

Chester City Council Meeting
March 14, 2016, 6:30 pm
Minutes

Present: Mayor George Caldwell; Councilmembers Betty Bagley, Susan Kovas, Carols Williams, Annie Reid, William Killian, Angela Douglas; City Administrator Sandi Worthy; Human Resources Director Carla Roof; City Attorney Megan Gaston.

Absent: Councilwoman Tinker and Councilman McBrayer.

Call to Order: Mayor Caldwell called the meeting to order.

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

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

Citizens Forum:

Larry Hill spoke to Council concerning Raymond Woods requesting his job back with the City of Chester. Mr. Hill stated that Mr. Woods was a wonderful man and a hard worker. Mr. Hill worked with Mr. Woods at Carolina Tank for many years and spoke on how hard Mr. Woods worked. Mr. Woods has a big heart and always works with kids in the community. Find it in your heart to give him his heart back.

Jack Franklin spoke to Council concerning the Events Permits that he previously submitted for an event. Currently this event will cost me about \$800.00. Mr. Franklin indicated that he arranged with the S.L. Finley Center to do the event. I am going to withdraw my application to use the facilities. Why has the event requirements changed and why does it change every year? Mrs. Worthy stated the events permit has always stated that in the event the event is high risk, the applicant will be required to have patrol on duty. Discussion took place concerning the consistency by the city when an applicant applies.

King D. Thompson spoke to Council concerning Mr. Woods and his termination. This guy is a great worker and I am asking you to reconsider giving Raymond Woods his job back. It is a shame this guy worked so hard for the city and he was terminated. Please give him his job back.

Raymond Carter – Y'all know who I am. Mr. Carter addressed Council concerning the night that former Councilman Odell Williams was killed. Mr. Carter continued to talk to Council and then left.

Petitioners – Karen Hill represented Autism Awareness Month and the kids with Autism, I am asking that April be designated as Autism Awareness Month. We will be having a community awareness day on Saturday, April 2, 2016. We are requesting that everyone burn blue lights and wear blue. Let us show these kids we love them and they are beautiful inside and out. Mrs. Hill requested Council's support.

Gloria Kellerhalls declined the invitation for this meeting. Council previously invited her to speak under unfinished business not petitioner, please make note for minutes.

Elizabeth Gerndt – Walk Chester - Mrs. Gerndt provided Council on the plans and will keep Council involved in this event. The website is as follows: walkchester.weebly.com

Elizabeth Claytor, 119 Pinckney Street resident for the last 10 years. Mrs. Claytor addressed Council concerning several bills received concerning cut off notices she received from Chester Metropolitan District. I requested to talk with someone, was refused, was told to write a letter and someone would get back with me. As of this date, no one has responded. I understand City Council has nothing to do with the water district but maybe others have the same issues and will come forward. Councilman Williams stated that he is aware of this happening to other residents. Mayor Caldwell stated that he is also aware of this problem. Mrs. Roof will provide her a copy of the board members of CMD.

Shannon Goodnight – Chester Youth Baseball League, Secretary stated we have one of the largest non-profit organization in the county. The average cost per child is \$195.00 per child. We do not leave any child behind; we have fallen short of donations for the city from the hospitality tax in the amount of \$4,000.00. I am proposing to request hospitality tax request. Councilman Killian indicated that he is an umpire at the league and I will support helping the league. Mrs. Worthy stated that hospitality tax would not be the where the funds would come from but she could look in the budget to see if there were funds there to help. Mrs. Worthy stated she would look for funds and will get back to Mrs. Goodnight. Mayor Caldwell stated he would personally sponsor one child.

Unfinished Business:

First Reading Ordinance 20016-02, Flood Ordinance, title only. Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve as read. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Movie Ordinance Review – City Attorney presented the noted changes with Council and wanted to know if Council had questions. Councilwoman Kovas had questions concerning filming at night.

Councilwoman Douglas had questions concerning the 48-hour notice night filming is not enough notice and needs to be increased. What is the city giving as well as what we are receiving? If city property is being used, the city will be compensated. Councilwoman Douglas stated that she will speak with other business owners and residents before the next meeting to make sure she has the public's interest.

Councilwoman Reid stated that she would like a free range placed under number 4.

City Logo- Mrs. Worthy stated she placed this on the agenda where Council could discuss and move forward. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley stated that we need to have a logo by the next meeting.

Councilwoman Douglas and Rachel discussed the design of the logo. Much discussion took place concerning the logo sign options. The logo sign process will start over and Mrs. Worthy will provide the public an option to help pick the sign.

New Business:

Special Events – This was placed on the agenda in the event Council wanted to discuss, as it stands the form seems to work and we will continue to train employees who work with the form.

Earth Day –Mrs. Worthy informed Council that the city is sponsoring several events, training classes on composting, was to reduce waste in land field and paper spreaders. The event will be on April 23 and will take place in the back lot. Councilwoman Reid stated that she would like to schedule a cleanup date for her ward.

Citizens' Concerns Garbage Disposal Cost – Councilman Williams addressed Council concerning Mr. Nathaniel Price. Mr. Price requested this be placed on the agenda for discussion. He wants everyone to know that he only has one person in his boarding house that he does not have enough garbage to have two garbage cans, he is being charged for two. The ordinance states that every resident that has water will be charged a fee.

Finley Building and City Owned Property – Councilwoman Williams discussed with Council concerning him acquiring the Finley Center at Finley Park and renovate with his own funds, the green building that was demolished. Councilman Williams would like to renovate the restrooms for the citizens. The actual structure of the building was in good shape and we should have renovated. Mrs. Worthy stated that she will get with Don Wood, Fire Marshall and will bring back information to Council. Councilman Williams stated that when buildings are to be demolished, Council should be informed. Before any other properties are demolished, Council would like to be made aware prior to any action taken place.

Renaming of the Parks – Councilman Killian wanted to know the status of renaming of the parks. Council previously requested that Mrs. Gaston research and bring back the history of the parks. Councilman Killian recommended that two of the parks be renamed to Christopher C, King and James Gore Park.

Executive Session: Councilwoman Reid made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Personnel Matter – Police Department, Personnel Matters – Public Works Department and Personnel Matter – Administrative Department. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion reconvene from Executive Session at 9:30 pm. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter – Police Department, Personnel Matters – Public Works Department and Personnel Matter – Administrative Department. No action was taken.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to uphold decision of the Grievance Committees decision concerning former employee Richard Griffin. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof