

Chester City Council Meeting

November 25, 2013

Minutes

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

Diane Simpson – 255 McClure Woods Drive, Chester, SC 29706. Ms. Simpson addressed two items of concern. The increase in the city taxes and increase in garbage fees last year. I would like to thank the City Administrator and Finance Director who were very professional and explained the error in detail. I would like to know why the citizens were not notified of this increase. Small families from the larger families are supplementing the garbage disposal fee. Mayor indicated that Council was not aware of this until after it took place and we are looking into the matter. The citizens deserve an explanation on this matter.

LaTanya Hall – Battered but Not Broken – Ms. Hall informed Council that Mr. Hardee waived the taxes on this property at 163 Loomis Street and would like to receive a deed to the property. Attorney Counterman indicated a deed does not need to be issued.

PETITIONERS

Stephanie White, Executive Director – American Red Cross – Mrs. White indicated she is the new director and thanked Council for the use of the building on Cadz Street. We are utilizing the building and someone is there every day. The first of 2014, we are planning an open house.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administrative Report – Judge Killian has been appointed to serve as a temporary Judge due to the leave of absence of Judge Herron. Christmas in Chester previously made recommendation for the funding of the amusement rides. The total amount requested was \$3500.00. Councilwoman Tinker indicated the Finance Committee met and recommends that \$3500.00 be approved for the rides. The City of Chester will be doing Ginger Bread Men. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to transfer from the fund balance to the Administrators line item to pay for the rides in the amount of \$3500.00. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance – No comments and no report provided.

Fire - no comments

Human Resources – No comments

Police – No Comments

Public Works – No comments

Recreation – No report provided.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety – the Committee reviewed the vehicle take home policy, would like to request Council to review, and would like to also increase the starting pay for officers. Changing the vehicle policy would give the employee an incentive to stay here. The procedure for tracking gas has been changed since this policy was adopted. Chief Williams indicated the police chief would track the gas. Chief Williams indicated people in Chester would not come here for the current pay. Mr. Thompson commended the police department for a job well done on the high profile arrests.

Councilwoman Reid requested that Chief Williams, City Administrator, Councilwoman Reid and Attorney to bring back a proposal for a take home policy.

Recreation – no report

Economic Development – no report

CDDA – Councilwoman Bagley informed Council the last 2nd Thursday Blues; they presented the Mayor with a Cake in celebration of her birthday. The next scheduled Blues will be December 12, 2013, at Stella's.

Beautification Committee – no report. Mayor Stringfellow requested that the Committee schedule a meeting to think about the upcoming spring.

Properties Committee – Mayor requested he properties committee look at the Red Cross building for First Steps.

Finance Committee -Would like a set meeting at 5:30 pm, on Monday of the second Council meeting of the month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commission Appointments – deferred to next meeting.

Mayor Stringfellow recognized the Troup 66 who was present working on a merit badge.

Mayor Stringfellow recognized Mr. Chuck Walden, director of the Chester County Housing Authority. Mr. Walden provided Council with an update on things that are transpiring at the Authority. We are open for ideas and would like to work with you.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm, for discussion of a Personnel Matter in the Police Department and a Legal Matter in the Finance Department. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:40 pm. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stringfellow stated while in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter in the Police Department and a Legal Matter in the Finance Department. No action was taken.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to uphold the decision of the Grievance Committee concerning the Police Department. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Williams opposing.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof