

Council of the City of York, Pennsylvania

Edquina Washington, President of Council
Betsy Buckingham, Vice President of Council
Dr. Felicia O. A. Dennis, Member of Council
Elizabeth Bupp, Member of Council
Teresa Johnescu, Member of Council

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MINUTES June 4, 2024 6:00 p.m.

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CALL TO ORDER: President Washington called the June 4, 2024, 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, with President Washington presiding.

Members of the Administration included: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Dave Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor; Michael Shanabrook and Chris Grove, Emergency Management; and Brett Flower, Assistant Solicitor.

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

- I. Public Comment: None
- II. Called Legislative Meeting to Order at 6:00 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 21, 2024](#) (legislative); [May 29, 2024](#) (committee). Council dispensed with the reading of the minutes and unanimously approved them as written.
- VII. Presentations, Awards and Announcements
 - **Susquehanna Regional Airport Authority (SARAA)** - Brief presentation by Timothy Edwards, Executive Director, SARAA, with an update on SARAA's operations, current capital projects, and future initiatives.

Timothy Edwards, SARAA Executive Director, and Carolyn VanNewkirk, York City SARAA Board member, were in attendance. Mr. Edwards outlined the role of SARAA and the areas they serve. He said they have a 15-member board and outlined all counties that are represented on the board. He

said Harrisburg International Airport (HIA) has four airlines going to 16 destinations with several connectivity points. In 2023, they had their 3rd consecutive year of growth with 2019 being their biggest year. Mr. Edwards said they anticipate 2024 is going to be a good year with increased activity over the summer months. He then outlined various capital projects. He said they found PFAS chemicals in their water, which they were able to completely eradicate. They also did an expansion of their cargo complex which was a \$64 million project. They have three general aviation airports: Capitol City Airport, Gettysburg Regional Airport, and Franklin County Regional Airport. Upcoming events include their 2025 air show on Memorial Day weekend. They secured the Blue Angels to headline the show. There will be static displays and vintage aircraft. He thanked Council for their support in appointing Jim Gross and Carolyn VanNewkirk as York City's representatives on the board. He said Transportation Secretary Buttigieg visited their airport today because they received two significant grants through the transportation program, which includes passenger boarding bridges where they received a multi-million dollar grant to replace those bridges with six new bridges.

VIII. Meeting(s) Scheduled:

► **Legislative Meeting:** After tonight's meeting, Council will observe its summer recess. Therefore, the next legislative meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon on July 10th.

► **Council Committee Meeting:** Council does not have committee meetings during its summer recess. Therefore, the next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Committee items are due by 12 noon on September 18th.

IX. Status of Prior Committee Referrals: No new reports. See committee minutes of 5/29/24. ([View](#))

X. Legislative Agenda: (Order of Business – Action on Subdivision/Land Development & HARB Resolutions; Final Passage of Bills/Resolutions; New Business.)

Final Passage of Bills / Resolutions:

1. Final Passage of Bill No. 20, Ordinance No. 21 - A Bill
Amending the FY2024 Budget. ([View](#)) (By appropriating expenditures from ARPA funds for engineering costs associated with replacement of the Market St. bridge - \$796,600)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Business Administration / Public Works

Final Passage of Bill No. 20, Ordinance No. 21, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 Budget by appropriating expenditures from ARPA funds for engineering costs associated with replacement of the Market St. bridge in the amount of \$796,600.00, which was introduced by Dennis at the May 21 meeting of Council and read by short title, came up for final passage. On motion of Dennis, seconded by Johnescu, Bill No. 21, Ordinance No. 21 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

Introduction Passage of Bills

2. Introduction of Bill No. 21 - A Bill
Amending the FY2024 budget. ([View](#)) (To appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for: **(1)** an end-of-year additional payment incentive from Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP), in the amount of \$6,000.00; **(2)** Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), in the amount of \$30,500.00; **(3)** Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement, in the amount of \$908,316.28; **(4)** Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Infectious Diseases grant, in the amount of \$3,705,687.49; **(5)** Act 12 and Act 315 funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2023 budget, in the amount of \$13,137.28; **(6)** Weyer Trust Contribution reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2023 budget, in the amount of \$90,275.06.)

Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Introduction of Bill No. 21, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 budget to appropriate additional revenue and expenditures for: **(1)** an end-of-year additional payment incentive from Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP), in the amount of \$6,000.00; **(2)** Family Health Council of Central PA (FHCCP) for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), in the amount of \$30,500.00; **(3)** Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement, in the amount of \$908,316.28; **(4)** Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Infectious Diseases grant, in the amount of \$3,705,687.49; **(5)** Act 12 and Act 315 funding reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2023 budget, in the amount of \$13,137.28; and **(6)** Weyer Trust Contribution reflecting changes due to rollover amounts from the FY2023 budget, in the amount of \$90,275.06, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the July 16 meeting of Council.

3. Introduction of Bill No. 22 - A Bill
Amending the FY2024 City Budget. ([View](#)) (For Group Violence Initiative (GVI) activities funded by a Grassroot Growth initiative (GGI) Results-based Accountability (RBA) Grant from York College of Pennsylvania in Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the total amount of \$10,000.00)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Introduction of Bill No. 22, Session 2024, A Bill amending the FY2024 City Budget for Group Violence Initiative (GVI) activities funded by a Grassroot Growth initiative (GGI) Results-based Accountability (RBA) Grant from York College of Pennsylvania in Fund 26 Special Projects account, in the total amount of \$10,000.00, was introduced by Washington, read by short title, and deferred to the July 16 meeting of Council.

New Business – Items for Consideration of Consent Agenda

President Washington asked if there was a motion to consider all items on the consent agenda.

Councilwoman Johnescu asked to pull agenda items 5, 8, 9 & 10 from the consent agenda.

Motion to consider consent agenda items: A motion was made by Washington, seconded by Dennis, to consider agenda items: 4, 6, 7, and 11-13 as a consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

President Washington asked if there was any Council, Administration or public comment on the consent agenda items. There was none.

Motion to approve consent agenda items: A motion to approve agenda items 4, 6, 7, and 11-13, was made by Washington, seconded by Dennis, and passed by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 5; Nays - 0.

4. Resolution No. 50 - A Resolution
Accepting the recommendations of HARB. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Teresa Johnescu
Originator: HARB

Resolution No. 50, Session 2024, A Resolution accepting the recommendations of HARB in issuing certificates of appropriateness for work to be done in the following applications approved by HARB: (1) Application filed for work to be done at 119 S. Newberry St.; (2) Application filed for work to be done at 220 W. Philadelphia St.; (3) Application filed for work to be done at 376 W. King St.; (4) Application filed for work to be done at 300 W. Market St.; and

(5) Application filed for work to be done at 124 S. Beaver St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

5. Resolution No. 51 - A Resolution Exonerating 2023 municipal taxes/penalties for the Children's Aid Society. ([View](#)) (\$3,422.82)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Treasurer's Office

Resolution No. 51, Session 2024, A Resolution exonerating municipal taxes and penalties for Children's Aid Society in the amount of \$3,422.82, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, Resolution No. 51 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she followed the conversation from Treasurer Jefcoat on this request. She said the real estate was transferred in November 2022, it is not grandfathered, and they have to meet the requirements to have the property exonerated. She said we need a policy in place on how to consider these exonerations. She said this seems to be the business of dealing with 501(c)(3) entities. If we approve these without some policy in place, this puts us in a bad position. She said she is concerned about our senior citizens who has to take the brunt of these exonerations.

Solicitor Flowers said we get this with charities where they buy a property and then don't realize they need to go to the York County Board of Assessment and Appeals to get the exception. She said the question of forgiveness is different from whether they are entitled to an exemption. She said this property was historically tax exempt.

Vice President Buckingham said a representative was here for our committee meeting and thoroughly explained the request, but she agreed that we need a standard established for forgiveness or denial.

Councilwoman Johnescu said there is no hardship and they had to reapply for the exemption.

President Washington said she agrees that we need some policies and procedures in place to follow when it comes to these exonerations requests because she feels there could be an onslaught of these organizations coming to Council.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 51 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Johnescu - 1.

6. Resolution No. 52 - A Resolution Adopting & implementing the city's Emergency Operation Plan. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Fire (Emergency Management)

Resolution No. 52, Session 2024, A Resolution adopting and implementing the city's Emergency Operation Plan was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

7. Resolution No. 53 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with General Recreation, Inc. ([View](#)) (For installation of playground equipment at Renaissance Park)
Introduced by: Felicia Dennis
Originator: Public Works (Recreation/Parks)

Resolution No. 53, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with General Recreation for installation of playground equipment at Renaissance Park was approved

unanimously by consent agenda.

8. Resolution No. 54 - A Resolution Authorizing an agreement with Wireless CCTV, LLC. ([View](#)) (For purchase of 3 security surveillance towers - \$132,077.47)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Resolution No. 54, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Wireless CCTV, LLC in the amount of \$132,077.47 for the purchase of three (3) security surveillance towers, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Buckingham, Resolution No. 54 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu thanked WellSpan Health for making this possible. She said these cameras are intended to be a tool for the Police Dept. and are very visible and can be deployed for various events or high crime areas. She said they will serve as an extra set of eyes and will be deployed in public places. She said a policy for the use of these cameras is a good idea, and if the cameras work and helps to reduce crime, it's a plus.

Councilwoman Bupp said she agrees, and she feels the police department should draft a policy on usage and how they will handle the footage of those cameras.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 54 PASSED by the following vote: Yeas - Bupp, Johnescu, Buckingham, Washington - 4; Nays - Dennis - 1.

9. Resolution No. 55 - A Resolution Authorizing a budget transfer of ARPA funds. ([View](#)) (For the GVI & Credible Messenger Program to identify funds for Client Services - \$50,000.00)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Police

Resolution No. 55, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing a budget transfer of ARPA funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the GVI & Credible Messenger Program to identify funds for Client Services, was introduced by Washington, read at length, and on motion of Washington, seconded by Johnescu, Resolution No. 55 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu said after hearing the frustration of residents about ARPA distributions and difficulty understanding the ARPA dashboard, she feels this could affects transparency. She said this money going toward GVI initiatives is a good idea if it meets the safety and security needs of our residents. She stated that she just wants to make sure residents understand what these funds are being used for.

President Washington said these will be used to protect and provide for our residents. For example, they will be used for personal safety relocation efforts, diapers for needy families, bus fare so individuals can go to work or to the grocery store, as well as other items that are not readily available to some residents.

Councilwoman Bupp said the GVI meetings are open to the public and they accept donations.

Marie Rohleder, resident, said everything said is moot because there isn't a strategic plan in place and that everything should come from whatever the strategic plan says. She said the ARPA dashboard is impossible to understand. She asked where the strategic plan is that guides you on how to spend this money. She said she has no problem with what Council is doing but not having direction is what disturbs her. She said she was part of the committee to recommend ARPA funds but that was tossed to the wayside.

President Washington said Council does have a strategic plan and we can assist you in locating that online. We also have our ARPA consultants, ANSER, who guides us and makes sure expenditures are being spent properly. She said we are working on the website to make the ARPA dashboard more user friendly, but this takes time.

Councilwoman Johnescu asked if Ms. Rohleder was talking about the comprehensive plan. Ms. Rohleder said, yes. Councilwoman Johnescu said that is separate from ARPA, but the Planning Commission has been working through a long process in the comprehensive planning process and it is in the final stages.

Vice President Buckingham said regulations must be strictly followed when allocating ARPA funds, which is outside of the comprehensive plan, and our ARPA consultants are there to tell us what funding can and cannot be spent on.

Councilwoman Bupp said the comprehensive plan is available for review June 11 & 12 and will be open for public discussion. She said the information was posted on the city's website by Jada Richardson.

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

10. Resolution No. 56 - A Resolution Authorizing agreements with the York City School District and All City Management. ([View](#)) (For crossing guard services for the 2024-2025 school year)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Business Administration

Resolution No. 56, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing agreements with the York City School District and All City Management for crossing guard services for the 2024-2025 school year, was introduced by Buckingham, read at length, and on motion of Buckingham, seconded by Washington, Resolution No. 56 came up for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she is still concerned because this company is located out of California. She said she realizes we split the funding for this service with the school district, but she wants to see a breakdown of the expenses and questions whether this is cost effective. She asked what metrics are being used and feels this is very vague and we are operating blind in this process.

Councilwoman Bupp said she was looking at the employment page on the city's website and under the police department there is a crossing guard position, and it says to All City Management at a \$12 rate.

Councilwoman Johnescu said we are paying All City Management more than \$28 per employee.

Vice President Buckingham said that cost also includes liability and other expenses.

Motion to abstain: Councilwoman Dennis asked to abstain as she is employed by the York City School District. The motion to abstain was approved unanimously.

There being no further discussion, Resolution No. 56 FAILED by the following vote: Yeas - Buckingham, Washington - 2; Nay - Bupp, Johnescu - 2; Abstain - Dennis - 1.

Since there were not at least 3 votes to approve, Resolution No. 56 did not pass.

11. Resolution No. 57 - A Resolution Authorizing a budget transfer. ([View](#)) (For PA Dept. of Health Act 315 & 12 funding - \$97,953.00)
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 57, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing a budget transfer in the amount of \$97,953.00 for the Pennsylvania Department of Health Act 315 and Act 12 funding was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

12. Resolution No. 58 - A Resolution Authorizing multiple agreements for the Bureau of Health. ([View](#))
Introduced by: Edquina Washington
Originator: Economic & Community Development (Health)

Resolution No. 58, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing agreements with WellSpan Health and Pennsylvania State University for medical director services was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

13. Resolution No. 59 - A Resolution Authorizing a lease agreement with Saia. ([View](#)) (For 1601 Toronita St.)
Introduced by: Betsy Buckingham
Originator: Solicitor's Office

Resolution No. 59, Session 2024, A Resolution authorizing a 10-year lease agreement with Saia Motor Freight, LLC, for the property located at 1601 Toronita St., was approved unanimously by consent agenda.

XI. Requests for Future Meetings: None

XII. Council Comment:

Vice President Buckingham said as a resident she notices the incredible number of people that run red lights. She said if we were more mindful when we are driving, imagine the impact we will have.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she would like to get involved in the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC).

Michael Shanabrook, Emergency Management Planner, said TSC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9AM and that he will include her in their emails.

XIII. Administration Comment: None

XIV. Adjournment: The next legislative meeting of Council is scheduled for July 16, 2024 at 6PM in City Council Chambers. There being no further business, the June 4, 2024 meeting of Council adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

XV. Resumption of Public Comment Period (at the discretion of the presiding officer): None



Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk



Edquina Washington, President of Council