

CHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 27, 2015

MINUTES

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

Organic Helpers – Bridget Trammel discussed her concerns with the home invasions in the Sunset Drive area and requested Council to help with revitalizing the neighborhood crime watch and have each Council ward to participate. Ms. Trammel requested that Council review this proposal.

Shelly Dominick – Semi Trucks on West End Street – Mrs. Dominick would like to know the status of the semi trucks in the city. Councilman Killian stated that we need to post signs that state “Truck Route”. Mrs. Worthy informed Council that the highway department indicated they would not place any more signs and could not place Truck Route Signs.

Frank Dominick 121 West End Street – I have concerns with the internet services provided by TruVista and the fact that our television stations are going down. TruVista continues to raise their prices and the service is poor. Sometimes you get internet service and sometimes you do not. If they are going to have an expansion of services, they need to provide decent services.

Betty Bagley – Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley recognized Mr. Lester R. Lewis, II, who is working on a Boy Scout Merit Badge, Troop 61. Council greeted Mr. Lewis and wished him well.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administrative Report – Mrs. Worthy wished Council Member Tinker a Happy Birthday.

**Special Recognition**

Raymond Douglas, Public Works – 24 years

Chris Feaster, Volunteer Fire – 2 years (Mr. Feaster stated that he has been a Police Volunteer since July 2002, and Fire Volunteer Fire since April 2009)

Horace Hooper, Public Works – 7 years

Audrey Woods, Public Works – 15 years

Deloris Thomas, Administrative – 8 years

Mrs. Worthy informed Council that the ordinance for Joint Tax Collection was not necessary. Councilwoman Tinker stated that she has no problem with the County collecting the taxes but she does have a problem paying a fee and if we will be reducing personnel. Mrs. Worthy explained it is not a fee; it is for researching the delinquent taxes. Mayor Caldwell stated why do we not extend staffing at City Hall and collect the county’s taxes. Mrs. Worthy stated we would not eliminate staff. Councilwoman Tinker stated that she has a problem with putting the two bills together; my people cannot pay this at one time. Councilwoman Tinker stated that she is in opposition of this and she is not supporting it.

City. they do a crime watch program in the area and would like to get the Ask that Council review this program and they will come back at the next meeting to see what Council can do.

Shelly Dominick – Semi Trucks on West End Street – Would like to know the status of the semi trucks in the city. Councilman Killian stated that we need to post signs that state “Truck Route”. The highway department indicated that they will not place a sign. We are working on placing the signs further back but will be willing to put additional signs at an additional expense.

Frank Dominick 121 West End Street – I am concerning with the internet services and the TV stations are going down. They are steadily raising their prices and the service is poor. Sometimes you cannot even get internet service. If you are going to have an expansion of services you need to provide service. Please look into getting completion where TruVista will get off of their butts and provide us some decent service.

Betty Bagley – Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley recognized Lester R. Lewis, II, is working on a Boy Scout Merit Badge, Troop 61.

#### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administrative Report – Mrs. Worthy recongized Mrs. Tinker – Birthday

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Councilwoman Reid quoted Section 5 7 of the state code – states that the municipality can partner with County to collect taxes. Kovas spoke in favor of the joint tax sale. Mayor Caldwell stated that he as well attended the same session and that we will bring back to Council. Councilwoman Tinker stated she is not in favor. Councilman Williams stated he is not in favor due to the fact that people cannot afford to

pay a large amount at one time. 86% residents in the city are on homestead with a tax of \$43.03. Much discussion took place concerning upgrades on the current tax software. After much discussion, Tinker motion not to go into an agreement with the county to collect taxes that we currently collect our own taxes. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to rescind the ordinance that we approved 2 meetings ago. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion were Tinker, Williams, Reid, Caldwell, and Killian. All opposed were Bagley, Kovas, and McBrayer. The motion carried.

City Hall Renovations – RFP for the State Historic Preservation Grant - Mrs. Worthy informed Council she will bring back and discuss at the next scheduled meeting.

Finance Department - Councilwoman Reid asked have we ever funded Chester Connect? At one time we did but not currently. Chester Connections need to make a request.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley had a question concerning (ask Bagley) Discussion took place concerning other income SCMIRF surplus and we got a reimbursement on police lease. 40,000.00 and lease 90,000.00 approximately

Human Resources – no comments

Police Department – no comments

Public Works – no comments

Recreation – no comments

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

#### COMMISSION REPORTS

Evergreen Cemetery – no report

HPC – Approval of Minutes – Tinker motion to approve as presented. Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission – no report

ZBA – no comments

Housing Authority - no report

Recreation Commission – no report

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 2015-11 Lease Agreement – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Appointment – Historic Preservation Commission – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to appoint Frank Dominick on the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 2015 -13 Extend the current temporary Moratorium – Councilwoman Kovas read as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance 2015-13. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Information – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session – Councilman McBrayer made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Legal Matters – Administrative Department and Police Department. Contractual Matter – Administrative – Administrative Department and Personnel Matter – Council. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Caldwell opposed the motion.

Motion to reconvene at 8:10

Bagley and Tinker

Tinker motion to add an emergency item of business to the agenda. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Worthy informed Council that she received notice that

M. Tobias, I have been locked out of my office. I had to be let in by the sheriffs secretary the keys had been changed. I have not been able to access my office. This has been incumbursome I am working out the roll call, it is uneasy; it could be called a hostile work environment. My work is not being done. VC3 is working with her and changing files. I was told I could be arrested for entering the offices. I am afraid, I don't want to be arrested, and I have no access to that office. Discussion took place concerning the Law Enforcement Center. Mayor Caldwell stated the LEC is paid for by the city and county tax payers. We have a right to use that facility. After much discussion, Annexed in the city and deeded to the county. The property was built in 1973. It is a county building.

Renovated in 208.

Tinker motion to

24900.00 Keck & Wood

Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tinker

Killian motion to adjourn. 830.