



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

Monday, March 26, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

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

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

**Prayer** – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid led Council in prayer.

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

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

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

**Misty Smyrnios** – Misty Smyrnios spoke to Council on behalf of CCEG, Chester Citizens for an Ethical Government and the entire board concerning governmental voting rules and procedures.

**Nettie Archie** – Nettie Archie spoke to Council concerning Council’s voting process for the hiring of Administrative position at previous Council meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018.

Councilwoman Bagley request an update on railing repairs on Lynwood Street and Walnut Street. Carla Roof informed Council that before Reginald McBeth, Public Works Director was hired the encroachment permit was approved and railing has been constructed by Shugart Manufacturing. She informed Council that she has spoken to Reginald McBeth about railing repairs and informed him that repairs were an ongoing project to be completed by the Public Works Department. Reginald McBeth gave Council an update concerning railing repairs.

Councilman Killian expressed to Council and the public his opinions about racism in the community.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administrative** – Report in package.

**Finance** – Report in package.

**Fire** – Report in package. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid commended the Fire Department for bringing in the totals for the “Boot Honor Roll” making them number seventh in the state. She thanked citizens that contributed towards the Fire Department fundraiser.

**Human Resources** – Report included with Administrative Report in package.

**Police** – Report in package.

**Public Works** – No report.

**Recreation** – Report in package.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept the Departmental Reports as presented in package with any necessary corrections. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Councilman King expressed to Council his concerns about railing repairs at Walnut Street and Lynwood Street. He requested that Mr. McBeth repair railing as soon as possible for public safety. Mr. McBeth assured Councilman King that he would start on railing repairs first thing in the morning.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance** – Minutes for February 26, 2018 and March 5, 2018 meetings in package.

**Properties** – No report.

**Public Safety** – Minutes for January 18, 2018 and February 23, 2018 meetings in package.

**Public Works** – Minutes for March 21, 2018 meeting in package. Councilman Williams and Mr. McBeth gave Council updates concerning the Public Works Department projects. Councilman Williams informed Council that Public Works Department Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for Friday, April 6, 2018 at 3 p.m. at City Hall in Conference Room. Council discussed Earth Day Event scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2018, relocating event to the Farmers Market, to precede to Wylie Park to clean-up. Vendor fees will not be waived for event.

**Recreation** – No report.

After discussion, Councilwoman Tinker made motion to accept the Committee Reports as presented in package with any necessary corrections. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Evergreen Cemetery** – No report.

**Historic Preservation** - Minutes for March 1, 2018 meeting in package.

**Planning Commission** – No report.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – No report.

**Housing Authority** - Chuck Walling, Executive Director – HA Updates - Chuck Walling gave Council an update concerning Housing Authority.

**Recreation** – No report.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept the Commission Reports as presented in package with any necessary corrections. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Kitchen Committee** – Councilwoman Kovas informed Council that the Kitchen Committee had a meeting that afternoon, March 26, 2018. She gave Council updates concerning kitchen project and pavilion. She informed Council that the city was awarded a grant for \$50, 000 to build a pavilion. Councilwoman Douglas and Councilwoman Kovas met with Alfred Lindsay, Architect to discuss architectural plans for pavilion. In conclusion, she stated that pavilion project is still a work

in progress and Council will receive a proposal soon. Councilwoman Douglas informed Council that architectural fees are included within the grant.

**Economic Development Committee** – Councilwoman Bagley reported that the Economic Development have no reports; however, she informed Council that a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 4 p.m.

No motion was taken by Council. Council received reports as information.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Community Concerns** – Councilman Williams - Councilman Williams thanked Council for attending Harvest Call Ministries dedication of the homes completed in the city and county. He gave Council highlights from event and provided updates concerning Harvest Call Ministries projects. He extended a thank you to Harvest Call Ministries for their contributions towards the Chester community. He advised Council to continue to help support their efforts to bring better housing into Chester. Councilman Williams extended a special thank you to Evan Hughes who provided him with the contact information for donor from Rock Hill, South Carolina. Councilman Williams informed Council that the donor is God focused and conducts his business on the principals of Christ.

Councilwoman Douglas gave Council information concerning grant workshop she attended and she informed Council that Opportunity Zone has moved to the US Treasure.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Strategic Planning Session and Facilitator** – Councilman Williams – Councilman Williams expressed his concerns about the Strategic Planning Session and Mr. Pope, Facilitator. Carla Roof reported to Council that Mr. Pope informed her that he would not be available for the next six months to facilitate the Strategic Planning Sessions. Mrs. Roof and Council discussed candidates to facilitate Strategic Planning Sessions and dates for session.

**Utilities and Franchise Fees** – Councilman King informed Council that he had put item on agenda for discussion; however, he would like to table item until next meeting to receive more information.

**Audit** - Councilman King – Councilman King expressed to Council his concerns about city audit. He asked Council to vote on getting an independent audit. A CPA is needed that is not affiliated with Council. No action was taken by Council.

**Commission Appointments** – Councilwoman Kovas – Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to nominate Susanne Strickland Nazian to the Evergreen Cemetery Commission. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to nominate Alfred Lindsay to the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Elected Officials Annual Conference** – Carla Roof – Mrs. Roof gave Council updates concerning Elected Officials Annual Conference. Mayor Caldwell advised Council to contact Mrs. Roof this week if they plan to attend the conference in July.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Contractual Matter – Administrator Department - Personnel & Contractual Matter – Inmate Housing – Attorney Edwards** - Mayor Caldwell stated that Council needs to convene into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter – Administration Department - Personnel and Contractual Matter – Inmate Housing – Attorney Edwards. Councilman King made a motion that Council convene into Executive Session. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing. Council convened into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

At 8:16 p.m. Councilman King made a motion that Council reconvene from Executive Session. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Caldwell stated that while Council was in Executive Session they discussed a

Contractual Matter – Administration Department - Personnel and Contractual Matter – Inmate Housing – Attorney Edwards. No action was taken.

With no further discussion, Councilman King made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Council meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sylvia Young