

Chester City Council Meeting
March 12, 2012
Minutes

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Linda T. Tinker.

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

PRAYER: Councilman Caldwell led in prayer.

CITIZENS FORUM: Mike Eland presented to Council an update on the Chester Downtown Development Association. The CDDA commended Mr. Raymond Douglas and staff, Mr. Jack Sink and staff and Chief Williams and staff that has helped make CDDA events a success. Mr. Eland requested that Ms. Bagley be named by Council as the CDDA Liaison. A park will be placed on the corner of Saluda and Hudson which will include a splash pad and the park will be named Al Grant Park. Another sign will be added to recognize the Brainerd Institute. Mr. Eland requested that Council look into the traffic of large trucks coming through the city. A CDDA office will be opened and will have an open house on April 12, 2012.

With no objection, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid requested to add to the agenda under New Business, Police Department – Public Safety, no objection was made. Mayor Stringfellow requested to add an item under Unfinished Business – East Chester Project. No objection was made.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Mr. Kerr informed Council he has been invited to participate in a televised Budget Workshop. The Wal-Mart Project is continuing to move forward.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid provided Council with an update from the Annual Legislative Action Day.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

East Chester Project – Amendment to the previous Resolution with a \$36,000.00 match. An additional match of \$3,500.00 was requested. Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the additional match in the amount of \$3,500.00 coming from Capital Improvement. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Finance Director Vacancy – Councilwoman Bagley would like to know when Council would be receiving copies of resumes. Mrs. Roof will forward copies to the Council and Mayor Stringfellow will get with Mr. Kerr to come up with guidelines.

Commission Appointments – Evergreen Cemetery

Rev. Fred Powell submitted a letter of resignation as Chairman of the Evergreen Cemetery Committee.

PUBLIC SAFETY –Mayor Pro Tempore Reid informed Council the Police Department is currently having cell phone issues and would like to know if we can revisit this contract. Four of the phones are smart phones and the new phones are currently not working. Mr. Kerr indicated we can look at Alltel or another provider. Chief Williams indicated he is not getting messages or calls. Major Gilmore talked to people at Verizon and Best Buy and the phones that they currently have are old phones, which are obsolete. After discussion, Mr. Kerr indicated he would reach out to Verizon and if they can't fix we can go to another vendor.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid requested to receive a copy of the police fines account audit. We need to get an audit of the Victims Advocate account before the new employee takes over. Mr. Kerr informed Council that all of our accounts have been audited. This account is audited every year. Chief Williams requested an audit on the victims advocate fund (special fund account). After much discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid requested a copy of the audit. Mrs. Swierszcz can provide you with a copy of the audit.

Councilman Williams had questions concerning the police department moving to the Law Enforcement Center and would like previous requested information concerning vehicle take home policy.

With no further business, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Councilman Killian seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof, Human Resources Director