

**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 10:10am 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
Portia West
William "Al" Jacobs
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the minutes of the previous meeting 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 public comments based upon the relaxed Sunshine Laws are by email and that has been advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times and the Chester City Website.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby reappoint the following individuals as members of the Chester City Planning Commission, with terms to expire as stated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term to Expire</u>
Helen Rainey	December 31, 2024
Leola Williams	December 31, 2025

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 reappoint Maxine Singletary, as member of the City of Chester Zoning Hearing Board, term to expire December 31, 2025.

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 prepare specifications for the advertisement for the Street/Highway Maintenance for the City of Chester.

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the City Clerk to advertise for the aforementioned bid.

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 issuance of Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified providers for Bond Counsel/Financial Advisory services in conjunction with a proposed tender and refunding of its Series A and B of 2017 Bonds currently outstanding in the aggregate amount of \$16,060,000.00. The City is operating under the authority of Act 47 and Michael Doweary as the court-appointed Receiver.

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the proper City official to advertise for the aforementioned RFP.

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 enter into Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the City of Chester and Property Registration Champions, LLC, d/b/a Pro Champs, to provide services for electronic registration of vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties within the City of Chester, for a one (1) year term to end March 4, 2022.

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

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WHEREAS, the Chester Police Department directs members action through the establishment of policy, procedure, and rule, as found within the Department Directives; and

WHEREAS, directives provide members with information to act decisively, consistently, and legally; and

WHEREAS, from time-to-time policies and directives need to be revised.

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

That it does hereby authorize the revision of Department Directive #36, to direct the activities of Department members to ensure their actions are consistent and support the vision, mission and core values of the City and the Department.

FURTHER, all other Department Directives will remain in effect until such time as they are revised or rescinded.

EVEN FURTHER, these policies shall take effect immediately upon the passage of this Resolution.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Jacobs, 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 submit an application to the Delaware County Demolition Program, Blighted Property Demolition Fund to obtain funds for the demolition of the following properties:

<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Folio Number</u>
313 E. 10 th Street	49-04-00361-00
315 E. 10 th Street	49-04-00362-00
517 E. 10 th Street	49-05-00388-00
518 E. 10 th Street	49-05-00366-00
520 E. 10 th Street	49-05-00367-00
522 E. 10 th Street	49-05-00368-00
517 Highland Avenue	49-11-01510-00

FURTHER, it does hereby authorize the proper City officials to execute all necessary documents on behalf of 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

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 December 30, 2020 and January 20, 2021 attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

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.

Presentation – Letter of Recognition (Citation) presented to John Albany and Steven Carr (see attachment #1)

Chief Gabe says I would like to thank you Mayor and the Councilmembers of Chester for making available Commissioner Rigby and Firefighters Carr and Albany to come down that day to Darby Borough. As you said with the flooding going on that day and with people being trapped, it was very concerning and who knows what would have happened without your fire department assisting us that day. I want to thank them and Commissioner Rigby also for what they did...the way it was going if your department didn't get there when they did who knows what we would be talking about today.

PUBLIC COMMENTS VIA EMAIL

Adriene Webster, 2407 Chestnut Street says (see attachment #2)

Mayor Kirkland says thank you for your commitment and concern in the health and well-being of our community. Also, thanks you for your patience. We are working diligently to make sure that these structures are removed safely and so that you would be able to live in a safe protective environment. So we appreciate your comments and your continued commitment to the City of Chester.

Councilwoman West says I would also like to thank Mr. Galante our City Engineer for his continued hard work here in the City of Chester. Thank you for all of your efforts.

Mike Galante, City Engineer says thank you.

Mayor Kirkland says keep up the good work sir.

Councilman Morgan says last Council Meeting we mentioned that the City of Chester was going to be offering an assistance program for homeowners within the City of Chester and utility assistance. I just want to send a reminder that February 1 will open up that application process for homeowners...mortgage assistance and utility assistance. Mortgage assistance will be capped at \$4,000.00 and utility assistance will be capped at \$1,000.00. The applications will be available Chester City Improvements Projects Website (cciphousing.org).

Mayor Kirkland says on behalf of Councilwoman Elizabeth Williams there will be a drive-thru food distribution here at City Hall, on Thursday, which is tomorrow 1/28 beginning at 10am-2pm.

Councilwoman West, Director of Streets and Public Improvements says I have a request for the Chester Community. We are being inundated with those concerns that evolve around illegal dumping. I am asking community members who live around these sites where people tend to illegally dump is to be diligent in terms of looking out. If you see someone illegally dumping in your area I DO NOT WANT YOU TO APPROACH THEM but if you can get a license plate number or make and model and color of the vehicle or truck that they are using because it's become a growing problem in our City and my department is tasked with cleaning the areas up but we can clean up one day and then the following week the same amount of trash is there. So I am asking for the communities HELP as we continue to try and clean up those areas. If you see anything where people are illegally dumping please call the office 610-447-7700 and ask for the Streets Department and give us your complaint and the information or in some cases you can just call the Police and the Police will come out and if they catch the violators then they will be dealt with from a legal perspective. So thank you for your attention to this request. I appreciate it.

Mayor Kirkland says we will be in the near future...all of our Departments will band together and will be coming out to a neighborhood near you. We will be moving some of this debris as much as we can. As she has stated there has been illegal dumping in the City. Once we remove the debris we will be hoping to be able to post cameras in those areas with signage to let them know that there are cameras in that area. THE PENALTY WILL BE SEVERE! If you choose to dump in our City then there is a severe penalty that will be paid by those illegal dumpers. NO longer will we allow persons of outside and inside to continue to trash our community and then we have to receive the brunt of the complaints. So we will be out there in force. Be patient with us. Where going to get every area possible and we will post signage and prayfully cameras. Once again the penalty for dumping in our City will be severe whether it be outsider or residents.

Councilwoman West says Mayor we posted letters. We've given letters out to our community members but still we ride past and we see trash up on the property. So therefore the Streets Department, and the Department of Public Safety, we will be working together. Like you said we're all going to get together and go out to those areas. I'm through giving out letters. I'm not giving out anymore letters because I have given out letters throughout the whole entire City about trash, when to put it out, how to put it out, etc. and people are still not in compliance. I see in some areas where people throw trash out of their kitchen window and through it into the backyard. THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE! We will be dealing with those persons whether you are a renter or landlord. We will deal with both the renter and the landlord and the PENALTY WILL BE SEVERE!

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42am.

Respectfully submitted,

JANUARY 27, 2021

Candice Thompson, City Clerk