

Chester City Council Meeting

October 22, 2018

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members, Angela Douglas, Betty Bagley, William Killian, Annie M. Reid, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, William King; City Attorney Edwards, City Administrator Jackson and HR Director Carla Roof.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Tinker.

Attorney Edwards provided a public statement to the public. A temporary restraining order has been placed against Councilman King prohibited him from voting on items. He is still a member of Council. Any questions can be addressed to his personal attorney.

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

PRAYER: Councilman Williams led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Clarence Wishert spoke to Council and requested their support of placing more of the Hometown Hero Banners in the City of Chester. Mr. Al Boyd spoke in support of Mr. Wishert.

PETITIONER:

Hazel Pitman Center - Melody Reid – not present

Brenda Bonner – College Underserved Community Partnership Program spoke to Council concerning the CUPP. This program allows college students to help communities to bridge under privileged. We ask what your needs are and what could we do to help. Once we receive your needs, we go out to the partners, schools and then we come back with students to help. Clemson University is one of the engineering schools. The schools and the cities will work together to come up with a plan. Council agreed to allow Mrs. Jackson to work with Mrs. Bonner.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administrative – Mrs. Jackson stated that we have almost completed the TruVista phone transition which will allow anyone to reach all our departments from this number. Currently working on a calendar of events for the entire city and hope to have it soon.

Employee of the Month – Mrs. Jackson explained how this program works. The employee is selected by department heads. Mr. Ronnie Wright, was the selection for this month. Mayor and Council recognized Mr. Wright.

Finance – Mr. Baker was excused from the meeting this evening. Mrs. Jackson provided Council with a financial update. A check in the amount of \$41,453.00 for overpayment to Sharp was deposited into the

grant account to make sure they didn't come back and say they made a mistake. Would like to let Council know they will be transferring the money from the grant account to the general fund.

Fire – Mrs. Jackson informed Council that the Fire department would like to Transfer the LGIP fund and transfer back to the Fire District Account. This request is to put the money back that was used to replace an air unit that stopped working. An amount of \$7894.00 from LGIP equipment account to the general account. Mrs. Jackson reminded Council that anytime funds are transferred Council will be made aware. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to move \$7894.00m to allow for the transfer for the air condition unit. Councilwoman Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Human Resources – Mrs. Jackson state the event was superb.

Police Department – Council thanked the department for a job well done with HILLarity.

Fire Department - Council thanked the department for the job well done with HILLarity and Fire Prevention Week. Photos are on the website of Fire Prevention

Public Works – Council thanked the department for a job well done with HILLarity.

Recreation – no comments

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approved as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – no report

Properties – no report

Public Safety Councilwoman Reid requested the structure of the Public Safety committee be re-visited due to the Committee currently has 4 members and struggles to have a quorum. A request was made to remove one member, making the committee a three-member committee. The Mayor will review and bring back later.

Public Works - The Committee recommended that we have a town meeting concerning Code Enforcement with the Public Works Committee and Public Works Committee. We talked about Code enforcement for rental properties and to have the ordinance to include business licenses. Councilwoman Douglas explained the recommended ordinances. Discussion took place concerning permitting and code enforcement. Much discussion took place concerning this matter. If Council would like to move forward with this matter, Pubic Works will continue to work and will bring back an ordinance for our Attorney to review. We need to decide to do this we need to educate the public. Councilwoman Bagley stated that she is still receiving complaints about the garbage not being picked up.

Recreation – no comments.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to accept as presented. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Evergreen Cemetery – no report

Historic Preservation – no report

Planning Commission – report provided

Zoning Board of Appeals –no report

Housing Authority no report

Recreation – no report

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kitchen Committee will meet Wednesday, 2-4 pm. Councilwoman Kovas asked Chief Williams to move the vehicles that are in the parking lot lower for the opening celebration. Councilman Williams stated that he reached out to Captain Moore about a month ago to move them and have them stored in the Public Works Facility and to be given keys to the Public Works Facility. Councilwoman Kovas gave Council an update. Currently we are working to create an Advisory Board. Three compressors have burned out, they were replaced, and the replacements burned out. Councilwoman Kovas requested that Mrs. Jackson work with Trane. Mrs. Jackson stated that Mrs. Kellerhals addressed with Mrs. Jackson that she would like to take the lead with possible legal action. Mrs. Jackson will communicate with Mrs. Kellerhals concerning this matter.

Economic Development - no report

Councilwoman Reid motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Kovas second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Economic Planning – Mrs. Jackson reminded Council to complete the two surveys and forward back to her by tomorrow. Mrs. Jackson stated that Council needs to take the current projects and rank them 1-4 and then go to the others and rank. Mrs. Jackson explained in detail how the ranking needs to be done.

Parks and Recreation Department – Jeff Brown Sign – Mrs. Jackson addressed Council concerning when was Council going to place the sign named the softball fields after Jeff Brown. We come before you this evening decided what type of sign and where the funds will come from. Councilman Killian motion to purchase the signs. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. Councilwoman Douglas stated she does

not like the sign that was presented, it is cheap. We should do something nice. Mrs. Jackson stated that four options was brought to the committee and this was the one proposed. Much discussion took place. The money will come from the one cent sales tax. Councilman Williams stated to table and allow the Committee to review and bring back later. Councilman King withdrew his motion. Councilwoman Kovas withdrew her second to the motion.

Second Reading Ordinance 2018 -06 Donation of 112 McLure Street – Councilwoman Reid read as presented. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve as read. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Councilwoman Douglas had concerns that we include that this property will be returned to the tax roll. Discussion took place concerning how the ordinance was written not actually stated the property will go back to the tax roll. Attorney stated she could add to the ordinance. The motion carried unanimously. Can add generic language that the property will be for sale. Councilwoman Kovas amended her motion to change the language of the ordinance. Councilwoman Bagley amended her second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cancellation of Council Meetings November 12, 2018 and November 26, 2018. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to cancel the Meeting of November 12, November 26, 2018 and December 24, 2018, Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Discussion took place concerning the November 26, 2018 meeting. This will be the day of the Christmas Parade. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading Ordinance 2018-07 Re-Zoning property behind JA Cochran By Pass from HC to Multi Family. Mayor Caldwell read as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to approve. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. Councilwoman Douglas had questions concerning what type of low income. After much discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid withdrew her motion. Councilman Killian withdrew his second to the motion. Council requested that someone come and explain the request to Council.

Executive Session – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. for discussion of a Contractual Matter – Duke Energy and Legal Matter – Police Department. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Caldwell Williams and Douglas opposing.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to reconvene at 8:43 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – Duke Energy and Legal Matter – Police Department. No action was taken.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof

