

Chester City Council Meeting
January 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor George W. Caldwell; Council Members Carlos Williams, Annie M. Reid, Betty B. Bagley, William Killian, Ike McBrayer and Angela Douglas; City Administrator Sandi Worthy and Human Resources Director Carla Roof; City Attorney Megan Gaston.

ABSENT: Susan Kovas and Linda Tinker.

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

PRAYER: Mayor Caldwell led in prayer.

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

CITIZENS FORUM:

David Claytor requested from Council, \$6,400.00 for the MLK Blues Festival. Mr. Claytor provided Council with a Hospitality Tax Grant Application. No action was taken.

Nettie Archie – Ms. Archie had questions concerning the November 14, 2016 meeting concerning bringing the position of Intern Kelly Wascher. Is she full time, part time, etc. Mrs. Nettie Archie indicated Ms. Wascher currently sits on the board of Safeway passage and the City hired her. I am reporting this to the Ethics Commission. Mrs. Archie had questions concerning the two meetings in December concerning Public Works and why would you give Ms. Worthy the authority to handle the issues. There seems to be problems up here and following the policy.

Councilwoman Reid motion to amend the agenda to add the MLK Blues as item #10 in under New Business. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 11-14-17, 12-15, 16, 12-12-16. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to approve as presented with necessary corrections. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Years of Service – William Brakefield 20 years of service and Don Woods 5 years. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley thanked Mrs. Roof for a great job with the annual employee breakfast.

Audit Update – Kelly Wascher – Mrs. Wascher has provided the auditor with all of the requested documents and the Auditors are working very hard to provide the prepared audit. Discussion took place concerning monthly reconciling.

MLK Parade – Mayor Caldwell requested that Council inform Mrs. Roof if planning to participate in the MLK Parade.

Hospitality Funds – Marketing Consultant – The Way We Work – Mrs. Worthy proposed that we hire a consultant at \$12.50 hour per hour, 20 hours a week, from the hospitality funds. This will be a consultant; and will be an intern type position. The position was advertised and will be a consultant. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to hire a consultant at \$12.50 hour for 20 hours, until May 31, 2017, and funds to come from the hospitality funds. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilwoman Douglas opposing. The motion carried.

Comprehensive Plan Review – Robert Moody – This will be reviewed with the Planning Commission before coming back to Council. There will be public input on this project.

Proclamation – School Choice Week – Mayor Caldwell read the proclamation as presented. Councilwoman Reid made a motion to approve as presented. Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Security Detectors for City Hall – Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley stated that we need to get the security machine repaired or have someone with a wand. Chief Levister stated that the police department is checking into this and will provide an update back to Council.

Transparency in Government – Councilwoman Douglas addressed with Council on how the city provides documents, financial, websites, etc. We are not doing a good job with transparency. Minutes need to be placed on the website. Spending transparency focuses on budget; local transparency should be placed on our website. The accountable portal and defines what the state can give out, etc. I think we need to adopt some of these. City of Lancaster has their checks issues available. These things need to be available. We need to put forth an effort to be transparent to the community. At a future date, I would like to use the board to show in more details. Mrs. Worthy stated that minutes and check registers would be posted immediately.

2017 Council Meeting Schedule – Councilwoman Douglas made a motion to cancel the October 9, 2017 and December 25, 2017. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. With much discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

MLK Hospitality Tax Application Request – The income for the ticket sales has to be listed on the application, showing no profit. The revenue has to be indicated on the application. Councilman McBrayer made a motion to approve \$4400.00 for MLK Blues and when receipts are provided to Council. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session – Councilwoman Reid motion to go into Executive Session at 7:35 pm, for discussion of a Personnel Matter - Administrative Department. Contractual Matter - Sewer District was deferred to a later date. Councilwoman Bagley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:55 pm. Councilman McBrayer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. While in Executive Session, Council discussed a Personnel Matter - Administrative Department. No action was taken.

With no further business, Mayor Pro Tempore Bagley made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Reid seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Roof