



100 West End Street, South Carolina 29706
Telephone (803) 581-2123 • Fax (803) 377-1116
www.chestersc.org

**CHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**

June 11, 2011
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Stringfellow, Council Members Betty Bagley, George Caldwell, William Killian, King Thompson, Linda Tinker, Odell Williams; City Administrator Jeff Kerr; City Attorney April Counterman and Payroll Specialist Sylvia Young.

ABSENT: Council Members Annie Reid and Susan Kovas; and Human Resources Director Carla Roof.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Stringfellow called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRAYER: Councilwoman Bagley led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM:

Jackie Franklin - Mayor Stringfellow called Jackie Franklin to come before City Council. Mr. Franklin thanked City Council for giving him the opportunity to speak to them. He informed City Council that he sponsored summer events for the community of Chester. He stated that in the past events were held at the Finley Park on Cemetery Street. However, the events have outgrown the park on Cemetery Street. He informed City Council that a month ago he met with Recreation Committee about having events at the fairground. He informed City Council that he was trying to sponsor a Fourth of July weekend for family fun day. Events will include a lady's softball and kickball tournament, men basketball tournament, and different things aimed for the family. He informed City Council that the problem with the basketball tournament is that there are no basketball goals at the stadium. He stated that the Recreation Committee is aware of his dilemma and Recreation Director Jack Sink has suggested that permanent goals be installed. He informed Council that promotion for events has been scheduled for June 30th and July 1st. He wants to do sponsor events with city due to fence security at fairground stadium and admissions can be shared with city; however, basketball goals have not been installed.

Mayor Stringfellow stated she has given to recreation Chairperson George Caldwell the proposal from Mr. Sink in reference to the purchase of two goals for fairground. Councilman Caldwell asked Mayor Stringfellow could he present proposal to City Council while Mr. Franklin is on floor. Councilman Caldwell presented recreation proposal to purchase two goals for Joe Collins Stadium in the bid amount of \$1,853.62. After a brief discussion;

Councilman Thompson made a motion to allocate funds to approve the purchase of necessary equipment needed to install basketball goals for Joe Collins Stadium not to exceed proposal amount of \$1,853.62. Councilman Killian second motion with none opposing.

Cornelius Caldwell - Mayor Stringfellow called Cornelius Caldwell to come before City Council. Cornelius Caldwell informed City Council that East Chester Crew along with surrounding community has formed a social club called Link Up. Also, he informed City Council that next Saturday at 9 a.m. the social club wanted to start a neighborhood clean-up beginning in East Chester than to Brooklyn community. He stated that their concerns are to get the proper bags for trash and know deposal locations for bags. He informed City Council that he was the vice-president of social club and Jackie Franklin was president. After a brief discussion, Councilman Thompson informed Council that he would coordinate with Link Up to help with community clean-up. Mayor Stringfellow applauded the efforts of Link Up to help the community. Mayor Stringfellow and Councilwoman Tinker offered to give a contribution towards cookout following the clean-up.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 14, 2012, 5-17-2012, 5-21-2012, 5-24-2012 – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve minutes as presented with necessary corrections. Councilwoman Bagley second motion with none opposing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mr. Kerr informed City Council that Public Hearing has been schedule for Monday, June 18th for the First Reading of Budget. He gave City Council an update on the McKeown building renovations. He informed Council that a company may donate roofing materials for McKeown building which will be a \$10,000 savings. He continued by informing Council that the city has been awarded with a second grant for kitchen renovations in McKeown building. Also, he wanted to let Council know that the city wanted to get a group of Council members to visit Greenwood, SC to see their economic developments. After a brief discussion, Mayor Stringfellow stressed to Council the importance of attending Committee meetings and Greenwood, SC trip. Mayor Stringfellow requested that Mr. Kerr contact SC Economic Director of Greenwood, SC to reschedule next trip for Tuesday, June 26th leaving City Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Mayor Stringfellow made a request to Council to consider making some short-term business loans to businesses downtown in order to assist them with making business frontage more appealing to public. Mr. Kerr informed Council that Bennettsville, SC had done the same thing to make their downtown more attractive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Commission Appointments

After Council had a brief discussion about Wal-Mart renovations and illegal cooper transportation within city limits. Mayor Stringfellow opened the floor for discussion on Commission appointments. Councilwoman Bagley stated to Council that she keeps asking candidates for Commission appointments but she can't get anyone to accept position. Mr. Kerr informed Council that two slots were available in the Evergreen Cemetery Commission. He informed Council that he had a meeting with Dede Guza who is the interim for Evergreen Cemetery Commission about slot openings. He informed Council that upon reviewing city ordinances Council has more options for Commission appointments. He informed Council that they should consider appointing non- city residents for Commission openings. In conclusion, Mr. Kerr informed Council that with their approval the Evergreen Cemetery Commission has the authority to appoint a non- city resident to fill available slots. After a brief discussion, no action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Police Department

Mayor Stringfellow opened the floor to Council to discuss New Business. Major Gene Gilmore introduced to Council new hires in the Police Department. The following was introduced to Council: Officer Travis Moore Police Academy graduate, Tiffney Craine hired as Victim Advocate and Timika McMullen hired as Clerical Clerk. Major Gilmore informed Council that Amanda Huey was hired as Community Sergeant; however, she was not available to attend Council meeting. Mayor Stringfellow and Council welcomed new employees with handshakes and applause.

Mayor Stringfellow asked Mr. Kerr to provide Council with information on the Cops Grant. Mr. Kerr informed Council that the city has been awarded with the third and final Gang Investigators Grant for the third year. Mr. Kerr informed Council that the city has applied for another Cops Grant which is will be awarded out in June or July.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council did not convene into Executive Session. With no further business, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Thompson seconds the motion. The motion carried and meeting adjourns at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Young
Deputy Clerk/Payroll Specialist