



## **CHESTER CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**

Monday, September 28, 2020

### **VIRTUAL WEBINAR LINK:**

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/83177660947>

### ***MINUTES***

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#### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6:36 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wanda Stringfellow; Council Members TaTanish Campbell, Annie Reid, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, William Killian, and Mayor Pro Tempore Angela Douglas; City Administrator Stephanie Jackson, City Attorney Latonya Edwards and Payroll Specialist Sylvia Young.

**ABSENT:** Council Members Linda Tinker

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Stringfellow. Roll call, quorum established.

#### **II. PRAYER**

Councilwoman Campbell led Council in prayer.

#### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Stringfellow led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **IV. CITIZENS FORUM – No one came before Council.**

#### **V. PETITIONER**

***Derrick Barksdale*** – Mr. Barksdale, Director of Privacy and Security at a company called GrandPad from Minnesota, California. He gave Council a detailed presentation in reference to the history and services company provides. GrandPad provide services to reconnect seniors to their loved one by providing them with simple, safe and secure technology that can be easily used to make calls, video chat, emails, share and send pictures to family. He informed Council that GrandPad was expanding its services to the Chester community. Also, he informed Council that GrandPad will be providing Chester with ten to twenty jobs. Discussion took place concerning GrandPad Company.

***Ken Lebbon*** - Mr. Lebbon made a request to Council to consider combine the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Board of Adjustment and Appeals. He provided Council with a detailed explanation for his request. He requests

that Council have an attorney review ordinance to combine and streamline boards with modifications. Discussion took place concerning Mr. Lebbon's request to combine boards thru ordinance revisions.

**Tabitha Strother** – Mrs. Strother asked Council to provide her with information concerning the policy for officers involved in off-duty incidents such as Adrian McCree death at Wal-Mart. She made a request that Council provide her with an update concerning officers off-duty policy since shooting at Wal-Mart. Discussion took place concerning incident at Wal-Mart.

**Melba Carter** – Mrs. Carter expressed to Council her concerns about the Public Works Department, trash in the community, policy, and the removal of businesses and residential garbage collection. She stated that the City can do better than what they were doing in the Public Works Department. She stressed that there was room for improvement needed within the Public Works Department. She asked Council for the name of the Public Works Director and who was the direct supervisor over director. Discussion took place concerning the Public Works Department, trash removal in community, equipment failure and staffing.

**Lametria Jackson** – Mrs. Jackson asked Council for an update concerning Wal-Mart shooting incident of Adrian McCree. She asked Council for the steps that needed to be taken to terminate officers involved in shooting incident. Discussion took place concerning steps and procedures required to terminate officers involved in shooting incident at Wal-Mart.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**September 15, 2020** – Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Mayor Stringfellow, Council voted [6-(Mayor Stringfellow, Council Members TaTanish Campbell, Annie Reid, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, and William Killian to 1- Councilwoman Angela Douglas] to accept Minutes as information.

## **VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Administrative** – Mrs. Jackson asked Council to review interview schedule for the vacancy of Human Resources Director position. Discussion took place concerning interview dates provided by Mrs. Jackson. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Campbell, Council voted [6 - (Mayor Stringfellow, Council Members TaTanish Campbell, Annie Reid, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, and William Killian to 1- Councilwoman Angela Douglas] to accept the Human Resources Director interview schedule dates on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Jackson gave Council an update concerning COVID-19 testing for the month of October.

**Finance** – Mark Wood gave Council an update concerning Finance Report in package. Discussion took place concerning trail balance page one in reference to an account listed as NR Community Service – 102, spending freeze and budget.

**Fire** – Chief James Jackson gave Council an update concerning Fire Department Report in package. Chief Jackson informed Council that firefighter Ka'nya Givens successfully completed academy training and received her Firefighter II state and national certification. Discussion took place concerning the flushing of fire hydrants in the community.

**Human Resources** – No report in package.

**Police Department** – Chief Eric Williams gave Council an update concerning statistics for property issues and complaints from the community.

**Public Works** – Mr. Reginald McBeth gave Council an update concerning the operation of trucks, the removal of brush and construction of three new houses. Discussion took place concerning communication between trucks and the removal of debris.

**Recreation** – Mr. Christopher White gave Council an update concerning the hiring of two part-time positions. He commended Councilwoman Campbell for presenting to him the idea for a virtual platform for exercise programs. Also, he commended Councilwoman Douglas for presenting to him the Duke Energy grant which resulted in the City being awarded a \$5,000 to help clean up and enhance Wylie Park trail. He gave Council an update concerning other grants applied for, projects, and virtual platform for exercise/educational program videos.

Upon motion made by Councilwoman Kovas and seconded by Councilman Williams, Council voted [Unanimous] to accept departmental reports as information.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Report** – No report in package.

**Properties Report** – No report in package.

**City of Chester Affordable Housing Project Proposal – Councilman Williams** - Councilwoman Douglas informed Council that 167 ½ Wylie Street needs to be removed from the list of City owned properties because location had a ditch. Councilman Williams gave Council an update concerning his meeting with Mr. Kevin Wimberly, SC Uplift in reference to affordable housing project proposal. Councilman Williams requested that Council give SC Uplift the same opportunities that was given to I58 to develop affordable housing which return properties to tax roll. Discussion took place concerning Mr. Wimberly's affordable housing project proposal which include smart home modules. Upon motion made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Kovas, Council voted [Unanimous] proceed with an ordinance for the disposition for the following properties: 166 Loomis Street, 167 ½ Wylie Street and 102 Collins Street to SC Uplift, Mr. Kevin Wimberly. Councilman Killian was not present during vote.

**City Owned Properties – Councilman Williams** – Councilman Williams removed item from agenda.

**Murray Street Closure Proposal – Councilman Williams** – Councilman Williams expressed to Council his concerns about illegal dumping at Murray Street and request a street closure approval. Discussion took place concerning street closure proposal, street sweeper, cutting back brush, cleaning up and street lighting on Murray Street. Council decided to hold off on proposal and to precede with cut back brush and street sweeping Murray Street.

**Public Safety** – No report in package. Councilwoman Kovas gave Council an update concerning the Committee meetings.

**Public Works** – November 2, 2020 Minutes in package. Councilwoman Kovas gave Council an update concerning the Committee meetings.

**Recreation** – Report in package.

**Economic Development** – No report in package. Councilwoman Douglas gave Council an update concerning the Committee meetings. Councilman Douglas request that Council hold off on the Second Reading of the Bailey Bill until after second meeting in October in order to do some research.

Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Kovas, Council voted [Unanimous] to accept Committee reports as information.

***IX. COMMISSION REPORTS*** – No reports in package.

***X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

***Approval of Fire Lieutenant/Training Officer and Firemen Job Descriptions*** – Discussion took place concerning salary changes for recommended job descriptions. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Kovas and seconded by Councilwoman Reid, Council voted [Unanimous] to accept job descriptions for the Fire Department.

***First Reading Ordinance 2020-14 Vacant Property Registry*** – Discussion took place concerning ordinance updates. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Kovas and seconded by Councilwoman Reid, Council voted [Unanimous] to accept the First Reading Ordinance 2020-14 Vacant Property Registry with necessary corrections.

***Second Reading Ordinance 2020-13 City of Chester Bailey Bill*** – Council agreed to put item on hold.

***Draft Ordinance – Off Duty Policy for Police Department – Attorney Edwards*** – Attorney Edwards gave Council an update concerning draft ordinance and officer off duty. Mayor Stringfellow request that Mrs. Jackson forward a copy of the draft ordinance to Attorney Morrison and Attorney Winters for review. Council agreed to table item for discussion until further notice from attorneys.

***Rescheduled Date for Policy & Procedures Workshop*** – Discussion took place concerning dates for Policy and Procedures Workshop. Council agreed to have workshop on October 17, 2020 and alternate date of November 7, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Mayor Stringfellow request that Mrs. Jackson contact Attorney Winters in reference to dates.

***XI. NEW BUSINESS***

***Halloween 2020 Protocol Discussion/Approval Request – City Administrator Jackson*** – Mrs. Jackson gave Council an update concerning Halloween 2020. Mrs. Jackson presented to Council the following two proposals for Halloween 2020: Cancel Halloween and approval for the Police Department to present the community a “Bootastic” drive-thru event at Cadz Street (Backlot) on October 30, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Discussion took place concerning Halloween 2020. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Kovas and seconded by Councilman Williams, Council voted [5 to 1 with Councilwoman Douglas opposing] to prohibit the door-to-door trick a treating this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage people to participate in the drive-thru “Bootasitc” event sponsored by the City Police Department.

***Beautification for the City – Mayor Wanda Stringfellow*** – Mayor Stringfellow express her concerns about the appearance and beautification for the City.

***Condemnation of Building Downtown – Mayor Wanda Stringfellow*** – Mayor Stringfellow stated that the condemnation of buildings downtown be addressed by owners.

***Census 2020 – Mayor Wanda Stringfellow*** – Mayor Stringfellow informed citizens that it is not too late to submit response to Census 2020. She encouraged citizens to complete the Census 2020. Discussion took place concerning Census 2020.

***The City Administrative Procedures for Departments – Councilman Williams*** – Councilman Williams expressed to Council the importance of expediting procedures and enforce ordinances to speed up the process of selling city owned properties and buildings.

***Domestic Violence Proclamation*** – Mayor Stringfellow read aloud the Domestic Violence Proclamation. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Douglas, Council voted [Unanimous] to accept the proclamation for Domestic Violence.

***Red Ribbon Week Proclamation*** – Mayor Stringfellow read aloud the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Kovas and seconded by Councilwoman Reid, Council voted [Unanimous] to accept the proclamation for Red Ribbon Week.

## ***XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION***

Mayor Stringfellow announced that Council would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Security and Access to City Administrative Building – Councilwoman Douglas and Legal Advice Project New Life – Attorney Edwards. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Kovas, Council voted [5 to 1, with Mayor Stringfellow opposing] to discuss Security and Access to City Administrative Building – Councilwoman Douglas and Legal Advice Project New Life – Attorney Edwards. Council entered Executive Session at 10:05 p.m.

Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Campbell, Council voted [Unanimous] to return into open session at 10:26 p.m. No action was taken by Council while in Executive Session.

With no further discussion, upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Douglas, Council voted [Unanimous] that Council adjourn. Council adjourned meeting at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sylvia Young



## **SPECIAL CALLED CHESTER CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**

Saturday, November 7, 2020

### **VIRTUAL WEBINAR LINK:**

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/83177660947>

### ***MINUTES***

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#### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 10:00 AM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wanda Stringfellow; Council Members: Annie Reid, Susan Kovas, TaTanish Campbell, Carlos Williams, William Killian, and Mayor Pro Tempore Angela Douglas; City Administrator Stephanie Jackson and Payroll Specialist Sylvia Young.

**ABSENT:** Council Member Linda Tinker

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Mayor Stringfellow. Roll call, quorum established.

#### **I. PRAYER**

Councilwoman Reid led Council in prayer.

#### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Stringfellow led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

***Rescheduled Swearing-In for Vacant Ward IV Seat – Mrs. Robbie King, Tuesday, November 10, 2020 – 6:30 pm*** – Discussion took place concerning the date for the swearing-in of Mrs. Robbie King-Boyd. Mayor Stringfellow informed Council that a Special Called Virtual Meeting have been scheduled for the swearing-in for Vacant Ward IV Seat – Mrs. Robbie King-Boyd, on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

***Ordinance 2020-17 – Emergency Ordinance to Renew Ordinance No. 2020-15 to Continue the Requiring of Face Masks to be Worn in Public during the COVID-19 Pandemic*** – Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilwoman Kovas, Council voted [Unanimous] to accept Ordinance 2020-17 – Emergency Ordinance to Renew Ordinance No. 2020-15 to Continue the Requiring of Face Masks to be Worn in Public during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor Stringfellow asked Council to continue to encourage residents to wear their mask for the health and well being of the community. Discussion took place concerning the wearing of mask.



***Ordinance 2020-18 – Emergency Ordinance to Renew Ordinance No. 2020-16 to Authorize the City Administrator to Develop and Enact a Plan to Continue Providing Electronic Council Meetings, Commission Meetings, and Committee Meetings as an Option during the COVID-19 Pandemic*** - Upon motion made by Councilwoman Kovas and seconded by Councilwoman Reid, Council voted [Unanimous] to approve Ordinance 2020-18 – Emergency Ordinance to Renew Ordinance No. 2020-16 to Authorize the City Administrator to Develop and Enact a Plan to Continue Providing Electronic Council Meetings, Commission Meetings, and Committee Meetings as an Option during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

***Permission to Apply for PARD Grant to assist with Wylie Park ADA Playground Plans*** – Mrs. Jackson gave an update concerning PARD Grant to assist with Wylie Park ADA Playground Plans. Much discussion took place concerning PARD Grant and Wylie Park ADA Playground Plans. Mayor Stringfellow expressed to Council her concerns about the removal of existing equipment at playground. She envisioned a park that was inclusive to all children with various types of equipment. Mayor Stringfellow request to note with this vote is to only come up with a plan to Wylie Park, it does not include the comprehensive plan with regards to the equipment that will be placed in park. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Douglas and seconded by Councilwoman Kovas, Council voted [Unanimous] to approve applicant for PARD Grant to establish a plan for Wylie Park.

***Personnel Policy and Procedures Workshop – Attorney Joanie Winters*** – Attorney Joanie Winters gave Council an update concerning Personnel Policy and Rules of Procedures. She provided Council with a presentation concerning Rules of Procedures. Discussion took place concerning Rules of Procedures.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilman Williams, Council voted [Unanimous] to go into Executive Session to discuss Salary Compensation – HR Director Position. Council went into Executive Session at 12 noon.

Council reconvene from Executive Session to announce no action was taken while Council was in Executive Session. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Douglas and seconded by Councilman Williams, Council voted [Unanimous] to allow Mrs. Jackson to negotiate HR Director salary up to \$63,000.

With no further discussion, upon motion made by Councilwoman Reid and seconded by Councilman Williams, Council voted [Unanimous] for meeting to adjourn at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sylvia Young