



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

Chester City Council Meeting
July 10, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor George W. Caldwell; Council Members Susan Kovas, Annie Reid, Linda Tinker, Betty Bagley, Angela Douglas, William Killian, Carlos Williams and William King; Carla Roof and Payroll Specialist Sylvia Young.

ABSENT: Attorney Gaston

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

PRAYER: Councilwoman Douglas led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Raymond Carter – Mayor Caldwell informed Mr. Carter that it was not appropriate to use people names in a derogatory manner to express himself. Mr. Carter responded to Council that he understood and that was why he gave them a four-page handout to review. He continued by saying corruption is a dirty thing, it runs throughout each department in this country. He stated that if justice is not prevailed bad things will happen, it's a problem. He stated that lies are getting out of hand. He stated that the city and county will continue to lose police officers because of the people listed on the front sheet of his handout. In conclusion, he told Council to review that last page to see what a 10-68 was because an officer stated that he was a 10-68 and he wanted Council to know that he was offended.

Ross Gladden – Mr. Gladden spoke in opposition to rezone 126 York Street for funeral home commercial property.

Rie Nunnery – Ms. Nunnery spoke in opposition to rezone 126 York Street for funeral home commercial property.

Mark Dickerson – Mr. Dickerson spoke in opposition to rezone 126 York Street for funeral home commercial property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve minutes as presented in Council package with any necessary corrections. Councilwoman Kovas second motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Recommendation from Planning Commission – Chairman Bob Smith – Mr. Smith gave Council a copy of the Planning Commission report from meeting on June 27, 2017. He stated that the meeting was called to receive, discuss and act upon Application 2017-02 received that requested allowing funeral homes in the R-10 zoning district, specifically 126 York Street. He informed Council that the Planning Commission considered three options as follows: Re-zone to CC or HC, not recommended because it was to be “spot zoning, or to deny the request or allowing Funeral Homes in R-10 as a Special Exception. In conclusion, Mr. Smith informed Council that the Planning Commission carried a motion that Special Exception be allowed in R-10. The Planning Commission recommendation was to amend Section 2-605.2 R10 Residential District Uses, Special Exception amend to include Funeral Home in compliance with existing City of Chester Ordinances regarding special exceptions for funeral homes (SIC 72) in other city zoning districts.

Planning Commission Recommendation – Councilman King - Councilman King asked Carla Roof would it be 15 days for Public Notice after Planning Commission recommendation? Mrs. Roof answered yes, 15 Days Public Notice in newspaper, First Reading for Special Exception amendment at next Council meeting, and 7 days for a separate meeting. The City of Chester Zoning Board of Appeals grants final approval to special exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Finance Update - Kelly E. Wascher Interim Finance Director – Ms. Wascher gave Council a progress update on audit. She informed Council that her major difficulties were balancing the General Ledger fund accounts which were not balanced due to transactions not posted correctly. She expressed that she was working extra hours to balance accounts before Mrs. Reynold returns on the 17th of June.

Councilwoman Tinker Informed Council that the Finance Committee recommends a freeze on hiring and spending as of today, and return credit cards back into City Hall no later than tomorrow. Councilwoman Douglas stated that recommendation includes the exceptions of executive hiring levels and necessary mandatory hiring and spending. Councilman Williams stated that departmental hiring spending must go thru Mrs. Roof first than she forward request to the Committees for approval. Councilwoman Tinker stated that she put Finance Committee recommendation in the form of a motion. Councilman Williams second motion. The motion carried with Councilman King opposing.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion that Council approve the Fire Department budget/contract with the effective date of July 1, 2017. Councilwoman Bagley second motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Appointments – Councilwoman Reid read contents of letter and resolution from Attorney Arthur Lee Gaston about the appointment of Tawanna Davis and L. B. Cannon, Jr to Chester Metropolitan District Commission (CMD). Councilwoman Reid made a motion to reappoint Tawanna Davis and L.B. Cannon, Jr to Chester Metropolitan District Commission. Councilwoman Tinker second motion. Councilman King and Councilman Killian expressed their concerns about CMD appointments and that Council needs to reevaluate reappointments and make sure that qualified people are serving on Commissions. After a brief discussion, Council Commission discussion was tabled until next Council meeting. Councilwoman Reid withdraw her motion. Councilwoman Tinker withdraw her second.

Councilwoman Bagley recommended that Council replace John Gregory on the Historic Preservation Commission with Cheryl McBrayer. After a brief discussion, Council request that Sylvia Young or Carla Roof mail certified letters to Corey Guy and Jack Treveiler to make sure they wanted to remain Commission members on the CHP Commission. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to appoint Cheryl McBrayer as a member on the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilwoman Kovas second motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter of Support – SC Uplift Community Outreach – Mayor Caldwell – Mayor Caldwell read to Council letter of support written by him to Mr. Keven Wimberly, President/CEO of the SC Uplift Community Outreach for housing preservation grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:33 p.m., for discussion of a Contractual Matter – City Attorney Meagan Gaston and Personnel Matter – Interviews Public Works Department. Councilman King second motion. The motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Councilman Killian second motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Caldwell stated that Attorney Meagan Gaston resigned her position as City Attorney effective July 10, 2017. Councilman Killian made a motion that Council accept Attorney Meagan Gaston resignation. Councilman King second motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further discussion, Councilman Killian made a motion to adjourn meeting. Councilwoman Tinker second motion. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sylvia Young