

Chester City Council Meeting

May 21, 2015, 6:30 pm

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, Annie M. Reid, Betty Bagley, Linda Tinker, Ike McBrayer and William Killian; City Administrator Sandi Worthy; Human Resources Director Carla Roof; City Attorney Megan Gaston.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: No one present to speak.

Administrative Report – Special Recognition Years of Service

Ricky P. Sanders – Police Department 3 years

Albert Degraffenreid – Public Works 13 years

Chris White – Recreation – 1 year

Richard Griffin – Police Department 14 years

Shelly Watts – Recreation Department - 1 year

Fire Department Dwayne Schell – 11 years

Councilwoman Reid requested that everyone participate in the I-2-I Yard Sale June 5, 6, 2015.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance – no report

Fire – no report

HR – no report

Police Department - Chief Williams provided Council with an update on missing person's case, murder case last year has been solved, 3 officers going to Myrtle Beach for bike week, department had three traffic accidents. Community officer grant still pending and trying to get funding upgrade for body cameras, 3 officers will graduate on May 29, 2015. Chief Williams publicly recognized Major Gene Gilmore on his resignation.

Public Works – no report

Recreation – no report

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept as presented. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – no report

Recreation - no report

Economic Development – no report

CDDA – HILLlarity will be held October 17, 2015.

Beautification Committee – no report

Properties Committee – no report

Finance Committee – no report

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Evergreen Cemetery – no report

HPC- met today and will have a report at the June meeting

Planning Commission – no report

ZBA – no report

Housing Authority – no report

Recreation – no report

Councilman McBrayer made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley gave an update on the Bleachers for SL Finley Center - 4 - 15ft bleachers have been ordered and will be installed by June 1 for the basketball summer program. Thanks to all who donated and thanks to Mr. Chris White for assisting. Donations are still be accepted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Neighborhood Program – Cole McKinney stated that there is 5.6 million dollars received for this project. Mr. McKinney informed Council that only residential property could be purchased, no commercial. Purchase the property, demolish, and remove underground storage tanks, our goal are to get these properties back on the tax rolls. What we are looking for in return, during the three-year period that the city maintain the property. After the three years, the owner will be responsible. After the three years, the city will purchase back for 1 dollar. We are looking to do 40 in Chester, Lancaster and Union. Much discussion took place concerning this project. Councilwoman Reid made a motion to accept as information. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to abolish standing committees. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. After much discussion, all in favor of the motion were Bagley, Tinker, Caldwell, McBrayer and Kovas. All opposed were Reid, Killian and Williams. The motion carried.

Executive Session

Councilman McBrayer made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Contractual matter – SFSP. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Council convened in Executive Session at 7:05 pm. All in favor of the motion were. Tinker, Kovas, Williams, Reid, Bagley and McBrayer. All opposed Caldwell and Killian. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the summer feeding program with the boundaries not to extend beyond the bypass and in the event the \$11,000.00 deficit is funded, the boundaries will be

expanded. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. After much discussion, Councilman Williams disagreed on not extending the program. He stated that he would continue to seek funds for this program. Councilman Killian stated that he wanted the entire county to be fed. Councilwoman Bagley stated that in the motion the program would be expanded if the additional funds were raised. All in favor of the motion were Bagley, Tinker Kovas, Reid, McBrayer and Caldwell. All opposed were Williams and Killian.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:45 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. While in Executive Session Council discussed the Summer Feeding Program. No action was taken.

7:45 pm Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Contractual Matter – Finance Department. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. Finance Contractual Matter – Josh McNeal presented to Council with a proposal for the County to collect taxes for the city.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to convene in Executive Session for discussion of a Contractual Matter – Finance Department. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene into open session. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter in the Finance Department. No action was taken. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to join with the county on collecting property taxes and tax sale, due to information presented by Josh McNeal, Finance Director. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to convene in Executive Session at 8:45 pm for discussion of personnel matters in the police department. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried with Caldwell opposing. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 10:00 pm. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried. While in Executive Session, Council discussed personnel matters in the police department. No action was taken.

With no further business, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 pm. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof

