

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 10, 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. 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

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 City of Chester was designated as a distressed municipality under authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act on April 25, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester desires to make application for financial aid by way of loans, grants and otherwise under and by authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, Act 47 of 1987; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development makes available loans and grants-in-aid to such projects through the Municipalities Financial Recovery program for projects that implement adopted recovery plan strategies.

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

That the Elected Council of the City of Chester is hereby authorized to make application for such a loan or grant under authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper officers of the City of Chester are hereby authorized on behalf of the City of Chester to execute applications, agreements, contracts or other documents necessary to apply for and to secure aid for the City of Chester, from the Department of Community and Economic Development under and by authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act.

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, Chester City Council by Resolution dated July 14, 2010, authorized the dissolution of the inactive Chester Resource Recovery Authority; and

WHEREAS, upon the dissolution of the Chester Resource Recovery Authority, control of all real property passed to the City of Chester; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester is also the owner of 129 Central Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester desires to return such real property to productive use.

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

That it does hereby authorize the transfer of the thirty-two (32) parcels, identified on the attached Exhibit A to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester for redevelopment purposes.

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 amounts, to the listed entities, which represent a refund for the overpayment of 2022 real estate taxes, for the following properties:

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>
Eagle Properties	2406 West 4 th Street Chester PA 19013	\$484.65
Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.	2404 Lindsay Street Chester PA 19013	\$777.39

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 July 29, 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.

Ayanna King, COVID-19 Support Specialist, gives a COVID-19 Update (see attachments #1 and #2 is FYI)

Mayor Kirkland says thank you to Ms. Carter, Ms. King and all those who helped us with the purchase of the fans so that we could make life even bearable for our Seniors. Thank you for all your hard work and donations!

Public Comment

Lorraine Lavender-Sams says why do we need two (2) COO's? There are a lot of unauthorized, unlicensed rehabilitation centers or recovery houses popping up here in Chester and it appears as if Chester has become a dumping ground for a lot of the mental health people that they can't find anywhere else to go.

Mayor Kirkland says in regards to two (2) COO's, this Mayor and Council have raised those same questions and concerns with the Receiver and his team. If houses like this are popping up, we encourage the Community to let us know so that we can send our Inspectors out there to address the issue. Some people come to Chester and say they are putting one thing and they do something else. Concerning Mental Health persons in the City of Chester, we're trying to find the resources to deal with it. We're going to have to work with the County to try and find how to rectify the situation.

Councilwoman West says there was a meeting last week with Councilman Morgan and myself with the Department of Governmental Affairs from the County. They sent two (2) people out to talk to us about the challenges that we face here in Chester and mental health was one of the items that we did bring up. So, we are and have begun to partner already about the Mental Health challenges that we have here.

Councilman Morgan says those rehab houses that we're seeing in some of our Communities, majority of the time we won't know about them because there are times when these owners come to the City whether it's to Zoning and to License and Inspections and they're probably not giving us the real factual information on what they intend to do with the house or residence. If you see a house that you want the City of Chester Inspector's to come out and look at it, we will send them out to investigate that property and see what it's zoned for and do our due diligence on that end.

Elijah Ishmail says in his proposal to the City of Chester through Councilman Roots Office, he would like to do a Memorial (put a Plaque) to honor their daughter Naima Ishmail down the Chester waterfront where she was a victim of Domestic Violence and was murdered on October 7, 2020.

Councilman Roots says I will promise you that myself and Council will sit down and determine how we're going to respond to your request. It is certainly reasonable but we have to act in accordance to the City protocol. This may be a start on how to honor not just your family but others in the City.

Councilwoman West says I would love to be able to support it; work towards that supporting how we're going to honor the memory; not just the memory of your loved one but also like using this as a teachable moment so that we can get to those other women who (inaudible) permanently involved in Domestic Violence. It's an awful situation and it not only happens to women but to men too!

Mayor Kirkland says we can't guarantee you that it will be in that spot but we will try and find a way to figure out how to recognize all those persons who have lost their lives in our Community in such a tragic way. We're going into Executive Session right after this meeting so we'll have some time to start our conversation.

Margaret Brown says the parking of the trucks on 291, 2nd & Engle Street, by the Sunoco Gas Station. Maybe you can put "No Parking" in this lane which is a turning lane. It's not a parking lot. It's going to be a serious accident. Who's responsible for the overgrowth of trees/bushes coming onto the sidewalk of businesses/vacant lots on Townsend Street to Palmer Street and Palmer Street onto Ward Street.

Councilwoman West says that would be a collaboration between L&I and my department, Public Works. Margaret, you can text me the locations.

Mayor Kirkland says Mr. Galante, can you look into the truck traffic down in that area and talk to PennDot to see if we can get some lines and markings there.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Williams says L&I have now received their Uniforms and they are Code Enforcers. So, they enforce codes that must be done by the City of Chester, the State and the Federal Government. We abide by the rules and the law. So, whenever you get those fines, etc. received by the L&I Department I suggest you go to them and find out why and what codes were not followed in order for you to get that approval of property or whatever it is you need approval for.

Councilwoman West says just a reminder to the Chester Community. I am having a hard time with getting people to adhere to the way that we put out the trash. You have a **REGULAR TRASH DAY...MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY!** **RECYCLE IS PICKED UP ON WEDNESDAY!** **PLEASE DO NOT CO-MINGLE YOUR RECYCLE WITH YOUR REGULAR**

TRASH!! It's been said to me sometimes that the Vendor will co-mingle the recyclables with the regular trash. I will check into that and put in a reminder to them. **YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR TRASH IN A TRASH BAG AND THEN PUT THAT TRASH BAG IN A TRASH CAN WITH A LID! THERE WILL BE SOME NOTICES GOING OUT FROM ME FOR SECTIONS THAT I KNOW PEOPLE ARE NOT PUTTING THEIR TRASH OUT PROPERLY!! WE WILL AND WE CAN FINE YOU FOR NOT PUTTING YOUR TRASH OUT PROPERLY!!** With the handicap situation...the Coordinator is working diligently to looking into those people with signs that are no longer here with us or moved because they are taking up parking spots.

Councilman Roots says if you tuned into the last Council Meeting, **we approved to help any Organization that gets Permits to use our Parks/Block Party we will help you by providing food. This Program ends Labor Day Weekend!!** You can get in touch with me at sroots@chestercity.com or 610-447-7753 ext. 7914.

Councilwoman West says thank you Ms. Carter and Ms. King for the lovely job they do in terms of them giving us reports on the COVID situation and giving out fans and test kits. That's very important to our Community.

Mayor Kirkland says I would like to welcome back our Madam Clerk, Candice Newsome and Ms. Rosetta Carter. Good to have them both back on board. We set up a Town Hall Meeting with Delcora so that you might once again can have some input into this process of us making a decision concerning some work that Delcora wants to do here in the City of Chester. We will give you the date once we get it that the Town Hall Meeting will be held. This Friday, our Food Truck Festival, we're asking all Residents to come on down and enjoy yourself! They're has been numerous activities planned by this Council to make sure our Adults and our Children have access to a healthy safe activity during this Summer. It has been a very successful Summer for all of our Citizens when it comes to Recreation. We appreciate the presence and the participation of all the Residents as well as those persons who sponsored those events. So, we want to thank you all for that!

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

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42am.

Respectfully submitted,

AUGUST 10, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk