

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SEPTEMBER 8, 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 7:03pm 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.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the following individual has requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Sheila Bunch, 3033 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chester, PA 19013

**WHEREAS**, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Streets and Public Improvements, it has been determined the aforementioned individual has met all of the required criteria and has 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 3000 Block of W. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 transfer of Lisa D. Morse-Rothwell from the position of Secretary, Assessor's Office, Department of Accounts and Finance, to the position of Interim Human Resources Generalist, Office of Human Resources, Department of Accounts and Finance, with all benefits applicable, effective August 30, 2021, at the salary range as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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**, Delaware County Council has established an Open Space and Recreation Municipal Grant Program to be utilized by the municipalities of Delaware County; and

**WHEREAS**, the grants may be used by the municipality for the improvement or acquisition of municipal recreation land or for planning services for such activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the municipality of the City of Chester, Delaware County Pennsylvania desires to participate in the Delaware County Open Space and Greenways Municipal Grant Program in order to help fund Crozer Park Trail Construction.

**WHEREAS**, the municipality will have available any and all additional funding to complete this project.

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

1. That the City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, hereby approves the filing of an application for Delaware County Municipal Grant Program assistance.
2. That William Morgan, Deputy Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file the appropriate forms with the Delaware County Planning 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 rescind the Resolution No. 124-2021, which was passed by Chester City Council on August 11, 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 approve the Recast Boost Contract with Recast City, LLC, to provide consulting services, for the purpose of analyzing integrating space for small-scale producers into redevelopment projects and place-based economic development for the revitalization of the Central Business District.

**FURTHER**, that it does authorize the proper City official to execute this agreement for and on behalf of the City of Chester.

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

**Mayor Kirkland says we apologize for this not being in the packet for the Community but this is something that we had been working on with the Receiver's Team.**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester received payments from the following named individuals listed on the attached sheet, on properties located in the City of Chester; and

**WHEREAS**, 72 PA C.S.A. §5566(b) provides for the refund of monies paid to a political subdivision which is not legally entitled to said monies, within three (3) years of payment thereof.

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

That it does authorize the Department of Accounts and Finance to refund to the named individuals, the stated amounts which represent the refund of monies for the overpayment of City Real Estate Taxes.

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 27, 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 Madam Clerk, Resolution #6, do you have that in your packet.**

**Candice Newsome, City Clerk says let me double check. I don't.**

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says Item #6, (Authorize approval to ratify the declaration of a weather emergency) was removed based upon no weather emergency.**

**Livia Smith gives a COVID-19 update: As of September 7, 2021 there were 100 new positive COVID cases and 158 new cases in the last two weeks which is a 4.69% increase of COVID-19 cases. Thirteen thousand, six hundred and four Chester Residents received at least one vaccine. Up to 215 Residents of the previous week who has received at least one vaccine. Nine hundred and thirty-nine school age youth have received at least one vaccine. That's up from 53 youth from the previous week who has received at least one vaccine. It's a slow process but we're moving in the right direction as of September 7 (inaudible) eligible population that have received the 12-year-old+ has been fully vaccinated. The percentage is now 39.4% which brings us up to a total of 11,827 people fully vaccinated.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Cynthia McNeil, 219 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street says I'm here just to make you guys aware that our Cars once again in front of our houses were tore up. It happens all the time. If there is just one Cop to write some tickets just for a half an hour, he would surpass the amount of money he supposed to get for any tickets. They gave all of us \$25 tickets for our tires touching the curb. Some of my neighbors don't have curbs. Do we ask the City to put curbs on a State Highway? Why don't we have a light for our school (blinking light)? Those traffic lights at Penn and Barclay they do not allow you to cross the street if you're not a traffic light. You have to go to the traffic light and you better try and do it as fast as you can because it's going to change while your foot is not even on the curb to cross the street. They ride those scooter things on the sidewalk. I saw somebody that didn't belong to the school dumping in a dumpster on a Sunday (Chester High) and I called the Police and when he (the Officer) realized I was the one that called that Officer got crazy with me asking "what are you calling me for"? I said the School Taxes are paying for these dumpsters what are they going to use when they show up for work tomorrow? The Officer said "well there is no reason he can't put it" and I said thank you Officer I guess I'm done. This is why you're not going to get people to tell the Officers or report anything that they see because they don't respect us. They don't care that we call.

Mayor Kirkland says unfortunately folks are just driving crazy. They can care less about other's safety. What I will do is talk to my Police Commissioner to see if he can have a person stationed there or if not always stationed there to do an hourly check in certain areas to try and stem the speeding in the Community. When it comes to parking on your street, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, we will have a

conversation with the Parking Authority. We do not want folks parking on the curb because once you park on the curb it starts to deteriorate and underneath that curb is your plumbing/piping and more times than none that will crack over a period of time. We're going to talk to the School District, the State and PennDot because there should be a 15mph blinking sign there. We have some new Officers and some young Officers and just like any other agency or business or Community there will always be one or two persons who do not step up to the plate. I can say that the majority of our Officers are respectful and will do their job and will respond to the needs of the Community. I will relay this conversation that you have brought to our attention with our Commissioner and for them to be more responsive because what we want to happen is folks to report dumping in our Community. If you can, don't confront them, get the license plate number and type of vehicle and we will make sure that those persons pay a hefty price for dumping in our Community. We do have a noise Ordinance here in the City. If our Officers aren't running to something else and our Officers come into contact with those individuals, they have the authority and the right to fine those individuals. These scooters...the problem with these scooters is this...I have on my phone a video how one of the Officers captured one of the scooters when it stalled and the Officer rode up on it so that it wouldn't go anywhere the other scooters rode around basically crazy and he even kicked the Police car. The reason they don't chase them is because if they chase them...they're so reckless...it they don't kill themselves they'll kill somebody else. So, what we try to do is identify those persons on those scooters by facial if we can and if we know who they are...we confront them...arrest them and remove their scooters from them when they are in idle position/parked. We're going to see what exactly we can do with the authority that we have to try and make that area a safer place to travel and to get across the street.

Councilwoman West says to my Public Works Director, that tomorrow I would like us to get with Mike Galante so that we can contact some people whether it's from PennDot or the State because we need to get on it because we do need those blinking lights.

Ms. McNeil says they also need a **DO NOT U-TURN!**

Councilwoman West says we can talk to PennDot about the lights there because they are on a timer and we can make them make it longer and I think those lines in the Street where people are able to cross...we need those too!

James Smith, 205 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street says I haven't parked there in over 20 years. My car has been hit several times. The apartment next door to my house the whole porch was pretty much demolished by someone speeding. We need Police presence, give people tickets and maybe even some speed bumps. The School said we can't park in the Parking Lot.

Mayor Kirkland says you said the School said you can't park in that lot. We'll get that corrected. Once again, I will have a conversation with Commissioner Gretsky to see how we can better patrol that area.

Councilwoman West says the reason we ask people not to park on the curb is because if it becomes damaged it's the Homeowner's responsibility. We don't want you to have to incur that cost either. If you park on the curb and it's damaged then you have to fix it because we do look at that and ask people to make sure that their curbing is correct. That's why we're very strict about people parking on the curb and if you park too close to the curb it messes up your tire.

Mary Thomas, 209 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street says just like my neighbors we're all fed up! I'm one to abide by rules and regulations but if it comes to my life versus a pipe on the street...I think my life is a little bit more worthy than a pipe on the street. I'm going to park on the sidewalk. Speed bumps...even if PennDot would come in and move the dividing line a little bit over between where we can't park no longer in front of the High School that would give us a little bit more lead way for parking. There are two abandoned homes that have been in this neighborhood for over 30 years but now we have overgrown trees covering these houses.

Councilwoman West says do you have the address there. **(There are several people talking and describing where the houses are)** and then Councilwoman West says is it right next to the apartment building?

Ms. Thomas says yes.

Councilman Jacobs says could I talk to you after this meeting. I want to get your information to see exactly where that house is. That house might be on the demolition list already.

Ms. Thomas says the dumping in back of our field. It's all kinds of stuff back there. I have called the City to see if they could plow or cut the weeds or cut down the trees. It's an eye sore back there.

Councilwoman West says we'll look at it tomorrow.

Mayor Kirkland says one of things that have been happening and we are now trying to do some creative things to prevent folks from dumping. We're also putting some things in place as we speak that we can't talk about so that we can catch the dumpsters (those persons that are dumping). Are there persons from outside of the City bringing that stuff in here...**YES!** Are there persons inside the City bringing that stuff here...**YES!** as our hope that those persons will take better pride in themselves and in our Community...those who are doing it here. We are getting ready to do a very aggressive program to not only clean-up those dumpsites...we're taking videos as we clean these sites up so that the Community can see. These guys work hard and we don't have enough men/women to cover what we need to cover. We will get to that area. We promise you. We will take a video of that area. We promise you and we will be needing some of the Community's help because those folks will come back. They'll do the same thing over and over again until they're caught...until their vehicle is confiscated and until they get a hefty fine.

Ms. Thomas says the people that are actually doing this and once we notify the proper authority, we have to hold them accountable too! My neighbor and I called and nothing has been done.

Mayor Kirkland says I agree.

Ms. Thomas says I want to see where my tax money is going.

Geraldine Thomas, 804 Elsinore Place says I'm here too to support the members of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. My car has been hit twice parked outside of my sister's house. I also got a ticket for parking across the street on the side of the High School. I did express before about the speeding down 9<sup>th</sup> Street at a Council Meeting. My question is about the Bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Is the bridge going to be fixed anytime soon?

Councilwoman West says I gave an update in our last Council Meeting. Myself, Rodney Robertson, Public Works Director, Mark Alexander, Deputy Director of the Streets Department and the City Engineer, we met with the Engineer's from PennDot, the County and some people from the State. There were a lot of obstacles that they had ran into with that Bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> Street just like on Lloyd Street we've been running into a lot of challenges. But they feel that they worked a lot of them out and the prediction is that the Bridge is going to be completed in November of 22.

Ms. Thomas says who do we report street light stuff to.

Councilwoman West says to my department.

Mayor Kirkland says we're about to launch a massive street lighting campaign.

Ms. Thomas says I saw/did hear that in one of the Receiver's Meeting.

Councilman Morgan says every street light in the City of Chester will be touched or updated with the LED lighting. The project is going to start before this year ends.

Councilwoman West says I do want to encourage people to continue to recycle because there is Act 101 money that the City gets. It's a reimbursement to the City when we recycle. I have been speaking with the trash vendor about this...the recycling...we're working on it. I just need people to use the blue cans and recycle and not co-mingle recycling with regular trash. I also told the trash vendor not to co-mingle. It's about a reeducation thing. We had it under control at one time. But then with the Pandemic and things getting off we jut have to get back on track. I want to encourage the Residents to continue to call City Hall when you have any problems with your trash (regular /recycle) we will call directly to the supervisor. I appreciate everybody's cooperation.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

Candice Newsome, City Clerk

