

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 23, 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 10:15 AM 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
Thaddeus Kirkland
William "Al" Jacobs (**absent**)

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, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

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

The Acting 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 appointment of the individuals on the attached list, at the stated positions, to work at the Memorial Park Municipal pool, beginning June 19, 2021 and ending September 7, 2021, not to exceed 40 hours per week, at the stated rates with no benefits, for the 2021 summer pool season.

FURTHER, said individuals are independent contractors and are not employees of the City of Chester and shall not be entitled to any of the benefits normally provided to a City Employee. As independent contractors, the City will not deduct federal income tax or earned income tax from any payments made to a contractor.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Harrison Johnson, as a Violence Prevention Mentoring Case Manager, Mayor's Office, Department of Public Affairs, at the rate of \$20.52 per hour, for no more than 18.75 hours a week, with no benefits, effective May 24, 2021.

FURTHER, said position will end when the grant ends in July of 2021 unless other funding is secured.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Daniel Mullarkey became a Chester Police Officer, effective June 18, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Mullarkey submitted his resignation effective April 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Mullarkey has expressed a desire to return to the Chester Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Mullarkey was not issued a refund from the Police Aggregated Pension Fund.

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

That it does hereby re-appoint Daniel Mullarkey to the position of Patrol Officer to the Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs, effective July 5, 2021, on a full-time basis, with all benefits applicable thereto, at the salary range as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

FURTHER, said Patrol Officer has met the residency requirement.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

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

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the City Clerk to advertise for testing to establish a civil service list for the position.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted.

Mayor Kirkland said, we are encouraging our residents to take full advantage of this opportunity to be a part of the solution and be those who would like to protect and serve here in our community.

Commissioner Gretskey said, Councilman Morgan and Aigner Cleveland assisted me with putting the requirements each page by page on our facebook page by gender listed a month prior to (audible)

The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2020, the City of Chester approved an Amendment to the F.Y. 2020 Action Plan to include projects to be funded with Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds; and

WHEREAS, one of the projects to which the City allocated funding is a Short-Term Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program for low/moderate income Chester homeowners directly affected by the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, such Program was designed to provide a maximum of three (3) months of mortgage assistance, with total assistance not to exceed \$4,000.00, and three (3) months of utility assistance not to exceed \$1,000.00: and

WHEREAS, because of the extended time during which the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect low/moderate income families in Chester, City Council desires to increase the number of months of assistance to six (6) months for any combination of mortgage and utility payments, with total assistance not to exceed \$7,000.00.

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

1. That the CDBG-CV Short Term Mortgage and Utility Assistance program Guidelines are hereby amended to provide for a maximum of six (6) months of assistance in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00. Such amount may be used for either mortgage or utility assistance.
2. That information on such changes to the Program Guidelines will be provided to the

residents of Chester through the City's social media outlets, distribution of flyers and postings on the websites of the City and the Chester Economic Development Authority.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted.

Councilman Morgan said, he just wants to continue to re-iterate the support that we have for homeowners here in the City of Chester with this mortgage program. There is still a good amount of money left out there for mortgage assistance and utility assistance. You can go on the website social media platforms or reach out to Joanne Ruark at Chester Economic Development jar@ceda.com to get more information. We will be going LIVE within the next few weeks to give more updates on the mortgage program and the rental assistance program. There is still a good amount of money in both allotments; so please take advantage.

The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester is located in Delaware County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission ("DVRPC") qualifies as a "public procurement unit" under the Code, and has established a Regional Streetlight Procurement Program (the "Program") for the purpose of entering into "cooperative purchasing" agreements with regional municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester in its capacity as a local public procurement unit, as defined under Chapter 19 of the commonwealth Procurement Code, 62PA C. 2t seq. (the "Code"), has agreed to participate in the Program, as reflected by the adoption of a letter of intent in connection with the Program's Phase 1, and by the adoption of a resolution authorizing the participation in the Program's Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester received a Keystone Communities Grant in the amount of \$175,000.00 for LED Lighting Upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester wishes to utilize a portion of the LED Lighting Grant to upgrade municipal street lighting which will include the upgrades to 362 fixtures along PA State Route 291, Kerlin Street, Highland Avenue, Flower Street, 3rd Street, Engle Street, and 9th Street, for a total cost of \$92,045.95; and

WHEREAS, DVRPC has entered into a contract with Armour & Sons Electric, Inc. ("Armour") to provide construction installation services and assigned to Armour DVRPC's contracts for manufacture and distribution of equipment; and

WHEREAS, participating municipalities, including the City of Chester, are able to “piggyback off of” the contract entered into by DVRPC for installation, in accordance with the Code; and

WHEREAS, continued participation in the Program will allow the City of Chester, to implement its project and improve the performance of municipal street lighting, and specifically to manage and administer the procurement, installation, and financing of the transition to light-emitting-diode (LED) street lighting and other street light improvements, and the maintenance of those improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester has determined that its interests warrant piggybacking off of DVRPC’s contract with Armour, thereby forming a separate and new contract between the City of Chester and Armour.

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

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to enter into an Agreement with Armour and Sons for Phase 1 of the Regional Street Light Procurement Program.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, 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 June 18, 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, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

The Acting City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

**BILL NO. 4
ORD. ___, 2021**

**ORDINANCE
FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER
INCREASING THE TERM OF EXISTENCE OF THE
CHESTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY, ADDING TO THE AUTHORITY'S
PURPOSES, POWERS AND SCOPE OF PROJECTS
PERMITTED, AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENTS' AND THE FILING OF
SAID AMENDED ARTICLES OF
INCORPORATION, AND REPEALING ALL
ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES
INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 4, was passed on its First Reading.

Solicitor Ken Shuster announced that former Solicitor Robert Scott who serve as Special Council in connection with this bond refinancing was in attendance. He said, he is here to answer any questions that Council or otherwise has on this Ordinance.

The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

**BILL NO. 5
ORD. ___, 2021**

**ORDINANCE
FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY
THE HOME RULE CHARTER, REENACTING THE
EARNED INCOME TAX FOR THE YEAR 2021, AS
SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 303 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA,
1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, IN ITS
ENTIRETY, WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE
EXCEPT FOR AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION
303.02 ENTITLED "IMPOSITION OF TAX" TO
IMPOSE A TAX OF 2.00% FOR 2021 FOR
GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON SALARIES,
WAGES, COMMISSIONS, NET PROFITS AND
OTHER COMPENSATION EARNED BY NON-
RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER FOR
WORK DONE OR SERVICES PERFORMED OR**

RENDERED IN THE CITY OF CHESTER, AND TO ESTABLISH THE EARNED INCOME TAX RATE AT 3.75% FOR 2021 ON SALARIES, WAGES COMMISSIONS, NET PROFITS AND OTHER COMPENSATION EARNED BY RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER; WITH ONE PERCENT (1.00%) OF THE RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS EARNED INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS BEING DESIGNATED TO DISTRESSED PENSION PAYMENTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 5, was passed on its First Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Public Comments via email

Aдриene Webster, 2407 Chestnut St. – **See email attachment #1**

Mayor Kirkland thanked Ms. Webster for her comment and asked Michael Galante, City Engineer to respond. Mike Galante said, he and Ms. Webster has talked to her about demo. They were waiting for PECO to disconnect utilities. In regards to any remediation of any rodents or animals we can coordinate with her as we're demolishing the property will seal up any common walls as part of the demo to make sure that her property is completely sealed. Any asbestos or anything during construction will be dealt with as part as the construction process.

Mayor Kirkland thanked Mr. Galante and Ms. Webster for coordinating together concerning this issue.

Margaret Johnson, 910 Booth St. – **See email attachment #2**

Councilwoman Portia West said, yes, she spoke with her on 5/25. She said she passed on to her staff with handles the illegal dumping as well as the light outages. There is a program that is starting to have the lighting looked out by the 3rd shift officers who will go out on their shift to look at the lights that are out. She said, in regard to illegal dumping, we have been inundated with grass cutting and other things as well as bulk trash pick up and illegal dumping. We have not gotten to the illegal dumping yet but, I have passed all of this information on. She said, I will follow-up with my staff today to see how we can get to this as expediently as possible. So, I apologize for the delay. We have less than 20 people outside who handles all of these issues for the City of Chester. I am asking for your patience in this matter and letting me know that I will follow up.

This concluded public comment.

Councilman Morgan had a comment. Councilwoman Williams and Duane Lee and the team has been able to work collaboratively with this Administration and others to make sure we were able to open up the Memorial Park pool this summer. He said, he believes that it opened up Juneteenth Weekend. if there are families or kids who want to come to the Memorial Park pool, you can go to the Memorial Park pool office and complete an application or go on the website www.chestercity.com, print out an application and bring it into City Hall or take it to Memorial Park pool. Please take advantage of that recreational activity that we have in the City of Chester.

Councilwoman Williams comment. Summer food program will start in two (2) weeks. Young people need to come and get involved. The capital program for rent and mortgage is going well, over 50 citizens has been registered thus far. The opportunity is out there, the funding is out there. There should be no reason for any citizen in the City of Chester to be evicted. There are two (2) avenues of getting money; you have the city with the county and the federal government. Please come down and take advantage of this. I do not want anyone on the street, if you don't have to be. Come over and fill out the application. They are here in City Hall until 2:00 for the next couple of Wednesdays, 10-2pm.

Councilwoman West comment. A real touchy sore subject with me is the issue with the trash collection. We all live here in the City of Chester and we know what you are going through as we are going through it too. Not to make any excuses, the Mayor, myself, the Receiver and our Solicitor, Ken Shuster have been in dialog on a weekly basis with the owners of J.P. Mascaro. We're trying to work out plans; they are trying to work out plans where they can get caught up and stay caught up. The issue that they're having is staffing. They interviewed six (6) persons from Chester. For some reason people do not stay. The person that they have brought in have not stayed very long. I am out on a daily basis; I ride around the community. I'm out at 7:00 in the morning, riding around, looking at where trash has been missed and then I'm in constant dialog all day long, every day with the supervisor; who is not only supervising, but he is also collecting trash. The General Manager has also been out collecting trash. I'm not making excuses, I'm just saying that we have some major concerns with the trash collection and Mayor, Council and the Receiver's office were all working on it together to try to resolve these issues. I will continue to do my best. I lot of you have my phone number (not going to give out my number) but a lot of you already have it. I want to thank those who call into me because they let me know what areas have been missed and that is extremely helpful, then I can get on it right away. Thank you for your patience. I want you to know that we're continuously working on this issue. I won't stop until we get it resolved and back to some type of normalcy.

Mayor Kirkland said this has been an issue not just our city but throughout our nation. We have not been through this before. Never have we been through a pandemic before. This has been a learning experience for all of us. It is not an excuse, it's a reality. We're not where we were, we're a lot better today than we were a week or two ago. Thank you for your support and hard work.

Mayor Kirkland commended Chaplain Lisa for the marvelous job she does as the President of the Chaplains. He said, they have been extremely active and appreciates the hard work they put in, in keeping our community prayed up and stayed up as we go through.

Chaplain Dennis distributed Safe Summer t-shirts and thanked Mayor and Council for their continued support.

Mayor Kirkland also thanked Mr. Lee, Mr. Jones and all those who worked hard to get our pool up and running for the summer.

Lastly, the Mayor recognized all those individuals and groups who have work tirelessly this year in helping us to alleviate some of the rubbish and trash within our community. They have partnered with the community and Administration and we're grateful. If I missed anyone, please contact me, so that I may be able to recognize you at our next meeting.

See List Attachment #3

Mayor Kirkland said, again, Thanks all of these individuals who help us keep our community clean. If I have missed anyone, please contact my office at (610)447-7700.

Public Works Director Rodney Robertson said, he and the city engineer had a meeting with PECO this week regarding residents who have trees on power lines. Those who have trees covering power lines can call 1-800-841-4141.

Mike Galante presented an update on the Edgmont Avenue Bridge. He said, PennDOT is completing the final stages of construction on the bridge. The anticipated opening is July 2nd.

Councilwoman West said, Thank you for your patience for and your indulgence. It's been very inconvenient, but it's a necessary item that we had to take care of.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

JUNE 23, 2021

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk

