

Chester City Council Meeting  
March 2, 2020  
Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor Stringfellow; Council Members Annie M. Reid, Linda T. Tinker, William Killian, Angela Douglas, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams; City Attorney Edwards; City Administrator Jackson; HR Director Carla Roof.

ABSENT: Councilman King.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PRAYER: Councilwoman Tinker led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Mayor and Council recognized the family of former Council Member Betty B. Bagley and presented a Proclamation, nameplate, photo and rose to the family in her memory.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT:

Fire Department – Captain Ricky Grant was recognized and presented a watch for his 37 years of service to the City of Chester Fire Department.

HR Department – Mrs. Roof provided Council with an update concerning the Employee Survey.

Police Department – no comments

Public Works - no comments

Recreation Department – Discussed kickball and exercise program.

Public Works – no report

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMIITEE REPORTS

Finance –The Committee is still working with Mr. Wood and a report was provided at the meeting. Discussion took place concerning a grant writer for the City of help bring in more money for the City.

Properties- no report

Public Safety – Committee will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month. Discussed concerns with radios and tasers. Committee discussed the take home vehicle policy and did not think it was a big issue.

Discussed the COVID-19 virus and discussed the reverse 911 calls. We currently have 26 officers in the police department. All are patrolling except 9, which are in special units.

Public Works – Currently, all equipment is working in Public Works. Discussed lawn care, partnering with the Career Center for planting, mulch yard is not to capacity and we are currently recycling cardboard.

With no objections, Item #3 was added under New Business – Contract to sell City owned Property.

Recreation - A request was provided to Council by Councilman Killian with recommendations coming from the Committee. The Committee would like to use the \$75,000.00 for the projects. The request consisted of ADA swings and access to Park, DHEC required fence for Pool, Tennis Courts – Drainage, Upgrade concession/RR – Joe Collins, Roof – RR on Football site, vent for Concessions, Restrooms door stalls (9 @ \$400), Counters for Concessions, Paint for Concession, Widen Softball Fields to Regulation size, new light post and 3 lights, restore baseball fence of SB Field, Baseball nets (outbound & back catch). Councilwoman Killian made a motion to allocate the \$75,000.00 from Senator Mike Fanning. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas seconded the motion. Much discussion took place, the motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development - Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas provided Council with an update. The Census Food Truck Roundup has been cancelled due to the COVID-9 Virus. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas indicated that she met with each department and asked where they would like to see the City? Fire would like to improve the ISO Rating. Met with Mrs. Watts to discuss the website. The master plan website design needs to be updated and discussed a Chester live Portal. Asked Mrs. Jackson to coordinate with our software company to see if we can develop an Intranet. Mrs. Jackson will be providing quotes for this. We currently don't have a Social Media Policy for the purpose of doing business in the City. Committee would like approval to work with Administrator and Attorney and staff to formulate the Social Media Policy and Website. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bailey Bill – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas discussed with the Committee concerning the Bailey Bill which freezes the property taxes when people perform work on historic property. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas made a motion to give authorization to Economic Development Committee to work with the City Attorney to draft a Bailey Bill Ordinance and bring back to Council. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evergreen Cemetery – no report

Historic Preservation – no report

Planning Commission – no report

Zoning Board of Appeals – no report

Housing Authority -no report

Recreation – no report

No Commission reports submitted.

#### UNIFINISHED BUSINESS

One Cent Sales Tax Projects – Mrs. Jackson informed Council that she has met with Department Heads concerning One Cent Sales Tax Proposed projects. Council reviewed the project by departments that was submitted by Mrs. Jackson. Much discussion took place. Councilwoman Douglas wanted to know was there other areas that we can utilize. Council will provide Mrs. Jackson with their priority listing one through ten. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the list as presented with removing Masonic Building. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. Amend motion to include the fire ramp. The motion was amended, and the motion carried with Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas opposing.

#### NEW BUSINESS

MASC Hometown Legislative Action Day Report – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas – Most of the Legislators were in Committee sessions, but able to leave notes with some. Business License Bill was discussed. Discussed branding for our City. Harassment training, Campaign funds and other areas Council needs to be careful about. The City of Chester was highlighted as to how many members of Council that the City currently has. We may need to revisit the ward counts and rebalance in some way. Statement of Economic Interest – due in March 2, 2020

Commission Appointments – Recreation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals – Defer to next meeting.

Attorney Edwards informed Council that The Ligon Company has revised the contract as previously requested by Attorney Edwards. Everything is ok to proceed. The auction has been scheduled for March 21, 2020.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the Ligon Company as revised. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. Much discussion took place the motion carried with Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas opposing.

Hospitality Tax – Workability and Light It Up Blue - Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve \$5500 for the Light it up Blue. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof