

Chester City Council Meeting

August 27, 2018

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members Angela Douglas, Betty Bagley, William Killian, Linda Tinker, Annie M. Reid, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams, William King; City Attorney Edwards; City Administrator Jackson; HR Director Carla Roof.

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

PRAYER: Councilwoman Bagley led in prayer.

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: – Years of Service

Richard Grant – 35 years of service – Fire Department

Vee Veca Torrence -25 years Fire Department

Eugene Hudson 15 years – Fire Department

Donny Davis 15 years – Fire Department

Keeshia Tobias – 10 years – Police Department

Melodie Tate – 5 years – Human Resources Department

Wayne Levister – 5 years – Police Department

Tamika McMullen – 5 years – Police Department

CITIZENS FORUM: Michael Halsey – Mr. Halsey provided Council with an update on the First Responders Parade – Observing all First Responders on September 2, 2018. Councilman Williams stated that Council would like to recognize Mr. Halsey and would like to thank him for all the work he does for this city.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Summer Feeding Program Presentation – Peggy Johnson provided a program overview for Council concerning the Program which started June 6, 2018 and ended in August. Councilman Williams requested that Mrs. Johnson provide the public how the program was funded. The program is totally funded by the federal government for each meal served.

Business License Ordinance – Administrator Jackson informed Council that she, Mayor Caldwell and Councilwoman Douglas attended an Advocacy meeting concerning Business License Ordinance. Mrs. Jackson is currently in the process of comparing our current Business Ordinance to the model ordinance from the MASC and will have it prepared and ready to present at the next meeting for first reading.

Councilwoman Douglas spoke about the opportunity to help anyone that needs help with expungements from their record. House Bill 3209. Councilwoman Douglas discussed with Council concerning the Governor vetoing the abandoned buildings tax credit.

Administrative – Councilwoman Douglas would like to do a Public Service Recognition in May. This would be great to implement. Councilwoman Douglas requested an update on the downtown WIFI report. Discussion took place concerning the City Hall construction. Has the timeline shifted and are we applying for SHIPO Grant? Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an update on the City Hall renovation project.

Finance – no discussion

Fire – Councilwoman Douglas stated that she attended a meeting that Congressman Norman was present at. Councilwoman Douglas stated that she will be reaching out to Chief Caldwell to discuss the issues that you are having with recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters.

Human Resources – no discussion

Police – Councilwoman Douglas publicly stated that she would like to commend the department for a job well done. Captain Moore stated that we are putting the citizen’s tax dollars to good use. Corporal Covington will be going to a driver’s course in Florida to further his training. We are always training to the betterment of our city and residents. Lt. Rickey Sanders recently graduated top of the class from Commander School. Chief Williams always invites Council to all training for the police department.

Public Works – Councilwoman Kovas indicated she sees a lot of TVs that are placed out and wanted to verify that we do not pick up TV’s. Public Works Department has previously provided information flyers for property owners indicating what is picked up and what is not. We need to enhance our ways of notifying residents.

Recreation – no comments

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to approve departmental reports as presented. Councilwoman Tinker seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance - report provided

Properties – report provided

Public Safety – report provided

Public Works – report provided.

Recreation – report provided. Councilwoman Douglas wanted to know where we are with the MOU on the track. Chris White stated he is waiting on the Parks and Recreation Committee to provide feedback. Councilwoman Douglas stated that Mr. Shane Stuart offered the County Attorney to do the agreement in conjunction with the county. Mrs. Winters stated that she has prepared for the County and will do it for the City. Mrs. Winters will make the changes for the Council to review. Mrs. Jackson reminded

Council that the COG CDBG (CDBG is HUD money) funds which is based on population will most likely not be able to be used for the track project. The City will need to look at other funding.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Evergreen Cemetery - Mrs. Jackson informed the citizens that the Cemetery looks great and she is very pleased with the company that is cutting the grass at this time.

HPC – Report provided

Planning – no report

ZBA –no report

Housing Authority – no report

Recreation – Two reports provided. The Commission meets on the 1st Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 pm.

Councilman King made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Kitchen Committee-Councilwoman Kovas stated the plumbing has been completed. Committee discussed doing movies at the Market. Alfred Lindsay is working with the Committee on the Pavilion project. Committee discussed the electric bill and working with Mr. Willke concerning the air condition. Mrs. Jackson stated that Duke Energy stated that when you run commercial coolers, you will have large power bills. Councilwoman Bagley asked why are we having the freezers on and the air conditioners running when we are not using the kitchen? The freezer space is being currently rented and has food stored in it. Councilman Williams stated that Council previously agreed with this agreement with the City paying the utilities. Much discussion took place and no action was taken.

Economic Development Committee - No report but plan to have a meeting this Thursday.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to approve as presented. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Economic Development Master Plan/Partnership with CDA and CCED – Councilwoman Douglas - Councilwoman Douglas made motion to enter into an agreement to accept the partnership with Economic Development. The cost will be \$8700.00 coming from hospitality funds with the anticipation that a grant will replace those funds. Councilman King seconded the motion.

Hometown Economic Development Master Plan – Mrs. Jackson stated that she does not recall Council discussing this and what is Council asking for? Councilwoman Douglas stated the Master Economic Development Plan and the Resolution was voted on last meeting to do this plan. The motion carried with Councilwoman Bagley opposed the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

First Reading Ordinance 2018-04 Setoff Debt Collection Act – Mayor Pro Tempore Reid read as presented. Reid made a motion of First Reading of Ordinance 2018-04. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an overview of the Setoff Debt program. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2018-03 Collection of Setoff Debt - Mayor Pro Tempore Reid read as presented. Reid made a motion to approve as presented. Councilman King seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Train Schedules – Councilman King Informed Council that he has been contacted by several citizens concerning the amount of time the trains are blocking the tracks in the city. Mr. McBeth provided Council that Under Federal Law there is no limit. The state has a fine of \$20.00 for blocking more than 15 minutes. Much discussion took place.

Executive Session – Councilman King made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:55 pm, for discussion of Financial Review – Public Works Department, Contractual Matter concerning properties – Attorney Edwards, Contractual Matter – DJJ Contract – Attorney Edwards, Contractual matter Police Department, Personnel Matter – Administrative Department Evaluation Review. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Caldwell and Councilwoman Douglas opposing.

Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:56 pm. Councilwoman Douglas seconded the motion. While in Executive Session, Council discussed Financial Review – Public Works Department, Contractual Matter concerning properties – Attorney Edwards, Contractual Matter – DJJ Contract – Attorney Edwards, Contractual matter Police Department, Personnel Matter – Administrative Department Evaluation Review. No action was taken.

Councilman King made a motion that the Police Department enter into an agreement. Councilman Killian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Reid made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Councilwoman Tinker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof