

## **Chester City Council Meeting**

**October 8, 2012, 6:30 p.m.**

### **Minutes**

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Betty B. Bagley, King D. Thompson, Annie M. Reid, Odell Williams, George Caldwell, Susan Kovas; City Attorney April P. Counterman; Human Resources Director Carla Roof.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Linda Tinker, William Killian; City Administrator Jeff Kerr,

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow.

PRAYER: Mayor Pro Tempore Reid led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Peggy Johnson, 169 Wylie Street, Chester, presented to Council a proposal to sponsor the Summer Feeding Program. Currently there is no sponsor for this program. This will not be a fee, just a sponsorship. A sponsorship allows the city to get the funds and the only thing would be an expense would be Mrs. Johnson's payroll and postage. Mayor Stringfellow thanked Mrs. Johnson for coming and her commitment to the program. Also, Mayor Stringfellow asked for Council's support. Three people will be eligible to attend the meeting concerning the feeding program and Mayor will appoint a committee to serve.

Tammy Smith spoke on behalf of Chief Williams who indicted that Chief Williams exemplified kindness, respect, professionalism, etc. Chief Williams is whom Chester needs as a police chief for the City of Chester. I support Chief Williams and thank you for allowing me to speak. Mrs. Smith requested that Chief Williams stand by her as she spoke to Council.

Mayor Stringfellow requested that AM-FM Lodges, Fait Halsey meet with her on Wednesday and she will take back a recommendation to Council. October Fest was a great event. We went backwards, did not get enough money to pay for the security and requested that Council pay for security. Currently, they need \$350.00 to pay for security. Mr. Halsey requested to collaborate with Battered But not Broken and would like to do a Proclamation for Billy Murphy. He would like to set aside the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in September for Billy Murphy Day. We would like to honor him and do an event at the Joe Collins Stadium. Mayor Stringfellow indicated that she would meet with them concerning the proclamation on Wednesday and will bring back to Council. Council commended the group for the great job on the October Fest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9-10-12 & 9-24-12 as presented. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion carried. The motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Lieutenant Foster presented to Council National Fire Prevention Week and tomorrow will be Open House beginning at 2:00 p.m.; everyone is invited to join us. Sparky visited the Council and handed out bags. Councilwoman Kovas commended the Fire Department for helping with the flagpole at the Evergreen Cemetery.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nuisance Abatement Councilwoman Kovas provided Council with a copy of information concerning Newberry's website and would like to have this placed on the city's website. This would be great for the city to have this type of database. Councilwoman Kovas will provide a copy of all the discrepancies to the City Attorney to make the changes to the ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS: Proclamation – Disability Awareness Month – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid read the proclamation as presented. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve as read. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Brenda McBrayer – Informed Council they will be getting several new Christmas displays for the downtown area. Mrs. McBrayer requested that Council donate \$3,500.00 for rides. If that is too much, we can cut it down. I still want this to be free for the kids. There is many activities provided free of charge for the children and this is an excited weekend. Suggested keeping the train ride and the Ferris wheel and select one more. The age limit is 14 years of age. After much discuss, Councilman Thompson motion to provide \$3500.00 coming from general fund if available be given to the Christmas Festival and take the plane ride out. Councilman Williams second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilman Williams deferred this item of business to a later date. No objection was made. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to go in to Executive Session for discussion of a personnel matter in the police department. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing.

Mayor Stringfellow stated while in Executive Session, Council discussed a personnel matter in the police department. No action was taken.

With no further business, Councilman Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof, Human Resources Director/CMC