



The City of York Pennsylvania

Office of City Council
101 S. George St.
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COMMITTEE MINUTES February 26, 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 February 26, 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, Felicia Dennis, Betsy Buckingham, Vice President, and Edquina Washington, President.

Members of the Administration in attendance included: Kim Robertson, Business Administrator; India Banks, Interim Director of Public Works, Dave Rudolph, Electrical Supervisor; Safire Linares, Environmental Services Supervisor, Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Bureau of Housing Services; 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 **March 4 & 18, 2025** legislative Agendas as follows:

PUBLIC WORKS (Dennis, Chair; Washington, Johnescu)

1. Resolution awarding a contract for refuse/recycling and container collection services. ([View](#))

Submitted by: I. Banks, Interim Dir. of Public Works

► Legislative Agenda: March 4, 2025

Public Works Director India Banks explained the contract. She said there is a May 1st start date for the hauler.

Councilwoman Bupp sked what date was the RFP posted on the website.

Director Banks said December 4, 2024.

President Washington asked what the amount of the contract is and if there were other bidders.

Director Banks said we had two other bidders, and they hope to have the final contract amount before the March 4th meeting.

Councilwoman Johnescu said the way people just throw out their trash it's no wonder that refuse companies don't want to work for us. She said they have an overwhelming task, and she feels for them having to pick up all that mess. She said the company we are looking to contact with is called Good's and they are located out of Ephrata. She asked if they have a facility here in York.

Director Banks said they will have a facility here in York by May 1st.

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

2. Bill amending the 2025 budget to appropriate MNOA for Fund 20 building repairs (\$20,400.00).

[\(View\)](#)

Submitted by: I. Banks, Interim Dir. of Public Works

► Legislative Agenda: March 4, 2025

Electrical Superintendent Dave Rudolph said this is to transfer money from 2024 to 2025 to purchase entrance doors at the Yorktown Center, and bathroom doors at Gross Park and Memorial Field.

Councilwoman Bupp asked how often they have to replace doors, and are they metal.

Superintendent Rudolph said the doors at Gross Park are made of plywood and date back to 1952, so they need to be replaced. The Yorktown Center doors were replaced in 1985, so over the past 40 years they have gotten their wear and tear.

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

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

4. Resolution approving substantial amendments to the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. [\(View\)](#)

Submitted by: Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Bureau of Housing Services

► Legislative Agenda: March 18, 2025

Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Bureau of Housing Services Funding Specialist, said Council already approved this but for compliance for HUD they had to amend the wording to make it project specific. The original approval didn't have the seniors' projects for 465-467 W. Market St.

Councilwoman Buckingham said the initial page is dated January 2023. Ms. Bethea said that's when the plan was originally approved.

Councilwoman Bupp said it looks like this HUD ARP grant is separate from our ARPA funds and the deadline for submission was complete. She said the expiration for use of funds is 2030 and those funds will be used to create rental housing for qualified populations and participating jurisdiction. She said the city's goal is to make 8 affordable units for \$1.9 million which can be new or refurbished. She then asked about the Market St. project.

Ms. Bethea said 465-467 W. Market St. are the units they are working on. The project is in the process and an RFP was put out in 2023. Contractors have been picked to do the work.

Councilwoman Bupp said there are four qualifying populations, and the elderly are a preference. She said we have already drawn down some of the \$1.9 million. She said once these units are created, there has to be a 15-year lease.

Ms. Bethea said that is correct. We are doing a lot of moving around with the agreement so there are a lot of leniencies with ARPA and ARP funding. She said they want to make the 15 years for seniors because we don't want to be liable for a long-term project. If the properties start deteriorating, will that fall back on the city. She said these are some of the things we are working on.

President Washington said she feels it's important to prioritize our senior community and she is appreciative of the 15-year lease for our seniors.

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

5. Resolution approving the 2024 CAPER. ([View](#))

Submitted by: Tammy Harvey-Bethea, Bureau of Housing Services

► Legislative Agenda: March 18, 2025

Ms. Bethea said we come before Council yearly with our CAPER. It's a report card of everything we've done in 2024. To be in compliance with HUD we have to outline our projects from 2025. She said we are still drawing money for 2024 because we have up to 90 days to draw to make our numbers correct. We still have projects still being done from 2024, so numbers will change. This has to go to HUD by March 31. She said we held meetings all through 2024, and that the 5-year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan have the same data. She said 2024 was a good year because we had a lot of money rolled over from year-to-year. She said we spent CDBG money for projects such as Bantz Park and Yorktown Center upgrades. We also provided funding for the RDA for stabilization and demolition. She said the plan also includes the Rehab program, CASA, LifePath Ministries, Permits, and Section 108. For HOME funds, projects included funding for Hudson Park Towers, Affordable Housing Associates (S. Queen St. project), and Four Square (Hope St. project). She said we finally finished up with the COVID funds which were used for small businesses.

President Washington thanked Ms. Bethea for the thorough report and for letting our community know how funds are being spent.

Ms. Bethea said the Bureau of Housing Services is not just for housing. She said our programs include downpayment assistance, closing costs, homebuyers' assistance and counseling, as well as credit education.

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

6. Bill amending the 2025 Budget for the Healthy Moms/Babies Program (\$145,198.00). ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, BA for Bureau of Health

► Legislative Agenda: March 4, 2025

Bureau of Health Director Monica Kruger said we have grant funding from the County of York for Children & Youth services. We are severely understaffed for this program. She said we want to hire another community health specialist and part-time nurse. Additionally, she stated that they are seeking a Haitian/Creole speaking employee and that they would like this on the 3/4/25 agenda so they can move forward with hiring.

Councilwoman Bupp said the City Health Dept. takes pregnancy seriously. She said a pregnant constituent asked how she could get more help with her living situation. She said she was happy to refer her to the Health Dept. because of the connections they have for services that could help her. She said the city's website (www.yorkcity.org), under the Health Dept., has considerable and helpful information and she encouraged residents to visit the site for more information. She thanked the Health Dept. for all they do in the community.

Director Kruger gave thanks to the Health Bureau staff and applauded the work they do for our community.

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

7. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the County of York for the Healthy Moms/Babies Program. (\$500,000.00 for the period of 7/1/24-6/30/25). ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson for Bureau of Health

► [Legislative Agenda: March 4, 2025](#)

Health Director Kruger said this is the companion piece to the budget amendment above.

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

POLICE (Washington, Chair; Buckingham, Dennis)

8. Bill amending the 2025 Budget for a JAG grant. (\$50,725.00 for the period of 10/1/24-9/30/27). ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, BA for the Police Dept.

► [Legislative Agenda: March 4, 2025](#)

Business Administrator Kim Robertson said this is a yearly occurrence. We have received this for at least 7 years and is effective October of each year, but we don't get the approvals and information until the budget process is in full swing. So, since this money came in after the budget was approved, an amendment must be made to incorporate the funding into our budget. She said there is no rainy-day fund, so they will spend this money as soon as it's incorporated into the budget. The funds will be used to secure technical assistance, data research, fees for access to programs, and contractual support for programs.

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

9. Resolution approving the FOP bargaining agreement. (For the period of 1/1/24-12/31/26). ([View](#))

Submitted by: K. Robertson, BA for Police Dept.

► [Legislative Agenda: March 18, 2025](#)

Administrator Robertson said we've had significant movement on this agreement. We have a final draft that the FOP has taken to their membership and got approval for. She said she is cleaning up the contract and will have the finalized document once it's all cleaned up.

Dan Lyons, resident, spoke about the recent shooting at UPMC and said the concern is the number of police York City has, which is about 102. He asked if that number can be increased considering the

concerns we are facing with shootings. He said he's hoping our police force numbers can be increased.

Manuel Gomez, resident, asked if someone could provide a summary of changes to the FOP agreement.

Administrator Robertson said the original arbitration award shared at the last committee meeting are the changes. She said we just needs to incorporate that into the final draft and that she'll make that document available with the final submission of the agreement.

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

III. Council Comment

Councilwoman Bupp said we had gun violence this month, the February 19th shooting in York City, and then the UPMC shooting that both included loss of life. She said in both cases there were confrontations and out-of-control actions. She asked what we can do to address this. We have programs working with at-risk kids and that's wonderful but what else can we do. We need to consider what triggers us to anger and how do we calm ourselves down. She asked the city's Health Bureau are their anger management training or resources that people can go to for tips. There are a lot of resources on the web but if there is something especially helpful, to post that on our website. We need tools to calm ourselves down to prevent violence toward ourselves and each other.

She then said February is Black History Month. She recognized General Charles Q. Brown, who is the highest-ranking military officer having served our country. She thanked General Brown for his service. She also encouraged residents to visit the York County History Center as they celebrate York's rich history and our African American trailblazers.

Councilwoman Dennis ask residents to continue praying for all those affected by these shootings. She said there is no way to stop the violence, but we can be better prepared for it. We need to come together as a community and keep our community lifted in prayer.

President Washington said our thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones of Officer Andrew Duarte who was fatally shot at UPMC Memorial Hospital in West Manchester Township after a gunman entered the hospital and took people hostage on February 22, 2025.

IV. Administration Comment

V. Next Committee Meeting **March 26, 2025** in Council Chambers. Agenda items due by 12 noon and 3/19/25.

VI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the February 26, 2025 committee meeting of Council adjourned at 6:46 p.m.


Dianna L. Thompson, City Clerk


Edquina Washington, President of Council