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CHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL

May 11, 2015

Chester City Council Meeting

Present: Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members, Betty Bagley, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, William Killian, Ike McBrayer, Annie M. Reid and Linda Tinker; City Administrator Sandi Worthy; City Attorney Megan Gaston; and Payroll Specialist Sylvia Young.

ABSENT: Human Resources Director Carla Roof.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PRAYER: Councilman Carlos Williams led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Chuck Walling, Executive Director for Chester Housing Authority (CHA) greeted Council by thanking them for all they do for them. He welcomed Councilman Williams and Mayor Caldwell by congratulating them for winning in the most recent city election. Mr. Walling informed Council that CHA have 210 to 220 Section 8 vouches out, 212 units' filled and 300 people currently on waiting list. After a brief discussion Mr. Walling, informed Council that on the Public Housing side, CHA will no longer receive funding for public housing. Council thanked Mr. Walling for CHA report.

OPEN REMARKS - Mayor Caldwell: The following is Mayor Caldwell opening remarks, "I am glad to see you all and thank you for coming. As we move forward into next fiscal year, we as Council members will take your advice. Our ears will be open. We will have open meetings as much as possible like we normally have done. And we look forward to working together as Council to handle the physical responsibilities of citizens business. Thank you very much for coming!"

Administrative Report:

Mayor Caldwell asked for Administrative Report. Mrs. Worthy discussed in detail the following topics: Lease Purchase - Mrs. Worthy informed Council there remains approximately \$42,000 in funds that can be used for the purchase of more vehicles before the USDA grant is awarded in August. She proposed that the city use the funds to purchase two vehicles, for the Administration Department and Parks & Recreation Department, 125 Pinckney Street – Owner donated house to city and she request that the city facilitate the creation of an easement for property as the first attempt to preserve and restore the historic homes with significant architectural value, and Capital Project Report – She informed Council that the Activity Center roof is complete and work begins May 13th on the ADA accessibility project. In conclusion, Mrs. Worthy informed Council about updates on Farmers Market renovations and grand opening on May 23rd. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to use funds of \$42,000 to purchase vehicles, Ford Explore for Mrs. Worthy and Chevrolet Silverado Extended Cab for Mr. White, Recreation Director. Not to exceed \$10,000 from the fund balance. Councilwoman Tinker second motion. Motion carried with none opposing.

Unfinished Business: Councilman McBrayer request a city web site update from Mrs. Worthy. Mrs. Worthy informed Council that city web site is still under construction. Council discussed the following in detail: Annual Fire Works Expedition cost of \$11,000, Summer Feeding Program cost \$96,000 last year and the need for support from the Chester County and other municipalities and/or the possibility of providing program only for city citizens. After much discussion, Mrs. Worthy informed Council that city deficient was \$45,000 not \$96,000 and that Peggy Johnson, Program Director is doing everything possible to cut cost. Council decided to table discussion until next Council meeting. No action taken.

New Business:

Proclamation – National Fibromyalgia – Mayor Caldwell read Proclamation National Fibromyalgia before Council. Afterwards, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to except Proclamation National Fibromyalgia. Councilwoman Kovas second motion. Motion carried with none opposing. Tabatha Struthers, representative for National Fibromyalgia awareness thanked Council and gave them a Quick Guide pamphlet on Fibromyalgia.

Proclamation – Teen Pregnancy Month – Mayor Caldwell read Proclamation for Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Afterwards, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to except Proclamation Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. Councilman McBrayer second motion. Motion carried with none opposing. Meredith M. Talford, Upstate Training and Technical Assistance Specialist for South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy thanked Council and gave them a folder with their information.

Ward II – Vacancy – Mayor Caldwell made a request for a motion for Ward II vacancy. After a brief discussion, Councilman McBrayer made a motion to fill Ward II vacancy by election. Councilwoman Kovas second motion. Motion carried with none opposing.

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore – Mayor Caldwell made a request for motion for the election of Mayor Pro Tempore and informed Council that every two years an election for Mayor Pro Tempore must be

done. Councilwoman Kovas nominated Councilwoman Betty Bagley. Councilman Killian nominated Councilwoman Reid. Councilwoman Kovas moved that nominations be close. Councilman Killian and Williams voted for Councilwoman Reid. All of Council voted for Councilwoman Bagley. Mayor Caldwell announced that Councilwoman Bagley will be Mayor Pro Tempore for the next two years.

May 25, 2015, Council Meeting – After a brief discussion, Mayor Caldwell made a request for May 25, 2015 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to cancel May 25, 2015, Council Meeting due to Memorial Day holiday and reschedule Council Meeting to May 21, 2015 at 6 p.m. Councilman Killian second motion. Councilwoman Reid opposed motion that carried.

First Reading Ordinance 2015-10 - Fiscal Year 2015-16 Operating Budget – Mayor Caldwell read Ordinance 2015-10 to Council. Mrs. Worthy asked Council did they have any questions about budget. She expressed to Council two budget highlights, 3% employee salary increase and annual retirement increase. After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-10 with corrections. Councilwoman Kovas second motion. Motion carried with none opposing.

Elected Officials Annual Meeting – July 16-19, 2015 – Council had a brief discussion about Elected Officials Annual Meeting. Mrs. Worthy provided Council with meetings schedule date, location, cost and purpose of meeting.

Executive Session:

Contractual Matter – Administrative Department - Mayor Caldwell informed Council that the Chair would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Contractual Matter, Administrative Department. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion that Council enter into Executive Session to discuss a Contractual Matter – Administrative Department. Councilwoman Tinker second motion. Motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing. Council went into Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

At 7:50 p.m., Councilwoman Tinker made a motion that Council reconvene from Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley second motion. Motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing. Mayor Caldwell announced that Council took no action during Executive Session.

Personnel Matter – Police Department – Mayor Caldwell informed Council that the Chair would entertain a motion to return back into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Matter, Police Department. Councilman McBrayer made a motion to return back into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Matter, Police Department. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley second motion. Motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing. Council return back into Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

At 8:04 p.m., Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion that Council reconvene from Executive Session. Councilwoman Tinker second motion. Motion carried with none opposing. Mayor Caldwell announced that Council discussed a Personnel Matter, Police Department and no action was taken. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to uphold the discussion of the Grievance Committee decision in reference to

discussion during Executive Session. Councilman Killian second motion. Motion carried with none opposing.

Councilman McBrayer made a motion to terminate Police Chief Andre Williams's employment with the city. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley second motion. Mayor Caldwell open floor for discussion. After a brief discussion, motion failed with Councilman McBrayer and Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley in favor. Mayor Caldwell and Council Members Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, William Killian, Annie Reid, and Linda Tinker opposing.

With no further discussion, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion that Council adjourn. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley second motion. Motion carried with none opposing at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Young, Payroll Specialist