

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

PRESENT: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Annie M. Reid, Angela Douglas, TaTanish Campbell and Carlos Williams, Councilman Killian and Councilwoman Kovas; City Administrator Jackson and HR Director Carla Roof.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Tinker, Councilman King and Attorney Edwards.

PRAYER: Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: No one was present to speak during Citizens Forum.

PETITIONER: Mr. Tony Goodwin and Makeda Baker was not present to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve the minutes of the as presented. Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve the minutes of the minutes for 3-2-20, 3-19-20, 4-27-20, 5-11-20, 5-18-20, 5-26-20, 6-8-20, 6-22-20, 6-29-20, 7-16-20 & 7-17-20 as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas stated that she would like the minutes of July 17, 2020 to be corrected stating that she left the meeting prior to Executive Session due to a family obligation. Councilwoman Reid stated that she would like the minutes of the June 22, 2020, to be correct to reflect that she stated the cars were speeding not racing. With no further corrections, the motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Kovas and Killian joined the meeting.

2018-19 Annual Financial Review – Gary Bailey, Love Bailey Certified Public Accountants – Mr. Bailey informed Council that his firm has completed the 2018-19 audit. We did not have any issues and things went very smoothly. Mr. Bailey provided a summary overview. We issued an unmodified opinion. One of the clean-ups was prior adjustments. Council indicated they would like to take more time to review the proposed audit. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas made a motion to approve the Reid. All in favor

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administrative Report: Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an updated figure concerning COVID-19 cases. Discussion took place concerning the current spending freeze on no essential items and hiring. Mrs. Jackson requested from Council to extend the spending freeze through the month of August. Mr. Wood as well as Finance Chairwoman Reid would agree to extend the spending freeze. Councilwoman Reid motion to extend the hiring and spending freeze to extend through the month of August. Mrs. Jackson stated that any positions that are currently in the budget will be able to hire. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Jackson informed Council the fence did not include large gates at the Joe Collins Stadium. Proposed to allow to use the remaining funds in the One Cent Sales Tax to put the gate back up. Received two estimates over \$1000.00. Requested to use the remaining part from the Parks and Recreation Budget. The gate will be installed at Forrest and Brendel. Allow her to look for expenditures

of the funds and to deplete the One Cent Sales tax for the gate. The estimated, 127.00 for the lowest cost estimate with the gate swinging out, and the inward gate was 388.00 needed. Councilman Williams indicated he would bring the funds for the inward gate, 338.00. Kovas motion to use the 918.03 from one cent sales tax. Douglas second. The motion carried unanimously.

Requested to swing back into the field

Denis Corporation – Pavilion – Mrs. Jackson requested that Denis Corporation be used for this project. Councilman Williams motion to use Reid seconded the motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Court COVID-19 Protocols – Mrs. Jackson indicated that participants coming to court will be allowed to wear a mask, etc. Supreme Court order that no Judge should be issuing.

DataMax Contract – The City has received over \$80,000.00 from business coming into our City to do business. This is new revenue and there is more money out there. Currently we are getting 50%, after the 3rd year, 100% will be received.

DJJ – Mrs. Jackson requested that Council renew the proposed contract as presented. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas requested that Mrs. Jackson request that TriVista provide an updated report to reflect the WIFI from March through July.

Finance – Mr. Wood indicated that he will be onsite on Friday to clean up some misclassifications. I will be amending the departmental reports to help with the budget. Some funds will be moved to the general fund on Friday. Discussion took place concerning the Water Works account. Mr. Wood indicated he has not touched the Water works account because Council was unsure what to do. If he receives a blessing from Council, he will handle. The Summer Feeding owes of 500 thousand dollars to the general fund. Council needs to provide direction as to how Council would like him to handle. This went back to 2011. Mr. Wood said the program did not provide a reimbursement to the City. Much discussion took place, Mr. Wood stated that Council was given bad information on the program. The Due to - Due from, has been on the books for a long time. Mr. Wood stated that going forward, this will not be a problem. Douglas 11K from water works to sewer escrow as repayment for marker Williams

Motion to move the 16K from Water works to General Fund Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. Discussion took place concerning moving to the LGIP accounts or the General Fund Sweep account. After discussion, this will be put in the sweep account. The motion was withdrawn and the seconded was withdrawn.

Fire – No comments

Human Resources – no comments

Police Department – Chief Jackson indicated he has received two additional resignations in his department. Mayor Stringfellow wanted to know if we have any update on the Bodycam grants. WatchGuard is currently searching for any grant opportunity that is available. All patrol vehicles currently have the equipment in the cars.

Triangulation Equipment Grants. Chief Williams stated he has found several options, but they have a large percentage of match. Chief stated that he has looked for larger grants which would partner with the county. Chief Williams would like for Council to allow him to move forward with working with the County to move forward with obtaining funding.

Public Works – Council wanted to know if his report was June or May? Mr. McBeth indicated it was June. Mayor requested an update on Nuisance and Abatement. Mr. McBeth indicated we are trying

Vehicles and cleanup of property are what we are working mostly on. Condemnation – Mr. McBeth indicated there are grants available that we can apply for. Councilwoman Reid asked for the hours of Public Works - 6:30 to 2 in the Summer. Each truck is assigned a daily route. Much discussion took place concerning the daily routes in the Public Works Department. Mayor Stringfellow indicated that she has received numerous calls concerning garbage pickup routes and why the routes are not getting completed. Council discussed concerns with sidewalks, culverts and the overall shape of the City.

Recreation – Mr. White was not present on Zoom. Mayor Stringfellow discussed how other cities are doing programs virtually. Mrs. Jackson indicated there are other municipalities who are currently doing virtually. Mayor Stringfellow wanted to know about the fencing at the pool. Mayor stated that she had other questions that she wanted to ask Chris White who was not on.

Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –

Properties – Councilman Williams informed Council that the Committee came up with numbers for a bid and this will come up at the August meeting. Discussed gifting property. Mrs. Courtney Lee, Agu building and Anita Springs discussed them with sharing some of the utilities cost. Discussed the need for installation and the HVAC system with the duck work being too small. The City has not received any funds from the Agu business center.

Public Safety – Councilwoman Kovas indicated she has a report under New Business.

Public Works – Offering mulch for free. Cardboard and cans need to be recycling. Looking for ways to restructure the department.

Recreation Committee – minutes provided.

Economic Development – July 13th report provided. The Committee would like help from Council

Rural Infrastructure Grant, Business Resource Website, one stop website for people looking to do business in the City, Bailey Bill will not be ready for the meeting today. This should be available for the August Meeting. Mayor motion to approve as presented.

Councilwoman Reid stated that the minutes for the Finance Committee was date July and should be June.

Mayor Stringfellow informed Council that she requested the Housing Authority provide a report

Williams and Kovas recinded motion.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Defer to the next meeting

Appointed the Recreation Commission

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commission Appointments

Contract – First Citizens – Church Street – the City will pay for the expenditure to have the meter separated and the electric bill will then be paid by the First Citizens.

Douglas move to accept the amended contract to include the installation at the cost of the city for a 120 Church Street separate meter for the ATM and the funding will come from police finds and fees general fund. Williams seconded Killian was not in the meeting to vote.

Bailey Bill – discussed early in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution Policy and Procedures – Section 8.3 On Call /Call in/Stand By/ Available Status – Attorney Winters explained the proposed Resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas motion to approve as presented. Reid seconded the. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution to Amend the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual for the City of Chester – Attorney Winters presented the proposed Resolution to reduce the Comp accumulation. Councilwoman Reid to amend as stated. Councilman Reid seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Vacant Property Registry Update – Mayor Stringfellow requested that Council review and will discuss at the next meeting.

Public Safety Report – Councilwoman Susan Kovas – The Public Safety Committee provided a detailed Public Safety Committee recommendations (get from Kovas Reid and Williams) Mayor Stringfellow

Executive Session 10:02

Reid motion to go into Executive Session Kovas

Reid, Stringfellow, Kovas, William and Campbell,

Douglas opposed

Reconvene form Executive Session – at pm.

Councilwoman Reid Kova seconded the motion carried. All in favor

No action was takne.

Kovas Make a motion to give the City Administrator the right to hire Michael Kozlloric to represent us in a legal matter for a legal matter. Williams.

Mayor Stringfellow made that we have done an injustice concerning the Wal[Mart shooting. I will hope that everyone take in to consideration with regards o the city involment and if we are not involved with workers comp. the statements in the report is different from what the Chief if providing Council. There are so many inconsistancey. I would like you to know that the city if an at will employee and you can be terminated if it is COuncil desire. We have done an injustice.

Reid Kovas

11?12

Reid motion to adjourn.