

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**May 13, 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 10:11am with Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland presiding.

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says based upon the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City is live-streaming their meeting via Facebook, in addition the City has advertised the meeting being conducted in such a matter and as provided for the public to comment via email and via a call in number. The call in number for this week is 610-447-7700 ext. 7951.**

A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

Elizabeth Williams  
William Morgan  
Portia West  
William "Al" Jacobs  
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland

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

Mayor Kirkland asked if anyone had emailed or called in any comments on Agenda items only.

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says he's going to read an email:**

Dorothy Johnson, 317 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chester PA (**attachment #1**)

**(Answer to question #1)**

Mayor Kirkland says I don't think myself and Council can answer that question. That's a question that has to be answered by the Authority itself.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says I agree.

**(Answer to question #2)**

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says I'm not sure I understand that question.

Mayor Kirkland says me either.

**(Answer to question #3)**

Councilman Morgan says exempt as taxes, no.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says I'm not aware of any legal exemptions. **(The second part of the question)** That will be the Chester Water Authority at this point.

Mayor Kirkland says there was a piece of Legislation passed some time ago. I do know that the Authority is now because of the Legislation that was put forth some years ago, only able to pay if they were to contribute anything to any organization, including City Government, could be no more than \$1,000.00 because of the Legislation that was passed some years ago.

Ken Schuster says and prior to that it was at their discretion unlimited.

Mayor Kirkland says correct.

**Ken Schuster says the call in number again. 610-447-7700 ext. 7951.**

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That it does hereby ratify the actions of March 30, 2020, which required at-will and Officers and Employees, as further detailed on the attached list, be placed on a modified work schedule or laid-off in an effort to decrease the financial implications that have negatively affected the City's ability to operate during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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

## **RESOLUTION**

### **THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That it does hereby ratify the recall of the following individual, with an update of their employment status from laid-off to a modified work schedule for no more than 20 hours per week, effective April 27, 2020.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Peter Rykard	Planning Department

**FURTHER**, said recall is in accordance with the approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, 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 the stated sums, to the listed individuals on the attached sheet, which represents reimbursement for the cancellation of events in the Community Room due to COVID-19 disaster declaration.

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

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Federal Regulations require a written agreement between the City of Chester and the Chester Economic Development Authority regarding the rights and responsibilities of the parties in the execution of the Community Development Block Grant Program and other related programs; and

**WHEREAS**, a Cooperation Agreement by and between the City of Chester and the Chester Economic Development Authority for the period July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, has been prepared and is attached hereto, which sets forth the responsibilities and obligations of the parties in accordance with Federal Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, this matter has been reviewed and considered.

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

1. That the Cooperation Agreement by and between the City of Chester and the Chester Economic Development Authority attached hereto is hereby approved.
2. That Appendix I to the Cooperation Agreement, attached and made a part of such Agreement, reflects the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the CDBG-CV Program, and HOME Program Projects previously approved by City Council.
3. That the Mayor and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement and to take such steps as may be necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution.
4. That this Cooperation Agreement supersedes any and all Cooperation Agreements previously approved.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester is proposing to install porous panels at the following locations within the City of Chester.

1. Upland Street between E. 23<sup>rd</sup> to E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street (West Side of Roadway) – 270 LF of Porous Concrete Panels; and
2. E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street between Upland and Madison Street – 270 LF of Porous Panels; and
3. E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street between Hyatt and Melrose Avenue – 260 LF of Porous Panels.

**FURTHER**, the Chester Stormwater Authority shall comply with all of the following conditions outlined by the City's Engineer and said conditions must be performed in a manner that is satisfactory to City Council.

1. Applicant reconstructs the ramp at 24<sup>th</sup> and Upland Street with full engineered design plans for the ramp are required.
2. Applicant completes a half width mill and overlay of the roadway.
3. Porous panels will not be recommended in the above locations unless a full engineer design plan is provided given the number of driveways and pedestrian activities.

4. Stormwater Authority takes full responsibility for the maintenance and repair of panels or porous concrete.
5. Applicant provides traffic control for continuous operation of the roadways and coordinates installation with the Public Works Supervisor and the Engineer.
6. Applicant obtains a road opening, sidewalk and curb permit from the City of Chester Streets Department.

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

#### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the following individual has requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Frazier Fitzgerald, 1021 Parker Street, Chester, PA 19013

**WHEREAS**, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Streets and Public Improvements, it has been determined that the aforementioned individual has 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 1000 Block of Parker Street, in the City of Chester.

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

#### **RESOLUTION**

**APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO  
THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 ACTION PLAN  
TO INCLUDE PROJECTS BEING FUNDED THROUGH THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-CORONAVIRUS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT), Public Law 116-136, was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020, to respond to the growing effects of the coronavirus public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester received notification of a special allocation of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds in the amount of \$751,681.00 to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester desires to amend the F.Y. 2019 Action Plan to include projects that will address the immediate needs of the Chester community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester requested a Waiver from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to reduce the public comment period in connection with the proposed Plan Amendment to no less than 5 days and to use the process of a virtual public hearing on the proposed Plan Amendment in order to meet the requirement to limit public gatherings during the coronavirus public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester has met the requirements as set forth above:

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

That it does hereby approve an Amendment to the F.Y. 2019 Action Plan to include the following Projects:

Community Action Agency of Delaware County – Administration of a Short Term (maximum of three (3) months) Utility and Rental Assistance Program for low/moderate income households in the City of Chester affected by the coronavirus pandemic - \$400,000.00. Utility assistance will not exceed \$1,000 per household. Rental assistance will not exceed \$3,000 per household.

Chester Police Department – Equipment and supplies to address the effects of the coronavirus - \$75,672.40.

Chester Fire Department – Equipment, specialized vehicle, and supplies to address the effects of the coronavirus - \$75,672.40.

Entrepreneur Works Fund – Administration of a Microenterprise Grant Program to provide grants not to exceed \$5,000 for working capital to Chester microenterprises (5 or fewer employees, at least 1 of whom is an employee) affected by the coronavirus pandemic - \$50,000.

Administration and Planning – Management, oversight, technical assistance and preparation of required Plans - \$150,336.20.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, 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 accept Grant Award No. 2020-VD-BX-0200 from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), US Department of Justice (DOJ) under the funding opportunity entitled "BJA FY 20 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program, in an amount no less than \$169,198.

**FURTHER**, said grant shall be in effect from January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022.

**EVEN FURTHER**, that it does hereby authorize the proper City official to execute all documents necessary for and on behalf of the City.

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

**Ken Schuster says the call in number again. 610-447-7700 ext. 7951.**

## **NO PUBLIC COMMENTS VIA EMAIL OR PHONE**

Mayor Kirkland says on our last Council Meeting there was a question/concern about the audio from our Meetings. We have gone through great length to make it much, much better. I appreciate the efforts of Ms. Cleveland and others. So we hope that our listening audience is pleased this morning with the sound coming from our Council Meeting. I and Council would like to personally thank our Chester Citizens that came out. Over 400 folks came out on yesterday to be tested. We have been trying to get a test site here in the City of Chester. Under the urging of Councilwoman Williams, we finally had a testing site here yesterday and over 400 of our citizens showed up for testing. The lines started at 8a.m. and the testing ending after 5p.m. We appreciate the efforts of the Black Doctors of Philadelphia, their Consortium. They came out in numbers and drones. Not only black doctors, the nurses and the students came out and assisted them in their effort. This was made a success because they committed themselves to coming out and working in the City of Chester and they made a commitment that said they are not leaving until everyone that's in this line is tested and they stood on their commitment. I want to thank Laborer Local 413, James

Harper and the young men and women from the Laborer's Local. They opened up their doors and they did a great job in making sure that everything was done in decency and order. The citizens appreciate how they provided a safe environment and a calm environment for them to be tested. I would also like to thank our own Chester Health Department, Dr. Hannum, Livia Smith, Rosetta Carter, Deborah Jackson and others who came out. Also, the Office of State Representative Brian Kirkland who contributed in this effort to make sure that our Community was tested. Someone asked me the other day, what do you do when other communities do not come out and support your effort or help you get through what you get through. I told them you learn to make bricks without straws. You stop asking and start doing. When we stopped asking, we started doing and because we started doing and it was such a success yesterday, everybody is now looking at Chester and the model we had here in this City to try and duplicate that in other areas throughout the County. So, I would like to take my hat off and applaud our citizens, this Council, Black Doctors of Philadelphia, Laborer Local 413, State Representative Brian Kirkland's Office and numerous donors who helped to make this possible by way of their financial donations to the City. Nothing is really free. The Laborer's Local 413 donated \$10,000.00 and our efforts went forth to reach out to some of our friends to raise the other \$15,000.00 and we look to duplicate this again here in the City and keep doing it...keep raising the amount of money needed until each and every citizen has an opportunity to be tested.

William Rigby, Fire Commissioner says an update on the cases. We are at 5,136 for the County and 405 deaths. The City is at 291 and 10 deaths. Yesterday's event was an outstanding job by the Health Department and everybody in the background that helped to put that together. We have put in resource requests forms for testing kits from the City of Chester through Delaware County Emergency Management as well as PEMA. I think yesterday's event got the ball moving because it sounds like we have more tests kits coming our way. The County Emergency Management Director was there yesterday to see the Mayor, Council and the Health Department and he has assured us that he will be at our next event that we are working on now.

Mayor Kirkland says our condolences go out to those families who has lost loved ones to this pandemic. Fill out your Census form. If you do not fill out your Census form you are short changing yourself and you're short changing our community for resources and financial resources as well. This is how we get our roads, highways and our bridges rebuilt and funding for them. We are making a plea...please, please, please fill out the Census form. Put it back in the mail so that Chester can get their fair share.

Councilwoman West says I would like to thank Mr. Mark Alexander and Mr. Rodney Robertson for all of their hard work. I have about four people who are covering the entire City of Chester. They're doing the bulk trash, some street repairs and they are on the front lines with everyone else.

Mayor Kirkland says we appreciate you guys. We appreciate all of you because we're working with a skeleton crew.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

**MAY 13, 2020**

Candice Thompson, City Clerk