

Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Edquina Washington, President of Council
Betsy Buckingham, Vice President of Council
Elizabeth Bupp, Member of Council
Teresa Johnescu, Member of Council
Ryan Supler, Member of Council

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



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

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

Website: www.yorkcity.org

MINUTES September 1, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Council meetings are streamed LIVE for viewing only on the following social media platforms:

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofYorkPA/>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WhiteRoseCommunityTV>.

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

CALL TO ORDER: President Edquina Washington called the September 1, 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; Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Interim Director of Economic & Community Development; Nancy Griffin, Planner; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

I. Public Comment:

Steven Bentz (York County) addressed Council about a growing county-wide trend in housing development. He noted that developers are building far more rental units than homes for sale, which he believes is worsening housing affordability. He shared several figures: rents in York City have fallen about 7.8% over three years, while home prices have risen 22.5%, over 50% when measured by square footage. He added that many younger residents feel shut out of homeownership, with 20% of millennials and more than half of Gen Z reporting they've given up on buying a home. Mr. Bentz asked Council to consider these trends when reviewing development proposals and to encourage builders to include more for-sale units so future generations can afford to live and raise families in York.

Mr. Bentz then thanked Council members who have expressed support for reinstating the Trust Act, which passed in 2024 but was later vetoed. He noted that we live in a different time than 2024 and emphasized that federal immigration enforcement operates independently of municipal policy. He urged Council to adopt the Act as a show of solidarity with immigrant residents, ensuring they feel safe using city services and emergency dispatch without fear of immigration status inquiries. He said this would be a positive step for York County and encouraged Council to place the Trust Act on a future agenda.

Seamus George (York County) a 17-year-old senior at York Suburban High School, presented his community project: an eight-foot "peace pole" installed in Cherry Lane, displaying "May peace prevail on Earth" in multiple languages. He said he chose Cherry Lane for its high visibility and personal significance from childhood events and visits. He shared that the project quickly became a community

effort and thanked Tom Landis for site coordination, Jamie Noerpel for ongoing guidance, Jasmine Perfect for her support, and financial contributors including House of Yoga, Kelly Gibson with the Cultural Alliance, York Fresh Food Farms, and Kindness Worldwide. Mr. George reflected that meaningful projects are accomplished through shared vision and collective support.

There being no further discussion, the public comment session adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:06 p.m.
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. Moment of Silence was observed.
- VI. Action on previous meeting Minutes of [August 18, 2026](#) (legislative). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements: None
- VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:
 - **Legislative Meeting:** The next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, September 15 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 9th.
 - **Council Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 16th.
- IX. Reports of the Youth Council Committee:
 - President Washington to introduce Youth Council Committee Members.

President Washington introduced the new Youth Council Committee and welcomed member Nia Stevens to the podium. Miss Stevens, an 11th-grade student at York Academy, shared her excitement about serving in a role she never expected to experience.

President Washington outlined the committee's structure: three members, Nia Stevens, Jada, and Denham, are required to attend at least one Council meeting per month, with monthly leadership trainings led by President Washington and Councilwoman Teresa Johnescu. The Youth Council's purpose is to help the City learn directly from young residents and incorporate their perspectives. The group will also complete a joint community service project with City Council. She expressed hope that their work will lead to proposed legislation and emphasized that our youth are our future. She also thanked Jada and Denham, who were unable to attend due to after-school commitments.
- 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. 66 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 66, Session 2026, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in

issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be done at the following locations: 172 S. Pine St., 1 S. George St., 101-105 W. Springettsbury Ave., 110 N. George St., 29 & 31 S. Queen St., 318-322 E. Poplar St., 340 E. Market St., and 339 S. Beaver St., was introduced by Johnescu, read at length, and on motion of Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 66 came up for discussion.

Request to Abstain. Councilwoman Johnescu requested to abstain from voting because she is the owner of the properties at 29 and 31 S. Queen Street. President Washington made a motion to approve the abstention, which was seconded by Buckingham and passed by the following vote: Yeas – Supler, Bupp, Buckingham, Washington – 4; Nays – 0.

Councilman Ryan Supler complimenting the addition of a formal public comment section starting from the last meeting. He noted that incorporating this section into meetings moving forward is highly beneficial for both the community and the board.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No.. 66 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas: Supler, Bupp, Buckingham, Washington – 4; Nays – 0; Abstain – Johnescu – 1.

Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions

2. Final Passage of Bill No. 17, Ordinance No. 15 - A Bill Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (\$500,000 for a PennDot grant for the York Bike Share Program) Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works

Final Passage of Bill No. 17, Ordinance No. 15, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget in the amount of \$500,000 for a PennDot grant for the York Bike Share Program, which was introduced by Buckingham at the August 18 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 17 came up for discussion.

Vice President Buckingham spoke on the project, noting that Interim Public Works Director Jim Gross was unable to attend but provided background. The grant was originally secured under the prior administration, and the project is now actively advancing. The funds will be used to contract a specialized vendor to establish and administer a bike rental program across five downtown locations. Downtown Inc. is highly supportive of the initiative. An active RFP is currently out to select an operating vendor. This vote formally incorporates the grant money into the city budget.

There being no further discussion, Bill No. 17, Ordinance No. 15 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas: Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

3. Final Passage of Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 16 - A Bill Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (As follows: **(1)** Appropriating additional revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$5,395.00 for the Tuberculosis (TB) program; and **(2)** Appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$20,000.00 for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Personal Responsibility Education Program -PREP) Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Final Passage of Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 16, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$5,395.00 for the Tuberculosis (TB) program; and **(2)** Appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$20,000.00 for Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Personal Responsibility Education Program -PREP, which was introduced by Johnescu at the August 18 meeting of

Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Johnescu, seconded by Washington, Bill No. 18, Ordinance No. 16, PASSED by the following vote: Yeas: Supler, Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

New Business – Introduction of Bills

4. Introduction of Bill No. 19 - A Bill
Amending the FY2026 Budget. ([View](#)) (For the Parks & Recreation Bureau by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$10,000.00 for a grant received from the York County Community Foundation Continental Square large planter landscaping and watering.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Public Works (Parks/Recreation)

Introduction of Bill No. 19, Session 2026, A Bill amending the FY2026 Budget for the Parks & Recreation Bureau by appropriating additional revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$10,000.00 for a grant received from the York County Community Foundation Continental Square large planter landscaping and watering, was introduced by Buckingham, read by short title, and deferred to the September 15 meeting of Council.

5. Introduction of Bill No. 20 - A Bill
Amending Article 937 "Stormwater Management Standards". ([View](#)) (Subsection 937.01(f)(1)(A) to remove erroneous language relating to "fees in lieu of" associated with stormwater management.)
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: Council (City Clerk)

Introduction of Bill No. 20, Session 2026, A Bill amending Article 937 "Stormwater Management Standards", Subsection 937.01(f)(1)(A) to remove erroneous language relating to "fees in lieu of" associated with stormwater management, was introduced by Johnescu, read by short title, and deferred to the September 15 meeting of Council.

6. Introduction of Bill No. 21 - A Bill
Amending Article 137 "Fiscal Procedure". ([View](#)) (Subsection 137.08 "Contracts" of the Codified Ordinances, to establish a fixed contract value threshold of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) requiring City Council approval.)
Introduced by: Elizabeth Bupp
Originator: Council (Bupp)

Introduction of Bill No. 21, Session 2026, A Bill amending Article 137 "Fiscal Procedure", Subsection 137.08 "Contracts" of the Codified Ordinances, to establish a fixed contract value threshold of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) requiring City Council approval, was introduced by Bupp, read by short title, and deferred to the September 15 meeting of Council.

New Business: None

XI. Requests for Future Meetings

XII. Council Comment

Councilman Supler urged residents to keep reaching out regarding quality of life issues. He emphasized the importance of public feedback, stating, we don't know what's wrong if you don't tell us. He welcomed all forms of feedback and requested that residents also share what is working, what is going well, and what they are proud of in York. He reiterated that the Council needs to hear both sides of public experience

XIII. Administration Comment

Mayor Walker expressed gratitude to the York community for participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. street dedication held on August 28. She described the dedication as absolutely wonderful and a wonderful example of community, noting that she was deeply overwhelmed and pleased by the high level of community participation.

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the September 1, 2026 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Edquina Washington, President of Council