

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 22, 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 10:01am with Deputy Mayor William Morgan presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

Elizabeth Williams
William "Al" Jacobs
Deputy Mayor Morgan
Portia West (Absent)
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland (Absent)

On motion of Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Williams, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Jacobs, Deputy Mayor Morgan. Nays: 0.

Deputy Mayor Morgan says we have our City Solicitor, Ken Schuster, on the line. Unfortunately, he is unable to join us at the moment and he is trying to get here.

Deputy Mayor Morgan 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. James C. Emery, 1116 Curry Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Alfonzo Staples, 825 W. 7th Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. Victoria Jennings, 2721 Forwood Street, Chester, PA 19013

WHEREAS, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Public Works, it has been determined the aforementioned individuals have 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 1100 Block of Curry Street, in the 800 Block of W. 7th Street, and in the 2700 Block of Forwood Street in the City of Chester.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby promote Jonathan Ross to the position of Acting Sergeant, Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs, effective September 27, 2021, with a ninety (90) day probationary period, at the salary range as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Amanda Johnson to the position of Interim Press Secretary/Communications Coordinator, Department of Public Affairs, with no benefits, effective September 7, 2021, at the salary range as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Ayanna King to the position of COVID-19 Support Specialist, Health Department, Department of Public Safety, with a sixty (60) day probationary period, with no benefits, effective September 20, 2021, at the salary range as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That in accordance with recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated August 11, 2021 and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on August 19, 2021, it does hereby grant final approval for Vincent Del Rossi to reverse subdivide two (2) lots into one (1) lot and construct a 6,075 sq. ft. storage warehouse facility with off street parking at Front and Ivy Streets, Chester, PA 19013 as shown on a plan by Catania Engineering, 520 W. MacDade Blvd., Milmont Park, PA 19033; dated June 2, 2021.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That in accordance with recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated August 11, 2021 and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on August 19, 2021, it does hereby grant final approval to John Kelly for the reverse subdivision of eight (8) lots into one (1) lot at Concord Avenue and Patterson Street, Chester, PA 19013 as shown on a plan by Catania Engineering, 520 W. MacDade Blvd., Milmont Park, PA 19033; dated February 26, 2021.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That in accordance with the recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated August 11, 2021 and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on August 19, 2021, it does hereby grant final approval to Byron

Anstine for the construction and addition of household storage garages at 12th Street and Meadow Lane as shown on a plan prepared by Site Engineering Concepts, LLC., PO Box 1992, Southeastern, PA 19399; dated June 29, 2021.

On motion of Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Jacobs, Deputy Mayor Morgan. 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, on June 23, 2021, the City increased the number of months of assistance to six (6) months for mortgage and/or utility assistance, with total assistance not to exceed \$7,000.00; and

WHEREAS, it has become evident that the time extension to six (6) months would create excessive regulatory and administrative burdens for homeowners participating in the Program.

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

1. That the original Amendment to the CDBG-CV Short-Term Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program is hereby rescinded.
2. That the CDBG-CV Short-Term Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program will provide mortgage and/or utility assistance, including arrearages, during a three-month period, with total assistance not to exceed \$7,000.00; and
3. 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 Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted.

Deputy Mayor Morgan says this is something that the City of Chester, Mayor and Council approved last year. We had extended the assistance from three months to six months. But unfortunately, there were a lot of requirements (inaudible) for the homeowners to get the assistance all the way through. So, we're going to bring it back down to three months but keep the allotment at \$7,000.00. The City of Chester still has a good amount of money for the homeowner's/individuals that have mortgages in the City of Chester that can apply. If you don't need assistance with your mortgage and you only need assistance utilities (Stormwater, Delcora, PECO) you can just apply for those utility assistance opportunities. You can come to the City of Chester and pick up an application from the front lobby and speak to someone in CEDA (Chester Economic Development Authority) those applications will go to CCIP and they will take you through the entire process.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic has been a national emergency since March 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic poses a danger to the health and safety of the City of Chester and its residents;
and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic has impacted the City of Chester with 3,526 citizens with known COVID-19 infection and residents of the City of Chester have suffered with the grief of 89 residents passing from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control ("CDC) reports that new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has been shown to be a renewed urgent danger with the spread of the Delta-Variant and evidence of rapid increases in infection, hospitalization, and critical illness in our own and nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has stated that vaccination is an effective tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protects both vaccine recipients and those they come into contact with, including persons who for reasons of age, health, or other conditions cannot themselves be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration has granted full authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, (marketed as **Comirnaty** [koe-mir'-na-tee), for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, consultation with and review of the guidance of National, State, and Local health professionals has shown that there are three critical strategies to mitigate the dangers of widespread COVID-19 infection:

1. Universal Masking in public indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces.
2. Access to COVID-19 testing to allow possibly ill residents to self-isolate and protect others.
3. Vaccination with a safety-tested medically recommended and authorized vaccine.

WHEREAS, on Monday, August 23, 2021, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine was granted full approval from the Food and Drug Administration: and

WHEREAS, an individual is considered fully vaccinated two or more weeks following receipt of a second dose in a 2-dose series of a COVID-19 vaccine, or 2 or more weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

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

That it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Mandatory Mask Mandates in public indoor spaces, including government and school buildings.

Section 2. Mandatory Vaccination of City of Chester government current and new employees, and expectation of vaccination of all contractors, civil servants, and businesses within the City boundaries. City employees must:

- a. Provide the City agency or office where they work with proof that they have received their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccination by October 4, 2021 and provide the City agency or office where they work with proof of full vaccination by November 1, 2021.
- b. Beginning on October 4, 2021, any employee who has not submitted proof that they have received their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine is required to submit proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR diagnostic test (not an antibody test) every week.
- c. Beginning November 1, 2021, and on a weekly basis thereafter until the employee submits proof of full vaccination, any employee who is not fully vaccinated is required to provide the City agency or office where they work with proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR diagnostic test (not an antibody test). For purposes of this resolution, an employee is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) or one dose of a single-dose vaccination (Johnson & Johnson).

Section 3. Requirements that residents show proof of vaccination or a recent (within 48 hours) negative COVID-19 test and utilize masking to attend City or Chester-Upland School District sanctioned public events (this includes indoor events, crowded outdoor events, athletic events, social clubs, band, and choir performances, etc.).

Section 4. Direction to the Public health and Public safety civil servants to remind our residents of these strong measures for the duration of the current COVID-19 Delta Variant Surge.

EVEN FURTHER, this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester owns various police vehicles that are no longer in usable condition and the cost to repair those vehicles greatly exceeds the value of the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, each vehicle has been dismantled for usable parts and based on their age, condition, and mileage, it has been determined that each vehicle has an estimated worth less than \$1,000; and

WHEREAS, Murphy Ford has stored the vehicles for the last two years at no cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, Murphy Ford has requested the City allow the vehicles to be donated to a local trade school for educational purposes; and

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

That it does hereby authorize the donation of the vehicles listed on the attached sheet to a local trade school to be used solely for educational purposes.

FURTHER, prior to donation all markings and identifiable emblems shall be removed from all vehicles.

FURTHER, it does hereby authorize the proper City officials to take all necessary actions for the proper transfer and disposal of the aforementioned vehicles in accordance with the Third-Class City Code and final approval of the City Solicitor.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester received Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) as a deposit for an event scheduled for September 17, 2021, from Vanessa Duson-Smith, for the rental of an area within Chester Park; and

WHEREAS, the event in the Park was cancelled.

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

That it does authorize the Department of Accounts and Finance to refund the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) to Vanessa Duson-Smith.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester received a payment from the following named entity, on a property 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 Crown Atlantic, Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-one Dollars and Thirty-nine cents (\$6,471.39) which represent the refund of monies for the overpayment of City Real Estate Taxes.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester was designated as a distressed municipality under authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act on April 25, 1996; 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 Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Jacobs, Deputy Mayor Morgan. 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 September 10, 2021 attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

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

The City Clerk proceeded with the opening of bids.

A.J. Jurich Inc
4500 Concord Road
Aston PA 19014

Bid Bond 10%
Bid Amount \$145,365.00

Howard Patterson
Howlins LLC
1110 Hyatt Street
Chester PA 19013

**NO BID BOND/NO BID AMOUNT
PAPERWORK INCOMPLETE**

People's & Sons
501 West 22nd Street
Chester PA 19013

Bid Bond \$400,000.00
Bid Amount \$272,700.00

On motion of Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Bid will be referred to the proper department for review. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Jacobs, Deputy Mayor Morgan. Nays: 0.

Presentation

2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) presented by the Controller's Office

Non-Union - \$1,170,170.00
Fire - \$1,731,883.00
Police - \$7,421,585.00

Swearing – In

Officer Jonathan Ross to Sergeant

Ms. Rosetta Carter recognizes Ayanna King and gives an COVID-19 update for the City of Chester:

- There were 118 new COVID-19 Positive Cases reported this week
- 14-day analysis shows that there are 266 new cases in the last 2 weeks
- 13, 819 Chester residents have received at least one vaccine
- 40% of Chester residents are fully vaccinated
- 964 School-age youth have received at least one vaccine

We're having a vaccine clinic here tomorrow (September 23) in the Community Room 2p-4p. NO APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY! The Pfizer vaccine will be administered. If you want to get the vaccine somewhere else or tomorrow is not good for you, you can always call our office at 610-447-7700 ext. 7955. (Please see attached for more information on available places for the vaccine). If you know residents of the City of Chester that need transportation, on behalf of the County, we can provide transportation for them to go to any site to get vaccinated.

Deputy Mayor Morgan says please get vaccinated and wear a mask!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shakur Abdul-Ali, 14 E. 7th Street says I'm here with a friend of mine who will presenting to the City of Chester in reference to Tai Chi. We want to try and get Tai Chi in Chester with the Employees or with the Veteran's.

Anthony Saguto (Mr. Abdul-Ali's friend) says I've been working with a special program for Veteran's Administration, particularly helping with PTSD. A lot of Veteran's is on drugs and they have found that things like yoga, tai chi and good exercise, a little different than the gym is very good for PTSD. This is a special program VACCN, The Veteran's Administration Community Care Network. Uncle Sam is basically looking for groups in Senior Centers/Community Centers. (Inaudible) I come can come and

teach Tai Chi to Veteran's and to everyone. The address is tajjifit.org. I'm representing this area and it's a new program that's moving fast. I can be reached at 484-340-77960 to set up classes.

Deputy Mayor Morgan says are your classes held in Delaware County? In Chester?

Mr. Saguto says anywhere.

Deputy Mayor Morgan says do you have any flyers or anything that you could provide and leave here at City Hall?

Mr. Saguto says (inaudible) we're one of the first in the whole Country but I will get you something.

Gary Williams, 632 Avenue of the States says there are two trash cans on the side of my building and they have no lids. I would like to get a trash can with a lid on it so that the trash can be secured. My building is a mixed-use building (Barbershop, Hair Braiding and potentially a Real Estate Office) and there is a no parking sign at the end of the building. I'd like to have that removed to have a healthy vibrant business. Even if it says 30 minutes/1 hour will be beneficial to that Business.

Deputy Mayor Morgan says as far as the trash cans we will have our Public Works Director, Mr. Rodney Robertson, go out there and take a look assuming it's a public or City of Chester trash can to see what we can do to remedy that issue. As far as the No Parking Sign, as well as Mr. Rodney Robertson with our City Engineer, Mike Galante, will take a look at it assuming that the sign is there potentially because of something that may have happened such as a vehicle accident or people getting their car side swiped. We will make sure that those individuals get back to you with some type of information as whether or not that can be removed or if it has to stay. We will see how we can accommodate you to help your business continue to thrive.

James Johnson, 910 W. 5th Street says the house at 907 Parker Street grass needs to be cut. There is bulk trash (a couch, dresser and a mattress) that's been there since August. Can you do anything about?

Deputy Mayor Morgan says we'll make sure our Public Works Director take a ride by there today and see what we have to do.

Councilman Jacobs says Mr. Johnson you mentioned high weeds and grass and I'll have someone look into it.

Deputy Mayor Morgan says they'll be out there today to access it and try and see what we have to do to remedy the situation.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57am.

Respectfully submitted,

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Candice Newsome, City Clerk