

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 9, 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 7:00pm 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.

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 the proper City official to prepare the advertisement of the notice of accepting applications for the 2021 Summer Food Service Program positions for the City of Chester.

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the City Clerk and other City official to advertise said notice in the Help Wanted Section of the Delaware County Daily Times and to post said notice on the City of Chester website.

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 City of Chester was designated as a distressed municipality under authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act on April 6, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester desires to make application for financial aid by way of loans, grants and otherwise under and by authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, Act 47 of 1987; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development makes available loans and grants-in-aid to such projects through the Municipalities Financial Recovery program for projects that implement adopted recovery plan strategies.

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

That the Council of the City of Chester is hereby authorized to make application for such a loan or grant under authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act.

FURTHER, that the proper officers of the City of Chester are hereby authorized on behalf of the City of Chester to execute applications, agreements, contracts or other documents necessary to apply for and to secure aid for the City of Chester, from the Department of Community and Economic Development under and by authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act.

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 Chester Economic Development Authority (CEDA) has approved the submission of an application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 on behalf of Silvercare Real Estate LLC, Silvercare Nursing Development LLC and Silvercare Subacute Care Inc. (Sub Applicants) for the redevelopment of the third and fourth floors of the South Building of the former Chester Community Hospital, 2600 W. 9th Street, Chester, PA; and

WHEREAS, one of the application requirements is the submission of an executed Cooperation Agreement between the City and the Sub-Applicants, in which the City approves the project, and which obligates the City to reimburse the Commonwealth for any RACP grant reimbursements that may later be determined to have been ineligible expenses for the Project; 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 Sub-Applicants is hereby approved.
2. 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.

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 May 28, 2021 and June 4, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS VIA EMAIL

Deneen Mosley, Property Owner in Chester City says (**see attachment #1**)

Answer to Question #1

Kenneth Schuster, City Solicitor says in order to induce Economic Development the Department of Community and Economic Development has what they call RCAP Grants. These RCAP Grant's require municipalities to enter into that type of Agreement in order to award the Grant. The folks at CEDA, the City, the City's Engineer closely monitor the expenses submitted for the RCAP Grant. The Commonwealth will not approve unacceptable expenses before they reimburse the Applicant. So in order to induce Economic Development that's a required condition of the RCAP Grant.

Mayor Kirkland says Ms. Mosley the Receiver, himself, would not approve or support this Resolution if it meant that the City would incur this type of debt.

Answer to Question #2

Councilwoman West says yes. That meeting was held on June 1. At that time we talked about the Contractual Issues, large areas being missed in terms of the trash pick-ups, recycling being missed and also mixed in with the regular trash, and their staffing. They've been conveying to us (the City) that they are having staffing issues. We talked about repeated rerouting of crews due to return to missed areas. For example, if they missed Friday's trash from last week and then they had to reroute and then on Monday they had to come back to Friday's trash and then Monday's trash would start on Tuesday. We also talked about some of the Residents complaining about trash cans being thrown around/sometimes damaged. There was a promise to have the missed routes caught up and as you know this week, Monday, June 7 there was still a large area of trash that had not been picked up still from Friday. So they started off with a deficit this last Monday. There was another call meeting, a conference meeting on June 7 to discuss their non-compliance of picking up the trash and so by Saturday, of this week, June 12 there is a promise on the table that they will have everything completed.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says he would like to add that at your request, I did also have a meeting with Mascaro today with the Receiver and his financial team as well to address all those concerns.

Answer to Question #3

Mayor Kirkland says we have, as the Councilwoman said, a contingency plan with Mascaro. Right now we have one possibly two trucks in our parking lot just in case one of the vehicles might break down. They don't have to go back to their facility. They have a truck here so that they can continue the work of picking up the trash. Also, we are reaching out to our community persons who would like to be employed...trying to get some employment opportunities so they might be able to work with Mascaro. So if you are looking for an opportunity to be a part of the solution helping to clean up our City and receive a paycheck and health benefits we encourage you to stop by City Hall and have a conversation with Mr. Eric Bayne so that we can get those that are unemployed employed and helping us with our trash situation.

Councilwoman West says I just want the Community to know to my feelings on what we've been going through in terms of the non-compliance of the trash contractor. I'm angry. I'm extremely angry about how Chester City has been treated by the vendor. I too when I walk out my door can smell the trash in 90° weather. I'm not happy about that because it presents an issue for all of us. I've also been in constant dialogue with the members of the Receiver's Team. They knew about the meeting that we had on June 1 and I let them know what steps we've taken and what my intentions are in moving forward if there is still a non-compliance issue after this week. I don't want to get into that right now but there are some things that Mayor and Council and the Receiver's Team and I have been talking about in terms of holding the vendor accountable. We've received a number of calls. I get texts and phone calls and emails and I feel that the Community has been extremely patient with us and I want to thank you for that. I know that doesn't resolve the issue. I just want you to know that I am taking the necessary steps to get this matter resolved. My expectancy is that we get resolved by no later than this Saturday.

Answer to Question #4

Mayor Kirkland says Ms. Mosley, I've had the experience of going through the Chester Housing Development, Ruth L. Bennett, and I see what you see. I see the trash and I see it over flowing. But, that falls under the responsibility of the Chester Housing Authority. I would recommend that you would contact them as soon as possible. Many folks think that the City has control/contract over all of the various Housing Developments in the City but we do not. We will take our licks and our punches but there are other areas such as the Ruth L. Bennet and they are not operated by us nor are they're trash contractors' service is working with us. They work directly with the Chester Housing Authority. So, I would encourage you and others to speak directly to the Chester Housing Authority Directors and hopefully we can get some clarity and some clean-up.

Response to Comment

Mayor Kirkland says thank you Ms. Mosely and that's duly noted.

Council woman Williams says (see attachment #2)

Councilman Morgan says CONGRATULATIONS CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL C/O 2021!! We also have some COLLEGE GRADUATES right here in CHESTER CITY HALL: Aigner Cleveland, Aysia Pierce, Shanell Raison and Dr. Quiana Pettiford... Mayor and Council would like to congratulate you all again for your accomplishments. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!

Councilman Jacobs says spearheaded by the Chester Health Department, contact information, Ms. Rosetta Carter 610-447-7700 ext. 7955 (see attachment #3)

Mayor Kirkland says I'd like to thank our Citizens for their patience as we are going through this trying time with our trash. The goal is to get caught up by Saturday so that we can get right back on schedule. We do understand and we appreciate your patience that is not something that we take lightly. We appreciate you having an understanding (inaudible) as we move forward and try to get through this trying time. Also, I want to CONGRATULATE ALL OF THE CLASS OF 2021!! (High School and College) JOB WELL DONE!! We will let the public know that we will be having our open public meetings starting July 14. That's next month when we will be open back to the public. Hopefully everyone will have their vaccinations/gotten the vaccine and we can get back to a sense of normalcy

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

JUNE 9, 2021

Candice Thompson, City Clerk