

Chester City Council Meeting

March 23, 2015

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Ike McBrayer, Betty Bagley, Susan Kovas, King D. Thompson, William Killian, Annie M. Reid, George Caldwell, Linda Tinker; City Administrator Sandi Worthy; Human Resources Director Carla Roof; City Attorney Megan Gaston.

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

PRAYER: Councilwoman Bagley led in prayer.

CITIZENS FORUM: Terry Benjamin, Concord, NC presented to Council that he would like to bring an outreach program to the City of Chester. This program would bring academic success to children and sports therapy for kids at risk. We are trying to get into the Finley Building to start this free program. A request for resources and funding to start this program was made. This would be a great program for the Chester Community for children and parents. Mayor Stringfellow stated there are resources out there and I recommend that you get with our Recreation Director and the Administrator and set up a meeting to search for resources. Councilman Thompson stated that we would help and support you. Mayor Stringfellow introduced two middle school students present and Coach Barnes from the Middle School. Coach Barnes had an undefeated season and he is to be commended.

Bernard Morris – Rev. Morris spoke to Council concerning the gym at the Finley Center was not available. This was very disturbing the gym was closed. Mayor Stringfellow informed Mr. Morris the S.L. Finley center is not owned by the city.

PETITIONERS:

Michael Halsey & Jack Franklin – Would like to do an event at the S.L. Finley Center and we need bleachers. Mr. Franklin stated that he had a Candlelight Visual scheduled and the ball was dropped and the event never took place. Mayor Stringfellow stated that she has never heard of a Candlelight Visual for Odell Williams and stated that topic had not been addressed before this Council. Discussion took place concerning placing bleachers in the SL Finley Center. Mayor Stringfellow indicated that we could not take the bleachers from our facility and place in the center for this event. Councilman Thompson stated that we could accommodate you with the bleachers. Mr. Franklin requested that the city provide bleachers to use at the April 4 and 5th Easter Event. After discussion, Council requested that Mr. Franklin meet with Recreation Director to assess the situation. The city has steps that we need to take to make sure the city has no liability. Councilman Caldwell informed Mr. Franklin to come see him tomorrow, he will give him a company that can provide him with liability insurance, and he will pay for it. Mayor Stringfellow stated the City of Chester does not own the S.L. Finley Center. This is not our facility.

Michael Halsey – Odell Williams Concrete and Brick Academy – Mr. Halsey presented to Council a proposal to start an Odell Williams Concrete and Brick Academy. We are asking for any resources and support. The S.L. Finley Center has agreed to allow us to use the space. We will need to get a 501-C3. Discussion took place concerning this topic. Has there been any grants been applied for? Council

requested that Ms. Curtis, Grant Administrator meet with Mr. Halsey to see if there is funding available or to provide direction to this group. Dr. Holmes would be a great resource as well.

Departmental Reports

Administrative Department – Special Recognition – Mrs. Worthy and Mayor Stringfellow recognized the following:

Jeff Bell – Fire 4 years

John Curtice Public Works – 8 years

Donny Davis – Fire – 12 Years

Gene Gilmore – Police – 19 years

Tammy Levister – Police – 13 years

Milton Sims – Police – 13 years

Melodie Tate – HR – 2 years

Raymond Woods – Public Works – 12 years

Ronnie Wright – Public Works – 21 years

Billy Pressley – Fire – 1 year

Mrs. Worthy informed Council she is working hard to get all of the projects in place.

Finance – No report provided

Fire – No comments

Human Resources – No comments

Police Department – No comments

Public Works – No comments

Recreation Department – No comments

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

Committee Reports

Public Safety – Currently still monitoring the leave time for police

Recreation – Councilman Killian discussed having a Book Bag Drive for the upcoming year. Mr. White indicted that we can start to search for donations where every child can have a book bag. Last year everyone was doing a book bag drive. Start now and see what organizations are doing this and pull everyone together. Councilwoman Tinker indicted that her Church does this and the community supports these types of events. Do an outreach to the organizations that are doing these events. Councilman Killian provided Mr. White with a one hundred dollar bill to kickoff this event.

Economic Development – Councilman Thompson stated that design services were offered to use at the stadium and offered his help on our projects.

CDDA – Chief’s is going great! The writer will be here on the 11th to sign books, Stuart Woods. John Wells, State Park the movie will be aired. On April 11, there will be a reception; more information will be provided later. Hog on the Hill will be in May.

Beautification Committee – Recommendation coming from the Committee to go with the proposed sign. Talked about installing concrete planters in the downtown area. We will be planting flowers soon in the downtown area. If it is the will of Council, we would like to remove all of the lights on the trees. Councilwoman Reid stated that she would like to do the community spruce up again. Encourage the communities to set a date to schedule this event. April 24th and 25th is the Great American Cleanup. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept the signage as presented. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Properties Committee – no report.

Finance Committee – met before the Council meeting today and discussed and things seem to be in order.

Commission Reports – No reports

Unfinished Business – No Unfinished business to discuss.

New Business – Bid 2015-01 – Activity Center Roof - Only one bid received for this project in the amount of \$10,200. Mrs. Worthy was able to negotiate to \$9860.00 for the roofing at the activity center. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the bid in the amount of \$9860.00. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Money coming from one-cent sales tax.

Executive Session – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:45 pm. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing the motion.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:15 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. While in Executive Session, Council discussed Contractual Matters – Administrative Department and Personnel Matter – Administrative Department. No action was taken.

With no further business, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof

