

Chester City Council Meeting
Minutes
September 23, 2013, 6:30 pm

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

ABSENT: Council Members William Killian and Linda Tinker.

CITIZENS FORUM: Mrs. Maggie James addressed Council concerning the 18-wheeler trucks that come through the city. She resides at the corner of Center and Dawson Drive and a sign is currently posted on her property. Major Gilmore indicated they are stopping trucks and giving warnings. There are also signs down on Center letting them know they are approaching a no thru truck area. The drivers are disregarding the signs. Council requested that Mrs. Worthy get with the police department to discuss this concern.

Administrative Report: Mrs. Worthy requested that Council set a date to review the Strategic Planning Session.

Finance – No report.

Fire Department – Introduced JP McNeil as a new Firefighter in the Fire Department.

Human Resources – No report.

Police – No report.

Public Works – No report.

Recreation Department – Kim Sanders informed Council the Recreation Department will collaborate with the Police Department. Mrs. Sanders requested the Council's support on the Coat Drive. Her goal is to collect 1000 coats. Amanda Huey discussed the police department's efforts. Mayor commended the departments for implementing this program.

NEW BUSINESS: Clarification – Councilman Thompson – Mr. Thompson presented to Council that Council is currently going against our current ordinance. The current ordinance indicates the Mayor should be a signer on checks. City Attorney requested that you amend the ordinance to comply with what Council previously voted on, deleting the Mayor from check signing or follow the current ordinance in place, which allows the Mayor to sign check. Councilman Thompson made a motion to return to the original signatures allowing the Mayor to sign checks until this issue has been resolved. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid seconded the motion. Mr. Caldwell indicated that ordinance does not supersede state law. After discussion, all in favor of the motion were, Reid, Thompson, Stringfellow, Kovas, Bagley and Williams. All opposed were Caldwell. The motion carried.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED:

WHEREAS, Council adopted an Employee Handbook on December 12, 2011, to provide the employee an efficient and comprehensive guide to the policies of the City of Chester with regard to employment, and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester will amend the Employee Handbook, and

WHEREAS, the policy amended will include Section IX –“Your Employment Status” section (c) Temporary Status and (d) Full Time and Part Time, and

WHEREAS, peak workloads, changes in personnel, vacations, and other unusual conditions occasionally create the need for an additional employee for a short period. Usually, this type of employment will be less than six months and hours will not exceed 28 hours per workweek, and

WHEREAS, a full-time employee is one who works the normal hours and workdays of the City. A part-time employee is one who is scheduled to work less than the City’s normal hours not to exceed 28 hours per workweek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The City of Chester Handbook dated January 2012, is hereby amended to include the verbiage included herein as Section IX (c) and (d), and shall supersede all other City like policies before it.

DONE IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED, this 23rd day of September 2013.

Wanda Y. Stringfellow, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carla Roof, Municipal Clerk

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

Mayor Stringfellow made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of Personnel Matters in the Recreation Department, Administrative and Police Departments. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:30 pm. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

Mayor Stringfellow made a motion to uphold the Police Chiefs decision to terminate employee A and not to approve the recommendation coming from the Grievance Committee to allow employee A an opportunity to resign. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Williams opposing.

Councilman Williams made a motion to appoint Mr. Tom Hamilton as Municipal Judge for the City of Chester. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion failed. Council Members Reid, Caldwell and Williams voted in favor. Council Members Thompson, Bagley, Kovas and Stringfellow voted opposed. The motion failed.

With no further business, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof