

Chester City Council Meeting  
June 8, 2015, 6:30 p.m.  
Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members Betty Bagley, Ike McBrayer, Carlos Williams, Annie M. Reid and William Killian; City Administrator Sandi Worthy; Human Resources Director/CMC Carla Roof and City Attorney Megan Gaston.

ABSENT: Council Members Linda Tinker and Susan Kovas.

Call to Order: Mayor Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Prayer: Councilman McBrayer led in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Forum – Raymond Carter – My son is an innocent bystander and I am tired of them playing this game. What happened with Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Williams will be found out. It will end! I will face my enemy. Mr. Carter left after speaking.

LaTanya Williams – House of Magdalene – Ms. Williams requested funding from the upcoming budget to help with this project.

Approval of Minutes – Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4-13-2015 and 4-27-2015, as presented with necessary corrections. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Report – Special Recognition – SCCJA Graduates – John Massoud, Justin Curtice and Robert Martz.

**City of Chester Salkehatchie Summer Service Week Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Salkehatchie Summer Service is a pioneering servant ministry at selected sites in South Carolina involving high school and college age youth, adult community leaders and persons of different cultures in upgrading housing, motivating community cooperative efforts by helping persons to help themselves, and providing all participants with opportunities for personal growth and service; and

WHEREAS, This program of the South Carolina Conference Board of Global Ministries consists of a number of work camps for United Methodist Youth in South Carolina. During the week participants physically improve homes of needy families and reach out to these families and one another in friendship; and

WHEREAS, many of our neighbors in South Carolina live in homes needing repair and Jesus has called us to love our neighbor (Luke 10:29-37). South Carolina United Methodist Youth need to experience Christian servant hood. “And he

said to all, 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.' ” (Luke 9:23); and

WHEREAS, there will be over fifty camps in 2015 established by the Salkehatchie Steering Committee where need, opportunity, personnel and facilities meet; and

WHEREAS, each volunteer participates fully in the experience of serving, growing, learning and sharing together; and

WHEREAS, each camp runs for seven days, from Saturday to Saturday from May through August; and

WHEREAS, Salkehatchie Summer Service Camp first served Chester in 1995 as a part of the Rock Hill Camp and in 1996 as the Chester Lancaster Camp; and

WHEREAS, the first Chester Camp was developed in 2003 with Steve McCormick and Dan Bilderback as the Co-Directors; and

WHEREAS, Salkehatchie Summer Service Camp will operate in Chester June 11 – 20; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor George Caldwell, by the authority vested in me by the laws of the City of Chester, do hereby proclaim June 13 - 20, 2015, as

#### **SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE WEEK**

Across the City of Chester, State of South Carolina and the United States, I urge all citizens to support the Salkehatchie Summer Service Week through sharing skills, donating supplies or financial support.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the City of Chester this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, in the year of 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_ George W. Caldwell, Mayor

Proclamation – Mayor Caldwell read the proclamation as presented proclamation Salkehatchie Week. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Worthy informed Council, on June 11, 2015, 6pm, a community meeting will be held to receive community input concerning the Backlot Heritage Park and the Sports Complex.

#### **New Business**

Forms and Power of Municipal Government – Mayor Caldwell read the powers of municipal government. Introduced Mr. Jeff Shacker, Field presentative Municipal Association. Mr. Shacker discussed several bills that are being proposed. Agendas are not required for regular meetings. You must post a calendar at the beginning of the year your regular meetings. For special meetings you are

required to post an agenda for all public meetings and if you want to change your agenda you can at the meeting with a 2/3 vote. Where the problem comes in is that it has to be an urgency to add items. We are currently making sure our statute is clear and we will get some guidelines out to you. Body cameras related to body camera. It only allows you to use body cameras if funding is available. It would look at projected revenues for the state. Mayor Caldwell had questions concerning the business license bill. Mr. Shacker informed Council that so far the bill has not moved forward. The bill will be carried over to January. This bill would cap business license at 100.00 this would have a big impact on our budget. Body cameras are not subject to FOIA.

July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration – Chris White addressed Council concerning this event. In the past, we have spent a lot of money on this event. Last year a lot of money was spent and the event was over within three hours. I would like to use this money in other areas. We have so far collected \$1,400.00, I would like to allow this event to go on but we need to look at ways to allow improve and fund. Mayor Caldwell addressed his concerns with spending this amount of money when we could use it in the department. The last 3 years the department has used their entire amount of budget on the fireworks display \$10,000.00. This year he has \$15,000.00 in budget for programs. Councilman Williams stated that he does not see a problem with charging the public. Mr. White informed Council that his department has knocked on doors for donations, we are working hard, and we need corporate sponsorship. Councilman McBrayer thanked Mr. White for his hard work. Councilman Killian addressed concerns. After much discussion, no action was taken.

The Swim Team has been canceled due to no one interested in the position. The opening of the swimming pool has been delayed until 6-15-15. We will open on Monday. Summer Camp 55 kids with seven on the waiting list. I am working with Mr. Daryl Gregory to utilize a bus. We would like to allow them to use the parks and facilities. Reach out to Lancaster, Kershaw and SouthPointe for the swim team coach. Mr. White stated that he has done everything that he could to find a swim coach.

Commission Appointments – Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reappoint Robert Smith to the Planning Commission. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reappoint Cheryl McBrayer to the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. Councilman McBrayer recused from voting. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reappoint Judge Johnnie Edwards. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ryken Robinson – Kenaki Karate 148 Gadsden Street – Mr. Robinson challenged Council to work on programs for kids. What programs do you have for kids? I need help, help me, help you, and help them. We have to find something for these kids to do. I changed these kids, look at how respectful they are. These kids are my kids. I invite you to stop by my business. My shop opens on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. We have ages ranging from 3 years to 73 ages.

Vehicle and Equipment Auction – Mrs. Worthy informed Council that we currently have six vehicles to be auctioned and one salvaged. The other departments are preparing a list of items to be sold as well. Councilman McBrayer made a motion to schedule a vehicle auction. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2016 Comprehensive Plan – Mrs. Worthy stated our comprehensive plan was created in 1996. I do not believe that it has been updated since then. It will take 11 to 14 months to complete. On June 15, 2015, we will have a joint meeting here at 6 pm. I would like to propose \$35,000.00 for this plan, \$5000.00 for this fiscal year and the remaining balance split between the remaining two years. The \$5000.00 is in the current budget. Councilwoman Reid wanted to know if there was a penalty for not complying. Mr. Shacker stated it could be a challenge for zoning. After much discussion, Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve \$35,000.00 to enter into an agreement for a Compressive Plan. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Reid made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m., for discussion of Contractual Matters in the Fire Department and Administrative Department. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. While in Executive Session, discussion Council discussed Contractual Matters in the Fire Department and Administrative Department. No action was taken.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve Kingsmore, Union, SC, for \$13,520.87, for renovation of the Fire Department. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The renovations will be covered under the one-cent sales tax.

Councilwoman Reid made a motion to enter into an agreement with Palmetto Trust Renovation. This will be part of our comprehensive plan on restoring our historical properties and to improve city properties. The motion carried with Killian and Caldwell opposing.

With no further business, Councilman McBrayer made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof

