

Chester City Council Meeting

February 11, 2013, 6:30 pm

Minutes

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman William Killian.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 630 pm.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Mike Eland provided Council with an update on CDDA. On February 28, 2013, 7:00 pm, at Anna's Arbor, a Town Meeting will be held for merchants, citizens, etc., to provide input concerning downtown Chester. The back lot, painting the pavilion and electrical services are a few items that CDDA is currently looking at upgrades; these changes will be for the upcoming Hog on the Hill. The Town meeting will be a round table discussion and two guest speakers. All merchants and building owners as well as the citizens are invited.

PETITIONER: Mary Pace spoke to Council and addressed her interest in getting a Women's Shelter for homeless women veterans. Mr. Alan Kulp, Director of Center Midlands Transitional Retreat, volunteered to help assist Mary with this project. They need a building, that is the key part of this project and then Mr. Kulp will provide his assistance to help get this started. The grant and a per diem are given from the Veterans Administration. The program is a six-month program that also provides after care assistance. Councilwoman Kovas indicated she was under the understanding that Christ Central bought several houses in downtown Chester. Councilwoman Tinker indicated we need shelter for women. Councilman Caldwell indicated the Finley Center would be a great location. Council thanked Mrs. Pace for her interest in the City of Chester.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 4 2013, as presented. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Second Reading –Ordinance 2012-04 – Nuisance Abatement as presented. After much discussion, Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vehicle Repairs – City Administrator's Car – the car can be repaired between \$800.00 - \$1,200.00. John Curtice, mechanic indicated the vehicle is well worth repairing. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to repair the transmission on the administrative car from the vehicle repairs, administrative budget, not to exceed \$1200.00. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Rebecca Brendal provided a preliminary audit to Council. The preliminary audit was a clean audit. One finding on the federal CDBG grant maintained and administered by Catawba Regional but was not on the city's books. Recommended they be recorded in the city's financial statements. This was a good audit and financial statement. The final audit will be provided for Council to review in March.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Stringfellow deferred to the next meeting. Request that Council come back at the next meeting with recommendations.

Recreation Center Roof Repairs – Mr. Sink provided Council with an update on the roofing. Properties Committee will review and bring back to Council. Council had questions concerning the water bill at the pool. Mr. Sink indicated he is continuing to keep the running instead of draining the water and clean pool, chemicals, etc.; this should be a tradeoff. After much discussion, the finance committee will need to discuss during budget workshop.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel Matters – Finance and Administrative Departments. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:10 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed Personnel Matters in the Finance and Administrative Departments. No action was taken.

Mayor Stringfellow appointed an Ad-Hoc Personnel Committee to reach out to other employers and personal references on the three candidates for the position of Finance Director. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid, Councilman Williams and Councilwoman Tinker will serve on this Committee.

With no further business, Councilwoman Bagley tinker motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof