

**Chester City Council Meeting**  
**March 26, 2012**  
**Minutes**

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Kovas.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 6: p.m.

PRAYER: Councilman Williams led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Debra Jennings – Jay Franklin, Sr. proposed to Council to start a Boys and Girls Club called Chester Child. A package of information was given to each member of Council that included a Mission Statement. Councilman Thomson addressed Council as well concerning this project indicating this was something that he campaigned and would like to continue to support. Councilman Caldwell as well supports this project. Mayor Stringfellow thanked them for coming.

With no objection, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to add an item of business, CDDA. With no objection, Mayor Stringfellow added an item under Executive Session - Recreation Personnel Matter. With no objection, Councilman Caldwell added item under Recreation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mr. Kerr update Council on the Farmers Market which will meet on Wednesday. Mr. Kerr provided an update concerning the incident at the railroad trestle at Pine and Jewel Street. The police department move to the Law Enforcement Center was a smooth transition.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT:

Finance – no comment

Fire – no comment

Human Resources – no comment

Police – Chief Williams introduced Tracey Pendergrass as the Victims Advocate for the City of Chester Police Department. Mrs. Pendergrass provided Council with a package of information and discussed what her position is and responsible for. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid indicated there were some expenditures that did not have backup on some accounts. Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to allow the City Attorney to draft a document, Release and Waiver for the Chief and Victims Advocate to sign indicating there was no misuse of funds and that they are not responsible for anything prior to the audit. Councilman Thompson seconds the motion.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid provided a brief discussion concerning the vehicle take home policy. Councilman Williams stated he had requested the information a while back and he would like a listing of how many miles the vehicles are driven, etc. Mr. Kerr indicated each department has a log on every vehicle that is taken home for the last two months. Councilman Thompson indicated that the police department is following the current policy. Much discussion took place concerning the vehicle take home policy.

Public Works –No comments.

Recreation Mr. Sink is out of town with a new grandbaby. Mr. Caldwell requested that Council, citizens, groups, etc., provide donations in support of the AAU Basketball.

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

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – no comments

Recreation - no report

Economic Development – no report

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commission Appointments - Councilman Thompson made a motion to reappoint Sharon Peterson to the Chester Metropolitan District. Councilwoman Tinker seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reappoint Bob Smith to the Planning Commission. Councilman Williams seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to appoint Sandi Feaster to fill the term vacated by Beth Stevenson on the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilman Thompson seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stringfellow made a motion to appoint Angela Bedford-Days to fill the vacated position of Greg Lewis on the Planning Commission. Councilman Thompson seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously. After discussion, Council will bring Commission Profiles for the following vacancies: Chester Housing Authority, Zoning Board of Appeals, Evergreen Cemetery and Recreation Commission.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Child Care Abuse Awareness – Will defer and present at the April 9, 2012, meeting. Nuisance and

Abatement Discussion – Mr. Kerr updated Council on the proposed ordinance. This change will allow Mr. Cook only to provide one notice letter to the property owner. After discussion, Council agreed to bring back to the next meeting.

CDDA – Bagley updated Council on the “Grant Park” which will be located on the corner of Hudson and Saluda; the CDDA is working on new city limit signs which will have “Home of the Brainerd Institute” on them; Hog on the Hill will be May 4 & 5, 2012; the new CDDA office will have an open house on April 12, 5:30 pm. Mayor Stringfellow appointed Mrs. Bagley to serve as the liaison of the CDDA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matter – Recreation Department – Mayor Stringfellow stated that Council would reconvene in Executive Session for discussion of a Personnel Matter – Recreation Department. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:20 pm. Councilwoman Bagley seconds 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 seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stringfellow stated while in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter in the Recreation Department. No action was taken.

With no further business, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Councilman Killian seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof, Human Resources Director