

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MAY 25, 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 10:00am with Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland presiding.

**Mayor Kirkland says can we all send prayers to the families in Texas for those young people that lost their lives to gun violence.**

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

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. Rossie Cannady, 912 Butler Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Antoine Davis, 611 Highland Avenue, Chester, PA 19013
3. Jose Ortiz, 2007 W. 9<sup>th</sup> 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 900 Block of Butler Street; in the 600 Block of Highland Avenue; and in the 2000 Block of W. 9<sup>th</sup> 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 transfer of Lisa D. Morse-Rothwell from the position of Interim Human Resources Generalist, Office of Human Resources, Department of Accounts and Finance, to the position of Human Resources Assistant, Office of Human Resources, Department of Accounts and Finance, with a sixty (60) day probationary period, with all benefits applicable, not to exceed 37.5 hours per week, effective May 16, 2022, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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 Anise Miller to the position of Interim Human Resources Generalist, Office of Human Resources, Department of Accounts and Finance, with a ninety (90) day probationary period, effective May 16, 2022, not to exceed 37.5 hours per week, with no benefits, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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.

**Councilman Morgan recognizes Anise Miller.**

## **RESOLUTION**

### **THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That it does hereby appoint Xavier Wynn to the part-time position of Secretary, Department of Accounts and Finance, not to exceed 20 hours per week, with no benefits, effective May 16, 2022, with a sixty (60) day probationary period, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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 CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That it does hereby appoint Stephanie Hall to the position of Administrative Assistant, Department of Accounts and Finance, not to exceed 37.5 hours per week, with no benefits, effective June 6, 2022, with a sixty-day probationary period, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

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 John Robertson, to the position of Laborer, Department of Public Works, effective May 9, 2022, for 40 hours per week, or until such time as the employee he is replacing on leave returns to work, with no benefits, at the rate as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance, pursuant to the Agreement between the City of Chester and Teamsters Local 107.

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 in accordance with recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated December 8, 2021 and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on December 16, 2021, it does hereby grant final approval to Dwight City Group to reverse subdivide 12 (twelve) lots into 1 (one) at 601-605 Welsh St and 104-130 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and construct a 140 unit multi family dwelling with 10,787 sq. ft. of ground level commercial space, as shown on a plan prepared by Ruggiero Plante Land Design, LLC., 5900 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128, dated October 29, 2021.

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 submit an application to KABOOM! the national non-profit organization that works to end play space inequity in communities that disproportionately have less access to play areas.

**FURTHER**, if selected, the City will work in partnership with KABOOM! for the creation of a playground area in Sun Village Park, along the 9<sup>th</sup> Street side of the Park.

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**, Federal Regulations require a written agreement between the City of Chester and the Chester Economic Development Authority regarding the rights and responsibilities of the parties in the execution of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and other related programs; and

**WHEREAS**, a Cooperation Agreement by and between the City of Chester and the Chester Economic Development Authority for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, has been prepared and is attached hereto, which sets forth the responsibilities and obligations of the parties in accordance with Federal Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, this matter has been reviewed and considered.

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

1. That the Cooperation Agreement by and between the City of Chester and the Chester Economic Development Authority attached hereto is hereby approved
2. That Appendix I to the Cooperation Agreement, attached and made a part of such Agreement, reflects the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the CDBG-CV Program, and HOME Program Projects previously approved by City Council.
3. That the Mayor and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement and to take such steps as may be necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution.
4. That this Cooperation Agreement supersedes any and all Cooperation Agreements previously approved.

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. Abstain: Mayor Kirkland for Item #8 (only)

## **RESOLUTION**

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

That it does hereby authorize the temporary closure of the 500 Block of Avenue of the States, to allow for outdoor dining and retail, in an effort to increase foot traffic to the City of Chester Downtown area, on the following four (4) separate occasions:

July 8, 2022  
July 22, 2022  
August 12, 2022  
August 26, 2022

**FURTHER**, it does hereby direct the proper City official to notify all public transportation of the temporary closures.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted.

**Councilman Morgan says keep an eye out for the flyers for the closures of the Downtown Business District Area (Avenue of the States). The businesses are trying to bring their inside business outdoors and bring some food trucks as well. Please join us!**

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 engagement of Audra Wimbush, as an independent payroll contractor, to assist the Department of Accounts and Finance, with training, the transition of role and responsibilities, and providing details and records to all past filings for the reconciliation, effective May 1, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per month.

**FURTHER**, it does authorize the proper City official to execute the Service Agreement for and on behalf of the City.

**FURTHER**, said individual is an independent contractor and is not an employee of the City of Chester and shall not be entitled to any of the benefits normally provided to a City employee. As an independent contractor, the City will not deduct federal income tax or earned income tax from any payments made to a consultant.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted.

**Mayor Kirkland says I'm grateful and appreciative of Ms. Wimbush agreeing to come back and help. Audra Wimbush worked here for 22 years in our Payroll Department making sure our Employees were paid on time, every time. Unfortunately, we had a CFO that was in place, Ms. Winfrey-Brown, and two payroll periods were disrupted. The first one lead to our employees not being paid on time. Some having to wait until the following Monday to get paid. The second disruption was some of our Employees were underpaid and some were overpaid. Then Ms. Winfrey-Brown abruptly resigned from the position. We had indicated before that we had our reservations concerning Ms. Winfrey-Brown and her background when it came to her own personal finances and when it came to the finances of the City of Wilmington and when it came to finances for a certain Charter School that she worked for that is no longer in operation. So, I want to thank Mrs. Wimbush for coming back, after 22 years, without a hitch dealing with our payroll.**

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 engage the services of Protiviti Government Services, Inc., to provide temporary assistance with audit readiness support and additional accounting resource support in an effort to bring the City current on its annual financial reporting obligations, beginning June 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2022.

**FURTHER**, that it does hereby authorize the proper City official to execute any documents necessary for the engagement of services for and on behalf of the City.

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**, on April 27, 2022, the City adopted the Purchasing and Procurement Policy and Procedure Manual; 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 Policy and Procedure Manual, which outlines the guidelines 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**

### **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 Jane Bugara, which represents a refund for the overpayment of 2022 Rubbish Taxes for the following property:

<u>Refund Amount</u>	<u>Property Address</u>
\$207.35	2416 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Chester, PA 19013

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

That it does hereby authorize the Department of Accounts and Finance to issue payment to Marvin Barksdale, for the property located at 520 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Chester, PA 19013, in the amount of Six Thousand Hundred Two Dollars and Twenty-two Cents (\$6,602.22), 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 May 20, 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.

**Proclamation for retired Firefighter Steven Carr (see attachment #1)**

**Ayana King – COVID 19 Update (see attachment #2 and attachment #3 is FYI)**

**MAYOR KIRKLAND SAYS THIS MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES IMMEDIATELY CONCERNING MANDATORY MASKING!!**

**Jamar Daniels, Amachi Program Director says to date 57 matches have been made receiving 1:1 mentoring 4 hours a month for a period of 1 year, not including site visits. There are 4 community sites offering group mentoring: Cornerstone Church, Boys & Girls Club, Cultural Arts and Technology Center and the Legacy Art Club (see attachment # 4)**

**Mayor Kirkland says the School District is trying to start a Music Program under the direction of Dr. Rodney Bradley.**

### **Public Comment**

**Anita Littleton, 330 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street says** Council are you full-time or part-time and what are your working hours? Councilwoman West if you can provide an update that's specifically about illegal dumping? Council, why did you decide not to allow your constituents that are not able to come to the Council Meetings access to submit emails, questions and/or comments? If you all can speak on behalf of yourselves with the financial affairs the City has gotten in that continues to directly affects us as Residents to the fact that we are in a potential bankruptcy. Was the City of Chester exempt to the Sunshine Law Act regarding open meeting rights? If not, if you can revisit these laws to make sure that everything is getting done legally and correctly. To all the Firefighters that were on the scene on May 17, 2022 when a mysterious vicious fire (inaudible) at 332 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street, which is next door to my house, I want to thank you guys for working tirelessly to contain that fire. I'm hoping that this Council, the Police Department along with our District Attorney begin to look seriously into these mysterious fires that continue to be set in Chester City. I would like to know what the protocol is for that?

**Mayor Kirkland says** as far as work hours, sometimes we are here six or seven days a week...Monday thru Sunday...9-5 or 9-9. I have a list of persons who call me and I respond to those phone calls all the time.

**Councilwoman West says** the work hours for all City Employees is from 8-4:30. With the Councilmembers are hours are flexible. I'm not always in the office. Sometimes I'm out on the Street with the guys in the Department. If you want to set up an appointment with me you can call into the Streets Department and either Ms. Kim Garner or Ms. Anntrene Wilson will help you with an appointment for me.

**Councilman Morgan says** City Hall opens at 9a-4:30p. Monday thru Friday.

**Mayor Kirkland says** as far as the meetings and submitting emails, that would not be very helpful, plus we have night meetings. So those persons that are unable to make it in the daytime, we have night meetings and we're going to continue that. The

Sunshine Law, we have always acted properly...there has never been any hidden agendas. Commissioner Rigby, can you tell me how many mysterious fires you've had?

**Commissioner Rigby says** we did have two fires on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Both fires are under investigation.

**Councilman Morgan says** there is a process that has to go through for any property that needs to get demolition here in the City of Chester. There were two fires last week and we did deem those as emergency demos that needs to happen as soon as possible. Just yesterday CEDA had a meeting to use CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds to demo the property on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and on Welsh Street.

**Adrian Jackson, 200 Block of W. Mowry Street says** as you know there is a Marijuana Growth Facility being built as we speak. There was no notification...letters sent out to anyone regarding this issue. I don't know what you guys did to prevent this. What benefits do you see this bringing to our Community? Nobody is obeying the law for the 15mph signal by Katherine Drexel. Are these fires an act of arson or some type of vandalism?

**Mayor Kirkland says** that facility is located in Upland and that is an Upland Borough situation. That's not something that this Council can have oversight over. That's their Community and they've decided to bring that facility there (Upland Council). We've been trying our best to hire Crossing Guards and we're in the process of hiring more Police Officers. We don't believe there is an arsonist. We believe in some cases that it's unfortunate accidents or incidents that are happening in those places.

**Councilman Morgan says** we will look into if we will be able to place someone at that post on Providence as far as an actual crossing guard. I say if because it has been very hard this year to try and hire crossing guards.

**David Kronheim, 1100 Block of Culhane Street says** as the open law meeting says "Residents and Taxpayers of Chester can speak at these meetings". As far as your evening Meetings are concerned, I saw four out of twenty-five and I see no reason why these meetings shouldn't be in the evening so that more people can attend. I ask Mayor Kirkland to resign. I request City Council to (inaudible) Mayor Kirkland and to request his resignation for his violent harassment to the Community Members.

**Patricia Zirin, 1104 Culhane Street says** the Mayor verbally and physically assaulted us in his office. When we reported it to the District Attorney nothing was done. I too respectfully ask you to resign.

**Mayor Kirkland says** Ms. Zirin had been calling me and calling me and calling me about the playground that had been severely damaged in the Highland Gardens area and in doing so she made accusations and called me names. When they came to my office, I made sure that I had a staff person(s) to witness. She started the meeting asking a series of questions; then she became very indigent are very abusive. I then asked Ms. Zirin and her husband to please leave.

**Zulane Mayfield, 49-11-00012-00 says** the Agenda has been changed from when it was published on Monday changed this morning. Therefore, not giving the people an opportunity (inaudible) concerning what was on City Council today. To my knowledge there was a law passed that that should not be done. It was passed in August of last year. I do believe that the Agenda that was posted today is in violation of that law. It was an amendment to the Sunshine Law.

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says** you are correct. There was an amendment to the Sunshine Law. This requires advance notice of Agendas. However, there is also a provision on the amendment which permits a municipality to amend the Agenda without notice if it's (inaudible) matter.

**Ms. Mayfield says** a lot of members of the Community are not happy with the Delcora proposal for a pipeline coming to Chester. What is City Council going to do to protect the homeowners and property owners in the City of Chester that are going to be impacted by this pipeline.

**Mayor Kirkland says** your talking about something that we have not discussed. Only discussions we've had concerning this Delcora pipeline were when Delcora came here and presented it to the Community (They are here today) what they would like to see or what they would like to do concerning the pipeline. So, that's were we are right now.

**Ms. Mayfield says** but I'm asking the Local Government that has the responsibility about the safety and welfare of the Residents. What would you do to protect the property rights of Owners here in the City of Chester?

**Mayor Kirkland says** what we would do is we will continue to work with Delcora and any other Company here in the City to make sure that moving forward whatever is done (inaudible) in a proper safe way and that it benefits the Residents of this Community. We will not allow any type of construction or digging that would be hurtful or harmful to our Community.

**Ms. Bridgette, 900 Block of Upland Street says** because these meetings are being broadcast on live, I don't feel that we should be obligated to give our full address because I don't want people retaliating against me for bringing up things. There is a property in the 400 Block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street that has an above ground pool and I've been complaining about it for two years. Nothing is being done. There is no fence. From my understanding it's unsafe property. Why hasn't anything been done about this above ground pool? When you call the City Government, when leaving messages, you get no return phone call. I keep telling people the only way to physically get something done is that you have to go into the building because no one returns your phone calls. The Parking Authority...where is the person who went out for surgery? Why isn't he answering our questions in regards to what the Parking Authority is doing and not doing? Who's in charge of the Department if he's not there?

**Mayor Kirkland says** this is the first time I'm hearing about this above ground pool. You said no one returns your calls. Didn't I call you.

**Ms. Bridgette says** yes you did!

**Mayor Kirkland says** one of the things that the Ladies and our Guys do in L & I is that they're usually out in the field. Should you get a return phone call...yes but they are usually out in the field.

**Ms. Bridgette says** there's a major issue with the phone system. When you get transferred most of the time you get hung up on.

**Mayor Kirkland says** we will work on that.

**Mayor Kirkland says** in regards to the Parking Authority...Mr. Lanier is back to work and probably is downstairs now.

**Shy'Quan Davis says** to all the questions that are being asked about (Delcora, Parking Authority, etc.) by the Community should be asked to the people such as the Head of the Parking Authority, Delcora, etc.. The Mayor does not have all the answers to everything that goes on in the City. People should really step up and (inaudible) directly so that would be greater transparency throughout the City as a whole and that's the only way that we can get things done. Transparency...communication is the only way we can move forward as a Community as the People.

**Bob Moore, Executive Director with Delcora says (see attachment #5)**

**Mayor Kirkland says** how long has Delcora been (inaudible).

**Mike DiSantis, Operations with Delcora says** the site of the Facility is actually the site of Chester City Wastewater Treatment Plant which was built in the 30's. We still have four tanks and two buildings that are still in service that we rehabbed after they were constructed in 1938. It's always been a wastewater facility but Delcora was sworn by the County in 1971. The western regional treatment plant was constructed subsequent to 1971 and went on line in the mid 70's.

**Mayor Kirkland says** we needed some work done at our Pool so that we could open it for our kids and Delcora stepped up to the plate and no cost to us the City. Thank you!

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says** I did check our Website and the change to the Agenda was in fact posted yesterday.

**Sahar Youssef, 1036 Woodside, Brookhaven says** I own a property 1309 Central Avenue. (Inaudible) fix it. I did the job. Since March until now I've been trying to call these two numbers to get the inspector to come back. Nobody picks up the phone. I've been here five times. The house has had no electricity since March. I had an issue with the garbage she told me to go downstairs and the lady downstairs told me I had to go upstairs. I went back upstairs and before I even opened up my mouth, she said WHAT! I'm just trying to do business here. (inaudible) garbage, oil, dumping trash and it's attached to my fence in my backyard and they do nothing. If they don't like their job they can leave! We're frustrated! She was yelling at me.



**Mayor Kirkland says** no employee has the right to disrespect any citizen. They're here to serve our Constituents. Before you leave today, we'll see if we can get that corrected.

**Margaret Brown says** I've had problems with Delcora in the past and it was reported and I believe it was taken care of through Ms. West. That you have to understand with these pipelines...we have enough in Chester with our own waste down there. I disagree with you wanted to ship from other areas down thru Chester. There has to be other sewer plants that you can look into for this waste to go to than here. I reported at the last meeting about someone coming in and I reported this also to the environmental agency that there is a dirt field directly on my street that was started and it's dirt and dust blowing on our properties/cars and in the house every single day. This is a problem. I would like to thank Kim Garner because when we do have trash problems, I call her and it's taken care of. You said houses are taken down for emergency purposes, 2403 W 3<sup>rd</sup>. Street and 2601 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, they need some tape around it or something. Those houses are going to fall down. These 18-wheel rigs trash trucks parking in the middle of the safety lines near the Sunoco Gas Station. It's unfair.

**Livia Smith, 930 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street says** the lady asked earlier the hours of the Council persons and I didn't hear everybody's hours. Councilman Roots, can you tell us the days you are here and your availability.

**Councilman Roots says** this is a part-time position. I'm available by telephone. 484-318-6634 email: [roots@chestercity.com](mailto:roots@chestercity.com) and my days varies.

**Councilwoman Williams says** 9-5, 9-6, 9-7, 9-8 five days a week.

**Councilman Morgan says** it's considered a part-time position but I think you all know by the work that we do is considered full-time. For myself and my employees we almost work 24-7. I'm normally here M-F. email: [wmorgan@chestercity.com](mailto:wmorgan@chestercity.com) or 610-447-7700 which is the front desk.

**Councilwoman West says** with my schedule it's almost like 24-7. My schedule is flexible. Email: [pwest@chestercity.com](mailto:pwest@chestercity.com) or 610-447-7700.

**Mayor Kirkland says** I do want to address something that was stated by one of the Residents. I wanted to bring this Resolution up in order to make sure that it is read into the record. This Resolution was done not during this Administration but prior Administration's says (see attachment #6). **These are rules and regulations, not written by me but written before me. I'm just following the rules and regulations.**

**Geo Stockton, 209 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, (Inaudible Enterprises and G-5? Program) says** I feel we need to run these meetings and have some more kind of discipline on how we talking to them and watching how you'll respond back...we can get more done like that. We are in the process of putting a program together for the Summer for our Children out here (block party, basketball tournaments). What I want to know is does the City have some money set aside for events this Summer? If so, can you'll kick in. If not, do I have to raise all this money myself? Delcora since you'll are here in the City, I want to know if you'll can kick in something for the initiative.

**Councilman Roots says** there is some money for recreation activities, not a lot. All I need from you is what do you need and we'll see if we can help you. We also have partners that can help out with activities.

**Duane Lee says** the Amachi Group also stated that...those things that you are talking about that they would try to assist.

**Councilwoman Williams says** some of the groups around here are very hostile. The ones that have been demonstrating down at Covanta...the first time I attended one of their sessions...the lady that was sitting in here today, I was standing across the street, she got out of her seat and came across the street, got into my face and called me a @!@!@)! She's been right here in our Council Meetings pushing and shoving me whenever she gets ready. We're human. I got feelings just like anybody else. Somebody needs to talk with the members of that group and let them understand **WE ARE HUMAN!** We're not provoking them. Their provoking us! Give us the same respect that we give them! I never approached them or called them any kind of names! The guy that be with them points the Bullhorn at me like it's a gun! Not everybody in the group but some of them in the group are very hostile!

**Councilman Morgan says** May 31 is the last day for taxpayers to pay their bill for the discount period. June 1 you will have to pay the base rate for Real Estate taxes for 2022. You can pay on our website [www.chestercity.com](http://www.chestercity.com) or you can come into our tax

office from 9-4:30. We will be partnering with Amachi for Father's Day and we're going to do the Daddy & Me Dance, along with Making A Change, Cory Long, on June 17. The American Rescue Plan...we will be scheduling a community event to discuss the American Rescue Plan and its budget.

**Councilwoman West says** it's important for us to get along so that we can communicate from one to another so that we can understand each other and that way working together will be able to perfect positive change. I plan to have a conference call, with myself and my team from the Streets Department with Ms. Littleton. I didn't answer her question about the illegal dumpsites/dumping. On June 10 and 11, from 9a-2p we will have a shredded day here in the parking lot! To the Environmental People, you've done a lot of good work. I remember in the past we've all supported you at one time or another but it's seem to be volatile now. So, I want to see that piece leave. I want us to be able to talk to one another. I want to see more respect for the Mayor and that's to the Chester Community. I have never seen a Mayor, and I've worked under three different administrations Mayors', I've never seen anyone disrespected like Mayor Kirkland and I'd like to see that stopped! I'd like to see us get back into the mode of respecting one another!

**Councilman Roots says** nighttime Council Meetings...I haven't seen since I've been on Council more people in this room than today so I don't think the nights is the difference maker. Although I do agree that we may need to have more night meetings. For us getting comments, I think we should talk as a Council about getting emails into City Council so that we can address them for those who cannot attend. Audra Wimbush and payroll...I wasn't quite sure what you were saying Mayor but it seems like you were accusing Ms. Sheila Winfrey-Brown of resigning as a result of some issues with payroll. What I do know is that when Ms. Wimbush agreed to resign, information didn't get to the people who do the hiring and the firing until three days until she was to leave. So, it wasn't a lot of time for her replacement. I think a letter came from the bank saying it was their error. I am happy that she is back. I know that payroll in the City is complex and to have somebody with her experience is only going to (inaudible) for the future. **POOL UPDATE...IT WILL BE OPEN FOR JUNETEETH WEEKEND!!** The Environmental people that are here today, (inaudible) for being supportive for a long time. Amplified your message through my journalism. You guys are the best! You guys have one issue and that is to (inaudible) or (inaudible) separation here in the City and I'm going to tell you don't stop because you guys care greatly for the health and welfare of our Residents! I did have one issue with the announcement that we City Council approved the Delcora tunnel secretly. This goes in concert with the Sunshine Act, we can't do that secretly!

**Councilwoman West says** the incineration. It came here years ago and we all were leery about having an incinerator here. But this Administration did not bring the incinerator here. But the entity that is here now, Covanta, has been a good partner (compliance issues, the EPA and DEP monitoring them on a daily basis). It's like when you get the hand that you've been dealt and not meaning anything negative against Covanta. What is the County saying about this?

**Mayor Kirkland says** there is a Chapter 9, a bankruptcy issue that was brought to the forefront, possibility. The Receiver's Office said they received the ability/authorization to do so if that's what they chose to do. (Inaudible) the City bankruptcy, Chapter 9 for the City's debt. That debt is basically focusing on our Pensions. To be very clear, that we have been under Act 47 for 27 years and this is just that we're at that point (inaudible) may or may not (inaudible). I want to be clear that this has been going on for 27 years! Hopefully, we won't have to go down that road. But the ability to do so has been placed in the hands of the Receiver. There are a lot of folks here today and a lot of times folks come because of misinformation. So, I'm glad that Delcora was here today to provide factual information. A lot of folks think certain things are happening above ground or where ever... in fact they are not. I am looking forward to the Pool and the smiling faces in the pool. We live in an industrial area. Today we are surrounded by major highways. There will be some air quality testing basically to test all the air quality on all the facilities here in the City.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MAY 25, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk