

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 28, 2021**

**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 has emailed any comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS VIA EMAIL

K. Richardson, 2106 W. 6th Street says (**see attachment #1**)

Mayor Kirkland says I did not address the persons at the March. I did not organize that March. I was simply an observer of the March. I (inaudible) upon the March. It was never sanctioned by the City or no one from the March had called anyone from the City and asked them to participate. Yes, I sat in my car simply to observe. I wanted to hear what was going on. I wanted to hear some of the comments from some of the persons. I was opposed to a March that put a whole lot of people's lives in danger. Ms. Richardson, they marched down a four lane highway. They drove cars down a four lane highway. The Organizers' of the March put people's lives in grave danger. 291 is a State Highway and I don't even think that you had a permit or they had a permit from the State...once again...State Highway...from the State to do so. Nor, did they have any State Troopers leading their March for their safety. That was a very dangerous move by the Organizers. I just thank God that no one was hurt in the process! Am, I opposed to clean air? No ma'am. I don't consider intimidation simply by me sitting in my car listening to what folks had to say. As a matter of fact, I might have felt a little intimidated because as I sat in my car, if you watched, the folks came over to me while I was sitting in my car with microphones, some of them were saying some terrible things and I simply chose not to speak to any of the issues.

Anita Littleton, 330 W. 9th Street says (**see attachment #2**)

Mayor Kirkland says Ms. Littleton I think that you have to have that conversation with Reverend Dr. Strand. I do not conduct the business of the Stormwater Authority. I do not conduct the business of CEP. So I would hope that you would address your questions to Reverend Dr. Strand. I am sure if you call to the Stormwater Authority he'd be more than happy to respond to your questions.

Louis Morse, 122 Thurlow Street says (**see attachment #3**)

#1 Mayor Kirkland says there are a number of vehicles including trash trucks that travel down 291. We even have some of our own City vehicles that travel down 291 to dispose of bulk trash and other things. I just find it hard to distinguish which truck is which. Unfortunately, we have to dispose of our waste here in the Community. Hopefully, the trucks are covered as well as possible. Lot of folks don't understand that a lot of our smells come from New Jersey and other industries down on the

Waterfront. This is an industrial community. It always has been and probably always will be. Some smells we won't be able to avoid but we will make sure that each and every facility follows the guidelines of the EPA and DEP.

#2 Mayor Kirkland says I'm not being smart Mr. Morse, but I'm hoping and praying that our children are not playing on 291. That looks like what your question is saying. Not only do the trucks travel at unsafe speeds at times but the cars travel at unsafe speeds on 291. That will be addressed by my Police Department as soon as possible. We have been ticketing persons. Unfortunately, we can't catch them all but we will address that.

#3 Mayor Kirkland says dirt and dust comes I guess in everybody's homes. I think everybody in the City finds themselves dusting and polishing and washing their cars because of the dirt and dust. We are surrounded by 291. We have I-95 and 9th Street. We have the Commodore Barry Bridge. We have a number of highways and roadways in our City and with that traffic comes dust. Unfortunately, we cannot control that. It's just a part of our daily living.

#4 Mayor Kirkland says Mr. Morse, you can call us and talk to our City Engineer and show us and prove to us these trucks from Covanta has cause structural damage to your home, we would be the first ones to address that issue. We have a City Engineer. You can call the City and address that issue. We will see how we can correct it if the damage has been done by Covanta.

#5 Mayor Kirkland says that is why we have EPA and DEP in place. They have systems in place 24/7 to find out who the violators are. Whether it be Covanta, Delcora or any other industry in the area.

#6 Mayor Kirkland says if there are abandoned cars on your street and you just identified that to me, I will have our Police Department, who handles abandoned vehicles, we will come down and will tag the vehicles. After tagging the vehicles and if the vehicle has been tagged for a number of days and if they are not moved we will have them towed.

#7 Mayor Kirkland says the neighbors are responsible. It would be nice to have a conversation with your neighbor and let your neighbor know that we do have an Ordinance for high grass. If you would like our persons to come through, because of our limited staff, we will get down to your area and we will either warn your neighbor or fine your neighbor. One of the best ways to do it is to be able to talk to your neighbor in a manner that is respectful to one another and let them know what your concerns are. If that does not work we will still send our persons down, as I said before we are limited staff, to go down and inspect the area if the grass is overgrown. We have the ability to fine the individual.

#8 Mayor Kirkland says you're saying now we're entertaining bringing more trash, that's a new one to me. Everyone keeps saying about this contract that we have not seen or entertained. That question...to answer your question that it is not the case.

Mayor Kirkland says let me give you a little history. Covanta which was trash to steam, which is Westinghouse, was bought to this Community many, many years ago under another administration and I won't get into the politics...not this administration. As a matter of fact, I as Mayor stood with others and fought Westinghouse and the trash to steam companies that were here. They were in violation of air quality. They were in violation of the quality of life down in that area and we fought them tooth and nail. Many of these persons who are writing or who came into the City on Saturday...99% of them were never involved in the fight. So, in comes Covanta. Covanta wants to develop a good relationship. They took over the trash facility and they wanted to develop a good relationship with the Community. So we started putting in the guidelines. We started putting in Boards. We started meeting with them. They starting working vigorously with EPA and DEP, now they have done that and put everything in place and in properly. If you really, really, really, really look at the books you'll find that over the last ten years, there has not been one violation by Covanta but there have been violations by other industries down on the Waterfront. I understand that this is a political season...I understand that but it's kind of strange that Covanta just now comes up after all these years. **COVANTA IS A GOOD PARTNER AND NEIGHBOR HERE!** You may not like the smell. Maybe you have not gone down to Delcora. Let me say that again...you do know what Delcora does...I hope. Sometimes what you smell is not trash. I implore every citizen in this Community...visit Covanta...visit Delcora...visit all the industries up on our Waterfront before you make a judgement on one industry. I encourage you to do that because once this Election is over those same people will disappear and they will never come back to talk about Covanta or any other industry until the next two years. It's the same thing over and over and over.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says I will note for the record all public comments must include a Chester address to be read. Those who instruct the City not to read their address will not be read.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize promotional testing to be given by the Civil Service Board to all eligible candidates for the following position in the Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs.

Positon

Corporal/Detective

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 appoint the following individuals to the position of Fire Cadet, Chester Bureau of Fire, Department of Public Safety, effective April 14, 2021, at an hourly rate of \$14.52 per hour, on a per diem basis, not to exceed 40 hours a week, with no benefits.

Aishla Delgado
Kinsley Corbin
Erik Garrett
Colin Flanagan
Thomas Morris
Matthew Morgan
Timothy Plant
Dominic Dimemmo
Adrian Toro

FURTHER, that the employment of said individuals as Fire Cadets for the City is contingent upon satisfactory completion of all training, evaluations and testing required to graduate the fire academy courses that apply to skills required by the Chester Fire Department.

FURTHER, upon graduation said employment with the City as an Apprentice Firefighter shall be based upon availability.

FURTHER, if employed as a Firefighter for the City of Chester said individual is required to reside in the City of Chester for the first 5 years of employment. Any Firefighter not residing in the City of Chester must do so within ninety (90) days of their date of hire as a permanent employee, and must submit proof of residency to the Human Resource Department.

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, the following individual has requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Linda Johnson, 1140 Pine Lane, 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 have 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 1100 Block of Pine Lane; 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

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby adopt the amended forms and applications which sets forth the fees and the terms and conditions for the following:

1. Block Party Form
2. Community Room Rental Application
3. Memorial Park Swimming Application
4. Tag Day Permit

FURTHER, these amendments will take effect immediately upon the passage of this Resolution.

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 April 9 and April 23, 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.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

BILL NO. 3
ORD. ____, 2021

AN ORDINANCE
FIRST READING

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
ARTICLE 1103 ENTITLED "LICENSING PROVISIONS" OF
THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED TO CHANGE
SUBSECTION 1103.02 (b) ENTITLED APPLICATION,
LICENSE AND INSPECTION FEES BY INCREASING THE**

**FEES; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS
OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 3, 2021 was passed on its First Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

The City Clerk proceeded with the opening of bids.

DELAWARE COUNTY DEMOLITION PROGRAM
2021 CHESTER CITY DEMOLITION CONTRACT #1

BRB Contractors
204 Airport Road
Pottstown PA 19464

Bid Bond 10%
Bid Amount Base Bid
\$195,700.00
Alternate
\$60,000.00

Peoples & Sons
501 West 22nd Street
PO Box 604
Chester PA 19013

Bid Bond \$499,900.00
Bid Amount Base Bid
\$289,075.00
Alternate
\$58,750.00

MEMORIAL PARK FOOTBALL FIELD LIGHTING PROJECT

AJM Electric Inc.
2333 Concord Road
Chester Township PA 19013

Bid Bond 10%
Bid Amount Base Bid
\$97,000.00
Alternate
\$6,000.00

JT Electrical LLC
322 Alliston Road
Springfield PA 19464

Bid Bond 10%
Bid Amount Base Bid
\$109,000.00
Alternate
\$6,309.00

Lenni Electric Corporation
1020 Andrew Drive
West Chester PA 19380

Bid Bond 10%
Bid Amount Base Bid
\$87,155.61
Alternate
\$79,604.55

Mayor Kirkland says I do want to recognize some of Chester's finest. CHESTER HIGH'S FOOTBALL TEAM ARE THE CHAMPIONS HERE IN DELAWARE COUNTY!! WE ARE SOOO PROUD OF THEM!! Here at City Hall, we will be doing something special for them at our next Council Meeting....just a very nice presentation of our Football team, our Cheerleaders and our Coaches...a shout-out to Coach Bell for an awesome and fantastic season. We cannot honor our Football Players without honoring our Cheerleaders. So we will do something special for them on May 12 at our Council Meeting and after our Council Meeting to show our appreciation and our Love! ALSO, OUR ALL DELCO

PLAYER OF THE YEAR IS FROM CHESTER, KARELL WATKINS! We want to recognize him as well for being the athlete and student that he is. We have some awesome talent here in the City of Chester. The City of Champions! I remember when Philadelphia Union came here and we were very clear with them when they got here they have to recognize that this is a City of Champions. So therefore, the Philadelphia Union has to live up to that same deal, so a shout-out to Coach Bell and our Basketball Coach Keith Taylor for an excellent job during these trying times.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48am.

Respectfully submitted,

APRIL 28, 2021

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk