

Public Works Committee Meeting

May 15, 2019 - 5:30pm

Minutes

Members present: Mr. Carlos Williams, chairman, Ms. Angela Douglas, Mrs. Annie Reid, Mrs. Stephanie Jackson-Administrator, Mr. Reginald McBeth-Public Works Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Carlos Williams.

Old Business:

Brush pick up is alright. The bigger piles have been picked up. The department is down one driver.

Applications for building permits are up.

The grass at the parks is being cut on a regular basis. Chris White's department is in charge of cutting the grass at the fair ground and the stadium. Per Angela Douglas, the grass at a house on Peyton Street needs to be cut.

The row of trees beside the gutter at the S.L. Finley Building need to be cut so that the grass can be cut by the City.

The city is not receiving payment for lot clearing, but the property owners can be charged under the debt set-off. There are fifty (50) properties in this category. The county can attach the cost of the grass cutting to the tax bill but the owner has the right to challenge the charge.

Mr. McBeth was asked to send letters to owners in the City who have untagged vehicles in their yards.

The updated dilapidated property list was discussed. The list will be presented at the next committee meeting.

The department needs door hangers and signs in order to share information with the citizens. The director will send a request for this purchase to the administrator. A least one of the quotes should be solicited from a local vendor. Chairman Williams asked Mr. McBeth to reach out to the county concerning the blighted properties surrounding the entry ways into the City of Chester because many people think that these properties are in the City.

New Business:

There are some issues with the lawn maintenance and landscaping in the City. The lawn mower operators are cutting over paper instead of picking it up prior to cutting, sidewalks are not being properly edged. The medians are not being properly cut. Operators use the blower to blow off the sidewalks downtown and the debris is being blown into the doorways of the businesses peer Councilwomen Douglas. Downtown needs flowers. Mrs. Jackson stated that she has spoken to a Clemson Extension representative and he suggested that we use planters downtown instead of flower pots. The public works department will collect the red flower pots downtown that have no flowers in them.

Chairman Williams suggested that we get a list of properties that need to be cut and then get a quote to see how much it would cost to out-source the work. The cemetery has 36 acres. We can then consider decreasing the number of public works employees. Mr. McBeth said that he will bring this information to the next meeting.

We need employees who take pride in their work.

Citizens' comments:

Mrs. Makeda Baker; 115 Caldwell Street; Chester, S.C. 29706

Mrs. Baker stated that lots on both sides of her property are not being maintained. And the grass is not being cut at the S. L. Finley Building. What can be done? She was advised that the City will cut the lots but we must make sure that the county to adds the charges to the tax bills.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Minutes by Councilwoman Annie M. Reid