

**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 10:06am 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
Stefan Roots
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, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Mayor Kirkland asked if anyone in the audience had any comments on Agenda items only.

Livia Smith, 930 E. 18th Street says what is the Adopt A Park Program.

Councilman Roots says Adopt A Park Program is an initiative the City is starting to connect Businesses, Non-Profits, Schools, Sororities and any Legal Entity with the City of Chester. The agreement between the City of Chester and that Entity would be at a minimum to do brief clean ups in the park or playground. The objective is to get some assistance from Community Members, Businesses to help our Public Works department to maintain our Parks.

Ms. Smith says does that include tree trimming, fallen trees and so forth.

Councilman Roots says it certainly could.

Ms. Smith says it certainly could but not necessarily a part of the Adopt A Park Program.

Councilman Roots says the Memorandum of Understanding does not include tree trimming but it does at a minimum have three clean-ups throughout the year. If you're talking about the tree that you brought to our attention a few weeks ago, I just want you to know that myself and the Shade Tree Commission did go out to Washington Park and we looked at all the trees out there and the one you mentioned at the sidewalk of the address you mentioned appears to be dead. It can't be completely identified until the leaves come out and were trying to get the funds to cut down the limbs that are spread out throughout the park. There are a couple of actions to get rid of them and one would be is to bring the chipper out and just mulch them and take the chips and just lay them out as a christen to playgrounds. Another is to get the Solid Waste Authority to allow us to bring compost out to incinerator road.

Mr. Shelton says what is Resolution #4.

Councilman Morgan says we have a State Grant with (inaudible) PCCD Grant for Violence Mentoring Initiative throughout the City of Chester. I believe this is the Amachi Program that the City of Chester has. The Grant expiration date is coming near at the end of this month maybe. So, we're just requesting an extension to June of this year. The grant was initially funded in 2019/2020 but because of the pandemic a lot of the funds were not able to be exhausted throughout the term or length of the grant. So, we're asking for an extension.

Mr. Shelton says what is the Annual Action Plan. When was it done and where is it? Has the Public been exposed to it?

Councilman Morgan says yes. On an annual basis the City of Chester receives Federal Funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG Grants) for community initiatives, non-profits for programs throughout the City of Chester. We had a public

hearing in December and a second public hearing in February and it was live streamed as well. We had individuals, businesses, non-profits submit an application requesting funding for a particular program or project they had. At this point it's before Mayor and Council to consider the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2022. This is something that we do annually just approving the budget for the applications of departments.

Mayor Kirkland recognizes Delaware County Councilman Richard Womack.

Delaware County Councilman Richard Womack says Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority (DCIGRA) was established by County Council to distribute some of the Commonwealth's Tax Revenue that we received from Harrah's. We would like to give it back into our County back into our Community. For several causes including our First Responders, you are among 13 Emergency Service Organization's in Delco receiving over 26,000 this month. This grant is to reimburse the City of Chester Police Department for its Community Outreach at your Summer Fair last year. Commissioner Gretskey, on behalf of DCIGRA and County Council, I present to you this check for \$2,500.00 for your Police Department.

Commissioner Gretskey says thank you!

Mayor Kirkland says those funds are well deserved and well used when it comes to our young people. This is our way of reaching back out to our Community by way of our Police Officers and our Firefighters engaging them in a very positive way.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following individuals have requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Gladys Peterson, 3021 W. 10th Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Jacqueline Cooper, 834 E. 14th Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. Angela Riley, 928 Edwards Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Aretha Ferguson, 3302 W. 13th Street, Chester, PA 19013
5. Otto D. Fontaine, 710 Wilson Street, Chester, PA 19013
6. Marilyn Anderson, 119 W. Mowry Street, Chester, PA 19013
7. Cardrina Manning, 219 E. 22nd 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 3000 Block of W. 10th Street; in the 800 Block of E. 14th Street; in the 900 Block of Edwards Street; in the 3300 Block of W. 13th Street; in the 700 Block of Wilson Street; in the 100 Block of W. Mowry Street and in the 200 Block of E. 22nd 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, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to prepare the advertisement notice for a third-party payroll service provider for the City of Chester.

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the City Clerk and/or other proper City officials to advertise said notice.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester owns, operates and maintains a system of public parks; and

WHEREAS, Chester City Council is committed to providing clean, safe, and an aesthetically pleasing environment for children to play and residents to participate in recreational and social activities; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to strengthen this desire, it has been determined there is a need to revise the City's Adopt-A-Park Program; and

WHEREAS, the Program's purpose is to increase community involvement in preserving the City's system of public parks through general upkeep and cleanup.

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

That it does hereby approve the revised City of Chester Adopt-A-Park Program, which is designed to provide the public with an opportunity to be a part of the City's commitment to preserving our public parks system.

FURTHER, this Program shall take effect immediately upon the passage 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, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the submission of a project modification to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), Subgrant Number 2018-SS-02-30593, for the Chester Mentoring Violence Prevention Initiative, to extend the project ending date from March 31, 2022 until June 30, 2022.

FURTHER, that it does hereby ratify the execution of all the necessary documents for and 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, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, under Title 1 of Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to communities in the prevention and elimination of slums or urban blight, carry out activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income persons or address other urgent community development needs; and

WHEREAS, under the HOME Program created by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1991, as amended, the Secretary of HUD is authorized to extend financial assistance to participating jurisdictions to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester anticipates that its F.Y. 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program allocation will be approximately \$1,280,000.00 and its HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) allocation will be approximately \$360,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester, in collaboration with the Chester Economic Development Authority, has prepared a draft Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2022, which proposes how the entitlement grant funds will be expended to address the housing and community development needs identified in the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan; and

WHEREAS, a draft of the F.Y. 2022 Annual Action Plan was on public display from February 1, 2022 through March 4, 2022, and the City held a series of public meetings and hearings on the said Plan, and the comments of various agencies, groups, and residents were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final document; and

WHEREAS, additional recommendations from the Mayor and City Council were also taken into consideration in the preparation of the final document; and

WHEREAS, after taking all comments and requests into consideration, the Mayor and City Council have incorporated the following revisions to the draft F.Y. 2022 Annual Action Plan:

1. Delete the purchase of a Police Vehicle in the amount of \$60,000.000
2. Add the following Public Service activities:
 - a. Salvation Army Chester Corps - \$10,000.00 for case management services to support the Stepping Stone Program
 - b. Making a Change Group - \$10,000.00 for program management services to support the Connected Visions Initiative
 - c. Increase the Contingencies line item from \$16,129.00 to \$56,129.00 to fund Project Overruns

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

SECTION 1. That the Annual Action Plan for the Fiscal Year 2022 CDBG and HOME Programs is hereby in all respects approved, and the City Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of said Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2022 with the Official Minutes of this Meeting of this Council.

SECTION 2. That the City Council of the City of Chester is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program with Federal financial assistance under Title 1, including those relating to (1) the relocation of site occupants, (2) the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, and (3) other assurances as set forth under the certifications.

SECTION 3. That the Mayor of the City of Chester, on behalf of City Council, is authorized to file an Application for financial assistance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development upon HUD's notification of the funding allocations that will be made available for the F.Y. 2022 CDBG Program and HOME Program.

SECTION 4. That the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Chester, Pennsylvania, is authorized to provide assurances and/or certifications as required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and any other supplemental or revised data which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in review of the City's Application.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the Department of Accounts and Finance to refund the stated amount to Brenda Savage, which represents a refund for the overpayment of 2020 Rubbish Taxes, for the following property:

<u>Refund Amount</u>	<u>Property Address</u>
\$400.98	2000 W. 2 nd Street, Chester, PA 19013 (Vacant Lot)

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

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

**BILL NO. 2
ORD. 2, 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE
LAST AND FINAL READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION
OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF
THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF CHESTER,
PENNSYLVANIA.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 2, 2022 was passed on its Last Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

Presentation – Councilwoman Williams

Mrs. Delores Shelton – Over 40 years of educating our Children

Ayana King – COVID 19 Update (see attachments #1 and #2)

Mayor Kirkland says please get vaccinated so we can get back to some normalcy.

Charles Hurst, Director of Engineering at Delcora says thank you for having us on Monday night it was an important step. I think it was to be able to communicate the plan that's in front of Council. On behalf of Bob Willard and the whole Delcora, having a firm commitment to (inaudible) and communications and having someone there to (inaudible). I will be happy to answer any additional questions or receive any additional comments you may have (inaudible) from Monday night.

Mayor Kirkland says we will continue the dialogue and we will continue working together.

Police Commissioner Gretskey says before the pandemic we were supposed to kick off the Explorer's Program, it's like what the Boy Scouts do, to join the Club the ages will be 10-13 and the post ages will be 14-21. Open House is March 29 at 6pm at the Fire Headquarters on Providence Avenue for more information you can email Firefighter Kevin Postlewait at kpostlewait@chesterfire.net.

Public Comment

Harry Crawford, 3315 Carter Lane says Portia, thank you for getting the potholes fixed. Mayor, thank you for the substation that's at the old Community Hospital/Sacred Heart Hospital. I haven't seen that much of an improvement of riding through my area but at least it's a start. When people come into Chester and actually buy property does the City of Chester try to find out what they actually plan to build there? Then to ask the actual neighborhood what they actually think of it? Whether they actually want it there or not?

Mayor Kirkland says yes, they have to go through our Planning Department and Zoning Departments. They have to present to them exactly what they plan on placing at that residency. Sometimes in the past we have found out that folks have said one

thing and has done another and we had to take legal action. During this pandemic period persons have taken advantage of that because they knew that the Courts were closed. But we do have a process in place. They have to go through Zoning. They have to go through Planning and if they falsify information about what they are actually going to do with the property they are automatically denied.

Mr. Crawford says with the past management some time ago I talked to the Councilperson about getting speed bumps on certain streets. But the comment has always been well were afraid being sued for the damage that it could do to people's cars. But if there is a sign out there that says "Speed Bump Ahead" I think that will actually take care of the problem. Has Chester thought more about areas where people complain about speeding to actually put speed bumps?

Mayor Kirkland says our City Engineer is not here. We have considered the requests of many of our Residents about speed bumps. It's a lot that goes into that. I would refer that question and that kind of information to the Engineer. One of things we do know is that once you put the speed bumps into place you have to be mindful about the Fire apparatus and Police apparatus coming through those areas. Fire trucks coming through that will slow their process and might even damage the truck. But in some areas, we are looking at possibility of speed bumps.

Mr. Crawford says by Chester High on 9th Street, why are there no School Flashing Signs there saying 15mph.

Mayor Kirkland says there is a flashing sign. It's not in front of the School. It's near CUSA. When we're letting out, we have a number of Police Officers that assist in the School when the kids are exiting the School at 2:30.

Councilwoman West says like on those State Roads, on 9th Street (13), you have to get authorization from PennDOT.

Mr. Crawford says does the Highway Department actually ride around and actually fill potholes on a regular basis.

Councilwoman West says we do have a schedule.

Mark Alexander says yes, we do.

Mr. Crawford says we have holes on our Street, Carter Lane and then also on 15th and Township Line Road.

Mr. Shelton says there are three (3) big pot holes on E. 18th & Providence going up to the School.

Mayor Kirkland says this has been like pothole hail. Not just here. This has been one of those years. Everybody in every Community is kind of reaching out.

Roxanne Johnson, R & R Ballroom, 818 Welsh Street says we're coming up on our First Year Anniversary. We are having cake on not this Sunday but the following Sunday from 2p-4p. I'm inviting Mayor and Council and the whole Community to come out. On the 2nd Sunday in August, I would like to do a Bookbag Giveaway. I'd like to have a Block Party but I'm on the block with other Banquet Halls and I don't know if I'm permitted to do that or not. If someone can give me some guidance if I can or cannot do this.

Mayor Kirkland says as far as the Block Party it would probably have to be something done in conjunction with the other businesses there because they have businesses all on that block. If they are in support of the Block Party, we could be supportive of it.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says your Honor we do have an Ordinance that specifies the requirements for a Block Party. You can reach out to the Solicitor's Office to get the details.

Mayor Kirkland says we will be meeting in an Executive Session to discuss legal matters today after Council.

Councilwoman West says that our trash Vendor, J.P. Mascaro, is still out there doing their clean-up for the Month of March. Beginning on April 4, that's when the trash vendor will begin picking up on your particular trash day ONE BULK TRASH PIECE. If you're putting out a mattress and a box spring that's fine and they have to be wrapped. Other than that, you have to put out one Bulk Item per week. If you go on the City's Website, www.chestercity.com, under the Department Tab and click Streets, you can get more information about trash and you will see the items that you can put

out and what they will pick up and not pick up. The regular bulk trash picked up by the City of Chester will be certain appliances, TV's, things that may have freon in it...things like that we will continue to pick up. I want to thank the Chester Community too for coming out on Monday to hear the presentation from Delcora. I thought it was a great back and forth exchange between the Community and Delcora. **If you know of any Children you feel are being mistreated in anyway, there is a Child Hotline that you can call at 1-800-932-0313.**

Councilman Roots says I'd like to thank the Community for coming out to the Delcora listening session. It was great to see this room filled. Delaware County Councilman Richard Womack gave a check today to our Chester City Police Department. I just want everyone to know that five other checks have come to the City of Chester from that Organization (DCIGRA) for \$5,000.00 each to Making A Change Group, The CAT Center, East Side Ministries, Chester Upland Soccer Club and the Boys and Girls Club of Chester. I'd like to thank the Mayor and Council for approving the Adopt A Park Program. This is a great opportunity for Businesses and all people of the City to join with us, City Government, to help keep our Parks and Playgrounds nice. There are a couple of Organizations that already have adopted one of our Parks...Local 413 (Crozer Park); The Nether Providence Athletic Association (maintaining the Soccer Field). Thank you, County Council, for approving \$221,000.00 to upgrade Deshong Park in their last meeting.

Councilwoman West says before you came on Council, there were a few playgrounds that were revitalized and new playground equipment was purchased. There was a new playground put in at 8th & Lloyd Street and in the Highland Gardens area. We did have an opportunity...the Parks Department under Councilwoman Williams, they went out and they solicited the input from the Community and that's how we got those new playgrounds there. I know from going around and looking at repairing some of the equipment that may have been broken.

Councilman Roots says also in that administration of Councilwoman Williams the work was being started for two new playgrounds that we will be cutting the ribbon on really soon. They are both kind of hidden. One being in Holy City and the other one is on Pennell Street (9th & Pennell). You have to go behind the houses to see it.

Mayor Kirkland says for the Adopt A Program, when you invest in your Community...when you invest your time into supporting programs that are adoptable it means you're committed to making sure that our Parks are kept properly. It troubles my heart when I see KFC boxes and Chick Fil A bags in our Parks and we don't have them. We are bringing stuff into our Community...kind of trashing our own Community. Let's uplift our Community. Let's support the Adopt A Park Program. I'm hoping that the Churches are listening as well. Come on and be a part of that. This is going to be a great program. I think that we have some beautiful parks here in the City of Chester. If we invest our time and or energy into our Parks and efforts that this will be a great and positive program! A shining light in the City of Chester. I do want to thank Mr. Hurst and Bob for being here the other day in presenting to the Community the desires of Delcora. Covanta and Delcora are here in the City of Chester and there comes a time where you have to find out how to work with those entities that are within your Community. We're going to have a legal meeting. We did have a legal court case that has been presented by the Receiver and his Team and we're going to talk about that with a smile on our face. We're going to talk about that when we go into our Executive Session and we will present it to the Public the same way the Receiver and his Team presented it to the Public. We think you need to know everything.

Mayor Kirkland says keep the folks in Ukraine in prayer. Special prayers go out to the Troopers who lost their lives the other day on 95. Keep their families in prayer. Also, pray for that young lady because her life is forever changed.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCH 23, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk