of ARPA dollars by the city's consultants, Accenture.

Vote on Amendment: The motion to amend PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

Mayor Walker thanked the Council for approving the amendments, describing the process as a democracy and compromise. She noted that the administration had been in close communication with both the RDA and Accenture to reach a happy medium.

Councilman Supler added that large reallocations of this nature are not an anomaly and that many mid-sized cities face similar challenges. He explained that these shifts are often necessary to prevent federal clawbacks by pulling money from stalled projects and putting it into those ready for immediate execution. He stated that the bill successfully balanced immediate capital needs while still fighting for our local families and keeping the spirit of affordable housing alive.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 14, Ordinance No. 12, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nay – 0.

New Business – Introduction of Bills

5. Introduction of Bill No. PULLED - A Bill
Amending the FY2026 City Budget. ([View](#)) (For the Economic and Community Development Department, Police, and Recreation and Parks, for Fund 29 to correct the budgets for the programs resulting in a budget transfer of \$4,584,865.45 and adding the additional funds for supporting programs in the amount of \$4,584,865.45.)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Mayor

Note: Due to the passage of Bill No. 14, Ordinance No. 12, Agenda item #5 was pulled from consideration.

6. Introduction of Bill No. 15 - A Bill
Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (Amending the FY2026 City Budget for Bureau of Health as follows: **(1)** Updating revenue and expenditures for the Health Bureau's WellSpan allocation in the amount of \$368,000; **(2)** Appropriating revenue and expenditures within the Family Planning Program in the amount of \$6,966.00; and **(3)** Allocating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for Women's Health Services in the amount of \$47,320.00.)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 15, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget for Bureau of Health as follows: **(1)** Updating revenue and expenditures for the Health Bureau's WellSpan allocation in the amount of \$368,000; **(2)** Appropriating revenue and expenditures within the Family Planning Program in the amount of \$6,966.00; and **(3)** Allocating revenue and expenditures for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for Women's Health Services in the amount of \$47,320.00, was introduced by Johnescu, read by short title, and deferred until the August 18, 2026 meeting of Council.

7. Introduction of Bill No. 16 - A Bill
Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (Amending the FY2026 Budget for the York City Police Department by reallocating funds budgeted for the purchase of a vehicle to the purchase of a Knight Watch mobile camera and funding additional officer overtime in the total amount of \$432,000.00.)
Introduced by: Ryan Supler
Originator: Police

Introduction of Bill No. 16, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget for the York City Police Department by reallocating funds budgeted for the purchase of a vehicle to the purchase of a Knight Watch mobile camera and funding additional officer overtime in the total amount of \$432,000.00, was introduced by Supler, read by short title, and deferred to the August 18, 2026 meeting of Council.

New Business

8. Resolution No. 51 - A Resolution
Appointing members to the York City Human Relations Commission. ([View](#)) (R. Olmeda, C. Hundley, & T. Wilkes)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Mayor

Resolution No. 51, Session 2026, A Resolution consenting to the Mayor's appointment of Rose Olmeda, Christopher Hundley, and Tynisha Wilkes to the York City Human Relations Commission for terms ending July 16, 2029, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Johnsecu, Resolution No. 51 came up for discussion.

Tynisha Wilkes thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve and promised to

serve with integrity to promote fairness and equity for the community.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 51 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

City Clerk Thompson administered the Oath of Office to Wilkes and Hundley as they both were in attendance.

President Washington thanked the appointees for their willingness to serve and encouraged residents to apply for the various openings on our boards and authorities.

9. Resolution No. 52 - A Resolution
Authorizing the purchase of a Cimline DuraPatcher P2. ([View](#)) (COSTARS contract #4400028122; 5 yr. lease purchase; Purchased from Stephenson Equipment; Financed through Fulton Bank; Initial payment \$20,175.02 - subsequent payments \$19,331.02)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works

Resolution No. 52, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Cimline DuraPatcher P2 through COSTARS contract #4400028122 for a 5 yr. lease purchase, to be purchased from Stephenson Equipment and financed through Fulton Bank, with an initial payment \$20,175.02 and subsequent payments of \$19,331.02 for a total cost of \$86,250, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 52 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu asked for an explanation of how the equipment works.

Jim Gross, Interim Public Works Director, explained that it is a self-contained unit that puts stone down followed by oil to fill potholes. He noted that the equipment increases efficiency significantly, allowing a two-man crew to perform work that previously required four men.

President Washington asked if the unit was a replacement or a new addition.

Director Gross confirmed it is a totally new piece of equipment.

Councilwoman Bupp thanked Director Gross for clarifying via email the financing and verifying that the lease-purchase was the best financial approach.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 52 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

10. Resolution No. 53 - A Resolution
Approving the 2026-2028 Teamsters Bargaining Agreement. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Business Administration (HR)

Resolution No. 53, Session 2026, A Resolution approving the 2026-2028 Teamsters Bargaining Agreement, was introduced by Bupp, read at length, and on motion of Bupp, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 53 came up for discussion.

Councilman Supler asked for a summary of the major changes in the contract.

Councilwoman Bupp explained that Property Maintenance Inspectors (PMIs) have been added to the agreement at a starting salary of \$24.65/hour. She added that the contract retains a 3.25% annual increase over the three-year term.

David Mackereth, Chief of Staff, described this as a pretty standard contract that all parties agreed upon, noting that pay increases had already gone into effect as of January 1.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 53 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

11. Resolution No. 54 - A Resolution Appointing probationary firefighters. ([View](#)) (J. Cleveland, N. Andreone, T. Wales, P. Hoy, E. Slaymaker, & J. Dieter)
Introduced by: Ryan Supler
Originator: Mayor / Fire/Rescue

Resolution No. 54, Session 2026, A Resolution appointing Jeffrey Cleveland, Nichola Andreone, Tyler Wales, Peter Hoy, Evan Slaymaker, and James Dieter as probationary firefighters, was introduced by Supler, read at length, and on motion of Supler, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 54 came up for discussion.

Adam Smith, Fire Chief, reported that the department currently has 63 personnel but is budgeted for 69. He stated that reaching the full budgeted amount is essential for meeting the minimum manning increases required (by contract) starting next year.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 54 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

12. Resolution No. 55 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Fraser Partnership Plan. ([View](#)) (For 42 multifunctional printers; 63-month agreement; \$4,510.34 monthly payments)
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Business Administration (IT)

Motion to read by short title. A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Washington, to read Resolution No. 55 by short title. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 55, Session 2026, A Resolution authorizing a 63-month agreement with Fraser Partnership Plan (FPP, Inc.) for the lease of 42 multifunctional printers at a monthly cost of \$4,510.34, was introduced by Bupp, read by short title, and on motion of Bupp, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 55 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu expressed concern over the total financial commitment, calculating it at over \$162,000 over three years. She questioned the city's plan for managing overage costs, noting the high volume of color and black-and-white copies included in the contract.

Josh Houston, IT Director, clarified that the city is renewing an existing contract based on site surveys and current usage. He noted that while there is a budget line for overages, the city has not actually incurred them.

Councilwoman Johnescu then questioned if the printers were overly complex for standard staff needs.

Director Houston responded that the department is maintaining current functionality rather than upgrading to avoid unnecessary costs.

Councilwoman Bupp noted that the \$55,000 annual budget for the IT department already accounts for this contract. She further confirmed with Director Houston that maintenance and

supplies are included in the agreement.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 55 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

13. Resolution No. PULLED - A Resolution Removing Ryan Supler as Council's Liaison to the Human Relations Commission. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Human Relations Commission

Motion to Pull. A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Bupp, to pull agenda item #13. from the agenda. The motion came up for discussion.

Councilman Supler asked Assistant Solicitor, Gedd Sweikert, whether he should vote on the motion or abstain.

Solicitor Sweikert advised that the decision was entirely up to Supler as an individual council member.

Vote on Motion to Pull. There being no further discussion, Agenda Item #13 was PULLED by the following vote: Yeas - Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment: None

XIII. Administration Comment

Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Interim Director of Economic and Community Development, announced that the three-year application process for CDBG and HOME programs is currently open on the city's website under the Housing Department. She highlighted that the recent public hearing for these programs was the largest they have ever held and encouraged anyone with projects that could help the city to submit their applications before the July 31st deadline.

Mayor Walker provided several community updates, including a reminder to register for National Night Out to receive gear. She reminded residents near the York Fair to apply for parking permits to avoid being cited. She then thanked those who volunteer to serve on our various city boards, such as the RDA and HRC. Mayor Walker also recognized school board members Margie Orr and Tynisha Wilkes, who were in attendance this evening, for their service. Finally, the Mayor thanked City Council for their willingness to support the ARPA budget compromise, stating she looks forward to moving those projects forward.

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the July 21, 2026 meeting of Council adjourned at 7:08 p.m.


Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk


Edquina Washington, President of Council