

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JULY 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 10:02am 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

WHEREAS, the following individuals have requested handicapped parking zones:

1. Shelly Mack, 915 Clover Lane, Chester, PA 19013
2. Sara F. Brown, 1128 West 8th Street, Chester, PA 19013

WHEREAS, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Streets and Public Improvements, it has been determined the aforementioned individuals have 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 900 Block of Clover Lane; and 1100 Block of West 8th Street, in the City of Chester.

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 amend Resolution No. 81-2021, passed by Chester City Council on June 23, 2021 to read as follows:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of the following named individuals on the attached sheet, at the stated positions, to work at the Memorial Park Municipal Pool, beginning on the stated dates 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 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, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointments of the following name individuals, listed on the attached sheet, as Monitors and Site Supervisors, for the City's 2021 Summer Food Program, Department of Public Property and Recreation, at the stated hourly rates, not to exceed 29.5 hours per week, with no benefits, beginning July 15, 2021 and ending August 20, 2021.

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 appointment of the following individuals to the position of Apprentice Firefighter, Bureau of Fire, Department of Public Safety, effective July 19, 2021, with all benefits applicable thereto, with a one (1) year probationary period, at the salary range as provided for a first year Apprentice, in accordance with the contract between the City of Chester and International Association of Firefighters, Local 1400:

Aishla Delgado
Erik Garrett
Colin Flanagan
Thomas Morris
Matthew Morgan
Timothy Plant
Dominic Dimemmo
Adrian Toro, III
Nicholas Vaders
Owen MacFawn

FURTHER, said individuals are required to reside in the City of Chester for the first five (5) years of their employment. Any Firefighter not residing in the City of Chester must do so within three (3) months of their date of hire as a permanent employee and must submit proof of residency to the Human Resources 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

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of the following individuals to the position of Police Cadets, Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs, effective July 12, 2021, at a hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour, on a per diem basis, not to exceed 8 hours per day, 6 days per week, without benefits:

1. Hakeem Robinson
2. Anthony Berardi

FURTHER, said Police Cadets shall attend Delaware County Community College Municipal Police Academy and receive the required police certification.

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 Marnie Hudson, as a member of the Chester Parking Authority, term to expire July 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 appoint Elease Elam, as a member of the Chester Parking Authority, term to expire July 31, 2026.

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 has received funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), pursuant to the Community Conservation Partnership Program, to hire a professional engineering firm to develop final design documents for an East Coast Greenway Trail Connection on Highland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) has received Coastal Zone Management Program Funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the same project; and

WHEREAS, PEC has hired Michael Baker International (MBI) to develop final design documents for the above-referenced trail connection on Highland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to join with PEC to further the purposes of the Project: and

WHEREAS, the City has received a waiver of DCNR's Request for Proposals process in order for the City to enter into a joint contract with PEC to utilize the services of MBI for the completion of required project design work; and

WHEREAS, PEC agrees to have final design documents developed for the Highland Avenue Trail Connection, to act as project manager for the City with respect to the DCNR funding, and to fully abide by the terms and conditions of the joint contract.

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

That the Grant Agreement between the City and PEC for Chester City East Coast Greenway (Highland Avenue) Engineering is hereby approved.

FURTHER, 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 hereby ratify the engagement of VanBlunk Law, LLC, who shall serve as legal counsel assisting with various aspects related to real estate tax assessment appeals.

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the proper City official to execute the Engagement Letter 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.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby amend Resolution No. 46-2021, passed by Chester City Council on March 24, 2021, to read as follows:

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> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 601 Highland Avenue – Rear Garages | 49-11-01517-00 |
| 725 Caldwell Street | 49-05-00473-00 |
| 727 Caldwell Street | 49-05-00474-00 |
| 729 Caldwell Street | 49-05-00475-00 |
| 731 Caldwell Street | 49-05-00476-00 |
| 813 E. 8 th Street | 49-05-00224-00 |

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

WHEREAS, the City of Chester presently owns the former Pulaski School Field site, Folio Nos. 49-11-00724-00 and 49-11-00725-00 (Boundary Description attached hereto) and the bed of a vacated portion of Harwick Street between W. Seventh Street and W. Ninth Street: and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester wishes to return the above-identified sites to productive use; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester desires to sell the above-identified sites for the development of a Community Center under the Urban Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester has approved the Redevelopment Authority entering into a Redevelopment Agreement with the Surgent Family for Society (ACCESS) for the development of such Community Center conditioned upon approval of the sale of the identified sites by the City of Chester; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester has requested that the City of Chester consent to the sale of the former Pulaski School field site, Folio Nos. 49-11-00724-00 and 49-11-00725-00 (Boundary Description attached hereto) and the bed of a vacated portion of Harwick Street between W. Seventh Street and W. Ninth Street to ACCESS and approve the Redevelopment Agreement for the development of a Community Center.

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

1. That the City of Chester approves the transfer of the former Pulaski School field site and the vacated portion of Harwick Street identified above to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester.
2. That the City of Chester approves the sale of the former Pulaski School field site and the vacated portion of Harwick Street by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester to the Surgent Family for Society subject to a separate Subdivision/Land Development action to be taken by the City of Chester.
3. That the City of Chester approves the Redevelopment Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester and ACCESS.

FURTHER, that the appropriate designated officers are hereby authorized to execute and deliver such agreements, deeds, transfer tax affidavits or other documents as may be necessary or appropriate to consummate the transfer and sale of the properties identified above on the terms and conditions as set by Chester City Council.

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

Mayor Kirkland says members of Council have been working on this project for quite some time. We've been working with the folks from ACCESS. This will benefit the West Side of town in a very positive way. It will increase property values and will also afford our Young Persons and well as our Senior Citizens the opportunity to have a Recreational Facility on the West End of town. We have the Boys & Girls Club here on the East End of town. Now, we will have something on the West End of town and hopefully in the future we will be expanding more recreational opportunities for our Citizens.

Peter Rykard, City Planner says the Planning Department had also submitted a Resolution concerning that property. It was approved by the Planning Commission but I didn't hear Council say that they approved the Resolution for the Development of the Property.

Councilman Jacobs says there is another Resolution that we (Mayor Kirkland and Councilman Jacobs explain that there is another Resolution that has to be read).

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 in accordance with recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated July 14, 2021 and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on July 15, 2021, it does hereby grant final approval for John Surgent/ACCESS, to reverse subdivide 3 (three) parcels into 1 (one), subdivide that 1 (one) parcel into 2 (two) and develop and 8,420 sq. ft. community center on 1 (one) parcel with off street parking, on a lot located at 7th & Booth Streets, Chester, PA

19013, as shown on a plan prepared by Pennoni Associates, Inc., 1501 Main Street, Suite 220, Warrington, PA 18976; dated June 24, 2021.

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

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 July 16, 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.

Mayor Kirkland says that we are pleased that we are able to open our City Council Meetings back up to the Public with at least 25 persons but we are excited and glad to be able to talk directly and hear directly from our Constituents. We have a presentation by our Health Department Director, Ms. Livia Smith.

Livia Smith says (she speaks on some of the attached from the CDC)! If you need more information you can contact Ms. Rosetta Carter at 610-447-7700 ext. 7955.

Mayor Kirkland says thank you Ms. Smith and Ms. Carter for your excellent work in helping in getting all of our Residents vaccinated. It is encouraging to hear that those numbers have gone up when it comes to the number of persons that are vaccinated from 27% to 38% from our last press conference and it is my hope that the parents and children will or parents will take their children. It was good to see them at the Keystone Wellness Center...seeing parents bring their children. The kids were super excited and they took it like champs. It was great to see them get vaccinated and taking it seriously. The only way we will be able to open our Schools back up fully is if our Children are vaccinated. What we don't need is for our kids to have another setback and our Schools close and them miss out again. I am sure they would like to be around their classmates and their teachers. Just basically get out of the house and have some more social interaction. Our goal is to at least get our Community up to a 75% vaccination rate. That would put us in a (of course we want a 100%) but that would put us in a very very good place if we can get all of our Chester Citizens up to 75%. Just so you know all of Councilmembers, Clerk, Solicitor and our Communications Director is fully vaccinated. All of you who are watching this we have taken the plunge and pledge and we're hoping that you would do the same.

PUBLIC COMMENTS VIA EMAIL

Margaret Johnson, Chester Resident says I've sent an email in for numerous Council Meetings in reference to many items that were dumped in my alley and also the lighting in the alley and the very large potholes. Actually, the one pothole by Harwick Street is as big as a little (inaudible) pond. I've gone back and forth about this and I wrote down everything that I've gathered. At the last Council Meeting, Councilwoman West said that the items had been picked up and these were newer items but that isn't true. These are the same items. No one has come after April 15.

Councilwoman West says can you give me the cross street because we came down there but I think we were in the wrong location.

Ms. Johnson says it's between Booth and Harwick in between 9th and 10th. Now there are two alleys there. The first one that is closest to 9th Street is John Street and the second alley closest to 10th Street I've never seen a sign there so I don't know if it has a street name right near Verizon.

Councilwoman West says I apologize because that last meeting we were down on Booth Street...between Harwick and Booth Street and the guys showed me the alley that they had cleaned but it was near the Church but we were in the wrong location.

Councilwoman West and Ms. Johnson talk about the location to make sure Councilwoman West has the correct location.

Councilwoman West says as far as the lighting is concerned that was reported. I believe Lenni Electric is responsible. We report in to them and then they put it on their schedule. What I have to do is call them to find out where they are with fixing the light.

Ms. Johnson says you were talking about this new permit you have for lighting.

Councilwoman West says were in the process...you know it has to go through a process...I believe it's about 2,000 old lights that are going to be replaced with LED lighting.

Mayor Kirkland says we have a large grant (this is pertaining to the lighting) that's been awarded to the City. Our goal is to light up the entire City. We've been talking about the lighting at Widener University and if we can get that type of lighting in our Community it will benefit all of us greatly. I don't know where they're going to start but we're going to get started once we have all of our funding and everything in place...equipment in place and you'll see a difference.

Councilman Morgan says did you say where the pothole was.

Ms. Johnson says the pothole is on each end of the alley on Booth Street and the Harwick side.

Councilwoman West says we have to see if that's a Stormwater issue...who's pothole it is because it could be Stormwater. It could be Delcora. We will have the Engineer go by there.

Sandra Green, Prospect Park but had lived in Chester for 14 years says I'm here to speak how important I think the pool in Memorial Park is. When my children were younger there wasn't anything for them to do as far as a Pool goes. I've been a part of the pool since 2003. I tell everybody that I know how good the pool is. The staff is very professional. To me that is very important for that to be a part of the City of Chester. Now I bring my grandkids there.

Mayor Kirkland says thank you Ms. Green. We appreciate that.

Ika Robles, 1428 Parnsley Terrace says I've been here for 10 years and I want to talk about the Memorial Park Pool. That pool has been the best thing my kids had. The staff is amazing. They are very respectful. There is nothing else to do besides the YMCA in Chester. There is really no Park that they can actually go to that it's not safe. They actually feel safe at Memorial Park Pool. The staff, Mr. Lee, Shawn and the lifeguards make my kids feel safe. They make sure that the kids are safe. I live in the Bennett Homes and it's not safe. They can't even go to their own park. It's not safe. I have to leave Chester for my kids to have a good time. It's not fair for them to just have two little things in Chester for them to have a good time. I greatly appreciate them because that's the only thing the kids have.

Mayor Kirkland says just to ensure you that...correct you...I think you said YMCA...I think you meant the Boys & Girls Club.

Ms. Robles says yes. The Boys & Girls Club. We call it the YMCA. Sorry.

Mayor Kirkland says we have our Boys & Girls Club...we have our Pool. Just to give you a little update on some things. Our Panthers Football Team, our Bidy League Basketball Team and a number of baseball leagues going on for our kids. So if your children want to get involved in some of those things just let us know. Can your kids swim?

Ms. Robles says yes. Thanks to them. They actually have a swimming class on Saturdays for the children for at least three hours. They do it in the morning from 11-1.

Dorothy Denise Dill, Chester Resident says my family started at Memorial Park vending, participating in sports and sponsoring (inaudible). Memorial Park is a big part of my family. My grandchildren come and the pool especially. It's provided my children with leadership skills...three of my children were lifeguards there. They still have those skills now. They gave my family an

opportunity for business. I wish there was more safety of the pool. I wish we can make it public the safety of the pool, the availability, the swim lessons because of children need the etiquette of swimming. Since the pool has been open the park looks great.

Anita Littleton, 330 W 9th Street says the sound on the website is terrible. You mentioned about the meetings being upon to the public can you officially address us the public when that's going to officially happen and how that's supposed to happen and how many people can come in. I know you (inaudible) the numbers. I would advocate that because of COVID last year all the issues that we're dealing with here in the City we have many concerns of us Residents here that we have the opportunity to go beyond 25 people so that we can be heard. What we're actually feeling is that we're not being heard by this Council. I have made numerous phone calls about various (inaudible) issues here in Chester City and I have not gotten any return phone calls. What about the trash and illegal dumping? We are running out of patience. What is your real plan of action? What is next for us patient Residents? When is Council going to be accountable to have the People who are getting thousands of dollars to do a basic needs job here for Chester City for the Residents? When are we going to make them accountable? There are different fees and they seem to clash for the Parks. There has been a mention about the Courts being closed and can the water sprinklers be turned on for the children and can the Courts be opened back up.

Mayor Kirkland says when folks say there is nothing in the City to do I beg to differ. We have a Boys & Girls Club, numerous parks in our Community, a fishing club, the Panthers Football League, Biddy Basketball League, the Pool, the Playgrounds, Soccer Stadium; for employment we have the Casino Industry. We encourage our young people to stay here. We encourage Parents...the State Rep is having a big event over here this Saturday. The sound being corrected...Ms. Cleveland and our IT guys have been working diligently on the sound and I appreciate you bringing that to our attention. Hopefully, we will have all of that corrected in the very near future because we want folks to hear us. The official opening was in the newspaper and it was publicized on our Website. I said it here from this seat on two occasions letting folks know we're open back up to the public and we wanted them to come. Every phone call I received I've returned. I sit at the front desk on numerous occasions. We help out. It's a team effort. We don't have the staffing that we had 2 years ago because of the pandemic. As far as the trash, we're back...we're caught up. The trash company and us have been trying to get folks hired. Yes, J.P. Mascaro went through a troubling time and it affected our community. The system we have in place now is if they find themselves falling behind it will be the next day pick up and we're hoping that it's not a seven day behind. The pandemic has affected us dramatically. It has decimated our staff; staff of other municipalities, other cities have been under seize with this trash. We have a limited staff and we're hoping to hire them back. We're working with Stormwater, Dr. Strand and others, so we're going to set out dumpsters so that folks might be able to utilize those dumpsters. We're going to ask people in the neighborhood if they would be like Block Captains to make sure those dumpsters are utilized by Chester Residents and Chester Residents only. We're not going to leave them out there for days. We're probably going to put them out there 8a and pick up by 5p. Accountability...one of the things myself and this Council do is pry ourselves on responsibility. We don't shy away from our responsibility. I as Mayor, as the Executive Leader of this Council, take full responsibility for trash, for bulk, pot holes, violence in the Community and the health of our City. But, I also want to make sure that the Council receives full responsibility when it comes to the positive things...trash is up, crime is way down, our people are now getting their vaccinations, there is a pool open each and every day and we only charge \$50 for a family of five. No place else does that and we're hiring young Chester Residents. We take full responsibility for working with the State Representative for closing off our streets this Saturday, to provide this Community a recreation opportunity that they will love. As Mayor, that's my job...that's my purpose to be responsible for the Health and Welfare of this Community. But, it is also our responsibility and we should take some of that credit when we do what believe is right in this Community. Last week I spent three and half hours working on a trash truck throwing trash cans. It made me have a greater appreciation of those men and women who work on those trucks. This is what sometimes hurt our progress. Just the other day our trash persons was picking up the trash and because they didn't pick up the trash that people had been thrown down on the ground...the young lady came out and demanded that they pick it up (the trash from the ground) she pulled a gun out on the trash worker and they were ready to walk off the job. That's not right. That's not fair and if we're able to find out who that person is that person will be prosecuted. We are encouraging our residents to be a part of the cleanup. I see progress and I see a lot of it and I'm proud of the citizens of Chester that are out there doing it. We're not perfect nor do we profess to be but when we make mistakes we do our best to correct them. Yes, we have rodents and it's not all trash related. Whenever you disturb the ground (and we have been putting in new piping across the City) you disturb wildlife and you disturb what's under there and they start running. We're going to continue to do the work that we do. We're catching up. We do appreciate the patience of the persons. Not only their patience but their participation.

Councilwoman West says on a weekly basis sometimes a daily basis, we are communicating with the trash vendor. Wednesday of last week they put nine trucks in here. Two of them were for Recycle because I also told them and I'm asking the public as well not too co-mingle your recyclable with your regular trash because that's what's been happening. When we get the calls

we're not perfect yet but we are doing better. I check with them every day. I get in my car and ride the routes every day. It's not that we're not trying to do anything we have been working in concert with the vendor to make things better because I live here too. I'm a taxpayer. I pay the rubbish fee. My trash sometimes doesn't get picked up. I want a good quality of life for the citizens here. We have problems everywhere with trash. That's not to say Chester folks are supposed to be accepting of poor quality service because my message to them was we are no longer going to accept this and you have to do better. I only have two people on the inside and outside staff I have less than 20 people for the whole entire City. We cut the grass in the parks. We have 80+ fields that we cut. We're responsible for bulk trash and illegal dumping. When people see people dumping (I'm not asking you to go up on them or do anything to them) but get a license plate number if you can or the make and model of the car. We have people who are coming from outside of Chester that are dumping in our alleyways and out of the way places.

Councilman Jacobs says because I'm the Director over the Health Department and you wanted to address the cap of 25 people. You know about the CDC did a report on that and the spike of the new variant. We wanted to limit it to 25 persons.

Ms. Littleton says thank you Mayor Kirkland for publicly/officially letting the Residents of Chester know it was sent to the paper. You mentioned the 25 but now we have a clearer understanding. As a Resident here hoping to destroy the barriers that seems to be there and sometimes even like now in the responses feels hostile with Residents and our Council. What I would like to see is the Council of the City to work with the current community efforts that are out here doing this (cutting grass, etc.). I want to be able to come to my Council and say yes, I feel comfortable in coming to talk to the people who has taken on a responsibility to govern a City, serving behalf of us and not feeling like we are your enemies and that's how sometimes we feel. How do you measure that you're caught up (the trash)?

Mayor Kirkland says this is how we measure we're caught up. The calls that come in and the people say thank you. We have a spread sheet that if anything is missed that our folks go back and we connect with Mascaro and let them know where the areas are and they go and they take care of those areas immediately. If I sounded hostile in any way I apologize but I thought I was simply answering the questions.

Ms. Littleton says not hostile but defensive. It always seems like there is a defensive mechanism from Council. We all want the same thing. This trash is unacceptable. How can the public help to expedite this problem before it becomes unbearable?

Mayor Kirkland says once again defensive/hostile...I don't believe we are doing any of that by simply answering the questions that you posed. That is our job to respond to questions that were posed. I think I did it in a very educational way by providing you with factual information. Sometimes there are persons who refuse to accept factual information. I don't want it to seem like it's hostile or defense...I just want it to be factual. The meetings was also posted on Facebook...25 persons and open to the public.

The Mayor then speaks about the clean-up project that Council (including him), Police, Fire, Health and the Parks Department did throughout the City with the limited resources we have.

Mayor Kirkland says I don't want persons to think that we've just been sitting around and not doing anything. We've been very proactive. We know the importance of keeping our community clean, safe and healthy and we will continue to do just that. If anyone is listening make sure that you give us a call...they said it's nothing for the kids to do...there is plenty.

Ms. Littleton says I wanted to redirect that because (inaudible) for this Council to do a community engagement and take a poll. I know you gave a list. Well there is an image that lives out here in the City and I think that Council really needs to hear that. We still need more. There is not enough here for our young people.

Mayor Kirkland says we do have beautiful parks. You can ride a bike on our bike trails. Take a walk on our bike trails and our walk trails through Eyre Park. For me watching parents go to the park and fish with their children is a beautiful thing. When I see the Union Players and other persons coming and working with children teaching them soccer skills...it's a beautiful thing. I see the Panther Football working with kids of all walks of life...it's a beautiful thing for me. Our biggest problem in this City and Cities around us is that sometimes persons become territorial and they refuse to take their child to this end of town to that end of town. We're breaking down that barrier because of the efforts of the Chester Police Department and the Chester Fire Department. We're breaking those walls down. Those are the positive things we want to talk about and continue to talk about. We share with the Community and involve the Community. I will write out for anyone the list of recreational opportunities that we have here in our Community. We're committed to making sure at least 75% of our residents are vaccinated so that we can get our kids back in school. We're committed to catching up on our bulk waste even when we have limited staff. We're committed to making sure

we get there. We thank folks for their patience. We're committed to making sure that folks don't have to worry about rent fees and electrical bills. I appreciate the fact that all of you have come today. I appreciate the fact that we have this dialogue and if any way...my goal and my desire is not to be hostile nor defensive...my goal is simply be the Mayor, Executive Director of this Council and work with these persons who have committed their lives to serving the Citizens in Chester.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34am.

Respectfully submitted,

JULY 28, 2021

Candice Newsome, City Clerk