



**CHESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**

Monday, March 12, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor George Caldwell; Council Members Angela Douglas, Betty Bagley, William Killian, Linda Tinker, Annie Reid, Susan Kovas, Carlos Williams and William King; Interim Administrator Carla Roof and Payroll Clerk/Clerk to Council Sylvia Young.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Caldwell called Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Prayer:** Councilwoman Tinker led in prayer.

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

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

Corey Dye – Mr. Dye introduced himself as a life-long citizen of Chester. He informed Council that he has come before Council to publicly express his support for Councilman William King, City Council and Mayor Caldwell. I understand the struggles of being a politician and representing the people in your community. My brother who sat right here in this Council Chambers was a City Council Member. Many times, elected officials have to make the hard decisions; and you probably lose sleep at night while we in the community look for a solution for our concerns and validation for our opinions instantly; but in the real world, I understand it doesn't work like that. The decisions elected officials make effect the entire community and have to be handled delicately and with scrutiny. Councilman William King is passionate about his community; Councilman King is passionate about his constituents; Councilman King is passionate about the nearly thirteen hundred black registered voters and seven hundred and fifty white registered voters her in the City of Chester that he represents. William King grew up in this community and has experienced its highs and lows. William King was born to be a representative of his community. He was branded by his father who was the first black Mayor of the City of Chester and his brother who served as a City Council Member and now serves as a State Representative. CCEG, Chester Citizens for an Ethical Government has launched a smear campaign, in my opinion, against Councilman William King and his brother John King who represents York County not Chester. CCEG regularly post negatives on their Facebook page about this City, about this Council, and about its potential employees. CCEG has criticized Councilman William King; they have criticized Councilwoman Douglas, and they have also launched a smear campaign against Representative John King by exposing financial data of his on their Facebook page.

So, my question to the citizens and to Council, is CCEG bias against black Council people, black employees of the City, black potential employees, and black state representatives? CCEG does not represent me! I've been a citizen of Chester for 45 years, so I have seen Chester at its best and at its worst. I don't see how some of CCEG members can say the same.

In closing, City Council Members continue to do the job that your community has elected you to do, make the decisions that reflect upon the people in your Ward, your neighborhood and your community. Represent those thirteen hundred black registered voters and represent those seven hundred and fifty white registered voters that are in this community. Don't make decisions that are based upon negative biases, personal agendas, and social media groups that harass and criticize you. Make decisions that are fair and just because CCEG and its seventy-seven Facebook followers don't elect you. Those thirteen hundred black registered voters and seven hundred and fifty white registered voters do. Thank you!

Raymond Carter – Mr. Carter stated let me start off by saying, you all know me. I did come up here for no jokes. The license plate number that I gave out was indicated of a person that killed this young man on Pinckney Street. His license plate number is NLW-844. Now, your new Chief should get on the job because we have got on the job! I have spoken to Council on numerous times about the corruption and the murder being carried out by this Police Department in this town, the City and the County. This is what I will say to you all, anytime a meeting is being called speculating about someone being murdered in this town, you do not believe the City or the Chief because all of them are liars. Now, Mr. Pendergrass on Saluda Street was murdered by the City and County Police Department and if they got issues with that's their problem. I have everything, I have dialed with SLED for over thirty something years. Somebody's going to the job but if not, my organization will do the job. We have done the job. Now I will say it again, license plate NLW-844 and if you don't know where it's at, try Sterling Street with a house with a fence in it, you will see the green vehicle.

That's who did it! I've heard a lot of people in the community that are talking, but let me explain this to them, before you gossip with your mouth, make sure your closet is very clean because mine is. I'm in it for the long run, you've heard that before. Councilman I'm not joke, scare tactics don't faze me. In order to have a revolution, there must have be bloodshed. These young men that died in this town, were carried out by your City and County Police Department and must get rid of them. If not, then there will be more murders! Remember what I said, to have a revolution, you must have bloodshed. I don't scare that easily, y'all should know that by now. Mayor you said something that once hit me when I thought your new Chief, you said he would be Chief on that week of November 13<sup>th</sup>, that's when that young man got killed. Y'all are very intelligent people, figure it out. You all got my reports, I gave it to you. Read it, understand it. It's murder. Thank you!

#### **PETITIONER:**

John Daso - Gifted Artist – Mr. Daso informed Council that he has been an artist since 1960 and for 58 years he has been painting and drawing. He gave Council his history and background as an artist. In 2016, he moved to the Rock Hill area. He visited Chester four months ago and the Lord told him, why not Chester. For the last couple of weeks, he has been trying to find a location to bring his art to this area. He stated that he wanted to introduce himself and present to Council some of his to paintings, Southern Living and Country Road. I'm here to make a difference not just in this community but in this country. I'm just going to come here and let go and let God! Council welcomed Mr. Daso to the community and advised him about locations. Councilwoman Kovas informed Mr. Daso that Director at Fort Lawn Community Center has been awarded a grant for art and she needs some help. Councilman Williams advised Mr. Daso to talk to Recreation Director, Christopher White about Farmers Market.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2017, January 22, 2018, February 18, 2018, February 20, 2018 and March 5, 2018 – Councilwoman Tinker made a motion to approve Minutes for December 11, 2017, January 22, 2018, February 18, 2018, February 20, 2018 and March 5, 2018 as presented in the packages with any necessary corrections. Councilwoman Reid seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

City Administrator – Councilwoman Kovas made a motion to have a conditional offer of hire to Mr. Daniel Wells as City Administrator. Councilwoman Reid seconded motion. Council Members in favor of motion are as follows: Betty Bagley, Linda Tinker, Annie Reid and Susan Kovas. Council Members not in favor of motion are as follows: Mayor Caldwell, William Killian, William King and Carlos Williams. Councilwoman Douglas vote with an abstention. The motion failed per City Attorney Edwards with four to four with one abstention.

Councilman King made a motion to have a conditional offer of hire to Mrs. Stephanie Guy Jackson as City Administrator. Councilman Killian seconded motion. Council Members in favor of motion are as follows: William Killian, William King, Carlos Williams and Mayor Caldwell. Council Members not in favor of motion are as follows: Betty Bagley, Linda Tinker and Susan Kovas. Council Members that vote with an abstention are as follows: Councilwoman Douglas and Councilwoman Reid. The motion carried per City Attorney Edwards with four to three and two abstentions. City Attorney Edwards stated to Council that if a simple majority is needed to make a vote than the second motion has carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Harvest Call Update** – Councilwoman Douglas informed Council that Harvest Call Ministries is leaving on March 30, 2018, and they are having their home dedication ceremony on March 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building and Council and Department Heads are invited to attend event. The city has drafted a Proclamation and the Mayor Caldwell will be presenting the “Key to the City” to Harvest Call Ministries. Councilman Williams gave Council an update concerning Harvest Call Ministries. Councilman Killian commended Councilman Williams and Councilwoman Douglas for doing an excellent job with Harvest Call Ministries. After discussion, Mayor Caldwell donate \$100 towards Harvest Call event. No action was taken.

**Light It Up Blue – Vendor Fees** – Councilwoman Douglas stated that the Finance Committee has a recommendation for vendor fees. Councilwoman Tinker informed Council that the Finance Committee recommendation is to not eliminate vendor fees. Vendors must pay fees and what monies they make they can donate back to the Light It Up Blue. Councilwoman Kovas stated that no hospitality fees will be due. No action was taken. Council received item as information.

**Elected Official Annual Conference July 2018** – Carla Roof gave Council an update concerning Elected Official Annual Conference July 2018. Also, she provided Council with reservation and cost information with deadline dates. Councilwoman Douglas informed Council that she will not be attending conference.

Councilman King that with Council’s approval before they go into Executive Session stated it was Girls Scout Week and he wanted to give them a shout out. (I’m not sure what you are saying in this sentence.)

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Legal Matter – Finance Department – Tax Sale** – Mayor Caldwell stated that Council needs to convene into Executive Session to discuss a Legal Matter – Finance Department – Tax Sale. Councilwoman Tinker made a motion that Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Legal Matter – Finance Department – Tax Sale. Councilman Killian seconded motion. The motion carried with Mayor Caldwell opposing. Council convened into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m.

At 7:33 p.m., Councilman King made a motion that Council reconvene from Executive Session. Councilman Killian seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Caldwell stated that while Council was in Executive Session they discussed a Legal Matter – Finance Department – Tax Sale. No action was taken.

With no further discussion, Councilwoman Bagley made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Councilman King seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously. Council meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sylvia Young

Comments: See attached letter from Councilwoman Reid