

Chester City Council Meeting
January 14, 2013, 6:30 pm
Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Mayor Pro Tempore Reid, Council Members Betty B. Bagley, Odell Williams, Susan Kovas, King Thompson, William Killian, George Caldwell, Linda Tinker; City Attorney April Counterman; Human Resources Director Carla Roof.

PRAYER: Councilman Caldwell led in prayer.

CITIZENS FORUM: Mike Eland, CDDA Chairman gave an updated on Chester Downtown Development Association and thanked Council for their help and support.

PETITIONER: Clarissa Douglas – Rosa M. Douglas Foundation –Mrs. Douglas made a request to Council to waive the facility fee for the use of Joe Collins Stadium for May 18, 2013. A day of fun for all ages, 11am to 1pm. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid stated to refer to the Recreation Committee and will bring back to Council at the next meeting.

APPROVAL MINUTES: Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12-10-2012, 12-20-2012, & 1-9-2013 as presented. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Councilman Thompson commended the Fire department and Police Department concerning the previous fire downtown and the attempted robbery at the Pawn Shop. Chief Williams provided Council with an update on the robbery attempt.

With no objection, a legal matter was added to Executive Session.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid attended the Chester Manor Christmas program and commended all of the program participants and Mrs. Mann for allowing the children to spread their wings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: CDDA Request – Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve the \$10,000.00, for CDDA coming from the SCLGAG fund. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2012-04 Nuisance Abatement - Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2012-04 as presented. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Large Trucks Downtown – Councilwoman Bagley - Complaints received from downtown merchants concerning big trucks coming in the downtown area. Chief Williams informed Council that he is doing everything he can to enforce this. Much discussion took place. This was referred this to public safety to discuss. CDDA also volunteered to help.

Downtown Property Checks – Councilwoman Bagley – Chief Williams provided a list of merchants that his department checks. Chief Williams stated the expense cause them not to put a notice under the doors. Each time a door is checked, 911 has a record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Personnel Matter – Fire Department, Contractual Matters – Administrative Department, Legal Matters - Administrative Department and Personnel Matter – Police Department, at 7:00 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:30 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stringfellow stated while in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter – Fire Department, Contractual Matters – Administrative Department, Legal Matters - Administrative Department and Personnel Matter – Police Department. No action was taken.

Councilman Williams made a motion to cancel next scheduled Council meeting in order for Council to conduct interviews for Finance Director. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stringfellow made a motion not to except the findings of the Grievance Committee and to uphold the decision of police chief concerning a former police department employee. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vehicle Repairs - Mayor Stringfellow informed Council the City Administrator’s car is in need of a new transmission. After discussion, Councilman Thompson requested to get the car mileage and cost to repair and bring back to council.

Mayor Stringfellow appointed the following to serve on the Finance Committee: Bagley, Thompson, Tinker and Caldwell. Caldwell will chair the Committee. The Committee will begin work as soon as possible and will request that department heads submit their department requests to the Committee.

With no further business, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof