

Chest City Council Meeting

Minutes

August 12, 2013

Present: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Odell Williams, Betty Bagley, Susan Kovas, King Thompson, William Killian, George Caldwell, Annie M. Reid and Linda Tinker; City Administrator Sandi Worthy; City Attorney April P. Counterman; and Payroll Specialist Sylvia Young.

Absent: Human Resources Director Carla Roof.

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

PRAYER: Councilwoman Kovas led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: Le Tanya Hall, President of Battered But Not Broken Ministry, informed Council that she was here on behalf of COPAScities which is childhood obesity prevention in South Carolina and she presented Council with a petition of signatures that supported community kitchen at Farmers Market. Also, she invited Council to attend next scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2013 from 5pm to 7pm at Clemson Extension Market Building located at 116 Columbia Street to get more information on COPAScities. After a brief discussion; Council thanked Ms. Hall for information and caring about her community.

David Peay requested training survey from Council. He volunteered his services as coach of Council's new team. He expressed that he wanted to offer his services as a professional certified coach. Mayor Stringfellow informed Mr. Peay that Council would not turn down a citizen volunteering their services to improve the community and that she would be open to have a conversation with him. Mayor Stringfellow recommended that Mr. Peay email her to schedule a meeting.

PETITIONERS: Mike Eland - CDDA – Mr. Eland presented to Council a map of Chester Backlot Hillarity Layout and gave a detailed explanation for open space. Mr. Eland informed Council's concerns including public safety, relocations and parking. He informed Council of their concerns about safety. He met with Fire Chief Paul Caldwell, Don Woods, Chief Andre Williams and Sheriff Alex Underwood to make sure backlot space was adequate for event. They all agreed they were pleased to have the festival in one location. Mr. Eland informed Council that Chief Caldwell has made some recommendations that have been completed to assure public safety for backlot area event. He advised Council that the Car Show would be relocated to the top of the hill instead of on Hudson Street. Also, informed Council that parking will be utilized as before. Mayor Stringfellow expressed her concerns that the relocation of Hillarity to the backlot area would not provide adequate space for public safety. During a lengthy discussion, Council expressed their concerns about the relocation of Hillarity event. Councilman Williams suggested that if area does not present adequate this year then the event can return to previous location. Also, Councilwoman Tinker expressed her concerns about the relocation of children rides and

agreed with Mayor Stringfellow that she did not think that the backlot area would provide adequate space and public safety. She asked if children rides could be back on Wylie Street, ARP Church parking lot. Mr. Eland informed Council that he would take their concerns to CDDA board and return with feedback to Council. In conclusion, Mr. Eland presented and explained to Council August 1st Town-Hall meeting report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor Stringfellow welcomed Sandi Worthy as new City Administrator. Mayor Stringfellow asked Council did they have any questions about Administrative Report. On behalf of the Beautification Committee Councilwoman Reid thanked volunteers, merchants, Public Works Director Raymond Douglas and Public Works Department for helping plant flowers throughout the city. Councilman Williams expressed his concerns with the appearance of the corner of Hudson Street and Saluda Street. Councilman Williams suggested that the city contact owner to improve appearance of the corner of Hudson Street and Saluda Street. After a brief discussion; Mayor Stringfellow requested that Raymond Douglas and Sandi Worthy take steps to improve location.

Councilman Williams expressed his concerns with vendors receiving payments from the city. After a brief discussion; Finance Director Crystal Smith informed Council that with current policy checks are processed on the 10th and 25th of every month; however, she met with Sandi Worthy that day and discussed processing checks every Friday.

Councilwoman Reid asked Council if a Strategic Planning Committee meeting been scheduled yet. After a brief discussion, Mayor Stringfellow informed Council that a Strategic Planning Committee meeting has not been scheduled yet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

MASC Elected Officials Conference Update – Councilman Caldwell – Councilman Caldwell excitedly informed Council that he had an enjoyable experience at the MASC Elected Officials Conference. He reported that it was a five hour ride to visit areas around Greenville, SC with two buses; also, he gave a detailed report of activity during their visit. Councilwoman Reid gave Council an outline on information from MASC Annual Meetings for the Love of Cities. She informed Council that she will give an in-depth review of outline at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

Mayor Stringfellow asked Mrs. Worthy to look into scheduling a Strategic Planning Session for Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 9am to 2pm at the Parks and Recreation building. Mayor Stringfellow suggested that Council would have a month to prepare for meeting and she asked Recreation Director Jack Sink to schedule for Council for use of recreation building for meeting.

Council had a lengthy discussion on improving development and unity to become a more productive community. Councilman Killian expressed that they needed to work together as one to make a better community.

Executive Session:

Personnel Matter – Police Department - Mayor Stringfellow informed Council that the Chair would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session concerning a personnel matter in the Police Department. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Williams seconded motion. The motion carried with Councilman Caldwell opposing. Council went into Executive Session at 7:12pm.

At 7:37pm Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session. Councilwoman Tinker seconded motion. Motion passed with none opposing. Mayor Stringfellow stated that no action was taken during Executive Session concerning personnel matter in the Police Department. With no further discussion, Councilwoman Reid made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Councilman Caldwell seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Young, Payroll Specialist