

Chester City Council Meeting
July 22, 2013, 6:30 pm
Minutes

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

ABSENT: Councilman William Killian and Susan Kovas.

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

PRAYER: Councilwoman Bagley led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: David Peay – Mr. Peay invited Council to attend the Landmark Forum in Charlotte 7:00-10:00 pm, 2225 Tyvola Road on Tuesday, July 23, 2013.

Michael Halsey – Girls Inc. Mr. Halsey presented a request for help to establish a Girls INC., with a Mission of “Inspiring all girls to be intelligent, tenacious, and beautiful” and a Vision of “With a vision of empowering girls to be successful within the society.” This will be a paid staff member once the program has been established. Council had several questions for Mr. Halsey. The age will be 6-18 age limits. They will not be qualified if they have been expelled from school. Council informed Mr. Halsey that he should provide structure for this program and then come back to Council.

Jasmine McCoy requested to extend the hours of the Farmer’s Market to Tuesday nights to 4-8 pm, to focus on a family environment. Council approved the market opening on Tuesday night.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance – No comments

HR – No comments

Police – No comments

Recreation – No comments

Public Workers – No comments

Councilmember Tinker made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Economic Development – Mr. Thompson informed Council that he has a possible prospect that is interested in opening a Distribution Center in the city limits. Councilman Thompson requested that council allow him to meet with this individual to discuss possible tax breaks, incentives, etc. Discussion took place concerning getting the County involved concerning the tax incentives.

Mayor Stringfellow requested that council look at their calendars for a date to travel to the farmers market in North Carolina to tour their kitchen. We need to move forward with making the kitchen at our Farmers Market work. After discussion, Council requested that Mrs. Kellerhalls address Council concerning the North Carolina Kitchen. Mayor Stringfellow requested Mrs. Kellerhalls see if Council could make a trip on July 31, 2013. Mrs. Kellershalls will provide a follow- up with Mrs. Roof.

Public Safety has changed their meeting time to 4:00 pm, on the Thursday prior to the first Council meeting of the month.

Councilwoman Tinker commented on how good the mulch looks in the downtown area.

Mayor Stringfellow requested that the Police Chief and Fire Chief make themselves available to speak on camera for the filming.

CDDA –Another Town Hall meeting on August 1, 2013, has been scheduled.

Councilwoman Tinker requested that we get our young people involved in the downtown. We must come together with the property owners, young people and provide incentives. Councilwoman Bagley indicated the CDDA has a list that was provide by young people indicating things they would like to see in Chester.

Properties Committee – Councilman Williams indicated the Springsteen property has taken samples. The properties committee requested that Council does not sell the Red Cross Building at this time.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Committee reports as presented the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Housing Authority - The Housing Authority is currently searching for a director.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Administrative - Councilman Caldwell made a motion to offer a conditional offer of hire to Mrs. Sandi Feaster Worthy, City Administrator, with a salary of \$72,000.00. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion were Tinker, Caldwell, Reid, Stringfellow, Bagley and Williams. All opposed were Thompson. The motion carried. Councilwoman Reid stated that it has not been Council's practice in the past to offer a position to the second finalist.

With no further business, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla R. Roof