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## **CHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

### **COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**

April 11, 2016

Chester City Council Meeting

**PRESENT:** Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members Linda Tinker, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, Annie Reid, Mayor Pro Tempore Betty Bagley, Ike McBrayer, William Killian and Angela Douglas; City Administrator Sandi Worthy; City Attorney Megan Gaston; and Payroll Specialist Sylvia Young.

**ABSENT:** Human Resources Director Carla Roof.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRAYER:** Councilwoman Tinker led in prayer.

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

**CITIZENS FORUM:** Omar Stroud – Mr. Omar greeted Council then he introduced the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Greek Festival event to them. He asked on behalf of Joshua Lodge 1015 and daughters of Emmanuel 1015 and Michael Halsey for Council's approval to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Greek Festival at the Chester Fairground on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. He informed Council that Councilman Williams supported event and requests the support of Council too. After much discussion, Council recommended that Mr. Omar complete Special Event and Hospitality form. Also, Council recommended that Mr. Omar obtain insurance for children amusement rides during event.

Councilwoman Kovas excitedly informed Council about her family lineage findings of a great-great uncle from 1891 which was one among four fallen police officers that will be placed in the Hall of Fame Records on May 4, 2016. Council accepted Councilwoman Kovas family lineage findings as information.

**PETITIONERS:** Raymond Carter – Mr. Carter greeted and informed Council that the City was not safe. He suggested that Council attend events held within city limits. He informed Council that his comrades helped him to get evidence that Terry Foster was involved in an incident that took place within the city limits. Mr. Carter stated that Terry Foster needs to be brought to justice. Mr. Carter reinstated to Council that the City was not safe! Mayor Caldwell thanked Mr. Carter for information.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept minutes of the February 8, February 22 and March 14, 2016 minutes as presented. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Caldwell asked Council to move up on the agenda the swearing of Municipal Judge Appointment due to family members attending meeting. Councilwoman Kovas made a request to also move up on the agenda Proclamation for National Autism Awareness Month for same reasons. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to move Municipal Judge Appointment and Proclamation for National Autism Awareness Month to the top of the agenda. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Municipal Judge Appointment - Mayor Caldwell introduced Theodore Wilder to Council and gave a brief history on Mr. Wilder's background. Councilman Kovas made a motion to accept Mr. Wilder's appointment as Municipal Judge. Councilman Killian seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Caldwell swore in Mr. Wilder as City Municipal Judge. Afterwards, Mayor Caldwell and Council welcomed Judge Wilder to the city with hand claps and the shaking of his hand.

Proclamation – National Autism Prevention Month – Councilwoman Kovas read to Council the National Autism Awareness Month Proclamation. Mr. Grant Kovas thanked Council for recognizing citizens with autism. He informed Council that people with autism can be productive citizens within the community. Afterwards, Council thanked Mr. Kovas for his speech on autism. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept National Autism Awareness Month Proclamation. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Mrs. Worthy gave Council an update on city projects and USDA Grant submission to clean storm drainages. After a brief discussion, Administrator's Report was taken by Council as information. No action taken by Council.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Movie Ordinance Discussion - After much discussion, Council received discussion on Movie Ordinance as information. No action taken by Council.

Second Reading Flood Ordinance-2016-2: After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Reid read the Second Reading Flood Ordinance-2016-2. Councilwoman Reid made a motion to accept Second Reading Flood Ordinance-2016-2. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Appointments - Councilwoman Reid made a motion to reappoint Melvin Jackson to the Chester Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. After a brief discussion, Council asked that Carla Roof contact Tom Hamilton and Mitchell Crosby about their reassignment of expired positions on the Recreation Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Proclamation- Child Abuse Prevention Month – Mayor Caldwell read to Council the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to accept Proclamation for Child Abuse. Councilwoman Kovas seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Renaming of Parks – Councilman Killian – Councilman Killian made a motion that Council discussed changing the name of Finley Park to Christopher C. King and James Gore Park. Councilman McBrayer seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. After much discussion, Council agreed that renaming Finley Park by lumping together two great men names is an injustice to their legacy towards the City. Council discussed other possible ideas to recognize Christopher C. King and James Gore's contributions to the City. After much discussion, Councilman Killian rescinded his motion to change the name of Finley Park to Christopher C. King and James Gore Park. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley seconded

motion. Motion carried unanimously. Councilwoman Reid suggested to Council to consider appointing a committee to provide Council with ideas to recognize Christopher C. King and James Gore contributions to the City.

Summer Feeding Program – Peggy Johnson reported to Council updates on Summer Feeding Program. After much discussion, Council thanked Ms. Johnson for Summer Feeding Program updates. Council accepted Summer Feeding Program updates as information. No action was taken.

Downtown Landscape/Cemetery Landscape Bid – Mrs. Worthy gave Council an update on the beautification projects from City Hall to Hudson Street. She informed Council that the city has received a bid from Jay’s Landscaping Company for \$15,000 to maintain grass cutting at Evergreen Cemetery. After a brief discussion, Councilman McBrayer made a motion that Council accepted the bid of \$15,000 from Jay’s Landscaping Company. Councilwoman Tinker seconded motion. Motion carried with Councilwoman Douglas opposing.

Earth Day – Mrs. Worthy informed Council that Earth Day Celebration will be held in the city on Saturday, April 23, 2016. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Worthy recommended that Council email to her their participation plans for Earth Day Celebration event.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Contractual Matter – Chester Sewer District – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion that Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter – Chester Sewer District. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing.

Councilman McBrayer made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:37 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – Chester Sewer District. No action was taken.

Contractual Matter – 125 Pinckney Street – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter – 125 Pinckney Street. Councilman McBrayer seconded motion. Motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:46 pm. Councilman McBrayer seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – 125 Pinckney Street. No action was taken.

Personal Matter – Public Works Department – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personal Matter – Public Works Department. Councilwoman Kovas seconded motion. Motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing.

Councilman McBrayer made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:08 pm. Councilwoman Tinker second motion. Motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – Public Works Department. No action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Young, Payroll Specialist