

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 25, 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 10:03am 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 in the audience had any comments on Agenda items only.

Patricia Zirin, 1104 Culhane Street says Item #3, the Request for Proposal, is going to whom.

Councilman Morgan says we're going to do a RFP (Request for Proposal) for accounting services for recording the American Rescue Plan Act monies. So the guidelines are pretty strict on its reporting and how often you have to report. Actually our first report is due August 31. That's what the RFP is for to get assistance for issuing the reports to the treasury report (inaudible) that we're potentially looking to use.

Ms. Zirin says are you the only people who put out Request for Proposals.

Councilman Morgan says as in Local Governments.

Ms. Zirin says yes.

Councilman Morgan says no.

Ms. Zirin says so there is a lot of different agencies that do that.

Councilman Morgan says yes.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following individuals have requested handicapped parking zones:

1. Omar Miah, 906 Lloyd Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Laura E. Dingle, 1311 Parker Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. Latrice Anderson, 735 Wilson Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Jennifer Morgan, 2719 Forwood Street, Chester, PA 19013
5. Andy Aguilar, 101 E. 22nd Street, Chester, PA 19013
6. Karen Aikens Ward, 205 Patterson Street, Chester, PA 19013

7. Rosalind N. Wright, 602 W. 10th Street, Chester, PA 19013
8. Kathleen Guy-Berry, 300 E. 21st 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 Lloyd Street; 1300 Block of Parker Street; 700 Block of Wilson Street; 2700 Block of Forwood Street; 100 Block of E. 22nd Street; 200 Block of Patterson Street; 600 Block of West 10th Street, and 300 Block of E. 21st Street 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 ratify the appointment of the following individuals to position of per Diem Laborer, Department of Public Works, beginning on the stated dates and ending August 31, 2021, at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, with no benefits, not to exceed 29 hours per week.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Demi McClain	August 10, 2021
John Parker	August 9, 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 authorize the issuance of Request for Proposal (RFP) for accounting services to assist with the management of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA, or federal stimulus) funds.

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 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 August 13, 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.

Ms. Livia Smith gives an update on Vaccines. We've had over 130 children vaccinated since our last Press Conference. 12+ Residents being fully vaccinated as of 8/20 (11,405) and now we're at 38%. As far as School Aged Children (556) as of 8/20 that has been fully vaccinated. Since August 13, there have been 61 new positive cases of COVID-19 in the City and that makes 3,384 positive cases have been reported and out of that we've had 86 deaths. Ages 65-74 83% are fully vaccinated...10-19 year olds 12% are fully vaccinated.

Mayor Kirkland says thank Ms. Smith and thank you for the work that the Health Department has been doing and done and continue to do in our efforts to get our Community fully vaccinated. We will be reaching out to the Superintendent of the Schools here in Chester to see what other measures or efforts we can take to vaccinate our young people so that they're not interrupted this school year.

Ms. Smith says people think they have to pay to be vaccinated. NO YOU DO NOT! IT'S FREE!! We have ChesPenn, Urgent Care on the West End and Keystone Health here. Look at the Website to see where the vaccines are being giving out now until the end of the month.

Mayor Kirkland recognizes our Assistant City Clerk, Starr Thompson-Morrell. (The City's Clerk Granddaughter)

Mr. Daniels, Amachi Program says the Amachi Program is a violence prevention program that focus on providing mentoring (inaudible) for children that are impacted by gun violence (inaudible) incarceration. It was brought to City Hall in 2019. It's funded through PCED. For more information about the program please see attached flyer.

Mayor Kirkland says thank you Mr. Daniels and thank you for what you guys are doing with our young people in this initiative. You've been working very hard and I've seen you throughout the Community and it's nothing but good stuff and high praises. So thank you and continue the good work!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Kronheim, 1104 Culhane Street says about trash pick-up. On 9th Street they pick up every Monday but they pick-up the regular and the recyclables in the same truck/the same day. Nobody comes around on Wednesday's which is supposed to be recycling. So, basically all the recycling is just being trash. Why is that?

Councilwoman West says that's a good question. I have communicated and I'm in constant dialogue with the trash vendor, J.P.Mascaro, and my message to them is that whatever trash day it is, I like regular trash picked up separate from the recycle. We do have some residents who will mix/comingle the recycle and the regular trash and we're communicating with people asking them not to do that. I've also seen the vendor comingle the regular and the recycle. I did let them know that there's Act 101 monies reimbursement that the City gets at the end of every year when we report our recycle tonnage. If they continue to do that, that will put us in jeopardy of losing our eligibility for that funding. I will speak with them again today just like I do every day. On Wednesday's I do let them know I only want recyclables picked up that day. If there are any misses from before, like regular trash, then they'll have to do that in a separate truck.

Mr. Kronheim says other than communicating with them do you have any other influence like penalties or whatever with the contract with them.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says there are penalties contained in the contract and the City has put them on notice several times and intend to enforce those penalties.

Howard Patterson, 1110 Hyatt Street says I'm a Masonry Contractor. I'm one of two black Masonry Contractor's here in the City. I'm a General and a Sub-Contractor. I tried to get work from the General Contractors (inaudible) Minority Contractors. They won't let me in. I'm being boxed out. I'm a resident here. I live here and also the people I hire live here. We're not putting money back into our Community. The Companies they're bringing in here are people that don't live here and they have no concern about what's happening here. I want to use what I have to give back. I don't know if you guys can you help me with it or what's going on? But I need help! I bid on a \$150,000.00 job...they underbid me just for the sake of to stop me from the work.

Mayor Kirkland says Mr. Patterson, you do bid on these projects as well.

Mr. Patterson says yes. I got tied in with the people downstairs in CEDA.

Councilman Morgan says have you ever bid on any City projects.

Mr. Patterson says I talked with Mike Galante and he's been spinning me like a top.

Councilman Morgan says but you never bid on any City projects.

Mr. Patterson says I never got a chance to bid on any City projects.

Mayor Kirkland says we post them in our Local Paper...on our Website. Whenever you see an opportunity, whenever you see them posted, we would encourage you to bid on them projects.

Mr. Patterson says there was a lady downstairs in the front office and she used to send me the information. I don't know if she is still there because I stopped getting information.

Mayor Kirkland says we would be more than willing to have conversations with some of these Contractors encouraging them to be supportive of our Local.

Mr. Patterson says I seen a project that they had when they were building the Projects (Bennett Homes, William Penn Projects) they had hired people from (inaudible) those living facilities work on the projects. I don't know how that works but I feel as though these Contractors that come in here, they should hire people from here and at least some of them to work on these projects. You guys just got another, what Biden passed for infrastructure, there is going to be some major money coming through and I only think that it's fair that, not so just for me but people like myself can be a part of what's happening and not watching it happen.

Mayor Kirkland says some of the work you may see could be State related which is completely out of our hands. You might see some of the Bridges being done and that is basically State related. Those things are completely out of our hands but the money you just mentioned about the infrastructure, money coming through our way by the Federal Government; we will do everything in our power to make sure that our Residents have access to those opportunities.

Mr. Patterson says so who do I speak to out of your panel so that I can be informed.

Candice Newsome, City Clerk says Mr. Patterson you can give me that information. **(Mr. Patterson gives the City Clerk his business card).**

Councilman Jacobs says I agree and I think all of us up here agree with about everything you said. We recognize that as a problem but I remember when my Uncle used to be a part of something around here called The Minorities Contractors Association. They may have a group and they made a lot of noise. That Organization, I don't know what happened to it, but I do know that just philosophy that this works when people join together they can get more out of the situation. You all should start that Minority Contractor thing up or some Organization like it that would be a help for you all also.

Edith Blackwell, City Controller says I can vouch for him. He was one of the instructors at the Laborer's Local 413 School up in Exton. He taught the young men how to do concrete and I worked with him through the years and he's very good at his work.

Mayor Kirkland says I will be joining Mr. Harper tomorrow, going to Philadelphia with him, to look at some of the trades training facilities that he wanted to show me. We're in the process hopefully being able to bring that type of trades training here in the City of Chester.

Councilwoman West says I just want to give a small report on the 7th Street Bridge. Last week...The Mayor, myself, the City's Engineer, The Public Works Director and others gathered with some people from the County and the Engineering Firm for the Bridge work that is being done on 7th Street. The Report says that the Contractor will begin to maintain the site by controlling the high weeds and grass and removing debris. We've been unhappy with the way the site has been looking. We know that they are still working there but we're not happy or pleased with the way that they have been leaving it because it is still in our

Community and we do not want another eye sore added to our Community. So we are asking them to keep up with the site. Bi-weekly inspections will be completed by the Construction Team to ensure that all traffic control signage is up-to-date and the site is maintained. Re-inspections will continue until the construction (inaudible). Now construction is expected to begin late September or early October. This is contingent upon approval of required design items to ensure the bridge is constructed properly. There were numerous unforeseen conditions that occurred during that construction which caused delays and the delays were further compounded due to COVID because they did shut down for a period of time because of COVID. Now, they gave us a projected end date of November of 22 to when the work will be completed. So we're hoping that they'll be able to meet that commitment. That's the projection for right now (inaudible) or any unforeseen complications. The trash...we know that it is still a problem. I'm not happy. Although there has been some changes and it has gotten a little better but it is not where I would like it to be. As I had said to Mr. Kronheim, that we are in constant dialogue with the vendor, **EVERYDAY**, we talk to them and any misses, they are reported to us by the Community. I know that the Vendor sent out a letter. The letter was an apology, if you will and then letting everyone know things, the challenges that they have been facing. There was also another section to it and at the end of that section, something that I don't agree with, the Vendor asked you to contact them with your trash concerns. I'm asking you to continue to call here to the Streets Department to let us know because we keep track of all of the misses and we need to hear from you. You should be able to contact your Leadership here and not have to go through a Third-Party. I don't want that. I want you to call my Office at 610-447-7742.

Councilwoman Williams says we are still in the process of taking applications for help for the rent/mortgage and utility bills. We have it every Wednesday from 10-2 in the Community Room. So they need the people in the Community that is having problems **PLEASE COME OVER AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION BEFORE THE FUNDS RUN OUT!!**

Mayor Kirkland says this weekend was a very upbeat/positive weekend. There were so many events going on this weekend. We had Rondae Jefferson's Water Event at Memorial Park on Saturday. On Sunday, we had the Panthers Football Game and on Saturday, Mr. Daniels and his Fishing Program for our Children down at the Waterfront. Cornerstone Church here in the City of Chester had a book bag give away and bar-b-que. We had a beautiful downtown event here in the City of Chester hosted by Councilman Morgan. It was a very, very, very, very busy weekend filled with fun and family and people coming together and enjoying one another. There was an event on the West End of Town, Sun Village Park where there was a book bag give away. A lot of good stuff going on over the weekend and we appreciate that. I want to commend the workforce, our men and our women, that were out there working to maintain our Parks and Recreational areas. We appreciate all the work that they put in and continue to put in though they are understaffed, they are working diligently and they've been doing an awesome job. There is one other event I want to bring to your attention and that is this Sunday, our Police Department (under the direction of Commissioner Gretskey) they're hosting the C.A.R.E.S Program which is called Creating A Relationship Enriched Summer Affair. They're going to have moon bounces, water slides, carnival games, food trucks, water ice, cotton candy and a D.J. and more. They are asking you to bring your children. The time is from 1p-6p and it's going to be located right across the street from the Chester Police Department, 160 E. 7th Street. We're asking that you bring your children so that they can come out and have a good time with our Police Officers as well as our Firefighters!

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

AUGUST 25, 2021

Candice Newsome, City Clerk