

Chester City Council Meeting

August 12, 2019

Minutes

Present: Mayor Wanda Y. Stringfellow; Council Members Betty Bagley, Annie M. Reid, Linda Tinker, William B. Killian, Angela Douglas, Susan Kovas; City Administrator Stephanie Jackson; City Attorney Edwards and Carla Roof, HR Director.

Absent: Councilman Williams and Councilman King.

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Mayor Stringfellow called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 pm. Mrs. Rhea explained to Council the available funding. In 2019-2020, there are 20.2 million dollars available to benefit low and moderate income. The following are available for the City of Chester and all the funds have a 10% match. The City is over 51% low or moderate income.

Community Infrastructure

Community Enrichment Program – to demolish Brownfield, downtown streetscape, libraries. Public Safety, if they serve low- or moderate-income areas. Health Clinics and modifications for ADA standards, due September with application due this week.

Neighborhood revitalization program, up to 5K dollars. Water, sewer, sidewalks, lighting. Due in September with application due this week.

Historic, Parks, Trails or Greenways – This could be used toward the pavilion grant, we can use to match the USDA grant that we already have. This grant does have a 10% match.

Ready to Go Public program – Water sewer, community enrichment projects.

Business Development program to create jobs for larger companies. This is used more for Counties than Cities.

Discussion took place concerning the 50K we received in 2017.

The grant is due in September and we must request to apply which is due this Wednesday. We need to know tonight if this is something that you would like to move on tonight. Councilwoman Kovas updated Council on the project. The plan calls for a nice roof, open style market like Charleston has. The architect stated he would meet with Mrs. Jackson after the meeting. Mrs. Rhea stated this does not obligate you, you just need to get your application in. You can apply for more than one, not more than three, as long as they are in a different category. You can have up to three at one time.

Mayor Stringfellow wanted to know if the Housing Authority could apply for this money. Added activities to promote economic development through business through development and recruitment. Discussed adding dilapidated buildings and funding for dilapidated properties. Discussed doing a joint project with the County with streets coming into the City with lights, poles, landscaping, etc. Much discussion took place concerning the priority needs list. Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to

approve the Priority Community Needs lists. Councilman Killian seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to apply for a special project grant for the pavilion. Councilman Killian second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:13 pm.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

PRAYER: Councilwoman Bagley led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM: No one present to speak.

RETIREMENT SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Mayor, Council and Administrator Jackson recognized Lolita Fourney, Paul Caldwell and Debbie Watkins for retiring from the City of Chester. Mrs. Fourney thanked Council for her years of service and provided a special thanks to Mrs. Roof, HR Director, for all her help during her retirement process and the confidentiality that she provided. Chief Caldwell was presented with a certificate for his 27 years of service. Chief Caldwell provided a small speech to the Council and public. Mrs. Watkins was unable to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm, for the discussion of a Contractual Matter – Finance Department, Personnel Matter – Position of Fire Chief, Contractual Matter – Waste Management. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:43 pm. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – Finance Department, Personnel Matter – Position of Fire Chief and Contractual Matter – Waste Management. No action was taken.

Councilman Killian made a motion to make a conditional offer of hire to James Jackson, III for the position of Fire Chief. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas left the room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2019, June 17, 2019 and July 8, 2019 minutes as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Comprehensive Plan is now completed, and the COG has asked that we have a joint workshop with the planning committee on August 27, 2019. A plan will be brought before Council to be approved.

PARD Grant – 2019 grants are available for the County.

Invitation – SCPR&T Lutz Foundation and Roseburg Forest Products for supporting the new Waterfront Patio and Pier at Chester State Park.

Chester News and Reporter article correction concerning the general fund account which was reported incorrectly. Mrs. Jackson informed Council that a letter was sent to Mr. Travis Jenkins requesting that he print a correction to his original article.

City Hall Security Update – Mrs. Roof provided Council with an update. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas would like to have ID's for all employees. We have other public buildings that does not have security. Mayor Pro Tempore indicated that Chief Williams stated that he can use the same security system that City Hall has at his new location on Church Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Renaming of the Parks and Recreation Building – Mayor Stringfellow

This was approved five years ago, and nothing has been done, I would like this to move forward. After discussion, Council requested that Mrs. Jackson investigate and bring back to Council.

Opportunity Zone Grant Award – Administrator Jackson

The city has received a 20K grant to help obtain Parker Poe to develop a prospectus to help market the City of Chester to help us revitalize downtown and how we can utilize the opportunity zones in the city.

Commission Appointments – Deferred

NEW BUSINESS:

Security Protocols – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas

Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas requested that Department Heads, Police Chief, Administrator and HR focus on other city facilities. Put together some outlines and guides for Council to review and approve and bring back to Council.

With no further business, Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 pm. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Roof