

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 11, 2022**

**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 10:02am 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
Portia West
Stefan Roots
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
William Morgan (**Absent**)

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Roots, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, West, Roots, 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 individuals have requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Ellawese Coston, 619 E. 21st Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Diane Fletcher, 1316 Parker Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. James Wooters, 924 MacAdams Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Oliver Long, 446 Bradley 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 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 600 Block of E. 21st Street; in the 1300 Block of Parker Street; in the 900 Block of MacAdams Street; and in the 400 Block of Bradley Street in the City of Chester.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Elease Elam, to the position of Building Compliance Monitor, Department of Public Affairs, effective May 4, 2022, with all benefits applicable, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Said individual has successfully completed the thirty (30) day probationary period.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Braheim McClary, to the position of Laborer, Department of Public Works, effective May 4, 2022, with all benefits applicable, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Said individual has successfully completed the thirty (30) day probationary period.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Lamont Collins, to the position of Residential Housing Inspector, Health Department, Department of Public Safety, effective April 28, 2022, with all benefits applicable, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

FURTHER, said appointment is contingent upon successful completion of all certification requirements and submission of results to Human Resources within ninety (90) days of date of hire.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester received payment for the installation of a handicap parking zone for Thernall Hardy, 1110 Butler Street, Chester, PA 19013, in the amount of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00); and

WHEREAS, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Public Works, it has been determined the aforementioned individual does not meet the required criteria.

WHEREAS, 72 Pa. C.S.A. Section 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 refund to Thernall Hardy the sum of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), which represents reimbursement for the sum paid.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Roots, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, 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 May 9, 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 Roots, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

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

Mayor Kirkland says the test that are given out by the Chester Housing Authority are those rapid tests.

Ms. King says I'm assuming they're rapid tests. I'm not sure exactly.

Councilman Roots says I think these are test kits that they are giving out not test themselves.

Ms. King says yes. They're take-home tests.

Councilman Roots says people are going to go to Booker T. Center and they are going to pick up a box with four test kits in them so that they can administer them at home. For those that don't know, Everest Urgent Care is the Silvercare Urgent Care Center on 9th & Wilson. So, if you do need tests to be tested, that's the place to go.

Presentation – Delaware County Interactive Revenue Gaming Authority (DCIGRA) check presentation by Paul Johnson to Fire Commissioner Rigby

Councilman Roots says if you're interested in applying for a Grant for your Organization...you can go to dcigra.org to apply.

Public Comment

Ms. Bridgette, 917 Upland Street says on 291 is anything being done about the amount of traffic on it. People fly by you like it's a highway.

Fire Commissioner Rigby says that has been a subject that we've been in discussion for some time. We've been working with PennDOT for almost 18 months now and have recognized the fatalities on 291. We're hoping to come to some type of agreement to do some type of traffic calming. Certainly, the stretch between Flower and Penn. It's a concern of ours with nothing, no type of traffic devices. The trees are a concern of ours. We need to get those cut back so we can have a better line of sight. I just sent PennDOT all the data of our fatalities and our injuries.

Mike Galante, City Engineer says we have a design project right now. We're doing the survey work between Flower and the City line towards Trainer. Highland Avenue is going to get (inaudible) median in. Also, common traffic work such as rrfb's (rapid reflecting flashing beacons) traffic signals...striping in the roadway for 25mph or the speed limit 35mph to actually let people know the actual speed on the roadway. This is ongoing. It has to go through a permit process. Also, there is also a project on Reaney Street...construction will start within the next four weeks which will also provide a little bit of relief at Reaney Street. But long-term plans are to improve 291 to make it a better roadway...a safer roadway.

Councilwoman West says Mike this is your view of the City working with the State...

Mike Galante, City Engineer says yes, we work with the State. We've had meetings with PennDOT safety. Currently we have a design project on going. Once that project is done, we are looking for funding to get the work done. I believe Lisa Gaffney has been securing funding from Riverfront Alliance to try and get work done on 291 with East Coast Greenway. As far when you have a back up on 95, that is the ultimate route people take. I don't think we can necessarily prohibit that.

Councilwoman West says this is something that we can't just go out and do the work. We have to partner with...

Mike Galante, City Engineer says it's PennDOT's roadway so we (the City) have to get approval from PennDOT.

Mayor Kirkland says we recognize that there are problems on 291 and we are feverously working to try and save lives.

Anita Littleton, 330 W. 9th Street says how long is this process with PennDOT...People are flying down 9th Street. We need to slow that traffic down...Clarifications, rules and regulations of do you have to have a mask on. The City should be able to provide a mask if someone does not have one.

Mayor Kirkland says Mr. Galante has spoken about the process that we're going through with widening the area by the High School...the roadway on 9th Street. It's not something that can't happen overnight. That might help us with calming the traffic in that area. As far as rules and regulations...I have addressed that with our Human Relations person stating that at the end of last month that masks were not mandatory but persons can wear masks if they (inaudible).

Ms. Littleton says can you guys communicate that with the front desk please so they won't turn people away.

Mayor Kirkland says okay and we do have masks available.

Adelaide Evans, 465 Bradley Street says the 15mph zones in school areas...Can cops be posted during those times of day so they can catch them? On Providence Avenue there is a tree blocking the sign and that might be a reason why the people are flying through there. Is it possible that it can be cut down? Will the Pool be open this summer and the forms of payment? Why are we tolerating the Chester Parking Authority terrorizing the Residents in the City of Chester?

Mayor Kirkland says unfortunately we don't even Police Officers to be at some of these places all the time. When this Office is called by one of the Schools and say they need some assistance we send them. We're in the process of hiring Officers now.

Councilman Roots says we all recognize how essential the pool is for the children. To get the Pool up and running is around \$200,000.00. The locker room, lighting and the pool deck needs to be addressed as well. There is a project to get it up and to speed. I will not open the pool without clean and safe water. Thank you Local 413 who offered to provide their labor as an in-kind donation in helping us get the locker room together. The Mayor pulled out his magic wand and helped with the deck. We're looking to bring the pool up to Standard. There are regulations for public pools that we have to abide by. We have to establish Standard Operations Procedures (ex. how to open and close a pool, chlorine, ph., kids in the pool). Money Orders...we have to come up with a 2022 solution...look for a policy change in regards to money orders.

Mayor Kirkland says I would encourage you to address the Parking Authority by way of their meetings.

Livia Smith, 930 E. 18th Street says I'm here as a follow-up to Washington Park as far as those trees and limbs that are still there. What is the status of the sticks that are still laying there and tree trunks that are hazardous to our Children?

Councilman Roots says I don't have an answer for you right now for when those limbs will be removed. I will be talking with my Public Works people to clean up the little sticks.

Ms. Smith says what's the status of the Health Department here in the City of Chester. Is the County getting ready to make some moves or what?

Mayor Kirkland says the County has created their own Health Department. We still have persons in place here in the City as far as our Health Department. Will that probably eventually be resolved? As per the Receiver yes...certain personnel.

Harry Crawford, 3315 Carter Lane says the 9th Street problem is a very serious problem. My sister's car has been hit five times. In the past two weeks it has been totaled because of the people flying down 9th Street. It should be a way to stagger the lights so that people don't have an open run from Kerlin all the way down to the Avenue of the States. How long does it take to have a pole light repaired?

Councilwoman West says is it the PECO pole.

Mr. Crawford says yes. The pole number is 8591.

Councilwoman West says I'll check on the status of that.

Mayor Kirkland says the Engineer is working feverously concerning 9th Street. Hopefully we'll have more Officers on board so that we can (inaudible).

Councilwoman West says do we have any updates from PennDOT on that W. 9th Street Section.

Mike Galante, City Engineer says once the mill and overlay starts, they will do the striping after that. I will get a hard date from them...but I'm still working on that. We are modifying some striping in front of the School so that the people who park across the street from the High School will have more room to park. The section from the School down to Edgemont Avenue...PennDOT will be installing bike lanes.

Amin Abdul Salim, 240 Patterson Street says very powerful thought of thinking...not going back and looking back to see (inaudible) not never seen before or never been heard before. I've experienced nine Mayors. So, we want to work with what we're going to see. Our hearts are coming in. We want to calm down. What we see sir is what we see. A Change! A Transition! Not Racism or Bias! This is what we are dealt. They are coming to get (inaudible).

Geo Stockton, 209 E. 13th Street says how is it that the pool got to this state of disrepair that it takes hundreds of thousands of dollars to open it back up. Since the Pool is not going to open up this year what things are being put into place that as an avenue of recreation for the kids? Is there any way that somebody can give us some help with the William Penn Project in getting these basketball courts back up down there?

Councilman Roots says I do see the Pool opening this Summer. My number one concern is that the water is **CLEAN AND SAFE!!** How did it get this way...from what I can see it was treated like a backyard pool and not a municipal pool. When I can't walk in and pull off the shelf Standard Operating Procedures (ex. how the pool works, when equipment has been serviced, when did these break) that's why it's in the state that it's in. A lot of this has to do with the finances of the City. In the meantime, it doesn't cost \$200,000.00 to put up spray parks. This is some of the things I would love in places that it used to exist.

Councilwoman West says for the William Penn. I and I believe the Mayor has already spoken to the Authority (management team) there. They will be open.

Mayor Kirkland says the goal is to provide these young people an opportunity to interact in a safe and healthy environment. We're expecting persons like yourself (Jamar and Zaine) leadership that they need down there. For two years the Pool was completely dormant which brings on wear and tear. The weather can be very brutal to concrete and any other type of surface. The Pool has age on it. We would love to not have to put that type of money into the Pool but we do want to see the kids in the water this year! We're going to do what we need to do to make sure that the Pool is up and running and **SAFE** for all of our kids so that they can enjoy this Summer!

Councilwoman Williams says I'm going to do my best to have that Pool open for the children this Summer! I will work with the Councilman on getting that pool ready. Thank you so much Mr. Johnson for what you brought us today. Thank you, Councilman, for bringing Mr. Johnson to us. **GOOD NEWS!** In the last year we have served over 1,329 rental assistance constituents. The time has changed to every other week. The funding is still there and for mortgages! I am asking you to take advantage of these opportunities that's out there for the citizens for Delaware County and Pennsylvania.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.

Respectfully submitted,

MAY 11, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk