

Chester City Council Meeting
July 23, 2018, 6:30 pm
Minutes

PRESENT: Council Members Angela Douglas, Betty Bagley, Linda Tinker, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams; City Administrator Jackson and Carla Roof, HR Director.

ABSENT: Mayor George Caldwell; Mayor Pro Tempore Reid; Council Member William Killian; City Attorney Edwards.

Councilman King arrived at 6:45.

Councilwoman Bagley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Prayer: Councilwoman Tinker led in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Petitioner – Terry Fellows, Senior Sports Classic Vice President of Senior Recreational Sports Classic. Mr. Fellows gave Council an overview of the program. This program wants to increase the events frequency and the number of participants. Mr. Fellows requested that Council help with a facility, office space and advertising. After discussion, Council requested that Mr. Fellows contact Recreation Director Chris White. Several members from the senior program were present and were recognized by Council.

Citizens Forum: John Massey – East Lacey Street - I am an advocate for safe and clean parks. Mr. Massey proposed that Parks and Maintenance post their daily schedule; they should be posted in city hall and on the website. This will provide the citizens and opportunity to know what the schedule will be. He proposed that each member of Council adopt a park and a park inspector who can be the Administrator or Mayor. Mr. Massey provided Council with several recommendations.

Departmental Reports

Administrator Report - State Historical Reimbursement Grant – Mrs. Jackson informed Council she will be applying for the \$25,000.00 which will be used to pay the architect for moving forward on the One Cent Sales Tax project which will replace the roof, the loose bricks and if any money is left over we will use for the flooring in the bell tower. Properties will be meeting soon to discuss the City Hall Renovations.

Finance – no report

HR – no report

Fire – no report

HR – no report

Public Works – no comment

Recreation – no comments

Police Department – no comments

Parks and Recreation – no reports

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the Departmental reports as presented. Councilwoman Douglas second the motion to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports: No Discussion

Commission Reports:

Evergreen Cemetery – Mrs. Jackson provided Council and the public with an update concerning the current process concerning the grass cutting and the condition of the cemetery. Mrs. Jackson previously proposed to the Committee and Council concerning hiring staff through a temp service or contracting out. Council requested that the Public Works Committee go to the Evergreen Commission before making a decision. The Evergreen Cemetery Commission voted to pay up to \$9000.00 from the Columbia Account for outsourcing the cutting of the cemetery on a temporary basis. This will allow the Public Works employees to be freed up. Council will need to determine where we are going to get the money from before the next budget is adopted. We need to already have a plan and not be in this situation again. Burial plots were raised from \$660.00 for city residents and \$1100.00 non-residents to \$860.00 for city residents and \$1300.00 non-city residents. There is currently a \$20.00 perpetual care fee which is currently not being enforced. The Commission recommended moving forward, everyone purchasing a lot will pay the \$20.00 fee annual. This vote was unanimous by the Commission. Discussion took place concerning how the billing will take place. Councilman Williams stated that we do need the assistant position in Public Works. After much discussion, Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to accept the recommendation of the ECC to contract services for the cemetery not to exceed \$9000.00. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Jackson stated that we currently have one-part time worker that will be cutting the parks. We are working to get the Cemetery cut, the parks and the vacant lots, and downtown area. We are understaffed but working to get this handled. These employees work hard, we do not have lazy employees, they are doing their jobs. The four that we have are working hard and doing what they can. Councilman King stated for the minutes, “King is for the cemetery to get

cut”. “The budget I did not vote because these workers work hard, and they deserve a raise”. Councilwoman Douglas stated that she is passionate about the pay for these employees and we do need an assistant director. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to increase the Burial plots from \$660.00 for city residents and \$1100.00 for non-residents to \$860.00 for city residents and \$1300.00 for non-city residents. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Councilwoman Douglas stated that she has confliction with raising the fees, with the poverty in our city, she has concerns. After much discussion, Councilwoman Tinker withdrew her motion. Councilwoman Bagley withdrew her second to the motion. Discussion took place concerning the increase. Councilman King made a motion to increase the lot fee from \$660 to \$760.00 for city residents and \$1100.00 to \$1200.00. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Preservation – Minutes provided

Planning – Minutes provided

ZBA – no report

Housing Authority – Mr. Wallen provided Council with an update and thanked Council for what they do. The city needs standard housing, if there is anything Council can do, please provide support. Councilman Williams spoke about the i58 program and Harvest Call and what they are doing in our community. Councilman Williams stated that we need to stay focused, don't focus on negative, focus on the positive. The city should tell your own story. Don't get bogged down on the negative. Much discussion took place concerning affordable housing.

Recreation Commission – no report

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the Commission reports as presented. Councilman King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AD HOC Committee

Kitchen Committee - Minutes of the July 16, 2018 was provided. A fee schedule was provided For Council's review. After much discussion, Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to pass the fee schedule with the corrections. Councilman King second the motion. The motion carried. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to name the kitchen the “City of Chester Commercial Kitchen”.

Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. After much discussion, Councilwoman Tinker withdrew her original motion. Councilwoman Kovas withdrew her second to the motion. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to name the kitchen, ”Chester Commercial Kitchen”. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried with Councilwoman Douglas opposing.

Economic Development: Chairwoman Bagley stated no report but will plan a meeting. Councilwoman Douglas addressed Council concerning general planning together, how do we work together. The County has been invited to the next Council meeting to present a proposal to work with the city. The hometown economic development grant through the MASC is a grant

we need to apply for, deadline will be in September. Councilwoman Douglas requested that Mrs. Jackson apply for this grant after the presentation to work with CDDA and the county on a joint development.

Unfinished Business:

Commission Appointment – Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to reappoint Mr. Lyons to the Housing Authority Commission. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Fee Schedule – Councilman King made a motion to approve the Comprehensive Fee Schedule as presented with necessary corrections. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilwoman Douglas opposing. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bagley reminded everyone about the Meet and Greet for Mrs. Jackson on Monday, July 30, 2018, 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

New Business:

Federal Historic Preservation Grant – This item of business was handled in the Administrative Report.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 pm. for discussion of a Contractual Matter – TruVista Upgraded Phone System and Contractual Matter – Chester Waste Water Recovery. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:45 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – TruVista Upgraded Phone System and Contractual Matter – Chester Waste Water Recovery. No action was taken. Councilman King made a motion to allow the Administrator to work with TruVista to upgrade the phone system. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, Councilman King made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof

