****

**Economic Development Committee Meeting**

**June 12, 2023 – 6:30 pm**

**In Person &Virtual**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Members of Council: Tabatha Strother - Chair, Tony Nelson, Wade Young and Jamie Price

**ABSENT:**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Tabatha Strother at 6:30pm

**Prayer**

Councilwoman Young offered prayer.

Councilman Young made a motion to accept the amended agenda and the minutes. Councilwoman Young second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

Councilwoman Strother recited the Civility Pledge.

**City Administrator’s Report**

The City Administrator gave a report regarding upcoming projects, permitting, and departmental updates.

**Quick Updates**

**Planning**

*Strategic Plan/Goal* –

Councilwoman Strother mentioned that the strategic plan is on the City of Chester’s Website.

Goals:

* Business Development -Façade Grant
* Chester As A Destination
* Others To Tell Our Story

*Zoning Map*

Public Works Director will have an updated map soon form Catawba City of Government

**Ordinance**

*Bailey Bill*

Councilwoman Strother gave an overview of what the Bailey Bill is. City Administrator Malik Whitaker will send out the Bailey Bill to full Council. No action was taken.

*Rental Registry*

Malik Whitaker updated the committee with an update regarding the rental registry. The City Attorney will provide him with a copy of the ordinance that was drafted. No action was taken.

**Old Business**

*Live After 5!*

Councilwoman Strother asked if the committee would like to move forward with Chester Downtown Development hosting Live After 5!. Councilman Price stated that he would recommend the City of Chester continue with Chester Downtown Development. Councilwoman Nelson and Councilman Young agreed. No action was taken.

*Ag + Art Tour*

The Ag + Art will be June 24, 2023 (Saturday Only). Councilwoman Strother asked that Council please spread the word to help make the event successful. The tour will be at 1pm, led by Mayor Williams.

**Economic Development**

*Main Street SC/ Training*

Councilwoman Strother gave information on Main Street SC. The application was approved but was never completed. Main Street SC will help with plans to revitalize Main Street. Councilwoman Strother recommend joining at (at least) the “Friend Level”. City Administrator Whitaker assured Councilwoman Strother that Main Street will be added to the upcoming Council meeting agenda.

*AgriBusiness Center*

Councilwoman Strother would like to see the AgriBusiness Center marketed more. She recommends a manager to handle the booking/rental as well as assist in bringing farmers back.

City Administrator Whitaker would like to meet with the committee to see what the vision is for the AgriBusiness Center.

**New Business**

*Special Events Committee*

City Administrator Whitaker provided a draft to the committee regarding the Special Events Committee. The Committee would help plan parades and other events. Councilman Young shared that he thought the initial plan was to pull from the City of Chester residence first and then allow County residence to be a part of the Special Events Committee. Councilwoman Young shared that allowing City and County residents would bring all residence together.

Councilwoman Strother recommended:

3 Residents (City)

2 Residents (County)

Councilman Price recommends not specifying City or County residents. He recommends allowing participation from City and County residents.

Councilman Young made a motion to accept the first draft of the Special Events Committee as an action item. Councilwoman Young second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0)

*Community Calendar*

Councilwoman Strother recommends creating and adding a community calendar to the City of Chester’s website. No action was taken.

*Comments*

Elizabeth Claytor of 119 Pinckney Street mentioned her concerns about the AgriBusiness Center and the vision. Mrs. Claytor mentioned that she did not see it being able to compete with other “like” business in town. Councilwoman Strother mention that the AgriBusiness Center was originally the “Farmers Market”. Councilwoman Strother assured Mrs. Claytor that vision is not lost. There is also a commercial kitchen that is available for rent. Councilwoman Strother said we should get back to the root of that but is rented out for special events.

Councilman Young stated that the Special Events Committee could also assist or partner with Chester Downtown Development.

With no other business, Councilman Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marquita Fair

Municipal Clerk