



**CHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**

Monday, May 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members Angela Douglas, Betty Bagley, Linda Tinker, Annie Reid, Susan Kovas, and Carlos Williams; Interim Administrator Carla Roof, City Attorney Latonya Edwards and Payroll Clerk/Interim Clerk to Council, Sylvia Young.

Absent: Council Members William Killian and William King.

Call to Order: Mayor Caldwell called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer: Councilwoman Bagley read to Council words of encouragement afterwards she led Council in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Caldwell and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS FORUM:

Raymond Carter – Mr. Carter spoke to Council concerning homicides in community and the Police Department.

PETITIONER:

Doug Shannon – Mr. Shannon spoke to Council concerning the, “Brother’s United for Christ”, which is a group of men that are members from Calvary Baptist Church and First Baptist Church working together to focus on community improvement. The groups current objective is to cleanup local streamflow’s in the community. In conclusion, he wanted to inform Council about groups activities and cleanup efforts in the community. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion that Council allow “Brother’s United for Christ”, Calvary Baptist Church and First Baptist Church members to cleanup at the Tanyard Branch. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Councilwoman Douglas expressed to Council her concerns about volunteers completing necessary forms before conducting activities on city property. After a brief discussion, Attorney Edwards recommended that volunteers complete a Volunteer Release of Liability form before continuing their community activities.

Michael Halsey – First Responders Parade of Valor – Mr. Halsey spoke to Council concerning the First Responders Parade of Valor on Sunday, September 2, 2018. He asked for Councils approval and support for event to recognize the Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Management for their contributions towards the community. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid advised Mr. Halsey to complete necessary paperwork for event and stated that she was in favor of event. Mayor Caldwell and Council thanked Mr. Halsey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion that Council approve Minutes for March 26, 2018 as presented in package with any necessary corrections. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Caldwell stated that Council needs to convene into Executive Session to discuss an Administrative Department – Legal Advice Regarding Audit, Police Department – Legal Matter Inmate Fees, and Finance Department – Legal Matter Property Tax Sale. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion that Council convene into Executive Session to discuss an Administrative Department – Legal Advice Regarding Audit, Police Department – Legal Matter Inmate Fees, and Finance Department – Legal Matter Property Tax Sale. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing. Council convened into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion that Council reconvene from Executive Session. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Council reconvene from Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. Mayor Caldwell stated that while Council was in Executive Session they discussed an Administrative Department – Legal Advice Regarding Audit, Police Department – Legal Matter Inmate Fees, and Finance Department – Legal Matter Property Tax Sale. No action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Rebecca Brendle – Audit Update – Rebecca Brendle spoke to Council concerning Camp Moring & Brendle LLC, Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report Thereon for audit year ended June 30, 2016. A copy of the audit was given to each Council Member so they could follow as she age the findings.

Downtown Flower Planting – Update – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid gave Council an update concerning Downtown flower planting by second grade students from the School of Inquiry on May 1, 2018. She thanked everyone that helped and expended a special thanks to Mrs. Gaston.

NEW BUSINESS:

Properties Committee Recommendation – 112 McClure Street – Councilwoman Kovas gave Council the Properties Committee recommendation concerning the property located at 112 McClure Street. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to start the process to donate the property located at 112 McClure Street to 158 Inc. and they will pay closing cost. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Properties Committee Recommendation – 166 Coogler Street – Councilwoman Kovas gave Council the Properties Committee recommendation concerning the property located at 166 Coogler Street. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion that Attorney Edwards research property located at 166 Coogler Street and bring back to Council her findings. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Properties Committee Recommendation – Springsteen Property – Councilwoman Kovas gave Council a report concerning the Springsteen property. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion that Attorney Edwards research property and bring back to Council her findings. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Permit for Shooting Squirrels – Public Safety Committee – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid informed Council that the requirements for background check has changed, and the city will no longer be able to get background check for citizens to shoot squirrels. She made a request that Chief of Police Eric Williams come before Council to explain new requirements for background checks. Chief Williams gave Council an update concerning background check. Council was informed that background checks must go directly thru SLED with a cost of \$25 for report. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to allow the Police Department to change their procedures and policy for Squirrels Permit. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Evergreen Cemetery – Councilwoman Bagley – Councilwoman Bagley expressed to Council her concerns about the street conditions at Evergreen Cemetery. After a brief discussion, Councilman Williams informed Council that he will look into matter to find out who is responsible for street repairs at the cemetery. Councilwoman Douglas suggested to schedule a joint meeting with Public Works Committee and Evergreen Cemetery Commission to discuss street conditions at cemetery.

HR Update – Pubic Works – Carla Roof gave Council an update concerning Public Works Department and highlights from Administrative/HR Report. Mrs. Roof made a recommendation to Council to utilize Farmers Market manager position salary to hire a part-time Recreation and Park maintenance position that will focus on the parks and allow them to be under the supervision of the Parks and Recreation Department. Councilman Williams stated that he was in favor of Mrs. Roof’s recommendation. After a brief discussion, Council granted Mr. White approval to hire for a part-time Recreation and Park maintenance position.

Cancelation of May 28, 2018, Council Meeting – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid informed Council that the next Council meeting falls on the same day as the Memorial Day holiday. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to cancel Council meeting scheduled for Monday, May 28, 2018. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading Ordinance 2018-02 - City of Chester Comprehensive Fee Schedule – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid read the First Reading Ordinance 2018-02 - City of Chester Comprehensive Fee Schedule – An ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article V – Finance, Section 2 of the Code of Ordinance for the City of Chester, South Carolina to adopt a comprehensive fee schedule. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made motion to accept the First Reading Ordinance 2018-02 – City of Chester Comprehensive Fee Schedule. Councilwoman Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion that meeting adjourn. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Council meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Sylvia Young