

Chester City Council Meeting  
November 9, 2015  
Minutes

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

ABSENT: Councilman William Killian

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

PRAYER: Councilwoman Douglas led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Nettie Archie – Ms. Archie addressed Council concerning the position of Chief of Police at the last meeting Mayor Caldwell stated he would form a Committee; again, you are going forward on something that should be invalid. I submitted a FOIA request and will follow-up. We need a police chief that has education. I am going to follow up on this, you need to go back, do it right, and we need qualified people for this position.

LaTanya Williams – Eat Smart Move More – We are asking the citizens of Chester to provide assistance. We would like officers out and school crossing guards. We are here to see something done and would like an increase of police in the area. We are asking that parents volunteer to help with crossing guards and the Organic Helpers will be providing assistance as well. Councilwoman Reid stated that she would continue to work on getting sidewalks on Ashford Street.

Michael Halsey –On behalf of the family of Ladarius Wylie, I would like to propose to Council that the Brooklyn Park be renamed to LaDarius Wylie and the park updated. We currently have 400 electronic signatures to rename the Brooklyn Park after Mr. LaDarius Wylie. Councilman Williams stated that he would like to see a monument in the park in memory of Mr. Wylie. After much discussion, Councilwoman Douglas stated that she will forward information that she received on an organization that is willing to fund this project.

PETITIONER – Jim Fuller – Christmas Parade – On December 1, 2015, 5 pm, the Chamber will have an open house and would like to invite Council to attend. Mr. Fuller addressed Council concerning the permit for Parade, which requires a payment of police officers as well as added insurance coverage. This will be about a \$1000.00 fee. Mr. Fuller proposed to waive the police officers fee. Parade will be December 4, 2015 at 4 pm and the Tree Lighting will follow at 6 pm. After discussion, Mr. Fuller was informed the parade fee has been waived and there will not be a fee for officers, they will receive comp time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2015, August 19, 2015, August 24, 2015, October 12, 2015, and October 19, 2015, as presented.

Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. Councilwoman Reid made a correction to the August 10, 2015 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Report – No report

Unfinished Business – No report

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Worthy provided Council with the Guidelines for Hospitality Tax Grant – Mrs. Worthy informed Council she received a request from the Arts Council Jingle Bell for \$750.00. After discussion, Councilwoman Tinker stated this was something new and she was only asking for \$750.00. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve \$750.00 for the Arts Council Jingle Bell. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2015-18 to dispose of certain surplus property belonging to the City of Chester. Mayor Caldwell read the ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2015-18 as presented. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ad-Hoc Appointment – Mayor Caldwell appointed Councilwoman Reid, Tinker and Douglas to serve on an Ad-Hoc Committee to review financial reports provided by Mrs. Worthy until a Finance Director is hired.

Wayfinding Sign Signage Program Selection – Professional Services – Mrs. Worthy informed Council to review the proposals and select the top three of the submission and we will move forward. Councilwoman Tinker stated we really need to look at Dennis Corp and support the downtown businesses. After discussion, Councilwoman Douglas requested to defer to the next meeting. Item of business was deferred.

Police Chief Selection - Mrs. Worthy informed Council that Mr. Richard Smith withdrew his application as one of the three finalists for the position of Police Chief. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley motion to hire Interim Chief, Tammy Levister as the City of Chester's Police Chief. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. Councilwoman Douglas stated she could not support the motion; this is immoral, unethical to vote on this situation, I cannot vote on this motion. Councilwoman Reid stated that the committee needs to put in place, scrap this position and start over the process. Councilwoman Douglas stated that since there has been so much dissention among Council and we need to get clarification of the policy and procedures, this is a waste of time for voters. After much discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley withdrew her motion with regrets; it is a waste of my time and the candidates. Councilwoman Kovas withdrew her second to the motion with regrets; we have a visible candidate that has done a great job. Councilwoman Tinker thanked Mrs. Levister for a job well done.

Municipal Court Judge – Mayor Caldwell made a temporary appointment to fill the vacant position of Judge Johnny Edwards. Mayor Caldwell appointed Mrs. Gail Hamilton 133 West End Street, as a City of Chester Municipal Judge.

Executive Session – Due to the fact the Executive Session was not detailed, no Executive Session was held.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof