

MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER

A special meeting of the Council of the City of Chester was held on the above date at 10:07am with Mayor 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.

**Amin Abdul Salim**, 242 Patterson Street says Councilman Jacobs I want to give a sincere thanks for all your hard work over the years. (Inaudible) in 2022 we will have more of a clue of what to do. The Budget (inaudible) we don't have money to burn to be sent backwards...throwing money good money at bad. So, this is certainly a concern. We want to take care of public funds and we trust you. At this point we just simply trust Mayor and Council in the point that we will continue to trust you all.

Mayor Kirkland says thank you Mr. Salim for your kind words and we thank you for your trust. We appreciate you.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinance.

**BILL NO. 12**  
**ORD. 12, 2021**

**AN ORDINANCE  
LAST AND FINAL READING  
(AS AMENDED)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,  
DELAWARE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS  
ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC  
PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT,  
HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, DURING THE 2022  
CALENDER YEAR.**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES ORDAIN:**

**SECTION 1.** That for the expenditures and expenses of the 2022 calendar year, the following amounts are hereby appropriated from the fund equities, revenues, and other financing sources available for the 2022 calendar year for the specific purposes herein set forth.

**SECTION 2.** The General Fund Budget for the 2022 calendar year is hereby set at **\$62,953,696** and appropriated from the following revenues, as more fully detailed in the attached Exhibit A:

Real Estate Taxes	\$ 10,535,500
Taxes - Act 511	\$ 19,285,000
Fines	\$ 122,000
Licenses and Permits	\$ 1,441,000
Interest, Rents and Royalties	\$ 4,035,602
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 18,542,783
Charges For Services	\$ 7,408,811
Reimbursements	\$ 1,383,000
Other Revenue	\$ 200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 62,953,696</b>

**SECTION 3.** The General Fund Budget for the 2022 calendar year is hereby set at **\$62,953,696** and appropriated to the following departments, as more fully detailed in the attached Exhibit A:

Department of Public Affairs	\$18,519,138
Department of Accounts and Finance	\$23,425,910
Department of Public Safety	\$ 7,689,536
Department of Public Works	\$ 4,346,830
Department of Public Property & Recreation	\$ 1,242,282
Operating Transfers	\$ 7,730,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62,953,696</b>

**SECTION 4.** The State Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the 2022 calendar year is hereby set at **\$839,048** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2022 Budget".

**SECTION 5.** The Special Revenue Fund for the 2022 calendar year is hereby set at **\$50,000** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2022 Budget".

**SECTION 6.** The Debt Service Fund for the 2022 calendar year is hereby set at **\$9,207,865** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2022 Budget".

**SECTION 7.** The DCCC Fund for the 2022 calendar year is hereby set at **\$480,000** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2022 Budget".

**SECTION 8.** The Capital Improvement Fund for the 2022 calendar year is hereby set at **\$2,280,000** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2022 Budget".

**SECTION 9.** That any Ordinances conflicting with this Ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 12, 2021 was passed on its Last Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Jacobs, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Public Comment

**NONE**

**Mayor Kirkland** says thank you Council for all of our collective work in approving and preparing a balanced budget for the City of Chester. We look forward to moving forward in our Community and we look forward to continued growth within our Community. I do want to speak and share with you some comments I have concerning yesterday's Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee Meeting which I was not in attendance nor was Councilman Jacobs. I want to share with you what I feel were somewhat inappropriate comments made in our absence as well as things said that just were not true. Once again, thank you

Councilman Morgan for all the work you put in to correcting and rectifying our IRS situation. You know a lot of folks like to take credit for things they have not done and basically discredit some of our very own at times. But I was in the room...I was on the call and I saw the hard work put into it by our very own Councilman Morgan. So, I want to thank you once again for all the hard work that you put in in correcting the IRS situation and doing it a proper and professional manner. Now let me get back to the MFRAC Meeting. There was a meeting held yesterday by Receiver Doweary and other members were at that Zoom meeting. Councilman Jacobs and I were not at that meeting. It was a holiday and we both were under the impression that there would not be a meeting simply because it was a holiday. Even by way of the email sent by Ms. Kim Bracey on 11/28/2021 that she stated "are we really going to do this" and there was no further response. We also received...I looked at my email sometime yesterday and I received an email from one of the individuals on the MFRAC Team approximately an hour and ten minutes before the meeting. And this was the meeting Agenda that was seen for the first time. I didn't see it at that time. Then I received a call and the call said "you might want to listen to what's going on in the MFRAC Meeting". So, I turned on my phone and zoomed into the meeting and I heard some things that were quite concerning and disheartening. First thing that I heard was Ms. Kelly Diaz. Ms. Kelly Diaz stated that she wanted to know how the City residents would benefit from a Parking Authority...from parking meters. She wanted to know in fact if we had talked to the residents and the businesses. She asked these questions and I was kind of concerned because Ms. Diaz could have simply picked up the phone and called me and I would have responded to her. This is the same Ms. Kelly Diaz that works in Media, PA at least five days out of a week. Which means she works in an area where they have parking meters on top of parking meters. She works in an area where people have to come to go to Court...they have to pay for their legal representation...they have to pay legal fines...and they have to pay parking. And the question was did we reach out to our residents...our businesses and how does it benefit the Citizens of Chester. I wonder if she raised the same question in Media. I would like to ask her that same question to see her response to me. We had a problem in the City of Chester when it came to parking. We have a Soccer Stadium. We have a University that a community is surrounded by a University. We have a Hospital that is right up against Nova Vista and we have a Downtown where folks would just simply leave their cars and get on a train to go to Philadelphia...working all day in Philadelphia while leaving their vehicles here in the City of Chester. Then coming back on the train from Philadelphia and getting in their cars and going home. We had a parking problem here in the City of Chester. So, we thought to move forward by our very best to correct that situation. Ms. Diaz, the residents in Nova Vista can now park in front of their homes because of the Residential Parking Permits that they have there and Crozer employees can no longer block their driveways and park in front of their homes without receiving a ticket. Nova Vista residents are happy. Ms. Diaz, the residents in Sun Hill don't have to worry about their Handicap Parking spaces being occupied by college students. If they are they receive a ticket and possibly they are towed. The people in Sun Hill are extremely happy. Ms. Diaz, even our downtown businesses. I saw a report by Mr. Kapoor and he stated that businesses downtown is paying all this money to pay for their patrons parking tickets. I find that strange Mr. Kapoor because I'm downtown every day. Every single day. I see new businesses springing up downtown in Chester. They're springing up even as we speak. They're not complaining. They're building and they're helping us build a better Chester. So, I have a problem when we hear those type of comments from the MFRAC Board. I wish we were there. I wish I could have been there. We would have responded. Mr. Kapoor stated that I signed a contract and he's correct. I signed the contract for the Parking Authority because I wanted to make parking better here in the City of Chester. The problem arose when Widener University filed litigation against the Parking Authority. So now therefore everything is in Court. I'm still confident once we finish this court procedure that we will have a good parking plan here in the City. So, Mr. Kapoor you stated that I signed the contract. I did. Council voted on it. We did. But you never told anybody about the contract that you signed with someone who committed a heinous crime who's on your team. Never told the Public about that. Now if were going to be transparent let's be transparent. If anybody from the City of Chester commits a murder, they will never be able to work on a State Level. Let me say it again, if anyone from the City of Chester commits murder, they would never ever be afforded the opportunity to work on a State Level. Then I heard Ms. Kim Bracey...she stated we are raping the City. These are professionals for the State. My question to Ms. Bracey is who are the we? Who are the we? I encourage you to be very clear of who that we is. Members of this Council have voluntarily and not just this Council, our Solicitor, our Commissioners both Fire and Police, have voluntarily and our former CFO voluntarily gave up a portion of their salaries last year. Voluntarily. Raping the City? I think Ms. Bracey that you need to be very direct in who or whom you're talking about and if it's not this Mayor and Council then an apology is definitely in order. We don't even know the salaries...our salaries are public for the world to see...we don't know the salaries of the Receiver and its Team. We don't know the contracts and the cost but you stated we (whoever we are) are raping the City. That's wrong. The salaries we do know we pay them. We pay the salaries that the Receiver's Team has put into place and they're six figures. We're raping the City. Please, please Ms. Bracey let me and let everyone else know who we are. There was a gentleman at the MFRAC Meeting, Mr. Eric Hagot(?), and I'm not sure I'm going to look into it a little deeper but I think he had something to do with the Widener litigation...helping them to prepare for their litigation. This is the same gentleman that Mr. Kapoor brought to the MFRAC Meeting. Once again, a MFRAC Meeting that we received the Agenda for an hour and ten minutes before the meeting. I believe in fairness. I believe in transparency. I believe in giving credit where credit is due and I believe in telling the truth. If were going to work together as a team moving forward let's be honest enough to tell the truth and give credit where credit is due. I saw the report Mr. Kapoor put out at 5:49 this morning. I

will be going over it more in depth. But once again we're going to begin to give credit to whom credit is due. That needed to be said today and I look forward to any response from any of those individuals whom identified today.

**Mayor Kirkland says** thank you man (looking at Councilman Jacobs). Thank you for being a colleague, friend and for working your butt off for this City and I know that there's still great things. There's a lot of tread still on those tires and we're going to continue to roll. So, thank you my Brother!

**Councilman Jacobs** says I would be remised if I didn't out right thank the people in the City of Chester of giving me ten years to represent them. I can't say that everything I did was right but everything that I did wasn't wrong either. Some incredible people and with me doing this job it wasn't about the money, my profession is a Lawyer (I could have been making money, but I want people to know this about Mayor and Council. It's an awesome responsibility...just about every decision we make affects everybody. That's different than anything I've ever done. Thank you, thank you, thank you and I cannot say enough about Mayor and Council. These are some incredible people. We get up in the morning thinking about our Constituents and people who or serve under us before we think about our own families. The other thing is I don't believe that if myself or the Mayor was there or both had been there that those people wouldn't have been making those comments like that. There was an opportunity for them to do that meetings ago. When you talk about the Parking Authority...they focus on the Parking Authority. We asked them to focus on the Stadium deal. You want to talk about rape...help us to undo that! At least we can restructure the Parking Authority. They talked about the Manager. Did they consult the Manager of what the Parking Authority does? There's money left on the table with Chester Water Authority. It seems like in every turn they are going against us instead of trying to help us. We have been, the Mayor, you have bent over backwards trying to accommodate them. Rigby and Commissioner Gretskey, I just want to thank you guys. Thank you, City of Chester...Thank you all!!

**Fire Commissioner William Rigby** says many years ago when you arrived, we sat on opposite sides of the table and we were in one of the longest contract disputes with Police and Fire in the history. Councilman Jacobs came in and he sat at the table and we worked a deal out in the end. I think our Membership, the Men and Women of the Department will not forget and you will be dearly missed. I thank you for the opportunity that you have given myself and my family and we hope you continue on here to help the Department and the City as a whole. I thank you for your service!

**Police Commissioner Steven Gretskey** says you worked with my Father, Brother and me. You had one hell of a ride and I wish you the best!

**Councilwoman West** says I want to thank Councilman Jacobs for his service. You will be missed! When Councilman Jacobs came onto Council, there was a situation with one of the employees and it was a desperate situation, we support our employees here. We really go out on the limb to support them because we got to make sure that their well-being is taken care of both professionally and personally. I had gone to Court with this individual and then I looked up and here was Councilman Jacobs. I will never forget that moment not only for how you made me feel but the individual felt so supported and more comfortable. So, I want to thank you for that moment in time and thank you for your service.

**Councilman Morgan** says thank you. Thank you for all you've done...words of wisdom...advice...definitely a great man to me! I've learned my lesson not to text you because you won't respond to that but any phone call you will definitely answer. Thank you for all you have done for me, this Mayor and Council and of course for the constituents that you have served for so many years.

**Councilwoman Williams** says we have beautiful times here working for the City and all of our work that we do is for each citizen here in the City of Chester and we've all worked hard and I seen how you worked and I like the way you work. One thing that we have to understand "All things are good for those who love the Lord". Where ever you go is a step up not a step down and hold your head up high! Can't nobody take away what the Lord has planned for you!

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor** says many of you may or may not know but Al and I practice law together for the past 40 years! Al is a great Councilman, Grandfather, Father, Person and Friend. What a lot of people don't know is what he has done for the past 10 years is put his Law Career on hold in order to serve the Residents of this City and serve the great City of Chester. What people don't know is Al Jacobs is and was one of the finest trial lawyers in Delaware County and that's how we basically connected. If it wasn't for Al Jacobs, Ken Schuster would not be in Chester. I owe you that debt of gratitude Al and Mayor and Council, because of you I'm here! I pray to God and I look forward to Al returning to the Practice of Law in some capacity because that's were you belong!! Keep your head high!

**Amin Abdul Salim**, 242 Patterson Street says this is beautiful. I remember when you were running for Mayor. There is something special in this man. I hope God will use him more, more and more.

**Mayor Kirkland** says Mr. Salim, believe it or not we miss you!

**Ayanna King, COVID-19 Support Specialists** says according to the most recent reports, Chester has 4,950 positive COVID cases. Since the Holiday we have seen a sharp increase in the daily number of positive cases. There have been 450 new cases since the last Council Meeting last Wednesday. We currently have 55% of Chester Residents partially vaccinated and 48% fully vaccinated. The School Age population ages 10-19 continues to be a challenge with only 26% partially vaccinated and 21% fully vaccinated. Our priorities for the New Year will be to get the School District Youth vaccinated and tested before they go back to school and to increase the vaccine and testing sites around the City. We want to continue to encourage everyone ages five and up to get their vaccine and every one that is eligible to get their Booster. Vaccines and Boosters are free and available to everyone. COVID PCR Testing is available at Everest Urgent Care. We currently have Vaccines and Boosters available at ChesPenn, Keystone Wellness Center and Everest Urgent Care. Vaccines and Boosters are available at your local pharmacy. For more information, please go to [chestercovidinfo.org](http://chestercovidinfo.org). Thanks, and have a Safe and Happy Holidays!

**Mayor Kirkland says ONCE AGAIN WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE! EVERYONE! EVERYONE! PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! GET VACCINATED!!** We're doing some testing for employees today here at City Hall and they're doing some vaccinations down at Keystone. So, we encourage everyone, I know the lines are long, but it's for the greater! We want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New Year! God has blessed us to see yet another year!! Who would have thought about it **2022!**

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51am.

Respectfully submitted,

**DECEMBER 29, 2021**

Candice Newsome, City Clerk