

Chester City Council Special Called Meeting

June 29, 2020, 6:30 pm

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Susan Kovas, William Killian, Carlos Williams, Annie Reid and Angela Douglas; City Administrator Stephanie Jackson and HR Director/CMC Carla Roof.

ABSENT: City Attorney Edwards; Councilwoman Tinker and Councilman King.

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

PRAYER: Councilman Williams led in prayer.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Second Reading Ordinance 2020-05 Rental Housing Regulations – Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried with Kovas, Williams, Reid and Douglas approving. Mayor Stringfellow and Councilman Killian opposed the motion. The motion carried.

Second Reading Ordinance 2020-06 Fiscal Year 2020-2020 Fiscal Year Budget – Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried with Reid, Killian, Stringfellow and Kovas in favor of the motion. Williams and Douglas opposed the motion. The motion carried.

Second Reading 2020-07 – Establish a Citizens Review Board – Councilman Williams made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried with no vote from Councilwoman Reid, due to losing connection during the vote.

Second Reading Ordinance 2020-08 - Sale of Certain Equipment Belonging to the City of Chester. Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Second Reading 2020-10 - Name June 19th as a Paid Holiday for City of Chester – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Community Organizers' Request for Community Events During Pandemic – Mrs. Jackson informed Council of two Event Applications received, Drive up Movies and Hog on the Hill. After discussion, Mayor Stringfellow made a motion not to permit the Hog on the Hill to take place due to the current Pandemic and the passing of an Emergency Ordinance which does not allow events in the City of Chester during the Pandemic. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Ordinance 2020-11 – Requiring Face Masks to be Worn in Public during COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor Stringfellow read the Ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. Discussion took place concerning the consequences. After much discussion, Council agreed to a \$25 fee for violators. Council requested that Mrs. Jackson send a letter to all business informing them of the approved Ordinance requirements. The enforcement will be extended a week in order to communicate to the public, local newspaper and social media. Discussion took place concerning adding verbiage to the public concerning age limits and medical conditions exempting from wearing masks and exempt group. After much discussion, the motion carried with Councilman Killian and Councilman Williams opposing.

City of Chester Fire District Contract Approval – The contract provided by Fire Chief was incorrect. Mrs. Jackson provided the correct contract on the screen for Council to review. Mayor Stringfellow read the contract as resubmitted. Mayor Stringfellow made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Julia Beatty - USC - The month of July will be designated for elementary age children who can participate in activities with their families. This will be a contest among participants and winners will be selected and announced. A total of 500 packages will be delivered to the Parks and Recreation Department and the program will begin in July. This will be a great opportunity for the children in our City.

Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas informed Council that MUSC will be providing free COVID -19 testing on June 30th and July 2nd at Great Falls Elementary School, Dearborn Street, Great Falls, 10 am to 3 pm.

Councilman Williams indicated that he has received a lot of calls and texts since the last meeting and he wanted to state for the record that not voting on previous items was to allow us time to review items. A Public Safety Committee Meeting has been scheduled for June 30, 2020 at 3 pm, and the Committee will review the previous items of concern.

With no further discussion, Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof