

**Chester City Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**February 13, 2012, 6:30 pm**

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

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

**PRAYER:** Councilman Thompson led in prayer.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 and January 23, 2012, as presented. Councilwoman Bagley seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Mr. Kerr updated Council on the Wal-Mart property. Received a lot of good comments on the demolition company.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Dan Jepson – Let's talk Chester Abstinence Education Project – Mr. Jepson talked to Council concerning Chester County's statics on Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and Teen Pregnancies. The grant this program currently runs under will run out in September and needs community involvement. Guidance Counselors are providing training in the schools.

Equipment Removal from S.L. Finley Center – this was discussed in the Recreation Committee which met prior to the Council Meeting.

Council Planning Session – Mayor Stringfellow would like to schedule a strategic planning session to review each department's budget. Mayor Stringfellow requested that Mr. Terrell Blackmon, Housing Authority Director attend the planning session.

Demolition of Abandoned Buildings – Mayor Stringfellow wanted to know what the status on this topic currently is. Mr. Kerr indicated that Mayor Stringfellow has the file and he will be glad to review once he receives the file. Councilman Caldwell addressed Council concerning a man that previously spoke to Council that would help with demolition. Mayor Stringfellow indicated she has two people that have made a request for an application. Councilman Caldwell will bring the application to the Mayor.

Proclamation – Black History Month – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid read the proclamation as presented. Councilman Williams made a motion to approve as read. Councilman Thompson seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Caldwell presented to Council our new Fire Marshal to Mayor and Council. Don Wood was introduced to Council. Mr. Wood was welcomed back to the City of Chester by Mayor and Council.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** – Personnel Matter – Building Inspector, and Contractual Matter – Human Resources Department. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Personnel Matter – Building Inspector, Contractual Matter – Human Resources Department. Councilman Thompson seconds the motion. The motion carried with Caldwell opposing. Council convened in Executive Session at 7:00 pm

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:50 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter – Building Inspector, Contractual Matter – Human Resources Department. No action was taken.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to appoint Don Wood as the City of Chester provisional residential and commercial building inspector. Councilwoman Tinker seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to accept the recommendation coming from the Grievance Committee. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid seconds the motion. The motion carries with Williams opposing.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to give the authority to Mr. Kerr and Mrs. Roof the authority to talk with Evergreen Solutions to do the Compensations Salary Study for the employees of the City of Chester, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid seconds the motion. The motion carries with Caldwell and Williams opposing.

Mayor Stringfellow appointed an Economic Development Committee to focus on the downtown area, charging the Committee to be aggressively searching and meeting with businesses that will potentially locate in the radius of the city. Also, this committee will be working with the County Economic Development Board but focusing primarily on the City of Chester. The Committee will consist of the following: Thompson, Killian, Tinker, Williams. No objections were made.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof, Human Resources Director/CMC