



The City of York Pennsylvania

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

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Betsy Buckingham, Vice President
Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Member
Elizabeth Bupp, Member
Teresa Johnescu, Member
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COMMITTEE MINUTES May 29, 2024

6:00 p.m.

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2024 MEETINGS: Click [here](#) to view 2024 Council Meetings Dates

Fire/Police	Public Works	Econ & Comm Development	Business Admin	Rules & Admin
Washington Dennis Buckingham	Dennis Washington Johnescu	Washington Buckingham Johnescu	Buckingham Johnescu Bupp	Bupp Washington Dennis

***Bold text indicates Chairperson**

Note: General Committee is chaired by Council President or designee and includes all Council members.

CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the May 29, 2024, committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 101 S. George St., York, PA, with the following members present: Elizabeth Bupp, Teresa Johnescu, Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Dave Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor; Monica Kruger, Director of Health; Capt. Dan Lentz, Police; Christopher Grove, Emergency Management Planner; and Assistant Solicitor Brett Flower.

Members of York City Council staff in attendance included: Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk.

- I. Called committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Committee Issues for the **June 4, 2024** legislative Agendas as follows:

CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW ISSUES CHART

GENERAL COMMITTEE

All Council members

1. **Tax exoneration request for Children's Aid Society** ([Resolution](#))

Eric Chase, President/CEO, Children's Aid Society (CAS), said they are asking for exoneration for their property located in the 600 block of W. Poplar St. (Parcel #09-205-02-0084.00-0000) for year 2023. He said all of the other taxing authorities have approved exoneration. He said CAS is a 501(c)(3).

Councilwoman Johnescu asked Mr. Chase to outline the request.

Mr. Chase explained that when a property is transferred, the county assume it's taxable. However, once CAS showed them that they are a 501(c)(3) entity and outlined their services, the county suggested CAS ask for exoneration from all taxing entities. He said this is the county's process on how they go about exonerating property taxes.

Councilwoman Johnescu asked if CAS applied for ARPA funding for income loss.

Mr. Chase said they applied for the first round of funding but was not approved, so they didn't apply for the second round.

DECISION: A motion made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

2. Adopting & implementing the city's Emergency Operations Plan ([Resolution](#))

Chris Grove, Dept Emergency Management Planner, explained that this is the city's Emergency Operation Plan and that every municipality is required to have one and we are just updating ours. This outlines what we'll do in case of an emergency.

DECISION: A motion made by Johnescu, seconded by Bupp, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Dennis (Chair), Washington, Johnescu

3. Resolution authorizing an agreement with General Recreation - Renaissance Park ([Resolution](#))

Dave Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor, explained that this is an agreement for new park equipment for Renaissance Park. The project includes installation of new playground equipment to replace broken equipment, and equipment destroyed by vandalism throughout areas of the park. He outlined the upgrades which in part includes an enclosed merry-go-round, a 2-tiered climbing structure, monkey bars, and spring toys.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if the \$71,000 is the total amount needed to do this upgrade.

Supervisor Rudolph said it's estimated to cost that amount but if there are any extra costs, it will be minor. He said the park structure will be installed by the city employees so that will save money. Some materials will be donated and if we can't get donations, he said that's where some of the additional expenditures will go.

Administrator Robertson said there was a request for \$90,000 in the recreation fund for the 2024 budget under park maintenance specifically for fixing Renaissance Park. However, the play surface is below the threshold requiring Council approval.

Supervisor Rudolph said they will be doing wood mulch for the playground but hope to upgrade to rubber mulch at some point.

President Washington said she looks forward to this park being renovated. She encouraged staff to install equipment that is all inclusive so that all children can play on the equipment.

Supervisor Rudolph said when the park was originally built by an outside contractor, ADA compliance wasn't a consideration, but it will be for this renovation project.

DECISION: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Johnescu, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Johnescu, Washington, Dennis - 3; Nays - 0.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Washington (Chair), Dennis, Buckingham

4. Resolution authorizing an agreement with Wireless CCTV LLC ([Resolution](#))

Cpt. Dan Lentz explained that this is to purchase 3 security towers with surveillance to be used for high crime hotspots and large community events such as block parties, so they'll have 24-hour recorded security.

Brian Goodin, resident, asked where the hotspots are.

Capt. Lentz said it's dependent on what's going on. For example, he said our downtown has been terrorized by graffiti artists so this will help us identify such activity. He said the cameras will be about 20 ft in the air and we can place them strategically to capture data and we can relocate them to other areas as needed. People will know where the cameras are, and they will not be stationary.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if they expect all the cameras to be in the same area.

Cpt. Lentz said it will depend. For instance, for New Year's Eve, we might have all three in the same area or if crime we determine is concentrated in one area. He then said they are solar powered.

Councilwoman Bupp asked if we have a written policy for its use.

Cpt. Lentz said we don't have a policy. It's an overt camera system, not a covert camera system.

Councilwoman Dennis asked if there are any main focus areas.

Cpt. Lentz said it depends on what our data is telling us. He said we have been plagued by burglaries over the past two weeks. We arrested one individual, so congratulations to our detectives. He said this might be an instance where we would put up the camera in a targeted area.

Councilwoman Dennis asked what made the Police Dept. want to get these devices.

Cpt. Lentz said we are connected to the community, and we listened to their complaints, and we looked into how we can combat those concerns. He also said gun violence was a reason why they wanted these cameras. He said this is a good way to provide visual deterrence without deploying the manpower. This will help us save cost in overtime.

Brian Goodin, resident, said a few years back, the city wanted a city-wide camera system but that didn't happen. He said there has been almost no police presence in what he feels are the hotspots in the community. He asked if CCTV and AI technology is better than police patrol.

Cpt. Lentz said this camera doesn't have AI technology, and we will still need police officers. The cameras won't replace officers, they will assist officers. He said we're not going to have an officer watching 24 hours, but it will record 24 hours and will overwrite in 60 days. He said having video evidence is critical in helping them prove a case.

Discussion ensued about police monitoring and patrol.

Councilwoman Dennis said she wants to make sure these cameras are doing what they are intended to do. She asked how this will affect the privacy of residents.

Cpt. Lentz said he understands the concern about privacy but asked are we troubled when we go to Giant grocery store or A-Plus gas station because they have the same camera technology. He said we are just trying to help the community. We do not intend to look into people's windows.

President Washington said the difference between Giant and A-Plus is that their cameras are not moving, they remain in the same location. She asked Assistant Solicitor Flower if we can have this without a policy.

Assistant Solicitor Flower said this is not going to be placed in an area such as a backyard where there is an expectation of privacy. These will be located in public areas where there is no expectation of privacy. She said a policy could be drafted but she's not concerned about privacy issues because of how obvious these cameras are and that they are going to be located in public places.

President Washington said she would like to have a policy drafted on the use of these cameras to ensure privacy is not infringed upon.

Cpt. Lentz said he will begin drafting that with the help of the solicitor.

Assistant Solicitor Flower said there is a policy to prohibit personal use so that will cover the use of these cameras, but she'd be happy to work with Cpt. Lentz on a separate policy for these cameras.

Brian Goodin, resident, said when the city-wide camera system was up for discussion, he was against it. He said he wants to be clear that his biggest problem is that through a study done on Baltimore or Lancaster for these same types of surveillance, the research showed that surveillance did not reduce crime, but it did increase convictions.

Cpt. Lentz said this won't reduce all crime, but he believes it will help.

DECISION: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 3; Nays - 0.

5. Resolution authorizing a FY24 budget transfer for the GVI & Credible Messenger Program - \$50K ([Resolution](#))

Administrator Robertson said this is part of the ARPA approved program for GVI & Credible Messenger and that there was a budget set aside of \$70,000 for other supplies and materials. Client services is another aspect we have been pursuing more. The concept was run by our ARPA consultants, and they said this is an approved expenditure. She said now that there is a pattern, she wanted to create a dedicated line item.

Cpt. Lentz said some of the expenses were for items such as alarm clocks, diapers, hotel expenses or relocation assistance to escape this lifestyle and live a better life.

Councilwoman Bupp said GVI has been going on for a few years. She asked how much was spent on GVI in 2023.

Cpt. Lentz said doesn't have that information at this time, but he will provide that information. He said the amount is unpredictable because they don't know who will need help and what kind of help they will need. He said we might spend all the allocated funds, or we may not. He said he will send her the numbers. He said not all of their funding is from ARPA.

Councilwoman Bupp said she would like to see how the ARPA allocations have been spent since we've given several allocations.

Administrator Robertson said what isn't used this year will be included in the 2025 budget under the same line item.

DECISION: A motion made by Dennis, seconded by Buckingham, to place this item on the to place on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 3; Nays - 0.

6. Bill amending the FY24 budget for GVI Grassroots Growth initiative grant from York College - \$10K ([Bill](#))

Cpt. Lentz said this is essentially the same type of expenditure as previously discussed but York College is providing us with \$10,000 toward this initiative.

DECISION: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Buckingham, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 3; Nays - 0.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Buckingham (Chair), Johnescu, Bupp

7. Resolution authorizing agreements with AMCS and the School District for crossing guards ([Resolution](#))

Administrator Robertson explained that this is a yearly occurrence. She said essentially per city ordinance, the 3rd Class City Code, and 2nd Class School District Code, the city is responsible for providing crossing guards for the school district. This company hires, trains, and provides crossing guards. We have been using AMCS since about 2016. We have had a long-standing agreement with the school district to reimburse us 50% for these services. They will have it on their next meeting agenda for approval.

Councilwoman Johnescu said this company is located in California, so how does the hiring process work in York.

Administrator Robertson said there are local employees that do the hiring and supervision. She said she doesn't know where they are physically located.

Councilwoman Johnescu asked what's the mark up per crossing guard per hour. She said temps are a small mark up. She asked if there is a better local solution. She asked how much is going toward the crossing guards who are actually doing the work.

Administrator Robertson said she does not know what the crossing guards are getting paid but, in the past, we worked with CPC, and they had difficulty filling the positions. She said next year she's looking at doing an RFP for this service.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she is used to seeing a breakdown of costs and feels it's important for us to know.

Administrator Robertson said these are employees not temps, they are doing the work that is required, and AMCS is dealing with all the personnel matters including complaints. She said she is not opposed to a local agency taking it over if they feel they can do the job and save us money.

Vice President Buckingham said I guess they assume the liability.

Administrator Robertson said yes. She said she has years of stories with crossing guards including complaints and workers comp issues and AMCS takes on all those issues.

Vice President Buckingham said she sees a crossing guard stop traffic all the time and she feels this is not safe.

Administrator Robertson said she would like the details so that she can relay the concern to AMCS. She said blocking traffic is especially a problem in big intersections like Broad and Phila Streets.

DECISION: A motion was made by Bupp, seconded by Johnescu, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham - 3; Nays - 0.

8. Resolution authorizing a budget transfer for a budget shift for the PA Dept. of Health Act 315 & Act 12 (\$97,953.00) ([Resolution](#))

Monica Kruger, Director of Health, said we receive Act 315 & 12 funds, and this is a transfer of funds from salaries to other line items because at the time we didn't know some of the COVID funding was going to rollover.

DECISION: A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded by Bupp, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham - 3; Nays - 0.

9. Resolution authorizing various agreements for the Bureau of Health ([Resolution](#))

Monica Kruger, Director of Health, said this is so that we can get approval for signatures on various agreements.

City Clerk Thompson said there are blanks on the resolution that needs to be filled out.

Director Kruger said she'd get that information emailed to the City Clerk this evening.

DECISION: A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded Bupp, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham - 3; Nays - 0.

10. Bill amending the FY2024 Budget for Health ([Bill](#))

Director Kruger said the details are outlined in the budget amendment.

Administrator Robertson said these are collections of various grants that we are shifting from one line item to another. We always anticipate these adjustments each year, which is usually the beginning of a new grant year.

Director Kruger explained the budget cycle and said we try to anticipate services and funding streams.

DECISION: A motion was made by Johnescu, seconded Bupp, to place this item on the **6/4/24** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham - 3; Nays - 0.

III. Council Comment

Councilwoman Dennis congratulated the 2024 graduates, especially our inner-city youth. She said we had a 90% graduation rate this year and she applaud staff and said let's get prepared for the 2025 school year.

IV. Administration Comment: None

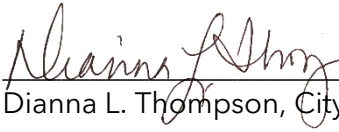
V. Next Committee Meeting: Council will observe its summer recess after the June 4, 2024 legislative meeting. No committee meetings are held during the months of June-August. The next committee meeting will be held on September 25, 2024 in Council Chambers. Committee agenda items are due by 12 noon on September 18, 2024.

VI. Council President Washington accepted public comment at this time as a member of the public wished to speak.

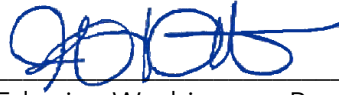
Brian Goodin, resident, submitted a statement about food trucks. A full copy of his statement is attached to these minutes located in the city clerk's office. You may click [here](#) to view statement.

President Washington thanked Mr. Goodin for his comments and said his comments will be shared with the Administration.

VII. Adjournment: There being no further business, the May 29, 2024 committee meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Edquina Washington, President of Council