

Chester City Council Meeting
October 26, 2015, 6:30 pm
Minutes

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

CALL TO ORDER: Public Hearing called to order at 6:30 pm. No one present to speak. Public Hearing closed.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Caldwell called the meeting to order.

PRAYER: Councilwoman Tinker led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Peggy Johnson – Director of Summer Feeding Program. Mrs. Johnson thanked Council for their support. The program served 2200 meals per day and received no violations. A check in the amount of \$3000.00 was donated by Resolute, Councilman Williams’s employer, which was received by Councilman Williams. Mrs. Johnson thanked Mrs. Worthy, Mrs. Roof and Mrs. Tate for all of their help pertaining to the Summer Feeding Program.

Michael Halsey – Veterans Day Parade, November 11, 2015. Mr. Halsey informed Council that he has received confirmation that two Black Hawks will fly over during this event to salute the Veterans. In addition, two cannons will be fired at the start of the parade. Council thanked Mr. Halsey for a job well done. Entry forms are located at Woods Car Wash and there will not be a fee. For additional information, contact MikeHalsey2@yahoo.com

Michael Halsey – Mr. Halsey informed Council he is planning a “Walk of Faith” for anyone that has previously served or currently serving the city. Mr. Halsey presented to Council the first brick paver in memory of Former Councilman Odell Williams.

Minister Joe Lee, East Chester area resident, 102 Collins Street, informed Council of flooding problems. The ditch is full of trash and debris and needs to be cleaned. Who is responsible for cleaning the ditch? The city has a permanent easement, which will allow the city to do work. Council requested that Mrs. Worthy follow up with Mr. Lee concerning the flooding problem.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administrative – Special Recognition – Mayor Caldwell recognized Michael Doster – Fire Department 8 years, Joe Smith – Fire Department 20 years, Ebony Simmons – Police 3 years, Derrick Morrow Public Works – 13 years, Anthony Knight – Fire Department 7 years, Lolita Fourney – Police 3 years.

Mrs. Worthy introduced Jack McGillis as the new facilities manager. Mr. McGillis will be responsible for the upkeep of the facilities and maintenance.

The Yard Debris Site has been given the approval by DHEC to move forward and the permit should be received soon.

Finance – Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley thanked Mr. McNeal for the year end report. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley announced Mr. McNeal’s resignation. Members of Council wished him well.

Fire – Councilman Reid commended the Fire Department on a job well done with the renovations at the Main Station. Looks great!

Human Resources – No response

Police Department – Councilwoman Douglas had questions concerning the Shrimp Festival that several of our officers worked. Interim Chief Levister addressed the question.

Public Works – Discussion took place concerning will this new yard site help with some of the charges by the county and are we going to hire someone for Dale Cook’s job? Mrs. Worthy indicated that we have been able to reallocate duties to other employees. Is there another supervisor in the public works department? Mrs. Worthy stated we can look into the appointing a supervisor under Mr. Douglas. Councilwoman Douglas requested that Mrs. Worthy provide her with an organizational chart. Councilwoman Tinker stated once again that she was elected as a policy maker not to run the daily operations of the city. Councilwoman Reid stated that we need to look into who’s doing what, but we can’t do it tonight. Form an Ad-Hoc Committee to review this situation. Councilwoman Bagley stated that each job description for department heads indicates they answer to the City Administrator. Councilwoman Douglas stated that she has an obligation to ask questions of department heads. Anytime I have ever come up here, I have asked for their time. Councilman Killian stated, let department heads do their jobs. Mayor stated that he will appoint an ad-hoc committee by the next meeting.

Recreation – The Association of A.M. and F.M. Lodge Inc., presented a trophy to the city for the 2015 “Pretty in Pink”, Women’s Football Game. An overview of the football league was provided for Council.

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

COMMISSION REPORTS –

Evergreen Cemetery Commission – Commission will meet early November to discuss needed repairs and contract maintenance.

HPC-No report

Planning Commission – No report

ZBA- No report

Housing Authority – No report

Recreation – No report

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Christmas in Chester Lights – Mrs. McBrayer propose to allow someone to come in an install the lights. I have proposed to install cutaway lights. We will wrap the trunk of the trees and put up the light displays. The city does not own the light displays. The Chester Citizens Alliance was Mr. Alvin Grant and Mrs. Gloria Kellerhalls; they do not have the group anymore. Facilities will test all conduits in the area and the lights will be new so there should not be as many issues this year. The County has donated half of the cost and Mrs. McBrayer proposed that the city pay the other half. The cut away lights will be 2000.00. The stable lights will be 11,000.00 and will only last two to three years. Mr. Douglas has built frames for the displays and they are taken care of. Mrs. McBrayer requested \$7000.00, each year to purchase lights, put up displays and to replace the bows. After much discussion, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the proposal coming from Inspired Designs, LLC in the amount of \$4959.50, coming from Council Special Programs. Councilman Killian seconded the motion.

Hospitality Tax and Guidelines – Mrs. Worthy previously provided the guidelines for Council’s review. Councilwoman Douglas requested to remove #2. After much discussion, Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Hospitality Tax Grant Application

Due April 1st*

Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Amount Funded: _____

- A. Amount you are requesting: \$750
- B. For a: One-time Event Annual or recurring event Other: _____

Project Name: Jingle Bell Bazaar: Indoor Holiday Art Market

Date(s) of Event: Nov. 14, 2015 Location of Event: War Memorial Building, 154 Main, Chester SC
(Please attach documentation of venue and date confirmation)

- C. Sponsor Organization Arts Council of Chester County

Contact Name & Title Lauren Medlin, Director

Address 123 Main St. Chester, SC 29706 (Mailing address: PO Box 804, Chester)

Telephone 803-581-2030 Email artschester@truvista.net

Tax Status: (check one)

Tax-exempt charitable organization Governmental tax-exempt unit

Church/Religious organization Other non-profit _____

(Provide a list of board members where applicable)

- D. Describe the proposed project or activities for which funds are requested and the timetable for implementation:

The Arts Council of Chester County will host a Holiday Art Market in the Chester War Memorial Building showcasing handmade, affordable gifts by local artisans. Just in time for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, our artists will provide a huge variety of gifts and décor to make your holidays uniquely special.

This arts event will feature more than 30 different artists from the Carolinas who will set up creative displays to sell their artwork.

We will have a variety of handmade art, including jewelry, paintings, photography, notecards, painted furniture, pottery, metal sculptures, glass works, carved wood gifts, gourmet foods, handmade candles and lotions, book signings with local authors, Christmas themed art and gifts, Thanksgiving décor, and much more.

The Arts Council will provide some light refreshments and festive music to complement this unique holiday shopping experience.

- E. How does this project attract visitors to the area & and promote tourism?

Holiday markets are popular throughout the country. This event will take place sooner than most other holiday markets, which will not only allow customers to shop for gifts early in the season, but it will also eliminate competition from other holiday markets.

Proclamation – Community Planning Month – Read by Councilwoman Kovas – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matter – Police Department – Councilwoman Tinker made motion to go into Executive Session at 7:45 pm for Discussion of a Personnel Matter in Police Department. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Caldwell opposed the motion.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:05 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to allow interviews to be scheduled for the top three vote getters Levister, Parks and Smith. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion to interview on Monday, November 2, 2015. The motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,