

Chester City Council Meeting  
July 22, 2019, 6:30 p.m.  
Minutes

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Betty B. Bagley, Annie M. Reid, William Killian, Angela Douglas, Susan Kovas and Carlos Williams; City Administrator Stephanie Jackson and HR Director Carla Roof.

**ABSENT:** City Attorney Edwards and Councilwoman Tinker and Councilman William King.

**PRAYER:** Councilwoman Kovas

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

**CITIZENS FORUM:** No one present to speak.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an overview of the upcoming Car Tour, September 26, 2019. The Chamber will sponsor this event and the City, County and Chamber will promote and advertise.

Finance – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas would like an itemized list of the grants.

Fire – no comments

Human Resources - no comments

Police Department - no comments

Public Works – Councilwoman Douglas wanted to know do we have a list of how many trash cans that are issued to residents? Mr. McBeth indicated that we do have a list of who the cans are issued to and we do pick up when requested from the Water District. Discussion took place concerning one household having 4 cans. We currently have not audited the cans and who they are issued to. Much discussion took place concerning the inventory of trash cans that we have out and compare to the billing from the Water District. Discussed the maintenance and cleanup of the streets, drains, etc. Mayor Stringfellow wanted to know if a plan is in place to be proactive on the cleanup of the city. Mr. McBeth stated that he started on this process last week. We are currently cleaning Columbia Street. Discussion took place concerning the supervision of the project. Much discussion took place about the current appearance of the City of Chester. Councilman Williams indicated that as former Chairman of the Public Works, he has previously recommended that we outsource the public works with the downtown and the cemetery. Councilwoman Bagley stated that she is now the Chair of Public Works and will be meeting this Wednesday and will address these issues.

Recreation – Discussion took place concerning the grass cutting of the parks. The Recreation staff handles Wylie Park and Joe Collins Stadium grass. Currently, the position is still available. Mayor Stringfellow requested that the Recreation Committee look at other activities other than football. There

are so many other activities that we could be doing with children and seniors. We would like to see a sponsorship for the Senior Games. Councilwoman Williams stated that he would like to partner with the County. Much discussion took place, concerning the expansion of the programs offered in the Recreation Department.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance – report provided. Chair Reid stated that she will be meeting with the Finance Director before he leaves. Mayor Stringfellow wanted to know the status of the audit. Councilman Killian thanked Mr. Baker for all of he has done for the City.

Properties – no comments

Public Safety – no comments

Public Works – no comments

Recreation – no comments

Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

Evergreen Cemetery – no report

HPC – no report

Planning Commission – no report

Zoning Board of Appeals – no report

Housing Authority - no report

Recreation – no report

**AD- HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Kitchen Committee –no report

Economic Development Committee – no report

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Housing Rental Registry – Attorney Edwards indicated that she has received feedback from Councilwoman Douglas and wanted to see if anyone else has any revisions. Please review once again and submit to be included in the next draft which will be brought to the next meeting.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Councilman Killian nominated Danielle Hughes to fill the expired term of Sharon Peterson on the Chester Metropolitan District. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Opportunity Funding Grant Vendor - Administrator Jackson - The COG previously agreed to apply for the grant with COG. After the grant had been submitted, the Department of Commerce indicated the COG is not allowed to help with the grant. Arnett Muldrow has agreed to assist. We have received a request to submit an amendment to the grant. Muldrow has indicated they have not assisted with an opportunity zone prospectus. They have requested that we reach out to a company that is familiar with the opportunity zone. This company is recognized by the Department of Commerce, Parker Poe Consulting. If we received the grant, we would get 50% of the cost for the vendor. Council approved at the last meeting to spend up to \$9000.00. However, if we want to move forward with the grant and submit an addendum, Council will need to approve. Council will need to approve an additional \$11,000.00 obligated by the City with the previous allocation of \$9000.00, After discussion, Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to move forward with in the amount of \$11,000.00 set aside for the prospectus with Parker Poe. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. After much discussion, Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to amend the original motion to \$8000.00 from Economic Development Funds and \$3000.00 from Hospitality. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas opposing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

COG Board of Directors – Municipal Representation

Administrator Jackson informed Council that she will need Council to vote to appoint a representative to serve on the COG Board of Directors. Councilwoman Bagley nominated Mayor Stringfellow. With no other nominations, Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to go in to Executive Session at 7:38 pm, for the discussion of a Legal Matter – Bennet Landfill Fire Super Fund Site, Contractual Matter – DJJ Contract, Personnel Matter – Municipal Court, Contractual Matter – Finance Department, Contractual Matter – EAP Contract and Personnel Matter – Recreation Department.

Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:07 pm. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Legal Matter – Bennet Landfill Fire Super Fund Site, Contractual Matter – DJJ Contract,

Personnel Matter – Municipal Court, Contractual Matter – Finance Department, Contractual Matter – EAP Contract and Personnel Matter – Recreation Department. No action was taken.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve the EAP Contract with The Saluda Center to provide EAP services to employees. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to grant authority to Attorney Edwards to move forward with the Tolling Agreement, Bennett Landfill. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas opposing, stating she had concerns.

Councilman Killian made a motion that the City enter into an agreement, Contractual Matter, Finance Department. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas opposing, stating she is not in disagreement, but she just received the information and did not have time to review.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof