



The City of York Pennsylvania

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

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COMMITTEE MINUTES January 29, 2025

6:00 p.m.

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2025 MEETINGS: Click [here](#) to view 2025 Council Meetings Dates

Fire/Police	Public Works	Econ & Comm Development	Business Admin	Rules & Admin
Washington Buckingham Dennis	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 January 29, 2025, 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, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President. Councilwoman Felicia Dennis teleconferenced into the meeting.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; Nancy Griffin, City 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 **February 4 & 18, 2025** legislative Agendas as follows:

FIRE/POLICE (Washington, Chair; Buckingham, Dennis)

1. Resolution appointing Probationary Firefighters ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, Business Administrator (Fire)

► Legislative Agenda: February 4, 2025

Business Administrator Robertson said there are currently seven vacancies due to retirements and these individuals are on the candidates' list and ready for the academy.

DECISION: A motion made by Washington, seconded by Buckingham, to place this item on the **2/4/25** agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas - Dennis, Buckingham, Washington - 3; Nays - 0.

2. Resolution approving the 2024-2026 FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, Business Administrator (Police)

► Legislative Agenda: February 18, 2025

Administrator Robertson said this is the result of an Act 111 arbitration award and we went through the process of hearings and the arbitrator issued an award on 10/28/24. She said this is being requested to be placed on the 2/18/25 meeting agenda to provide enough time to clarify the language from the arbitration award and incorporate the language into the bargaining agreement. If we don't have a resolution by the 2/18 deadline, she said we'll add this to the March agenda.

Councilwoman Bupp said she noticed in the arbitration award letter, in the discipline section, it removes the Board of Appeals/Trial Board and that an officer has the right to grieve and arbitrate any discipline that is a Level 2 or above. She said if she's reading correctly, an officer can grieve all the way up to the mayor and if they don't like the resolution they can go to an arbitrator. Administrator Robertson said that is correct. Councilwoman Bupp asked how someone would grieve a performance review. Administrator Robertson said performance reviews are not grieved but if discipline is an issue, then they can grieve the discipline. Councilwoman Bupp asked what the Levels are mentioned in the discipline section. Administrator Robertson said she believes that's part of their operating procedures and that Councilwoman Bupp should ask Commissioner Muldrow.

Manuel Gomez, resident, said it's a trend nationwide that boards of appeals are not favored. He said they have this arbitrator, but Council has certain powers under the 3rd Class City Code. He said some people would be upset that the trial boards are being done away with although some did like them. When it comes to accountability and ways to hold our officers accountable, he said there are other tools available. It doesn't have to just be what the police are bound by in the agreement. We've had civilian review boards before. He said he was expecting FOP representation tonight.

DECISION: A motion was made by Buckingham, seconded by Dennis, to place this item on the **2/18/25** legislative agenda. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 3; Nays – 0.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Washington, Chair; Buckingham, Johnescu)

3. Resolution approving the 2044 Comprehensive Plan ([View](#))

Submitted by: Nona Watson, Director, DCED (Planning)

► Legislative Agenda: T/B/D (Suggested date for public hearing and consideration of final passage is 3/18/25 @ 6PM)

Jessica Fieldhouse, C.S. Davidson, said she assisted the city in finalizing the draft of the Comp Plan. We are hoping to have the hearing date established at the February 4 legislative meeting. We have been receiving public comments since October, and we are still taking in comments. Nothing has been substantiated.

Assistant Solicitor Flower said this is the opening of the 45-day review period, so we are still accepting comment on the plan.

Ms. Fieldhouse said comments can still be submitted to Nancy Griffin, City Planner.

President Washington said the Comp Plan can be viewed on our website or you may contact Nancy Griffin, City Planner or Council. She shared the process of gathering information for the Comp Plan and said it was a great process although she wishes there were more public meetings. She said she likes the layout of the plan and it's easy to digest. She really appreciates the Executive Summary, which is a summary of the entire plan. She thanked all for their great work.

Councilwoman Johnescu said she went to a lot of the public meetings, and she was pleased with the feedback and she's happy to see that the feedback was taken into consideration.

Vice President Buckingham asked for information on the density.

Ms. Fieldhouse said increased density is being advocated to areas within walking distance of transit stops. The plan isn't necessarily to increase density in RS1 & RS2 areas. Density is necessary for our urban environment to have resources to keep our downtown functioning. If we can move slightly away from single family homes, maybe there could be opportunity for creation of an environment with mixed income areas.

Councilwoman Bupp said the plan used to be on the top of the page on the city website, but it has now moved to City Services, Departments, and then Economic & Community Development. Bupp said she just found that it is also located on the home page.

City Planner Nancy Griffin said they are making changes to the website to make it more user friendly. She said a public review copy will be available on the first floor of City Hall, but she asked that residents do not remove the plan.

Councilwoman Bupp said she hopes employees who do not live in the city will look at this plan and hopefully see reasons why they should move into the city and possibly offer input.

DECISION: A motion made by Johnescu, seconded by Buckingham, to set a public hearing for **3/18/25** at 6PM on the Comp Plan, followed by consideration of passage of the Comp Plan that same evening. Since a public hearing date/time is being proposed, all members of Council voted on the motion. The motion passed by the following vote: Yeas – Bupp, Johnescu, Dennis, Buckingham, Washington – 5; Nays – 0.

III. Council Comment: None

IV. Administration Comment

Administrator Robertson thanked resident Manuel Gomez for sharing information about our refuse billing on his social media.

V. Next Committee Meeting **February 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in Council Chambers. Agenda items are due by 12 noon and 2/19/25.

VI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the January 29, 2025 committee meeting of Council adjourned at 6:23 p.m.


Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk


Edquina Washington, President of Council