

Chester City Council Meeting
Minutes
February 25, 2013, 6:30 pm

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

ABSENT: Councilman William Killian.

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

PRAYER: Councilman Williams led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Mrs. Kellerhals thanked Council for obtaining the two lots behind City Hall and the ministerial association has agreed to maintain the lots. The market will be opening April 27, 2013. Planting demo, games, kids face painting, etc. will take place during the opening and each Saturday will be an event will be planned for the community. Open House will be held on March 4, 2013, 4-6 pm. Chester has been selected and will be surveyed with ways to improve the nutrition of children.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Finance – no report

Fire Department – Council wanted to know if the Fire Department received any type of discount from Water District for water. Chief Caldwell indicated that he is not aware of a discount.

Human Resources – No comments.

Police – Councilman Williams had questions concerning the police report showing cases closed with no warrant of arrest made. Lieutenant Levister indicated many of the cases are unfounded. Councilman Williams wanted to know how long they are left on the books open and Lt. Levister indicated, two weeks. Once they are closed, they can be re-opened.

Public Works – No comments.

Recreation Department – No comments.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the departmental reports as presented. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – No report

Economic Development – No report

CDDA – Councilwoman Bagley reminded Mayor and Council of the Town-Hall Meeting on Thursday, February 28th at Anna’s Arbor, 7:00 pm and hope all call attend with suggestions and ideas.

Recreation –Councilman Caldwell and Tinker indicted that the Recreation Committee recommended that Council allow the Rosa M. Douglas Foundation to use the Joe Collins Stadium in May. No objection was made.

Beautification Committee – No report

Finance Committee – Finance Committee would like to have the budget worksheets in by Friday and then we can move forward.

Properties – Reviewed the Recreation building roof and it is currently not leaking. Maintenance did minor repairs on the roof. An estimate of \$12,000. was given for repairs. Councilwoman Bagley indicated the contractor that she go to check out the building and give a bid requested to have the insurance look at the building roof. The side of the building where the Handicap entrance is located needs to be looked at as well. There is currently a need to have heat for Mrs. Foote’s office at the recreation building. Mayor indicated a window unit needs to be purchased.

Ad-Hoc Personnel – Councilwoman Reid indicated a report would be provided at the next meeting.

Councilman Williams had questions concerning the finance director’s position.

COMMISSION REPORTS: No reports provided.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Commission Reports – Deferred to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Legislative Action Day Update – Deferred to next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion of Legal Matters in the Police and Administrative Departments. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried with Caldwell opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed Legal Matters in the Police and Administrative Departments. No action was taken.

Councilman Williams made a motion to make a conditional offer of hire to Crystal Burr Smith for the position of Finance Director. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Much discussion took place concerning the purpose of the Ad-Hoc Personnel Committee that the Mayor previously appointed. Two of the Committee Members checked on Mrs. Smith and received good reports. After much discussion, all in favor of the motion were, Caldwell, Bagley, Williams, Thompson, Kovas and Tinker. All opposed were, Stringfellow and Reid. The motion carried.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof, Human Resources Director