

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARCH 11, 2020**

**MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER**

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Chester was held on the above date at 7:07pm with Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

Elizabeth Williams
William Morgan
William "Al" Jacobs
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
Portia West (**absent**)

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Jacobs, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Mayor Kirkland asked if anyone in the audience had any comments on Agenda items only.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following individuals have requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Mary Robinson Banks, 2002 West 4th Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Bernard Neal, Sr., 3030 West 6th Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. Shirley Stiles, 926 Fulton Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Jill Williams, 2012 Edgemont Avenue, Chester, PA 19013
5. Barbara Wyche, 213 Gingko Lane, Chester, PA 19013

WHEREAS, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Streets and Public Improvements, it has been determined that the aforementioned individuals have met all of the required criteria and has a need for said handicapped parking zone.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the proper City officials to install a handicapped parking zone in the 2000 Block of West 4th Street, in the 3000 Block of West 6th Street, in the 900 Block of Fulton Street, in the 2000 Block of Edgemont Avenue, and in the 200 Block of Gingko Lane, in the City of Chester.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Jacobs, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to enter into a Municipal Advisory Agreement with Sustainable Capital Advisors, to provide municipal advisory services for the 2020 A & B Bonds for the City of Chester.

FURTHER, that it does hereby ratify the execution of all necessary documents for and on behalf of the City.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Jacobs, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the Department of Accounts and Finance to refund to Cheryl Thomas, the sum of One Hundred Thirty-four Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$134.50), which represents reimbursement for the permit fee paid for 2405 W. 4th Street which was paid in error.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Jacobs, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does approve and order payment of a series of bills and refunds as prepared by the Department of Accounts and Finance and as shown on Expenditure Approval List dated March 4, 2020, attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Jacobs, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

**BILL NO. 3
ORD. __, 2020**

**AN ORDINANCE
FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF
CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE
VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
CHESTER.**

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Jacobs, Bill No. 3, 2020 was passed on its First Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

The City Clerk proceeded with the opening of bids.

DF-19-60B DELAWARE COUNTY DEMOLITION PROGRAM
2020 CHESTER CITY DEMOLITION CONTRACT #1

| | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| A.J. Jurich, Inc. 4500 Concord Road Aston PA 19014 | Bid bond Bid Amount | 10% \$199,934.00 |
| (1) BRB Contractors 204 Airport Road Pottstown PA 19464 (Before Change) | Bid Bond Bid Amount | 10% \$122,500.00 |
| (2)BRB Contractors 204 Airport Road Pottstown PA 19464 (After Change) | Bid Bond Bid Amount | None \$125,000.00 |
| Yanuzzi Group 135 Kinnelon Road Suite 102 Kinnelon NJ 07405 | Bid Bond Bid Amount | 10% \$256,603.00 |

Mayor Kirkland recognizes the family of Reverend Calvin Williams.

Mayor Kirkland says our community has been going through a very trying time in the past few weeks...very troubling and hurtful time and we understand. So tonight we will hear from you. Hopefully you will hear from us as well and hopefully from hearing from each other we will be able to move our City, heal our City and move our City forward.

Public Comment

Celestine Peterkin, E. 21st Street says we are deeply disturbed because our children are dying on the streets. Our children are under attack and we need to do something about it right now. What is the game plan? What are WE going to do? Not just the administration but WE...what are we going to do! We need to contact Camden and find out what their game plan was. We need to call the Governor and we need to ask him some questions. I don't care if we got to get cameras in the hot spots of Chester...bump up the police...Get federal funding...Get Town Watches.

Mayor Kirkland says we have some things in place. We have a \$15,000 reward for arrest and conviction. The sad thing is no one has taken advantage of it. People know who's doing it and that's the painful thing. I want to put together what I call a parent coalition. That's a group of parents that want to come together and want to encourage other parents to get their children to speak up and parents to speak up. We're going to have Town Hall Meetings and Town Watches.

Eileen Ricketts, Sun Hill says we don't see this in other neighborhoods. We don't see this in Prospect Park and Norwood were people are getting shot every day. It starts with the people that live in the houses and how they teach their children to behave and to respect other people. I think it starts with the parents and all the parents need to step up to the plate.

Pastor Dickie Robbins, Life and Christ, 3012 W. 3rd Street says it hurts each and every single time someone gets killed. Murder is wrong because of whom the victim is. What escalate of Patrol will there be when there are school closures? What is going to be put in place to ensure safety of these kids? Somebody knows whose doing the shooting. Stop harboring people that are doing things. Say something and do something.

Mayor Kirkland says the closing of the schools are coming at us quickly because of the Coronavirus fears. We are going to place as many Officers on the street as possible. We are also asking that there be safe zones for our kids. If you have a Church and an After School Program for during that period of time...Safe zones for our kids. So that they can go someplace and feel safe and have a good time. We are asking parents to step up to the plate and spend some quality time with their kids during that

time. I wish we had two or three hundred more Police Officers. We don't and so the parents, the grandparents, aunts and uncles become the extra police officers here in this Community. So we are trying to do everything we can to protect our children and we need YOU as parents and as a community to help us help protect your children and our children.

Angela Smith says my son was killed in the City of Chester. I live in Florida now and I came up here to bury my son and I'm back up here because I'm not getting any answers from the Mayor, from the Police about my son's case. I'm not getting any kind of answers. Where do I go to get that kind of information?

Commissioner Blair says the new D.A. has brought in a completely new staff to investigate every homicide. So far this year we have a 75% closure rate. We've been locking people up. We need the PUBLIC'S help in getting these guys and girls. Sometimes we don't have an answer. We will have an answer. We will be in touch with you.

Mayor Kirkland says **(Mayor keeps getting interrupted so the Mayor gets up and speaks to Ms. Smith privately).**

Commissioner Blair says we are trying to get some agencies to free up some money to replicate and duplicate exactly what Camden did. The thing that's holding us back is the man power. If I don't have man power to get it done it is a waste of time.

James Miller, 1004 Vauclain Street says what I'm going to do as a citizen. Police are a tool and they can't do it by themselves. Start searching your houses for these guns. There is a difference between a snitch and a witness. They can't do their job without us. The Officers should be walking the beat. Tell them to park their car and get to know us.

Mayor Kirkland says we do have on board Chaplains. So we can have conversations with our young people and their parents. We have been desperately trying to recruit Police Officers from within. It is so hard to reach out over and over again to try to recruit folks within our community. If you know young women and young men that wants to be a Police Officer or Firefighter we welcome you.

Leon and Valerie Hinson, 3012 W. 3rd Street and we run the Generation of Destiny Mentoring Program. It is a co-ed mentoring program for kids between the ages of 9-18. We have male and female mentors as well. We do background checks on everyone. We have free transportation and free meals. We meet every other Saturday. We will be meeting this Saturday, the 14th. **(Valerie speaks)** The next topic is "My City My Worries". We'll be talking about growing up in the City of Chester, drugs, the guns, the murders and the abandoned houses. They need us. They need your help. As a homeowner, my mother and I had been trying to get a house torn down on E. 12th Street for 20 years. It's still standing. It's a safety hazard. The bricks are falling. We have to create a better look for our kids.

Councilman Jacobs says what's the address of that house.

Ms. Hinson says 419 E. 12th Street.

Andrea Bailey, 1152 Keystone Road says this morning there were three gun shots. I froze and when I was walking down the street I was reading these posts and everybody was saying the Mayor...the Mayor...the Mayor...it's the Mayor's fault. I was live and I said what do y'all expect the Mayor to do. I was like...what in the hell do y'all expect the Mayor to do. He's only one person. There were mainly just two questions. The first question was why was the parking meters put up before there were security lights on the West Side? Why is it that we have no cameras or street lights on the West Side? Why do we have more parking meters than cameras? Also, they wanted to know why we have more Police Officers monitoring people coming to and from the Soccer Stadium.

Mayor Kirkland says we have started with the help of the State Representative and we received a grant for about \$240,000. We also partnered with Widener University and the Riverfront Alliance when it comes to cameras in our community. We started the process of placing cameras in hot spots throughout our community. **I want everyone to know that cameras do not stop crime but it is a tool that we can use to help solve crimes.** So we have started the process of installing a number of cameras. We're going to eventually cover the entire City. We are going to sanction these Property owners such as Chester Apartments. We have started the process and you will see a number of cameras going up in various neighborhoods. Some are already up and operable. The Soccer stadium calls in not just some of our Officers but they call in our County Officers, Sheriffs and different Officer personnel to come down. These are off duty personnel and they pay for those services.

Frederick Green III, says when we was coming up we had places to go. We need to build skating rinks, movies... we had the boys club, we had the YMCA...we had places to go. The kids don't have nowhere to go. That's why they are in these streets. The kids don't respect their mothers and fathers. So how are they going to respect us. Fifteen thousand dollars is not enough money to tell on somebody. People are scared of the retaliation.

Pastor Nate Jacobs, 509 W. 3rd Street says what can we do from a spiritual element. Every 3rd Saturday we do an hour of power. It's for brothers only...A chance for brothers to come out and uplift brothers. All men, no sisters. We come in and sing a song and more importantly we get on our knees and we pray. We pray for Christ to uphold the four walls of Chester.

Katrina Jacobs, Outreach Coordinator, 509 W. 3rd Street says as we speak about on a spiritual (inaudible) one of the things I would like to do is talk to parents...like what do you go through when you lose a child. There is really a lot that takes place. I would really like to partner with the community to be able to speak to some of the parents and be able to speak to some of the kids. Even be able to go into the schools and even let them know what does that look like. We are able to open up space and be available to open the doors for grief counseling and things of that nature.

Ms. Morales, Chester Community Coalition says (see attached).

Christopher Dorsey, 2404 Lindsay Street says I'm going to give it to the parents. I'm going to give it to you straight. Sometimes you have to go through their drawers. You can't be your sons and daughter's best friend. Keep the faith. If we don't get our children now they are going to be the next generation. We have to get our young people.

State Representative Brian Kirkland, 1006 W. 7th Street to the parents that have lost loved ones over the years I feel for you and this is what we fight for. It's easy to blame someone. I want to give a shout out to Mayor and Council for all the hard work they have done. There have been conversations with the Governor about bringing resources. We're in this together. We are all one. What are we going to do moving forward after this night is over? Are we just going to go back to what has been the norm? No one speaking up? Nobody saying anything? Or are we actually going to take heed of everything that's going on and come together as a Community to make our Community a better place and help these Officers that are working and putting their lives on the line. We're going to do our part to make sure our Community is taken care of. We do this for our City. We should be in this all together.

Jacqueline Duncan, William Penn Project says this violence is heart breaking. You don't know what they are going through behind closed doors. Stop blaming one another. Help one another. As a parent you have to be open to someone correcting your child. We need to get together as a community and look out for these children.

Amin Abdul Salim, 242 Patterson Street says we want to work and we want to work how our Lord wants us to work. It's about raising our City and our children. I'm not downing anyone. What's good for my children and self is also good for you and your children. So we want to see what's happening and what can be done. These things are very important. Death is an occasion of sadness. We need respect. God is willing. Chester is unique. **OUR CHILDREN WILL STAND DOWN WHEN WE STAND UP!!**

Adrienne White, 1232 W. 9th Street says what are the intervention strategies moving forward in the days ahead? (Inaudible) to help you implement. Do we have to organize groups within our blocks? What things as a Community can we do to help aid you (Mayor) and law enforcement to ensure what happened yesterday doesn't happen again?

Mayor Kirkland says we have a Police App. The Residents of this City can tap into that App and there is information that you can find on that App. You can make confidential comments on that App.

Ms. White says what's the name of that App.

Commissioner Blair says Chester Police App.

Ms. White says are we going to implement any type of curfew.

Mayor Kirkland says they were shooting at 1:30 today and there was a shooting at 2:15 yesterday. Two grown men shot each other at 4:30 in the morning. We have a curfew in place but the best person to deal with that curfew is the parents. So we are hoping that the parents will step up to the plate. Those that choose to wreak havoc on our Community they don't care who's

watching. They just simply take advantage of the opportunity that they see. We can do better with the curfew but as you see, unfortunately these tragedies are happening early in the morning and in the afternoon...Sundays.

Bonnie West says not only do I blame everybody up there but I also blame everybody that's in these seats and myself for everything that is going on. I understand that the parents have something to do with it but it is also on the Police force. We can't run to the police because some of them are corrupt too. I don't think they like us. I'm tired. What are we going to do?

Mayor Kirkland says throughout the course of the night that there has been a number of suggestions and a number of things that we already said that we're going to do and currently doing. This entire night has been a night of recommendations. We talked about the cameras that have already been placed. We talked about the funding that's available through the State Rep's office where we will be putting up even more cameras. We talked about the \$15,000 reward for arrest and conviction.

Ms. West says (inaudible) cameras.

Mayor Kirkland says we put them up in phases. We started with the East Side of town and then we go from the East Side of town and work our way over.

Jacey, Chester City Incident Blog on Facebook, Eddystone says I'd like to thank the citizens of Chester for helping us so much with (inaudible) services of Delco. The fire victims that we have been able to help with the assistance of the citizens of Chester. You guys have been absolutely amazing. We have been able to help eight families so far...not all from the City of Chester but you guys have been awesome. The family on Honan street has been able to move into their new home. I just wanted to thank y'all.

Mayor Kirkland says to all the listeners out there tonight this is hard on all of us.

Mr. Church, 816 W. 3rd Street says (inaudible) I can say he just left the house with some fellows in the car and he was talking to them from the house from his cell phone to them in the car. He left with them in the car. Less than a half hour he was killed. So I say to them why don't you look at his phone and see who he was talking to because he just left the house and got in the car with them. Oh we can't do that. We have to go to court and get a court order in order to invade his privacy. That's b.s. We know...when you say cooperate with the Police...it goes back and it goes forth. We haven't heard anything from the Police since his death. ..since his murder.

Mayor Kirkland says when was that Mr. Church.

Mr. Church says almost two years.

Mayor Kirkland says we have been working very closely with the D.A.'s Office and no case is a closed case. Our goal is to make sure we bring folks to justice and closure to the families.

Angie Witzsan, Sun Hill says I was held up at gun point sitting in my car in front of Lee's Deli on 22nd & Madison on December 29 at 7 o'clock. He wanted my purse which was on the back seat, I said you get it and so I got out of the car and he got in my car and drove off. Mr. Lee called the Police. The Police came and I told them the story. When the Officer was taking me to my sister's house I asked them to ping my phone and maybe we can find him. He said we can't do that. They did find my car in twenty minutes. So I asked them were they going to take fingerprints. They said oh no it's too late to do that tonight. We can't wake anybody up for that. I thought maybe they will call me tomorrow. They didn't do that either to this day. Mr. Lee has never been contacted and he has a camera on his store. Nobody follows through. You're not using what tools there are and that's the problem.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCH 11, 2020

Candice Thompson, City Clerk

