

Chester City Council Meeting  
September 23, 2019  
Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor Stringfellow; Council Members Betty Bagley, Annie M. Reid, Carolos Williams, Susan Kovas; City Administrator Stephanie Jackson; City Attorney Edwards, HR Director Carla Roof

ABSENT: Council Member King, Tinker, Williams and Killian.

Call to Order: Mayor Stringfellow called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Prayer: Councilwoman Douglas led in prayer

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Forum: John Massey spoke to Council concerning review board. I have deep concerns with the shootings in our community. Not all law enforcement or government speaks the truth. Mr. Massey spoke on his concerns on the anonymous hotline and how it is not anonymous. The current police chief has indicated that he would be glad to have a review board and now it is up to Council.

#### Departmental Reports

Administrative – Employee of the Quarter – Mrs. Jackson presented the award to a man who has provided exceptional service to the new incoming Fire Chief. The Employee of the Quarter was awarded to Mr. Michael Franklin.

Glidden Car Tour – Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an update on the tour and informed the public that several streets will be blocked. The municipal parking lot will be available. If anyone has an antique car the Market Building lot will be available for those cars. A bus will be available for transport. Main Street will remain open. The City will have a tent in front of City Hall. The City will be sponsoring a Scavenger Hunt. The oldest car is 1908 and will be driven here. One car is coming from Canada.

Jeff Brown Softball Fields Sports Complex Invitation – An invitation was provided to Council and Citizens to be a part of this special occasion in honor of Mr. Jeff Brown.

A copy of the City Courier was provided for Council and published electronically.

MUSC TV Commercial Highlighting the City of Chester and Chester County. Mrs. Jackson provided Council with an update concerning the commercial.

October 7, 2019 will be the final Economic Development Meeting.

Opportunity Zone Grant - \$20,000.00, we are meeting September 30, 2019, at 6 pm. An overview of the prospectus will take place.

Finance – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas wanted to know where we are on the audit. Mrs. Jackson indicated that the financing firm has come in to finalize what needs to be done and Mrs. Brendel has indicated that she will have it completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

HR – Mrs. Roof informed Council that she has available details concerning liability and workers comp claims if Council would like an update. Due to my absence at the last meeting, I provided the report in the event someone would like. No requests were made. Mrs. Roof reminded Council concerning the upcoming Employee Health and Wellness Fair.

Police Department – no comments

Recreation – no comments

Public Works – no comments

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

Commission Reports

Finance – no report

Properties will meet Oct 21, 2019 at 5 pm.

Public Safety - no report

Public Works – Minutes included. Committee met today and has recommendations to present to Council. Councilwoman Kovas indicated that we sell 13 vehicles to get rid of. Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to sell the 13 vehicles that do not operate. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Discussion took place concerning other equipment that needs to be included. Police Chief stated he has old radios, fire department outdated equipment. After much discussion, Council requested that a list be provided prior to the next meeting. Councilwoman Kovas amended the motion to include all departments to include vehicles and equipment. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the amended motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rabbo Sweeper – Discussion took place concerning the warranty and should have questions answered concerning warranty before we vote. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas discussed how we would pay for this equipment. She would like something from Finance to address this. Mrs. Jackson indicated the Public Works department has a position open that this item could be purchased from. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas stated that she would like Finance to provide documentation on funding. Discussion took place concerning USDA grants that could possibly be used to pay for this equipment. Much discussion took place concerning our current financial situation. We need to be responsible in our purchases. If we are all caught up and we are paying our bills, then we can move forward. Discussion took place concerning the Wesley Memorial parking lot. Over several years, the one arm bandit has damaged the parking lot and will be getting quotes to repair. No action was taken.

Recreation – no report

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to receive the reports as presented. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Reports – no reports

Ad-Hoc Committee Report

Economic Development Committee – The Committee met today and discussed several topics and will investigate the Main Street SC. Much discussion took place, no action taken. October is National Women's Business Owners. Considering using Oct 17, 2019, to recognize Women Business Owners. Updates will follow.

Unfinished Business

Christmas in Chester – Councilman Williams indicated that he met with Mrs. McBrayer concerning Christmas in Chester and he feels that the City should put more into this event. Over 700 kids participated. Councilman Williams indicated he is personally working to help with this event. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas as well addressed her support with this event. They decorate our City and part of the County. The Housing Authority has pledged to give a \$5000, donation. The ECHO team is offering \$2000. as well. Much discussion took place concerning Christmas in Chester. Mrs. Jackson stated that last year the \$6000.00 was given to the Christmas in Chester and it is currently in the budget. Mrs. Jackson stated that she personally donated, and I don't want it to appear that the City has been negligent. Mayor Stringfellow indicated that in the past, the City has supported this project in many ways, donations, cleanup, utility billing, etc. Would like to meet with Citizens Alliance to see what the city can do to help. Mayor Stringfellow stated that we need to make sure our finances are in order.

Special Sales Tax Commission Member – Mayor Stringfellow would like to recommend Dr. Days to serve on this Commission. Mayor Stringfellow made a motion to appoint Dr. Days. Councilwoman Kovas second the motion. With no other recommendations, the motion carried unanimously.

Commission Appointments – Planning Commission and Evergreen Cemetery – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas made a motion to appoint Tabatha Strother to fill the vacant position of Kim Tricia Sanders on the Planning Commission, Frank Dickerson to fill the vacancy of Rocky Pollard on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Rocky Pollard to the Evergreen Cemetery to fill the vacancy of Susan Nazian. Councilwoman Kovas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of Rental Housing Regulations – Attorney Edwards reviewed the regulations as presented. Much discussion took place. After much review, Council requested that Attorney Edwards provide additional teeth in the policy.

First Reading Ordinance 2019-06 – Standing Committee – Mayor Stringfellow stated that we will have an Economic Development Committee added to our current standing Committees. Councilwoman Kovas

made a motion to approve the Economic Development Committee as a Standing Committee. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### NEW BUSSINESS

Summer Feeding Service Program Presentation – Anita Springs, Ms. Addison and Gloria Cornwell provided an overview of the program to Council. Council thanked Mrs. Springs for a job well done and on behalf of the children of this community, we thank you. This program had a huge savings with cutting out the middle man. This has been a cost savings to the program.

MASC Meeting 2019 – Councilman Williams deferred to next meeting

Website Updates – Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas indicated that our web page is still outdated. If you have any suggestion, please advise.

#### Executive Session

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:08 pm, for discussion of a Contractual Matter – 163 Gadsden Street, Contractual Matter – Waste management, Contractual Matter – City Clinic for employees and Personnel Matter – Administrative Department. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Reid made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 12:05 am. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Contractual Matter – 163 Gadsden Street, Contractual Matter – Waste management, Contractual Matter – City Clinic for employees and Personnel Matter – Administrative Department. No action was taken.

Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to enter into a contract with Waste Management for plastic recyclables. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. Discussion took place concerning the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Douglas stated she was confused and did not understand. The motion carried with Douglas opposing.

With no further business, Councilwoman Reid made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 am. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof