

Chester City Council Meeting
Minutes
October 28, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Betty Bagley, Odell Williams, Susan Kovas, King Thompson, Annie M. Reid, George Caldwell and Linda Tinker; City Administrator Sandi Worthy and Human Resources Director Carla Roof; City Attorney April P. Counterman.

ABSENT: Councilman William Killian.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Wand Y. Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PRAYER: Mayor Pro Tempore Reid led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: No one present to speak.

PETITIONERS: Mike Eland – Provided Council with an update on HILLarity. This was a great success. Discussion took place concerning the streets being closed and the traffic could not get to the merchants. This will be discussed and will be addressed next year. Much discussion took place concerning the vendors concerns, the street closures and the congestion of the crowd. Mr. Eland indicated he did realize the concerns and they will work hard to address the issues.

Agricultural Business Center Project Update – Mrs. Kellerhals provided Council with an update. The vendors at the market during HILLarity were the biggest success for the vendors. Eat Smart – Move More Grant - \$36,000.00, Chester County needs a big thank you for a job well done. We have formed a Committee thanks to Mrs. Worthy. The Market has purchased a wagon and will be used in the Christmas Parade. We are still trying to keep the Market open for 12 months. We are working on heating. We are the only market that is still currently the only one open.

Brenda McBrayer – Christmas in Chester – Mrs. Kellerhals \$128,000.00, bought and gave to the City Christmas Lights over the last few years. McDonalds has pledged breakfast for 400, the City of Chester will sponsor gingerbread men. The Christmas Cards will not be a part of our celebration this year. Councilwoman Bagley asked Mrs. Kellerhals to check to see the cost of the rides for children and bring back to Council. Mrs. Kellerhals requested that Council pay for the carnival ride for \$3700.00. Discussion took place that we only budgeted for the gingerbread men. The train will not be a part of the rides this year. Parade will be December 6, with the Tree Lighting following, the Festival will be

Saturday, December 7, 2013. Discussion took place concerning rides that will accommodate larger children. The city will need to contact the Chamber of Commerce concerning the float.

Le Tanya Hall – Presented to Council a request concerning 163 Loomis Street, Chester total of City Taxes due. Mrs. Hall proposed that Council waive the city taxes in the amount of \$1297.85. The County taxes will be paid in the amount of \$2356. After discussion, Councilman Thompson made a motion to forgive the taxes for \$1297.85, for the property located at 163 Loomis Street, Chester. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. After much discussion, the house will be a half-way house under Probation Pardon and Parole. The Mayor indicated that she would like a title search be done on the property. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Finance – No comments

Fire – No comments

Human Resources – No comments

Police – Councilman Williams had concerns with street light outage, signs not being removed from poles, etc. Chief Williams indicated he would get with the Administrator on the street signs and lights

Public Works – Recyclables can now be taken to the recycling business located at the old Borden's Building.

Recreation – No comments

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety – No report

Recreation - No report

Economic Development – No report

CDDA – Mike Eland provided a report under Petitioners.

Beautification – No report

Properties – No report

Finance Committee – Met on October 21st and today. A more detailed report will be provided at a later date. The Finance Committee did discuss the forgiving of taxes at the property located at 163 Loomis Street.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

No reports

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to appoint Sally Meador to serve on the Evergreen Cemetery Commission, filling an expired term of Larry Hill. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to appoint John Gregory to HPC. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of Personnel Matters in the Human Resources Department, Recreation Department, and Administrative Department at 7:30 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:10 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. Mayor Stringfellow stated while in Executive Session, Council discussed Personnel Matters in the Human Resources Department, Recreation Department, and Administrative Department. No action was taken.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to give the City Administrator the authority to take action in the Recreation Department. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the part time position in the HR Department to full time and request that Mrs. Smith transfer the difference to the salary, insurance, retirement and FICA line items. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to advertise for a part-time Municipal Judge. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to cancel the November 11, 2013 and the December 23, 2013 Council Meetings due to Veterans Day and Christmas Holiday. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof