

**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 10:01 AM 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
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 asked if there were any comments on agenda/action items only. He said state your name, address.

Anita Littleton, 330 W. 9th St. asked who is responsible for the removal/updating of handicap signs when people move or are deceased. There are signs that are sitting in abandon homes.

Councilwoman West said, the department of public works, which is her department is responsible. She said, due to the pandemic there may have been a time when we haven't updated or lack of staffing however, we are in the process of sending out letters to those people to renew. We are now working on that issue. She can be called if someone has information regarding the handicap signs.

RESOLUTION

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

1. Joseph Wright, 333 Rose Street, Apt A-1, Chester, PA 19013;
2. Willie S. Wilburn, 1023 Butler Street, Chester, PA 19013;
3. Demora Alexander, 1113 Butler Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Eric Collins, 925 Central Avenue, Chester, PA 19013; and

5. Elsie Roberts, 334 Kerlin Street, Apt. 1B, 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 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 300 Block of Rose Street; in the 1000 Block of Butler Street, in the 1100 Block of Butler Street, in the 900 Block of Central Avenue; and in the 300 Block of Kerlin 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 ratify the appointment of Madeline Clausell, to the position of Secretary, Bureau of Health, Department of Public Safety, effective March 28, 2022, to work no more than 37.5 hours per week, with all benefits applicable, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

FURTHER, said individual has successfully completed the thirty (30) day probationary period.

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 accept the bid received through Municibid for the purchase of a 1996 HME 105- foot Aerial Fire Truck, for which the winning bid was received on April 15, 2022, and it is hereby awarded to Arunram Kalaiselvan, 3801 Edition Ave., Cheyenne WT 82006, at the highest bid price of Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$14,450.00)

FURTHER, it does hereby authorize the proper City official to take all necessary actions for the proper sale of the aforementioned item as required by Municibid.

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 Delaware County Planning Department desires to submit an application for a Transportation Community Development Initiative (“TCDI”) grant through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (“DVRPC”) and

WHEREAS, the grant is for studying improvements to the 5-lane section of Route 291 in the City of Chester (“City”) and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the City fully understands that DVRPC will provide project management and oversight of the planning grant, if chosen for funding; and

WHEREAS, the City fully understands the application requirements including county coordination and attachments; and

WHEREAS, the City fully understands that DVRPC will provide project management and oversight for the grant and advise on the qualification-based procurement process, if required; and;

WHEREAS, the City fully understands that DVRPC will contract directly with a consultant chosen through a fair and open procurement process on behalf of the project sponsor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hereby authorizes the submission of an application.

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

That it does hereby authorize the submission of an application to DVRPC for a TCDI planning grant for studying improvements that include the examination of a road diet, other traffic calming options and route options for the East Coastly Greenway.

FURTHER, the City agrees to take all necessary action to complete the project associated with the grant agreement within the 24-month timeframe, and submit the final deliverable to DVRPC.

FURTHER, the City will provide proof of adoption or acceptance of the final deliverable by way of a Resolution passed by Chester City Council, that will be submitted to DVRPC no later than December 31, 2024.

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, On January 1, 2017, the City of Chester Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual went into effect; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the policy is to standardize the purchasing procedures of the City of Chester; securing a uniform policy to provide effective communal fiduciary responsibility and increase public confidence in the procedures for municipal purchasing; and

WHEREAS, from time to time policies and procedures need to be revised.

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

That it does hereby adopt the Purchasing and Procurement Policy and Procedure manual, which outlines the guideline for all City of Chester employees with authorized purchasing powers to perform, to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficient purchasing for the City of Chester.

FURTHER, this policy will take effect immediately upon passage.

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, on March 11, 2021, president Biden signed the U.S. Senate amended H.R. 1319 (P.L. 117-2) known as the American Rescue Plan Act, (ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, the U.S. Treasury issued the Interim Final Rule to implement ARPA in Title 31, Part 35 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”); and

WHEREAS, under the Interim Final Rule, recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, (CSLFRF”), to provide premium pay to eligible employees who performed essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. See CSLFRF Frequently Asked Questions NO. 5.3; and

WHEREAS, the entire City of Chester workforce; Non-Union, Police and Fire continued to provide critical public services on a regular basis, day in and day out to the citizens in our community, during the most dangerous times of infection transmission; and

WHEREAS, the ARPA Section 603(g)(2) provides for premium pay to eligible workers, in addition to wages or remuneration the eligible worker, in addition to work performed by the eligible worker during the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Interim Final Rule 31 CFR 35.3 provides that premium pay shall not exceed \$25,000 to any single eligible worker.

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

That it does hereby ratify the compensation of all eligible City employees, including Non-Union, Teamsters, FOP Lodge #19 and IAFF Local 1400, with premium pay for performing essential work during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, as authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act, Section 603(g)(2) and Interim Final Rule 31 CFR 35.

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 received fire escrow monies for the property listed below; and

WHEREAS, Article 1509.02(d) provides for the return of funds after all necessary repairs, removal or securing of the property has been completed and approved by the proper City official.

NOW, THEEFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE;

That it does hereby authorize the Department of Accounts and Finance to issue payment to Sheila Goode and Janie E. LeGrande for the property located 902 E. 21st Street, Chester, PA 19013, in the amount of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000), which represents a refund of fire escrow funds.

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 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 April 8, 2022 and April 26, 2022 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, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

AN ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE
SALARIES OF THE MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS AND
THE CITY CONTROLLER, OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
PENNSYLVANIA, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES
INCONSISTENT HEREWITH**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. That the salaries of the Mayor, Councilmembers and the City Controller be and they are hereby fixed as follows:

MAYOR – per annum	\$65,000
COUNCILMEMBERS, OTHER THAN Mayor-per annum	\$50,000
CONTROLLER, per annum	\$50,000

SECTION 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith be and they are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance is in compliance with the provisions as outlined in 53 P.S. 3620836016 and 36703.

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.

Mayor Kirkland asked for the Covid Report from Ms. King.

See Attachment #1

Mayor Kirkland encouraged the residents

Mayor Kirkland told a gentleman that recording devices were not permitted in Council Chambers. not to record and that recording the meeting was not permitted.

Mayor Kirkland commended Commissioner Rigby and the firefighters for their great work in fighting a fire on 8th.street. He said no lives were lost.

Mayor Kirkland commended Commissioner Gretskey on his putting on a presentation to the students at Chester High School.

Mayor Kirkland acknowledged the presence of Receiver Dowery.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Pileggi, 512 E. 19th St. was concerned about cars speeding along Melrose Ave. around Washington Park. He asked that more speed limits and watch children signs be posted around that area.

Councilwoman West said, she will work on that and thanked him for bringing that to her attention.

Bridgett Flynn, 917 Upland St. said she was concerned about ATVs that are out of control. She asked that Deshong Park be used for ATV riding. Animal control is an issue. She said, the Stormwater Authority does street sweeping and never comes in her area. Also, they ride by the trash and they are not picking it up. She said, the Parking Authority did not have a meeting that they said they were going to have. She asked about a contact number for the parking authority. Her concern was people parking on city lots and sidewalks. She wanted to know who is the contact for that? She said, there is a nuisance business on 10th & Upland and the property at the corner of 300 E. 9th St. is abandoned and looks like a landfill; it needs to be cleaned up.

Mayor Kirkland said, Deshong Park is slated for development; housing, retail. RFPs are being sent out once again. He said, he has reached out to the guys on the ATVs. They don't want a specific place to ride. The guys cannot be chased because if someone is injured or killed the City will be sued. Also, a pedestrian can be injured. He said, they try to get them when they gas up or break down. He said, we are trying to find ways to deal with this issue. We don't have animal control right now. There is no funding for it.

Commissioner Gretskey said, he did an animal control policy. He is working with Tanner Rouse to help with the solution.

Mayor Kirkland said, He spoke with Rev. Strand, Executive Director of the Stormwater Authority of Chester and they are talking about purchasing another sweeper to help with the cleaning of the streets.

Councilwoman West gave Bridgett Flynn the Stormwater Authority's phone number. (610)872-1000.

Mayor Kirkland said in reference to the parking authority Mr. Lanier was out for knee surgery. He should be back in 2 weeks. He told Ms. Flynn to forward the information to him and he would see to it that it would be taken care of.

Anita Littleton, 330 w 9th St., Chester, PA. she had a concern about the trucks coming down ninth street. She also had a concern for the ATV's riding through the streets. Another concern was the illegal dumping. She said someone is dumping lottery tickets. She said we need to get aggressive with the people who are dumping. She said, in reference to the expansion of Delcora; she is not for the plan. What is going to be done about the residents' concern? She asked if the

residents will be included in what happens in the city. She asked about the council meeting times; the meetings are at 10:00 in the morning. She would like council to reconsider her request to send in emailed questions. She wanted to know about the 2 hour limited parking signs in an abandoned area. She received a ticket and wanted to know about the consistency of giving tickets. She asked Councilwoman Williams about a comment she made. She said, Councilwoman Williams said, “we are trying to keep them from taking our city”. “Covanta is my budget.” Why does/should that matter to the residents?

Mayor Kirkland responded, 9th St. is a state road. An assessment of the highway is done. When there’s a redirection due to an accident the traffic is redirected.

Commissioner Gretskey said, they had manpower issues. The highway division will be addressing traffic issues. Weights and measures will be rolled out in September.

Mike Galante, City Engineer said, we coordinated with Penndot. They will repave and do stripping and put in bike lanes; which will narrow the lanes to help slow down the traffic. We can look at putting up more signs. He will go back to Penndot and do a speed study. Speed bumps aren’t typically put out in front of a school.

Mayor Kirkland said they are in constant communication with Delcora. We understand the concerns of our residents.

Anita Littleton asked, if the plans regarding Delcora been approved.

Mayor Kirkland said, no. He said, when a development comes into the community there are a number of steps that are taken. We have been working with a developer for over 3 years. The developers bring a final presentation to the Council.

Anita Littleton said, we feel disconnected as a community. All cities should have a way of getting information out. We should have had input about the new marijuana plant in Upland. She said, none of the residents that she spoke to, knew about the plant. She asked how are the residents notified when things are taking place in the city?

Anita Littleton asked that this process be more transparent to the residents. She said that the residents didn’t know about the marijuana plant.

Mayor Kirkland said, RFP’s will go out in reference to Deshong Park. We communicate by being broadcast here and social media.

Councilman Morgan said, you have hinted on a few ways of how we communicate to the public; facebook, television access channel, social media, city app, we will be doing a better job of making sure that we communicate to the public.

Anita Littleton asked if the community could be updated on a regular basis on the things that you say you’re working on?

Amin Abdul Salim, 240 Patterson St., said, we need to keep our minds clear. Our life is out in front of us. We have to do things for our youth so the youth do not turn rebellious.

Bridgett Flynn, on her street, she has residents who are over 80 years old. They are not on social media. Could they get mailer mailed? Send out quarterly mailers.

Councilwoman West said, JP Mascaro sent out postcards.

Bridgett Flynn, 917 Upland St. said, seniors are unaware that what is happening in Deshong.

Mayor Kirkland said, his communication director Amanda does an awesome newsletter. We are in financial restraints right now. If you go to Chestercity.com and put in your email you will receive a newsletter monthly.

Mayor Kirkland said he thinks the community needs to have input but, he thinks that the community needs to trust the Council.

Amin Abdul Saleem, 240 Patterson St. said, I want us to be on the same page. We are growing. This is very good.

Ron Williams, 2627 W. 6th St. said his concern was people dumping tires around the city; guys buying sheriff sales houses and dumping. They should have a dumpster in front of the house; people cleaning drains with a house broom and dust pan. We need a lot of things to clean up around here; we got to do a little better.

Mayor Kirkland said, there are homes that are being demolished and boarded up. Stormwater has a vacuum truck that cleans out the drain area. We have cleaned up time and time again. We have to change the mind set of folks. We don't have a McDonald or Wendy's but the trash ends up in Chester. That is the hardest thing to do as a community is change the mind set of people.

Mayor Kirkland said, there was a job fair at Leake Plaza hosted by Bethany Baptist Church outreach.

It should have been packed; but it wasn't.

Ray Shakur 2627 W. 6th St., it takes a community to clean a community up. His solution is to put cameras up.

Mayor Kirkland said, there's a camera project put forth by CEDA. They put ring cameras in certain neighborhoods. Money is being raised to put up more ring cameras. There need to be people willing to put up the ring cameras up.

Shakur said, there is a smell from the trash incinerator. Can something be done about the smell?

Mayor Kirkland said, there are a couple of facilities throughout the city where smells come from, that's the nature of the business. We are having conversations with them to see what can be used to tamp down the smells. Can trash bags be provided for the community to clean up their block, so we can clean up?

Mayor Kirkland said, we are in the process to see if we can purchase big trash cans by way of the ARPA money. We want to be able to provide the community with these cans. We have done this

with the recycle cans. We will publicize so the public will know. You will hear from us; we will ask for a community cleanup. If folks will step in front of their house and clean up you will have a clean city.

Shakur asked, when is the police app going to be updated as far as the guys who are being released from prison, pedifiles etc.

Commissioner Gretskey said, that normally goes through the juvenile division.

Anita Littleton asked Councilwoman Williams to answer her question “we are trying to stop them from taking our city”.

Councilwoman Williams said, as a citizen of these United States and as a citizen of Chester, it’s called freedom of speech.

Mayor Kirkland said, a gentleman said to him personally, “This is how we take power from you.”

Anita Littleton said, what does that mean?

Mayor Kirkland said, you’ll have to ask him.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk