

## Chester City Council Meeting

June 24, 2019, 6:30 pm

### Minutes

Present : Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Annie M. Reid, Betty B. Bagley, William Killian, Angela Douglas, Carlos Williams; City Administrator Jackson and HR Director Carla Roof.

Absent: Council Members Susan Kovas, William King, Linda Tinker, City Attorney Edwards.

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

Prayer: Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas led in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Forum: Rev. Susan Nazian stated she is here in a new role for Cures for Chester and will be frequently updating you on projects. Hometown Hero's banners have been ordered and will be placing them up. We are funded for the next fifty and will follow the scheduled given. The restoration of the building has begun, and it temporarily closed. Mrs. Nazian provided an update on the restoration of the building.

Administrative Report – Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an update on the new billing fees from CMD which will be increasing. Mrs. Jackson met with representatives from CMD, who explained the increases will not be just for City of Chester, it will apply to all others. We will receive an updated agreement concerning the \$21.00 fee. Mr. Fred Castles indicated all are being charged. Mrs. Jackson received a printout of residents and how many roll outs each have.

Downtown Banners schedule provided to Council.

Capital Project Sales Tax and Use Tax Commission City representative . Mr. LB Cannon previously accepted but has declined due to conflict of interest.

Carolina Community Actions has offered an intern for the City of Chester. This will be a high school student.

RFP for the Opportunity Zones is currently on the website. Mrs. Jackson reached out to the COG and they are interested. The grant is \$25,000.00 and we can have someone write the perspectives that will provide data about the City. There is no issue with using the COG because they are local government and they do not have to submit an RFP. The City will have to decide what the project is going to be. Mrs. Jackson would like to know how Council would like her to proceed. After much discussion, Mayor Stringfellow indicated she would like to discuss contractual issues. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas stated that we need to be realistic and we need to look at other options.

Mayor Stringfellow stated with no objection and with this item being time sensitive we will move item to Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas made a motion to add consideration of the

Opportunity Zones to the Executive Session. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Item was added to Executive Session, number 4.

Employee of the Month – Mrs. Jackson introduced the employee of the Month as Melodie Tate, HR Department. Mayor and Council congratulated Mrs. Tate on a job well done.

Department Head of the Year – Mrs. Roof received the Department Head of the Year Award. Mrs. Roof was nominated by other department heads. Mayor and Council recognized and presented an award to Mrs. Roof. Her family was present to share this special event with her.

Finance – Preliminary Chester Municipal Court State Auditors Report – June 30, 2019. – Mr. Baker provided Council with an update on the audit. A new bank account was opened for Victims Advocate. Overall, the audit was good and the report has been sent to the State and hopefully, the State will release our money. Council thanked Mr. Baker on job well done.

Fire Department – Chief Caldwell informed Council that Mr. Don Wood was nominated as Fire Marshal of the Year Award by other peers in the State of SC. Don has a wealth of knowledge and has the willingness and ability to work with people.

HR – Mrs. Roof informed Council that she and Ms. Young participated in the Job Fair, Rock Hill SC, sponsored by Congressman Ralph Norman. The event was great and the City of Chester will be participating in the years to come.

Police – Chief Williams informed Council that Lt. Fourney will be retiring at the end of June 2019

Public Works – Last Special Collection Date for Fiscal Year - June 30, 2019. Discussion took place about marking the City owned flower posts.

Recreation Department - Red, White and Boom Event – The event will be held this Friday at the Joe Collins Stadium. A contract was provided for Council's review. Attorney Edwards has reviewed the contract and has made some changes and a copy of the changes have been made. Approval needs to be given by Council. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to enter into contract with East Coast Pyrotechnics, June 28, 2019, in the amount of \$5000.00. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chester's Got Talent – Discussion took place asking if any member on Council would like to volunteer. We need to select another date for this event. Mayor Stringfellow referred this item of business to the Recreation Committee.

Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –no comments

Public Works – Councilwoman Bagley stated that Public Works will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 4:30 pm will be the regular scheduled meeting date and time.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## COMMISSION REPORTS

Evergreen Cemetery – no report

HPC – report provided

Planning Commission – no report

Zoning Board of Appeals – no report

Housing Authority – no report

Recreation – no report

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Commission Reports as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second Reading Ordinance Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget 2019-05 – Mayor Stringfellow read as presented. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve second reading as presented.

Councilman Killian seconded the motion. Councilman Williams had questions concerning the MASC Annual Meeting. We need to streamline the budget. To be an efficient and effective government, we only need four members to attend; Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and two members of Council and if any other members want to go, they can pay for it. This could save the City eight to nine thousand dollars a year. If we are trying to move forward and build this City up financially, this is one area we can save money. Councilwoman Douglas stated that she would like for Council to review the top heaviness of our City. We need to look at the surface level and compare apples to apples. We need to look at our staffing. Much discussion took place. Councilwoman Reid stated that she agrees that we need to look at this in the upcoming year. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-05 as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion were Reid, Bagley, Killian and Stringfellow. All opposed were Douglas and Williams. The motion carried.

Mrs. Jackson thanked Council for following the budget calendar and having the budget approved before the end of the year. Mayor Stringfellow commended Mrs. Jackson on a job well done.

Opportunity Zones Grant – RFP – Matthew Gallman and Tyler Lewis of Catawba Regional –Mr. Lewis provided Council with an overview of the Grant. The minimal commitment will be \$9000.00, which will be a 25% match on the \$25,000.00 of \$34,000.00. The COG has agreed to assist. The COG has not done any of these as of this date. The COG indicated they are here to assist, and we would not want to deter the City from applying. This plan does not guarantee the funding. Much discussion took place concerning if we need to identify a project

#### NEW BUSINESS

Microsoft Conference review on AI – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas provided an overview of the conference which laid out how we can lay out artificial intelligence. The buzz question was do you want to live in a smart City or a not so smart City. Adding a smart box chat box to our website would be a good start and staff can do this if they have the skill set. Much discussion took place.

Commission Appointments – Chester Metropolitan Commission – Councilman Killian would like to defer this item of business to the first meeting in July 2019.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:45 pm for discussion of a Contractual Matter – Rental Agreement Chester Regional Agricultural Center, Contractual Matter Duke Energy Franchise Fees, Personnel Matter Police Department and Contractual Matter – Opportunity Zones. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilwoman Douglas opposing.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 9:37 pm. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – Rental Agreement Chester Regional Agricultural Center, Contractual Matter Duke Energy Franchise Fees, Personnel Matter Police Department and Contractual Matter – Opportunity Zones. No action was taken.

With no further business, Councilwoman Reid made a motion to adjourn . Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof