

Chester City Council Strategic Planning  
May 1, 2017, 5:00 pm  
Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor George Caldwell; Susan Kovas, Annie M. Reid, Betty Bagley, Ike McBrayer, Linda Tinker, Carlos Williams, William Killian and Angela Douglas; City Attorney Megan Gaston; Human Resources Director Carla Roof;

Prayer: Mayor Caldwell led in prayer.

Call to Order: Mayor George Caldwell

Purpose and Goals of the Session – Mr. Milton Pope provided an overview of the Planning Session.

Funding Options Primer – Michael Kozlarek – provided three ways for local government to borrow

1. 8% of the assessed value
2. 2. Revenue debt – based on revenue based.
3. Lease purchase – typically using this as a lease agreement. Office furniture, police cars, etc.

Icebreaker - J. Milton Pope provided Council with a perception of Chester. The recent activity in this community has a golden opportunity to move this Community to a different level. The city needs to do all they can to piggyback and leverage off these opportunities. Discussion took place concerning having a representative to work with the Economic Development County Team. Discussion on dilapidate property. When you implement an ordinance, elected officials will have to follow through with the change.

Icebreaker – Each member selected a question and had to answer. All answers are good and some comical.

Council Time – Who are you and why did you run for Council. Each member provided his or her answers.

Who are you? Council provided information to Mr. Pope.

What three things would you like to see accomplished in Chester if budget/finances were not a consideration? Council provided a listing of items. Council needs to provide a weekly or monthly newsletter coming from Council Members what you are doing. These are inexpensive ways to educate the public. This is something that an administrator can do. We do not actively use the options we have. We do not use social media as much as we should use it.

Annual Goals vs. Strategic Goals/Strategic Plan

This Council needs a qualified professional to carry out the plan. This Council is the policy makers not the day-to-day operations; you are the Council form of government. Everyone needs to clearly understand how it works. In most Council form of government, it tends to be hard to get things done. You should have a professional that handles the day-to-day activities. Committees and help vet issues

before the issues comes to Council. Council does not run the day to day. Allow the professionals to run the day-to-day run the day to day. The administrator should be uniform and get all information to all members. The administrator should always be mindful and give all members everything needed. Financial – you need a finance director, you cannot manage well if you do not know your finance. If that audit does not come up right, it comes back on Council. Make sure your audits are done timely.

Everyone needs rules of procedures. How you will allow citizens when speaking, how long, etc. Mr. Pope will send a model policy for Council to review.

Mr. Pope will provide Council with a detailed report from the Strategic Planning session.

With no further business, Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof