

Chester City Council
Meeting
January 11, 2016, 6:30 pm

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

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

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

CITIZENS FORUM: JC Honor – Mr. Honor and wife Vivian, 261 Davis Love Drive, Chapel Hill, NC. Mr. Honor indicated he was present tonight to discuss the property on Ashford Street. The property located across the street from his Ashford Street property owned by Odell Kennedy is an issue. The City has an ordinance and it should be enforced. I have made several trips to Chester concerning this property trying to solve these problems. Councilwoman Reid was contacted and provided assistance to me. Mr. Honor indicated he has contacted Mr. Douglas and Mr. Cook and they have never returned his call. Mr. Honor requested that Council tell him what he can expect and that he needs Chester to live by the ordinances that are currently in place here. Mr. Honor owns 538 Ashford Street and Odell Kennedy owns 535 Ashford Street. Mayor Caldwell informed Mr. Honor that his request would not fall on death ears. We will make sure this will is addressed.

PETITIONER: - David Claytor – MLK Blues Festival - Mr. Claytor addressed Council concerning MKL Blues Festival January 14 - 16, 2016. Ms. Jessica Doster spoke on behalf of Second Thursday Blues – the goal of the organization is to eliminate people from saying there is nothing to do in Chester. Music has the ability to bring people together and we want to make Chester a worthwhile stop. We are requesting that Council join us with the upcoming festival with a \$5000.00 support donation. Mrs. Worthy informed them they could complete a hospitality tax grant application and could possibly qualify for this money. Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to approve a hospitality grant in the amount of \$5000.000 for the MLK Festival upon approval of their application. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no objections, Councilwoman Reid would like to add 538 Ashford Street to the agenda for discussion. No objections made.

Special Recognition – Councilwoman Kovas read and presented a certificate of achievement to Creighton Taylor for earning the great honor of Eagle Scout. Council congratulated Creighton and commended him on a job well done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Movie Ordinance Review and Discussion – Attorney Gaston provided the City of Chester’s current ordinance, Beaufort SC, Atlanta GA, and Wilmington NC for Council’s review. Councilwoman Douglas stated that she reached out to Wilmington, NC and Beaufort and we need a coordinator to keep the communication flow. This will need to be discussed at our first Council work session. Council needs to talk to our legislators concerning this issue.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to appoint Mrs. Linda Smith to the Chester Housing Authority Commission to fill the unexpired term of Angela Douglas. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Douglas and Killian opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reappoint Nannette Austin, Sarah Simpson, Courtney Caldwell and Helen McManus to the Recreation Commission. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Murray Street Dumping and Safety – Councilwoman Reid stated that Murray Street needs to be cleaned up, it is currently a dump. There are currently TV’s in the street. One side of the street is city property and the other is private property. The city has an ordinance that states we do not pick up certain things but what do we do if it is in the street, such as tires, etc. It is our responsibility to keep our streets free from debris. We need to clean it up, we need to install cameras and catch whoever is dumping. This is a violation of our city ordinance. Discussion took place concerning closing the street. The Street does not need to be closed it needs to be maintained. Councilman Killian stated we need to clean it up and put cameras in there, it is a mess and it needs to be cleaned. Mayor Caldwell stated we need to coordinate a cleanup and have maintenance monitor the area. Councilwoman Reid stated we do not need to do it now; we need to wait for the spring. Councilwoman Reid stated that she would get a cleanup date and bring back to Council.

City Hall Renovation Firm Selection

Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to appoint Meadors, Charleston, SC for the City Hall Renovation. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Killian wanted to know if the Police Department was going to go back to the LEC. Council will need to discuss later.

Proclamation – SC African American Revolutionary War Patriots read by Councilwoman Reid.

Councilwoman Tinker motion to accept as presented. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Killian stated that Mrs. Guyton has been trying to reach Mrs. Worthy concerning the grant money for football. Please get in touch with her concerning this matter.

Ashford Street Property – Mrs. Reid stated that Council needs to move forward and make sure the property located at 535 Ashford Street, owned by Odell Kennedy is cleaned and maintained. After much discussion, Mrs. Tobias from the Police Department will send a certified letter giving the property owner 15 days to clean up property. Council will discuss at the next scheduled meeting.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Roof