

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

June 22, 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 10:01 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  
Stefan Roots  
Thaddeus Kirkland

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

*Mayor Kirkland announced, there is a sign-up sheet on the podium if you wish to speak, please sign the sheet.*

**SIGN IN SHEET WITH NAMES AND ADDRESSES ATTACHMENT #1**

**Mayor asked if there were any comments on agenda/action items only.**

**There were none.**

**RESOLUTION**

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

1. Rembert Gibbs, 1006 Central Avenue, Chester, PA 19013;
2. Sheridan Jones, 1013 Elsinore Place, Chester, PA 19013;
3. Mark Mosley, 3019 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., 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 1000 Block of Central Avenue; in the 1000 Block of Elsinore Place; and in the 3000 Block of West 6<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Chester.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, 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 the position of Patrol Officer, Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs, effective June 13, 2022, with a one (1) year probationary period. On a full-time basis, with all benefits applicable thereto, at the salary range provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

1. Amanda Wilson; and
2. Ryan Shomo

**FURTHER**, said Patrol Officers are required to reside in the City of Chester for the first five (5) years of employment and must submit proof of residency to the Human Resources Department within 3 months of this date of hire. Thereafter they may maintain their residence within 50 miles of City Hall.

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

**RESOLUTION**

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

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Beverly Harris, to the position of Crossing Guard Clerk, Department of Public Affairs, effective June 4, 2022, not to exceed 3.5 hours per week, with all benefits applicable, at the salary range as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

**FURTHER**, said individual has successfully completed their sixty (60) day probationary period.

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

## RESOLUTION

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

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Benjamin Wilson, to the position of Clerk/Typist, Health Department, Department of Public Safety, effective June 4, 2022, not to exceed 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 their sixty (60) day probationary period.

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

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

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Gquan Wesly, to the position of Laborer, Department of public Works, effective June 4, 2022, for 40 hours per week, with all benefits applicable, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

**FURTHER**, said individual has successfully completed their sixty (60) day probationary period.

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

## RESOLUTION

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

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Edward Gosa, to the position of Laborer, Department of Public Works, effective June 4, 2022, for 40 hours per week, with all benefits applicable, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

**FURTHER**, said individual has successfully completed their sixty (60) day probationary period.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, 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 individual 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 not benefits, not to exceed 29 hours per week.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Khaliir Barrett	June 9, 2022

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

### THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE;

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to submit an application to the Delaware County Demolition Program, Blighted property Demolition fund to obtain funds for the demolition of the following properties:

<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Folio Number</u>
2601 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street	49-1100298-00
1013 Upland Street	49-0501325-00
1018 Upland Street	49-0400735-00
1116 Potter Street	49-0201432-00
2703 Lehman Street	49-1102681-00
2705 Lehman Street	49-1102682-00
2707 Lehman Street	49-1102683-00
1502 Perkins Street	49-1102938-00
1504 Perkins Street	49-1102939-00
1518 Perkins Street	49-1102946-00
427 Rose Street	49-0201663-00
429 Rose Street	49-0201664-00
500 Kerlin Street	49-0701355-00
502 Kerlin Street	49-0701356-00
822 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	49-0500059-00
0 Ivy Street	49-0800799-00

**FURTHER**, it does hereby authorize the proper City officials to execute all necessary documents on behalf of the City of Chester.

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

## **RESOLUTION**

That it does hereby approve the submission of an Automated Red Light Enforcement Transportation Enhancements (ARLE) Grant to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), for the construction and installation of a new Automated Traffic Signal at the Intersection of PA State Route 291 and Jeffrey Street, replacing the existing flashing signal.

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

Councilman Roots commented that this resolution was really important. He said, this traffic light is where the exit ramp is on 291. Where the trucks come off. It controls traffic and stops traffic that has a long run from Highland Avenue to here.

Councilman Morgan commented that Mayor and Council have taken a progressive step to make sure that route 291 becomes a safer corridor whether crossing or in a vehicle trying to get off the ramp. He said, we are looking into other options to make it safer. It is an important right of way.

Mayor Kirkland thanked Mike Galante, City Engineer for his work on this project.

## **RESOLUTION**

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

That does engage the services of ADP, to provide payroll processing services, for the City of Chester, for an amount not to exceed Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$30,500.00).

**FURTHER**, it does hereby authorize the proper City official to execute the agreement for and on behalf of the City of Chester.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, 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 17, 2022 attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance

Morgan said correction 1<sup>st</sup> reading was on June 8<sup>th</sup> and if passed today will be the last and final reading today, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

## **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 UTILITES 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.**

Councilman Morgan said, correction 1<sup>st</sup> reading was on June 8<sup>th</sup> and if passed today will be the last and final reading today, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

*Mayor Kirkland announced that if you are addressing council today to please sign in at the podium, with your name and address.*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**PROCLAMATION Steven “WAP” Williams ATTACHMENT #2**

**Mayor Kirkland commented, sometimes it is impossible for a mom to take the place of a dad and make a man out of a boy.**

**He said his father transitioned when he was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade; it takes an extraordinary woman to make a boy a man. “Mom you did good” He congratulated him on behalf of Mayor and Council.**

**Mayor Kirkland asked Commissioner Gretsky to come up. He acknowledged the presence of D.A. Jack Stollsteimer.**

**D.A. Stollsteimer was present to commend Commissioner Gretsky and the Chester Police Department on the great work that they did on the investigation they called “Operation Raw Deal”. He said the investigation was a collaborative effort from the City and County. He said, the County put together a county-wide task force made up of every municipality; 13 individuals were arrested and 10 crime guns were removed from the City of Chester streets. DA Stollsteimer said, when the County and City work together, the public safety is for the good. He also congratulated the 2 new officers that were sworn in.**

**Commissioner Gretsky read the list of arrested individuals and what was seized.**

**SEE ATTACHMENT #3**

**Commissioner Gretsky said, we had 10 homicides with 8 cleared and number 9 is getting ready to be signed away. Commissioner Gretsky called up Officer Matthew Goldschmidt, Officer Timothy Garrett, Officer John Benozich to the front to commend them on the work that they did on the investigation. Commissioner Gretsky referenced them as a basketball team, that if he gets the hiring process correct, and get home grown individuals from Chester, he promised that they will shut down the drug trade in the City of Chester.**

**Matthew Goldschmidt spoke about the work that they did on the investigation and let the public know that any help or tips from them would be appreciated.**

**Councilman Morgan commended Commissioner Gretsky for the work that he and his team did on the investigation and spoke about the concern he had while looking at the overtime hours documented. He said, Commissioner Gretsky assured him that the overtime hours would be reimbursed and that there was a special investigation that they were working on. He thanked the commissioner and his officer once again for all their hard work that eventually paid off.**

**Eric Bayne spoke about the gun buy-back program. He said, there were community partners involved who supported the effort. He thanked Amanda Johnson and all community partners. He thanked all those who donated seed money to help make this initiative a success.**

**SEE ATTACHMENT #4**

***Mayor Kirkland announced once again that if anyone wishes to speak today to sign the sign-in sheet with their name and address, they would be recognized***

**Swearing-In of New Police Officers**

1. Amanda Wilson
2. Ryan Shomo

Commissioner Gretskey gave comments on each sworn in officer.

Covid Report SEE ATTACHMENT #5

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Livia Smith asked a follow up question to Councilman Roots regarding the parks. She mentioned an article printed in the paper dated 2/4. She said Councilman Roots indicated in the article that in the next month he would assess and document each parks' needs and determine the urgency and cost to make the park safe and functional. She asked if the document of his assessment was available for public view.

Councilman Roots said yes, he could give her a copy.

Livia Smith also said, she sent a letter to the Receiver regarding the environmental issues in the city building. The letter was to make the Receiver aware that the air quality is not good. She asked Councilman Roots if he would look into that concern and that he could get a copy of her written concern from the Receiver.

Anita Littleton commented that she has been present to witness the swearing in of officers several times. She wanted to know if there would be something in place where the community could have an opportunity to meet and greet the officers in the community; to get to know who they are.

Commissioner Gretskey asked if she was available on Friday. She said, she wasn't sure; it depended on the time.

Commissioner Gretskey said he would give her his phone number after the meeting.

Anita Littleton wanted to know if there were any follow up on the strategic plan regarding illegal dumping in the city. She said, the public housing development was overflowing with trash; illegal dumping is still going on. She asked about the house next to her that caught fire. She said, the property is still open and exposed to the community. She said, people are driving down 9<sup>th</sup> street and doing a 360 to look at the house. She asked if Council could talk to the owner of the property to get the front closed up? What is the city doing in regards to the property?

Mayor Kirkland said, as for the illegal dumping there are some cameras up in certain areas in the city. Illegal dumping is an ongoing problem in the city. He said, we clean it up and they dump it up once again. Hopefully, we will have the funding to put more cameras up throughout the city. As to the housing authority units, we would need to speak with the executive director of the housing authority.



**Mike Galante said, there are 4 portable cameras to be placed for illegal dumping. There will be another program with the DA office to clean up illegal dump sites and get additional lighting.**

**Mike Galante said, in regards to the property at 332 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St.; he spoke with the owner. He said the owner has a deadline to drop off plans, which were dropped off this morning. The owner will need to start work within 24 hours if plans are adequate. We have taken the required steps; we have disconnected utilities. The contractor is on stand-by. At some point we will initiate demolition if the work isn't started once the plans are approved.**

**Councilman Roots asked, what work are we asking them to do on the property?**

**Mike Galante said, there are 2 phases. The 1st phase is to completely secure the property, frame up the 3<sup>rd</sup> story and completely frame up the roof and close in the property. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase is to provide proper financial paperwork to show that they have the means to rehab the entire property and bring it up to code. After the initial phase of making it safe, they will develop a time frame to get the property in compliance and in an habitable condition. We are getting the "make safe" phase completed for the residents.**

**Tajuana Evans said, she has a concern on her street, Sunnyside Ave. She would like that street to become a one-way street or have speed bumps installed. She said it is a 2-way street and a very small street. She is asking that Sunnyside Ave. become a 1-way street or have speed bumps installed.**

**She said, she has been a resident for 19 years. Her car has been totaled 3 times and hit 5 times in front of her home. Neighbors have been replacing mirrors that has been hit by people fleeing the scene. She also asked that abandoned cars be removed. She has called several times but the cars remained during the pandemic. She is asking that something be done.**

**Mayor Kirkland said, the Commissioner and Major are here today. They will look into the abandoned cars.**

**Mayor Kirkland asked Mike Galante will check on the one-way street/speed bumps.**

**Margaret Brown read information regarding her organization CRCQL (Chester Residents Concern for Quality Living (an environmental organization). She mentioned not being happy with the cares and concerns for environment justice in the City of Chester.**

**Carol Kazeem said, she attended Delaware County County Council meeting. She said Silver Care is looking to expand their operation by adding more drug and alcohol recovery and senior affordable living. She said, when a proposal is brought to the mayor and council, she would like the community to have input. She asked that 50% of the 340 jobs be given to Chester residents. She said, Liberty Resources is coming to the community to house veterans and the disabled and if Council could make sure there is a strategic plan to have someone from the Chester community be a part of the development team.**

**She wanted to follow up and get an update on the housing developments. She asked if there was a call to the owners or management regarding broken elevators and things that are going on in the housing developments. Stinson, Palmer, Edgemont and Gateway.**

**Mayor Kirkland said, both Councilwoman Williams and our inspectors have gone over and did some inspections, talked to management and are continuing their inspections as we speak.**

**Carol Kazeem asked Councilman Morgan about getting a copy of the expenditure list. She asked if the expenditure list is made public or if he had it.**

**Councilman Morgan said, the expenditure list is not made public for the residents but, the 2022 budget is public.**

**Carol Kazeem asked if it could be made public.**

**Councilman Morgan said, we can discuss it internally with our Solicitor. The budget that we approved for the 2022 year is our public document that approves all the expenses that will go out for the current year.**

**Carol Kazeem asked Councilman Roots if there were any updates on lifeguards. Are the lifeguards certified and trained?**

**Councilman Roots referred her to his Deputy Director. She will speak with him after the meeting.**

**Seifuddin Simpson said, in working with the Delco ERA rental assistance program; the program is still going on. He wanted to let the public know that he will be here on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June for anyone who may need rental/utility assistance. He said, there is money for anyone who would like to move into a place. He said he attended the Del. County Council meeting; there is 100 million dollars of ARPA funds available that has to be distributed by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. He asked, does Chester have anything on the website in regards to this?**

**Seifuddin Simpson said, there is a Community Benefit Program and Lauren Footman is the Diversion and Inclusion Officer for the County. He said, she was given \$475,000 to distribute to community-based programs throughout Delaware County. He was asking council to appoint someone to help the people in Chester that need help organizing their business, their program or their 501C3. He heard something about the LG. He said he is unaware of what it is. He asked if someone could explain.**

**Mayor Kirkland said, the Liquid Gas is a concept that has been floating around throughout the United States in fact throughout the world.**

**Zulene Mayfield said that the LG proposal was not a concept; they have been working on it for the last 4 – 5 years. She asked if Mayor and Council met with them. She asked Mayor**

and Council if they were for or against the proposal or were they still on the fence about the proposal? She read some stats. She said, the LG would be the largest in PA and possibly on the east coast. She said, the average terminal only process 2.7 million cubic feet of gas at the facility per day. She said, the Front and Lloyd site is projected to process 1 billion cubic feet of gas per day. She said that's a whole lot in 5 miles. She is still researching this. She said they are talking to people in Louisiana and across the river in Gibbstown. She said, Penn is proposing to manufacturing the gas and cooling it on site in Chester; which creates more pollution and the propensity for an explosion is greater. She said, all we need is one explosion. She said, CRCQL is not willing to take that chance. She said, in the end there will only be 100 jobs. She said, these are jobs that will not go to Chester residents; these are jobs that you must be trained, skilled and certified in. She said, the safety must be factored in for this community. There's a reason why every community fight against these things. She asked Councilwoman Williams if she needed more information or if she already formed an opinion.

Councilwoman Williams said, she will do what she has to do to investigate what's going on.

Councilman Morgan said, he has not formed an opinion. He has not looked into this but heard of it in 2018. He said, if you have information that you want to share, I would be willing to look at it.

Councilman Roots said, the people who are looking to bring this LNG project to Chester, have not brought it to Council. He does not have an opinion as of right now one way or the other based on the info that he has received so far. He is aware of what it is and what it does from working at Philadelphia Gas Works in Philadelphia. He will welcome the info that they are gathering on this proposal. That will help him form an opinion.

Mayor Kirkland said, he has met with Frank James on numerous occasions. He has seen a presentation. He has weighed the environmental issues, employment opportunity and our financial status here in the City of Chester.

He said, he has not made a final decision. The property owner has not sold the property. Mayor Kirkland said, as Mayor, he looks at every safe possible way to generate revenue for the community, and to seek opportunities for employment; he will continue to do that.

He said, we would love to have more Chester residents as police officers as well as in our fire department.

Zulene Mayfield said, I hope that whatever decision you make, that it is not influence by any political campaign contributions that Penn LNG has already given you.

Mayor Kirkland said, Ms. Mayfield, whatever political contributions I get, they're all legal. Guess what else I do? I pay my taxes!

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk**