

Chester City Council Meeting
Minutes
May 9, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilwoman Annie M. Reid, Betty Bagley, Ike McBrayer, Betty Bagley, Angela Douglas, Linda Tinker, Susan Kovas, Carols Williams; City Administrator Sandi Worthy and Human Resources Director Carla Roof; City Attorney Megan Gaston.

ABSENT: Mayor Caldwell, Council Member Killian.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:20 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heath Insurance Renewal Recommendations – Wayne George, The George Agency, provided Council a proposal for group Health Insurance with savings and improvement from what we currently have. The proposed plan goes from 70/30 to 80/20. We can bring better benefits to the employees with substantial savings. We do recommend through your City Attorney to consider moving anyone that is 65 or older to a Medicare supplement. At age 65, you are eligible for Medicare A and B. The current policy under our plan is that if an employee reaches 65 years of age they will be moved to a supplement. This would be a savings to your plan to move anyone 65 or older to a Medicare supplement. This will allow the employee to take advantage of a Medicare supplemental policy. In addition, move elected officials to the Medicare supplement. In the event we make the changes, you are looking at saving the city \$200,000.00. Mr. George provided details to Council. Discussion took place concerning the savings by moving the 65 and over to a supplement. Discussion took place concerning health savings benefits for employees who enroll in a wellness, etc., program that is available. Mrs. Roof contacted me and requested that we receive three different quotes. We actually received five, Trust Mark, TCC, Blue Choice, Cigna, Blue Cross Blue Shield and we quoted apples to apples. A decision needs to be made as soon as possible on the seniors who are post 65.

Hospitality Tax – Mrs. Worthy stated that we are estimated to receive \$80,000.00, and recommends that we allocate \$25,000.00 for Amphitheater Loan Payment, \$10,000.00 for community grants for Tourism Related Events on a reimbursement basis. Changing this to a reimbursement changes the intent of what the hospitality tax can be used for, \$5000.00 Chester Historical Society this will help promote the Historical qualities that we have. Historical Society has been a beacon for bringing in tourism, \$15,000.00 Community Cultural Center; this will be the space at Joe Collins Stadium. All of the grants will go up to \$50,000.00, which can be used for payments, \$25,000.00 balances for reserves. What are the plans for improving the payment plan on the ones that are not paying? We need to enforce that all entities that are required to pay hospitality tax, are paying.

Discussion took place concerning the Smithsonian Way We Worked Advertising. Mrs. Worthy stated that she has a package that she can provide to Council. Agricultural, Dairy and Mills are the areas that we are reaching out. Councilwoman Douglas addressed concerns with having more than \$50,000.00 in loans. Councilwoman Douglas requested that Attorney Gaston research and bring back to Council. Much discussion took place concerning the City its self does not do many events so therefore we need to support these entities that do sponsor these events. Provide opportunities for people who do these events to be rewarded. Discussion took place concerning paying from reserves.

Mrs. Worthy proposed a cost of living of 3% to all departments except the Fire and Public Works. The Fire Department will get a 2% from their budget and the recommendation from the Administrator to give the Public Works Department 5% because they have the lowest pay scale. Discussion took place. Councilwoman Douglas requested a pay range for public works department.

Budget Workshop – will provide tab 8 for the workbook for Council's review. Next budget workshop will be held on May 23, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley; Council Members Annie M. Reid, Ike McBrayer, Angela Douglas, Linda Tinker, Susan Kovas, Carols Williams; City Administrator Sandi Worthy and Human Resources Director Carla Roof; City Attorney Megan Gaston.

ABSENT Mayor Caldwell and Councilman Killian.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

PRAYER: Councilwoman Kovas led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS FORUM:

Grazier Rhea – Catawba Regional provided a Public Hearing for Council concerning the East Chester Project. Discussion took place concerning the storm drainage. We had to get 38 easements, which took over a year. Part A was to clean ditches and channels, Part B was for water hydrants and culvert and pipes. We only received one bid and we will clean out the ditches and channels. My recommendations are to have this done and move forward. We identified three ditches that the city does and we were able to add these into the change order. Councilman Williams wanted to know with changes in the grant, could local contractors do the work. The contact period has been extended to October 1, 2016. Mrs. Rhea discussed with Council the issues with going over 48 months, the city will not be able to apply for anymore CDBG grants for three years if we go over this period.

Elizabeth Claytor, 119 Pinckney Street, would like to talk to Council about the I2I Yard Sale, this is our third year presenting in Chester. We have had a tremendous response. Highway 9 to Fort Lawn to the

Catawba River, it will come through Chester to City Hall and will go 72 to Whitmire and then 121. Proposed to waive the peddler's fee for the yard sale participants. June 3 and 4, 2016.

Mrs. Claytor would like to speak concerning the Ordinance 2016-03, 116 Pinckney Street; I would like to get clarification on the proposed ordinance. Mrs. Worthy explained the change to Mrs. Claytor. In order to attract other business, such as beauty shop, etc., we recommended changing to NCH. With much discussion, Mrs. Claytor recommended not to allow Sunday hours and close after 6 pm.

David Claytor – Mr. Claytor spoke to Council concerning Second Thursday Blues, we will present a Red White and Blues, July 4 – 8, 2016, 7-10 pm, on the grounds at Carolina Hall. We were very disappointed with the lack of participation. We want you to come out strong for our community for Independence Day. We need the support of the Council and need \$5000.00 for this event. We need to promote this community and patriotism.

APPROVAL OF MIUTES

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016, minutes as presented. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion as presented the motion carried unanimously.

Intergovernmental Service Contract – Mrs. Gaston explained to Council the proposed contract. Councilman McBrayer made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Service Contract as presented. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Appointments – Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to reappoint Tom Hamilton to the Recreation Commission. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to reappoint Mitchell Crosby to the Recreation Commission. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Reading Ordinance 2016-3 Amend Zoning Classification 116 Pinckney Street R-10 to NCH. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Second Reading Ordinance 2016-5, Amend Chapter 2 Administration, Article III Ordinances and Resolutions, allow Municipal Clerk to attest ordinances adopted by Council. Councilman McBrayer made a motion to approve the second reading as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilwoman Douglas opposing.

NEW BUSINESS: Chester Sewer Board Recommendation – Councilman Williams recommended that we send a letter of recommendation to appoint Alfred Lindsay to serve on the Chester Sewer Board. The letter should go to our entire state delegation for support. Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to allow Mrs. Worthy to write a letter to the delegation for support of Alfred Lindsay to be appointed to serve on the Chester Sewer Board. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation – Teen Pregnancy – Councilwoman Reid read the Proclamation as presented. Councilman Tinker made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Gwendolyn Baker was present to accept the Proclamation.

Historic Preservation Proclamation - Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley read as presented. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Conference, Travel and Reimbursement Policy – Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley reminded Council that if you register for an event and are unable to attend, you need to cancel or reimburse the money to the City.

Flooding McClure Street – Councilman Killian not present to speak.

2016 Greek Festival - Hospitality Request – Michael Halsey requested \$4613.20 to help with this event. Councilman McBrayer motion to accept the application as presented. Councilwoman Douglas seconded the motion. Discussion took place concerning the application proposed. It appears that the city is paying for the entire amount, the fairgrounds have restroom facilities and you are requesting porta johns. Mrs. Worthy will sit with Mr. Halsey to review with Mr. Halsey. After much discussion, Councilman McBrayer withdrew his motion. Councilwoman Douglas withdrew her second to the motion.

Easement Christ Central Permanent Easement for Water Service – Each member of Council received drawings. Reverend Clay Waldrip talked to Council concerning the easement for water services. This parking lot is currently owned by the City of Chester therefore the City will have to provide an easement to allow Christ Central to install a sprinkler system on Hudson Street. After discussion, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the City providing a permanent easement for water service. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley recused herself due to being the Executive Director. The motion carried with Bagley recusing.

Motorcycle Sunday Hospitality Tax Grant – Al Boyd thanked Council for what they do. Mr. Boyd presented to Council. Mr. Boyd informed Council that he would bring 350 cyclists to the Chester community. The rally will start at 9:30 am in Fred's parking lot and will transition to the Gateway at 10:30 am. We will eat lunch at the Gateway, which will be catering by Donnie Worthy. All of Council was invited to join them of lunch. Discussion took place concerning spending funds in the city. Council discussed their interest in providing more activities in the City of Chester. This needs to have more of a concentrated area within the City. The application needs to be amended and will present at the next meeting. No action was taken.

City Logo – Mrs. Worthy received an updated version of the logo from Rachel Thomason for Councils review. Defer to the next meeting.

Elected Officials Conference – Mrs. Roof provided Council with an update concerning the upcoming Elected Officials Conference July 13-17, 2016, Charleston, SC.

Ordinance 2016-04 Amending Zoning Text to Allow Beauty Shops SIC Code 723 and Barbershops SIC Code 724 Under permitted use in NCH Commercial Historic– Title only – Much discussion took place concerning the proposed ordinance. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the first reading, title only of Ordinance 2016-04. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to send back to Planning commission for parking and specifics. Councilwoman Tinker seconds the motion. The motion carried. The motion carried.

SFSP Bid – Mrs. Worthy informed Council that we only received one bid from MG foods, 2.76 per lunch. The breakfast portion bid was received after the deadline for 1.95, Recommendation to accept the MG Bid for Lunch and resubmit the bid for breakfast. Discussion took place keeping the money in the city. After discussion, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept the bid from MG Foods for 2.76 per lunch. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Councilwoman Tinker motion to rebid a local company for breakfast for Summer Feeding. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session –Councilwoman Reid made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Contractual Matter – Sewer District, Contractual Matter – City Hall Renovations, Personnel Matter, Evaluation Administrative Department and Personnel Matter – Police Department. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:15 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. While in Executive Session, Council discussed Contractual Matter – Sewer District, Contractual Matter – City Hall Renovations, Personnel Matter, Evaluation Administrative Department and Personnel Matter – Police Department. No action was taken.

With no further business, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof