

**Chester City Council Meeting**  
**April 27, 2020, 6:30 pm**  
**Minutes**

Present: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Susan Kovas, Angela Douglas, Carlos Williams, Annie M. Reid; City Administrator Stephanie Jackson, City Attorney Edwards and HR Director Carla Roof.

Absent: Council Members Linda Tinker, Councilman Killian and Councilman King.

Call to Order: Mayor Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Prayer: Councilwoman Kovas led in prayer.

#### Administrative Report

Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an update on the Pavilion Project.

Request for permission to go forward with the mortar work and the remaining money that is in the One Cent Sales Tax to be used to fix the one side of the clock that is not working. Also, if money is left over, would like to paint the front doors of the entrance. Councilman Williams made a motion to allow the Administrator to make the additional repairs on City Hall with the \$10,250.00 that is remaining in the roofing project. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. With no objection, the motion carried.

Evergreen Cemetery Lawncare – Mrs. Jackson requested that Council extend the contract RFP, May through November and then pick up again in April. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to submit an RFP for the 8 months in the range of \$4500.00 to \$4800.00 per month. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance – no report

Human Resources – no report

Police Department – Councilwoman Douglas wanted to know if the increase in the cases has been increased in the department due to the COVID-19. Chief Williams indicated there has been an increase in cases. Ms. Kovas would like to let everyone know that Counselors are available just like they are when school is in. Chief Williams stated that his staff is wearing masks and taking all precautions necessary. Chief indicated the citizens are following the curfew.

Fire Department – Chief Jackson indicated that he has not seen any increases in incidences since the COVID 19

Public Works – no comments

Recreation – Mayor Stringfellow had questions concerning the planning of the summer programs and the pool. Mr. White has indicated that as soon as we get the ok, we are lined up to move forward regarding the fence, he is working on getting it fixed. The tennis courts have been cleaned and he has reached out to the company that surfaced the courts, they are no longer in business. Mayor Stringfellow questioned about the drainage. We currently have two companies that we are working with on drainage. Mr. White wanted to know about when we will be able to get started with the

summer program. Ms. Douglas forwarded an email from the state guidelines for reopening. Please get with Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Roof to advertise and when ready, move forward.

Mayor Stringfellow stated that the County is working very well with making sure everyone has the equipment needed.

Councilwoman Douglas had questions for Mr. Wood concerning the Financial report. 300-56106 is the line item. Discussion took place concerning the expenses for the Windows 10 update. Mrs. Jackson stated that the upgrade to Windows 10 was split between departments. However, Ms. Fair is working to see if there has been any miscoding. We currently have 3 payments that are IT payments. Mr. Wood indicated he will explain at the budget workshop with recommendations going forward.

Approval of February 2020 Departmental Reports Mayor Stringfellow made a motion to approve the Departmental Reports for February 2020 and March 2020. Kovas seconded the motion.

#### Committee Reports

Finance – Report included

Properties – no report

Public Safety – Mayor Stringfellow indicated the monthly report had typos and to send back to Mrs. Tobias.

Public Works – Mayor Stringfellow indicated the monthly report had typos and to send by to Mrs. Young.

Recreation – no report

Economic Development - no report

Councilman Williams had concerns with residents in the Ward 3 area with debris pickup. Mr. McBeth indicated that he has a truck down which has caused a delay. Councilman Williams stated that communication is key with the public. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas had questions concerning the mulch yard and could we have something in place concerning give away mulch and bring back at Thursday's meeting. Discussion took place concerning the replacement of the trees on the Columbia Street side of City Hall.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place concerning Committees meeting virtually.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business – Emergency Business License Penalty Waive Ordinance – Mrs. Jackson has requested to waive business license penalty for late fees temporarily which will expire in 60 days, expiring June 22, 2020. Mayor Stringfellow read the Ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re-Scheduling of the May 25, 2020, Council meeting. The meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Budget Workshop April 30, 2020 and May 11, 2020 – Council will meet on these dates to review the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget.

Executive Session – Councilwoman Reid made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:42 pm. for discussion of a Legal Matter – Commission and Contractual Matter – Employee Health Clinic. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Reid made a motion to reconvene form Executive Session at 8:19 pm. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Legal Matter – Commission and Contractual Matter – Employee Health Clinic. No action was taken.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to move forward with Employee Health Clinic for the City of Chester Employees. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, Councilwoman Reid made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof