

**Chester City Council Meeting**

**April 9, 2012, 6:30 pm**

**Minutes**

PRESENT: Mayor Stringfellow; Council Members Betty Bagley, Odell Williams, Susan Kovas, King Thompson, William Killian, Annie M. Reid, George Caldwell, Linda Tinker; City of Administrator Jeff Kerr; Human Resources Director/CMC Carla Roof; City Attorney April Counterman.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

PRAYER: Councilman Williams led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: No one present to speak.

PETITIONERS:

Mrs. Kathi Gaddy requested the City of Chester continue to sponsor the Relay for Life Campaign at the Bronze level of \$500.00. Council approved the sponsorship.

Makeda Baker presented to Council as Chair of the Housing Authority. Mrs. Baker provided an update concerning the Commissioners and their training, contributions to the Housing Authority; the housing authority has not been in a non-movement status, we are moving forward.

Terrell Blackmon – Provided Council with a package of information for Council to review as well as an attendance record. Mayor Stringfellow stated that we are in a critical need of funding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2012 & March 26, 2012 as presented. Councilwoman Bagley seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Reid requested members of Council to speak in the microphone.

With no objection, Councilwoman Reid requested to add to the agenda Personnel Matter – Police Chief and Administrative Department. No objection was made.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Mr. Kerr updated Council

Chief Williams commended Officer Richard Griffin, Darryl Adams, and Malcolm Little on a job well done and for putting their life on the line while apprehending suspects who were involved in a shooting. Chief Williams also commended the entire Police Department for putting their life on the line. Mayor Stringfellow and Council commended them as well. Mayor Stringfellow informed the Police Department to continue to put the pressure on and your presence is welcome in the community. Mayor Stringfellow

requested that each member of Council come up with a date and a location in each ward to conduct a community meeting with the police department.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Nuisance Abatement Discussion – Mr. Caldwell had questions concerning page 6, delete number 2. Mayor Stringfellow indicated that we need to establish a committee to review this and bring back to Council. Mayor Stringfellow appointed Councilwoman Kovas to serve as chair and Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Williams to serve on the committee.

Commission Appointments: Chester Housing Authority Mayor Stringfellow made a motion to appoint Chucky Hardin and Sharon Feaster to serve on the Housing Authority replacing Gloria Crank and W.T. Holmes. Councilwoman Bagley seconds the motion. The motion carried with Kovas and Williams opposing.

Council deferred Evergreen Cemetery and Recreation Commission appointments to the next scheduled meeting. Mayor Stringfellow requested that Council bring back Commission Profiles

Chester Zoning Board of Appeals – Councilman Thompson made a motion to appoint Melvin Jackson to serve on the ZBA. Councilwoman Bagley seconds the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor Pro Tempore Reid read the Fair Housing Proclamation as presented. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve the Proclamation as read. Councilwoman Tinker seconds the motion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session for Executive Session for discussion of Personnel Matters in the Recreation Department and Police and Administrative Departments. Councilman Williams seconds the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:25 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconds the motion. Mayor Stringfellow stated while in Executive Session, Council discussed Personnel Matters in the Recreation Department and Police and Administrative Departments. No action was taken.

Budget Workshop will be held on Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Reid made a motion to place the recreation director on a probation period of 4 months. Councilman Thompson seconds the motion. After probation period has exhausted, the department head will meet with the Administrator to review the status of the probation period which should include intent to progress. The motion carried with Tinker, Bagley, Kovas and Williams opposing.

With no further business Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Carla Roof

