

**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 7:03pm with Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

William Morgan
Portia West
Stefan Roots
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
Elizabeth Williams (**Absent**)

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: Morgan, 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. Denoy Leslie, 2004 Madison Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Kirby Mitchell, 733 Jeffrey Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. Julio Negrón-Roche, 824 E. 8th Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Raul Rivera, 2911 W. 6th Street, Chester, PA 19013
5. Jeanette C. Smith-Pernsley, 1301 Kerlin 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 2000 Block of Madison Street; in the 700 Block of Jeffrey Street; in the 800 Block of East 8th Street; in the 2900 Block of West 6th Street; and in the 1300 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: 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 the following individuals to position of per Diem Laborer, Department of Public Works, beginning on the stated dates and ending August 31, 2022, at the rate of \$13.22 per hour, with no benefits, not to exceed 29 hours per week.

Name

Start Date

Ronald Allen
Jovon Evans
Kyree Snell

May 25, 2022
May 25, 2022
May 31, 2022

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby appoint the following individuals to the position of Pool Monitor, Department of Public Property and Recreation, with no benefits, at the rate of \$9.00 per hour, effective June 18, 2022, and ending September 6, 2022, not to exceed 40 hours per week.

Marquita Ross

Kaylyn Ross-Winston

Markeyia Ross-Robinson

Brandi Butler

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby appoint the individuals on the attached list, at the stated positions, to work at the Memorial Park Municipal Pool, beginning on the stated dates and ending September 6, 2022, not to exceed 40 hours per week, at the stated rates, with no benefits, for the 2022 summer pool season.

FURTHER, said individuals are independent contractors and are not employees of the City of Chester and shall not be entitled to any of the benefits normally provided to a City Employee. As independent contractors, the City will not deduct federal income tax or earned income tax from any payments made to a contractor.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to prepare the advertisement of notice accepting applications for positions with the City of Chester's 2022 Summer Food Service Program.

FURTHER, it does hereby authorize the City Clerk and other City official to advertise said notice in the Help Wanted Section of the Delaware County Daily Times and to post said notice on the City of Chester website.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Jorge Garcia wishes to purchase and redevelop certain real property owned by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester at 2714 Swarts Street in the City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The Buyer intends to consolidate the property with his adjacent residential unit at 2712 Swarts Street and fence and landscape the property for personal use; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester approved the Redevelopment Authority entering into a Redevelopment Agreement conditioned upon approval of the Agreement by the City Council of the City of Chester; and

WHEREAS, the subject property is located in a redevelopment area in the City of Chester and as such, the sale, lease, or transfer of such property is subject to approval by Chester City Council under the Urban Redevelopment Law, at 35 P.S. Section 1709(k).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester to enter into a Redevelopment Agreement with Jorge Garcia, for the sole purpose of consolidating 2714 Swarts Street with his residential property at 2712 Swarts Street, to fence and landscape the property for personal use.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester received Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) as a deposit for an event scheduled for July 16, 2022, from Asia Cobb, for the rental of the Community Room; and

WHEREAS, the event has been cancelled.

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

That it does hereby authorize the Department of Accounts and Finance to refund the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) to Asia Cobb for the cancellation of an event scheduled in the Community Room.

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

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, ADOPTING THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, REGULATING AND GOVERNING THE CONDITIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL PROPERTY, BUILDINGS, AND STRUCTURES; BY PROVIDING THE STANDARDS FOR SUPPLIED UTILITIES AND FACILITIES AND OTHER PHYSICAL THINGS AND CONDITIONS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT STRUCTURES ARE SAFE, SANITARY AND FIT FOR OCCUPATION AND USE; AND THE CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES UNFIT FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY AND USE, AND THE DEMOLITION OF SUCH EXISTING STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF CHESTER; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND COLLECTION OF FEES THEREFORE; AND THE IMPOSITION OF FINES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF; AND REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 4, 2022 was passed on its First Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

Mayor Kirkland says we have removed the Presentation from today's document because of more information being needed and the individual is not present.

Public Comment

Amin Abdul Salim says I still get butterflies after speaking up here for a period of time. It's very important to keep (inaudible) order that our Lord wants us to be in. Nothing new under the sun. We have been doing nothing new under the sun. Today, we will go up into the sky and we will connect with our Lord. Every piece of money says "In God We Trust" and I believe that this is a connection. What you spend...spend on your family. The Lord is going to give us something to say.

David Kronheim says (see attachment #1)

Mayor Kirkland says as far as who negotiated the deal with Covanta that was DCED and The Delaware County Solid Waste Authority.

Councilman Morgan says there was a comment that the City received parking meter money and/or parking fines prior to the PSP Contract, that is not true. The City has not had an active Parking Authority for almost a decade prior to the Contract was in place or was approved. We were not receiving any monies. The inactive Parking Authority was dismantled in 2016. We didn't have any parking meters that were operating in 2016. So, the City of Chester did not receive any funds from parking fines or parking meters prior to the Contract. Additionally, the Contract does state that we should receive parking meter money but there are some reasons to why the City has not received any money within those parking meters within in this timeframe.

Mayor Kirkland says Delcora has already indicated on numerous occasions that there will not be any on surface work being done. Everything will be done underground.

Theresa Draper says I'm here on behalf of my Father. He lives in the Senior Building at 600 Edwards Street and there is a huge problem with security. The lights are out and I know it's Public Housing and I've talked to Chester Housing Authority and it all fell on deaf ears. These are Seniors who really can't function/help themselves. When you go into the building marijuana smells hit you and people are running around the halls. I'm just here for some kind of direction because this has been going on for over a year.

Mayor Kirkland says it is a Housing Authority issue but we will put in a call to Mr. Fisher.

Ms. Lacey says I have a question about the abandoned buildings here in the City. I reached out to the Delaware County Demolition Program and I was just wondering is funding available for municipalities to get grants for demolition of properties?

Has the City reached out to them regarding these funds and if so, are there any plans to demolish some of these houses (inaudible)?

Mike Galante, City Engineer says we actually often apply for the Delaware County Demolition Program. We just recently took down five or six properties. We do have another round we are going to apply for. I'm doing a ride around with the Code Official to identify the properties to demo and submit them to Council so that we can make the application to the program. If you have any properties that need to get on the list, please send them over and we will take a look at them.

Councilman Morgan says the City of Chester, we were made aware of the funds that Delaware County had in 2016 and we immediately started to apply for those opportunities. We've been using those funds since around 2016/2017 to add to the funds that we try to budget for as far as the demolition of the vacant properties.

Councilman Roots says is that the primary source of funding that we get for demolition from the County.

Mike Galante says we have other sources...The Community Development Block Grant funding. The allocation every year is around \$175,000-\$200,000.

Councilman Morgan says so that is the City's primary source.

Councilman Morgan says (see attachment #2)

Margaret Brown says when you mentioned Delcora was not going to tear up the surface to do the tunnel...how are they going to do it if they don't go digging above ground first to make that tunnel.

Mayor Kirkland says what I meant by that was in my understanding was that Delcora was going to have piping and all that stuff above ground (inaudible) around people houses and all that. As they indicated in our last meeting that is not the process. There will be no above ground disruption and there will be no disruption within the community if we were going to (inaudible).

Ms. Brown says Mr. Roots, I gave you some addresses of three lots that have containers. Have you had an opportunity to check them out?

Councilman Roots says I'm going to have to have you take me down there. I couldn't find the containers.

Mary Waites says your talking about Delcora coming down 291 and I live directly off of 291. I want to know why the Residents are not part of these conversations.

Mayor Kirkland says I never said Delcora was coming down 291. I've heard other persons saying that. I don't know exactly where the tunnel is actually going to travel. I don't know if it's 291. They have been here to do a presentation and I'm sure that they would be willing to come and do another presentation if they have to to clarify any questions you have.

Ms. Waites says the noise is still continuing. What is it that they are doing that we don't no. We should know what it is.

Councilman Roots says well the sound you here coming off of Covanta, that's them releasing the steam. They produce steam. They burn trash. With the heat from what they burn they get water. Water turns into steam. Steam turns into turbine and they make electricity. They are looking to get mufflers on the roof where they release steam to reduce the volume of the release. With regards to Delcora and the tunnel project, I think what we should do... (Delcora does have a website delcora.com...they have a link that says tunnel...they have every presentation that they have ever presented) is print some of those and have them available for anyone who may want to see them. It does show the path that the tunnel is going to go.

Ms. Waites says but Councilman Roots, is not even a matter of who may want to see it, it should be mandatory that the residents in that section should be given that information.

Patricia Zirin says I find it profoundly upsetting and outrageous that you guys don't have the answers to the questions we're asking. Why is Covanta in charge of deciding when they take care of the noise and when they don't? Why don't you know the answers to the issue about how this tunnel is going to be built? About the pipes? Has anyone done a study on the leaching that might occur through the tunnel? The tunnel is going to be a hundred feet down. Is it going to be lined? Is it going to be

protected some way? The things that go through there don't reach the ground and eventually come up and affect the residents? Have you done a study like that?

Mayor Kirkland says we haven't done a study.

Ms. Zirin says why not?

Mayor Kirkland says I am not a tunnel expert nor am I an engineer. But we do have engineers and we do listen to Delcora. We have not made any decisions as of yet concerning Delcora.

Ms. Zirin says research it!

Councilwoman West says this Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, from 9a-2p, this City will conduct a shredding event in the side parking lot.

Councilman Roots says this coming up Monday is graduation day for Chester High School, but all Chester graduates (high school graduates) are invited to the celebration at Ethel Waters Park. It's a day party from 2-6. The goal is to have the pool open by the celebration for Juneteenth Day!

Carol Kazeem says regarding the per diem laborers, can anyone explain a little bit of what the laborers will be for and (inaudible).

Councilwoman West says that's the Public Works Department and we handle the grass cutting and street repairs. Every year it has been a practice that we hire temporary help in the summer time. We are very short staffed. We have three on the list for now but we're getting one more but it's to help with the summer work.

Ms. Kazeem says is there a way just because we are still trying (inaudible) our finances, that there could have been a partnership with our local unions just to kind of maybe get volunteer services or try to get support as a partnership just to kind of save some money.

Mayor Kirkland says these per diem workers are very essential to the work that is being done in the parks. We have been working with Local 413 (they helped with our pool), local prison (SCI Chester). So, we are reaching out to various other entities that have been very supportive.

Ms. Kazeem says so the workers that you are hiring Councilwoman West, are from the entities that the Mayor are speaking of.

Councilwoman West says no but they are from the Chester community.

Councilman Roots says the Adopt-A-Park Program was approved a month and a half ago also addresses that. So, it gives companies around the City an opportunity to pick and choose what Park they want to adopt. There is language in there about cutting grass, do clean-ups. The whole purpose is to give our Public Works group some relief.

Ms. Kazeem says it looks like originally you guys had approval for expenditures. How come that's taken off?

Councilman Morgan says so we always include the expenditure list on the Agenda for Mayor and Council to approve. We did not have any expenditures in the last week. The next Council Meeting we will have the expenditure list on the Agenda for Mayor and Council to consider.

Amin Abdul Salim says I know you are busy but I had (inaudible). I have seen some (inaudible) Mayor and Council. It's important that we keep our eye on the Lord. We want to keep God first.

Ms. Kazeem says I just want to piggy back of the woman about her Father. That is actually an issue in the City right now regarding most of the homes and complexes that do house Seniors (Stinson Tower with security, Palmer House, and Gateway as well). We really need to hold these individuals accountable that are buying up these properties. It's a safety issue and also a health hazard. Maybe you can work your magic and call around Stinson, Gateway, figure out what's going on.

Mayor Kirkland says we will be doing a gun buyback program this Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11. Friday's event will be held from 2-6 at The Eastside Recreational Center and Saturday's event will be from 12-4 at Bethany Baptist Church.

****Public Comment addresses are in the City Clerk's Office**

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

JUNE 8, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk