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**Properties Committee Meeting**

**August 22, 2023 – 5:30 pm**

**In Person &Virtual**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Members of Council: Tabatha Strother - Chair, Wade Young

**ABSENT: Ursula Boyd-Crosby**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Strother at 5:31pm

**Prayer**

Councilman offered prayer.

Councilman Young made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Councilwoman Strother second the motion. The vote was unanimous (2-0)

**AA Building**

City Administrator Malik Whitaker mentioned working on a generic lease agreement with those who are using the AA Building.

*Councilman Young made a motion to discuss grant updates. Councilwoman Strother second the motion. The vote was unanimous.*

**Grant Updates**

Malik Whitaker gave an update on the Rural Community Development Grant for $250,000. The grant is to make improvements to the Pavilion and AgriBusiness Center.

The Southeast Reginal Cresent Grant is for the Aquatic & Fitness Center roof. The City will be seeking another $500,000. The vision is to change the center to a Community Center. That will include a daycare center and ping-pong, a one stop shop for community services. There will be a strategic plan for that facility. Those are the two major grants. The penny cent sales taxes was used to update the police building.

Councilman Young made a motion to discuss City Technology Infrastructure. Councilwoman Strother second the motion. The vote was unanimous (2-0)

**City Technology Infrastructure**

Mr. Whitaker updated the committee that the City contacted Sharp to update the technology in the Council Chambers. The City can stream live. There is stuff that needs to be done on “Our” side. Sharp will also improve the sound on the sound board. The TV is now working in the Council Chambers. There are upgrades that are still needed such as camera and equipment in the tech closet. The slideshow that is featured on channel 3 will need to be updated and access will need to be granted but we are working on it. Councilwoman Strother want to see the meetings streamed on several platforms including Channel 3 and social media.

The clerk to Council, Marquita Fair gave a demonstration of how the TV display will work.

Councilwoman Strother wanted to know the updates on microphone. Mr. Whitaker stated that once the microphone and streaming is finalized in the Council Chambers are complete, the other items can be discussed. Councilman Young stated that he was not ready to see the purchase of that equipment. He wants to make sure the equipment comes with a warranty and other required items.

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to discuss the scanning system at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. The motion was second by Councilman Young. The vote was unanimous (2-0).

**Aquatic & Fitness Center Scanning System**

Parks & Recreation Manager, Dorrell Gregory updated the committee on the plans for the scanning system. Mr. Gregory said someone would need to be hired to monitor the system. He also mentioned that moisture would destroy the scanning system. *No action was taken.*

Councilman Young wanted to know about automatic payment drafting for payment. Clerk to Council, Marquita Fair updated the committee on the drafting process.

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to discuss United Steel Workers. Councilman Young second the motion. The vote was unanimous (2-0).

**United Steel Workers**

Mr. Whitaker informed the Committee that the City of Chester has entered into an agreement with United Steel Workers. *No action was taken*.

**City Owned Properties**

Councilwoman Strother updated the committee on the City owned properties. Mayor Williams provided an overview of the plans and purpose of providing the properties list. Mayor Williams mentioned building homes on the City vacant lots and selling the home would be a great idea. Much discussion took place. *No action was taken*.

*Lease Agreements*

Councilwoman Strother asked Mr. Whitaker had a lease agreement been done for the “AA” building. Mr. Whitaker said not yet. Councilwoman Strother asked Mr. Whitaker could an agreement be ready by next committee meeting.

*Signage*

Councilwoman Strother asked Mr. McBeth for an update on all City building signage. Mr. McBeth said the signs are ready, they need to be paid for. Councilwoman Strother asked Mayor Williams about the funding that was suppose the pay for the signs for City properties. Mayor Williams said that yes via “Way Finder”, funds were available to pay for the signs. He assured Councilwoman Strother that he would get that information to her.

**Comments**

Councilwoman Strother stated asked for an inventory of City Properties.

With no other business, Councilman Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marquita Fair

Municipal Clerk