

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 27, 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 10:00 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
Portia West
Stefan Roots
Thaddeus Kirkland

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

Mayor Kirkland announced that if anyone would like to address council, to please sign the sign in sheet on the podium with your name and address.

The Acting City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

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

1. Ronald Bradley, Jr., 2111 W. 9th Street, Chester, PA 19013;
2. Germaine Sloe, 1019 Lincoln Street, Chester, PA 19013;
3. Doris Clark-Smith, 2321 W. 4th Street., Chester, PA 19013;
4. Silas Tate, 1917 W. 4th Street, Chester, PA 19013;
5. David Hamler, 1132 Highland Ave., Chester, PA 19013;
6. Lucille Turner, 2101 Hyatt Street, Chester, PA 19013
7. Miguel Massa, 1007 Kerlin Street, Chester, PA 19013;
8. Andrea White, 2920 W. 11th Street, Chester, PA 19013;
9. Shirley Myers, 3005 W. 6th Street, Chester, PA 19013
10. Anthony Sellers, 2607 W. 6th 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 2100 Block of West 9th Street; in the 1000 Block of Lincoln Street; in the 2300 Block of West 4th Street; in the 1900 Block of West 4th Street; in the 1100 Block of Highland Avenue; in the 2100 Block of Hyatt Street; in the 1000 Block of Kerlin Street; in the 2900 Block of West 11th Street; in the 3000 Block of West 6th Street; and in the 2600 Block of West 6th 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 ratify the appointment of the following individuals to the position of Patrol Officer, Chester Police Department, Department of public Affairs, effective July 27, 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. Casey Morse;
2. Michael Brodzinski;

FURTHER, that 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 three (3) months of their date of hire. Thereafter, they may maintain their residence within fifty (50) miles of city hall.

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 Human Resources Generalist, Office of Human Resources, Department of Accounts and Finance, with all benefits applicable thereto, effective July 16, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Said individual has successfully completed the ninety (90) day probationary period.

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 all benefits applicable, for 37.5 hours per week, effective July 16, 2022, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

Said individual has successfully completed the sixty (60) day probationary period.

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 appoint Xavier Wynn to the part-time position of Secretary, Department of Accounts and Finance, effective July 16, 2022, for 20 hours per week, at the salary as provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance. Said individual has successfully completed the sixty (60) day probationary period.

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 appoint Leonard Lightner to the position of Chief Operating Officer, effective August 15, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, health insurance beginning October 1, 2022, at the salary of One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$155,000.00) per year.

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 prepare the specifications for the advertisement of bids for the following:

1. Memorial Park Pool Upgrades; and
2. Fire Station 82 Roof Replacement

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the City Clerk to advertise the aforementioned bids.

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 Officials to enter into an Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Chester, County of Delaware, Borough of Darby and the Township of Upper Darby to receive allocated funds in the amount of Fifty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars (\$54,268.00), from the United States Department of Justice from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award for fiscal year 2022.

FURTHER, that it does authorize the Mayor and the Acting City Clerk to execute said attached agreement for and on behalf of 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

BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Chester, Delaware County, (Applicant) hereby requests a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority, not to exceed Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000), to be used for the Chester Waterfront – West 2nd Street – Phase II Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Thaddeus Kirkland, Mayor, and Candice Newsome, City Clerk, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Chester and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Joan Neal, duly qualified Acting City Clerk of the City of Chester, Delaware County, PA, does hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Council of the City of Chester at a regular meeting held on July 27, 2022, and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the City of Chester and remains in effect as of this date.

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 September 25, 2014 the Chester-Upland School District transferred ownership of the former Pulaski School site, Folio Nos. 40-11-03144-00, 49-11-00884-01, and 49-11-01965-00 to the City of Chester; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester does not intend to use the site for municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, THE City of Chester desires to return the site to productive use.

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

That it does hereby authorize the transfer of the following identified site locations to the Redevelopment Authority for the City of Chester for the development of affordable for-sale housing:

<u>Site Location</u>	<u>Folio Number</u>
0 Harwick Street	49-11-03144-00
0 Grace Street	49-11-00884-01
0 Thurlow Street	49-11-01965-00

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the proper City officials to execute all documents necessary to complete this transfer.

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 (City) is a long-time sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a federally-funded, state administered program, designed to provide free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas; and

WHEREAS, the City’s six (6) week program is normally held at State approved sites where children can participate in safe activities and receive healthy SFSP meals during a supervised time period; and

WHEREAS, the City contracts for meals with a food service management company (vendor) who prepares and delivers said meals; and

WHEREAS, the City was notified shortly before the start of the 2022 SFSP that the vendor was going out of business; and

WHEREAS, the City has made every possible effort to have a SFSP this year but has not been able to secure a new vendor; and

WHEREAS, the City has allocated monies for this purpose and is dedicated to its commitment to the community to feed children in the summer for a specified period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL FO THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE;

That it does hereby authorize the use of no more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) from the Public Property and Recreation budget to reimburse eligible Chester based community organizations, permitted to use City parks and property, for meals they provide during selected community events through September 3, 2022, with a One Thousand Dollars (\$1000) reimbursement limit per event.

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 Corelogic Tax Services, which represents a refund for the overpayment of 2022 Rubbish Taxes, for the following property:

Refund Amount

Property Address

\$735.77

223 W. 21st 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

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 15, 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.

Covid Report/Ms. King ATTACHMENT #1

There were 150 fans donated by Keystone First and 100 donated by the Stormwater Authority of Chester.

Councilwoman West said, there are cooling stations at Chatham Estates Community Center and the Salvation Army.

Swearing -In

1. Casey Morse, Patrol Officer
2. Michael Brodzinski

Commissioner Gretskey congratulated the officers and invited residents to join the Chester Police Department.

Mayor Kirkland congratulated the sworn in officers.

Mayor Kirkland asked that persons who would like to address Council, to sign the sign in sheet on the podium with their name and address.

Dr. Ron Renzi spoke about Covid. He said, if you have symptoms, get a test. There is an anti-viral pill that you can take right away that would prevent you from getting very sick and being hospitalized. He said, they are only effective if they are taken within a few days.

He said, Monkey Pox is another illness growing very rapidly. It is associated with a skin rash. It is transmitted through respiratory droplets. Also, you can get it by touching the rash. It is not deadly but, it will make you very sick. Symptoms are very much like Covid. There is a vaccine for it. It is something to be very cautious about.

Dr. Renzi commended Mayor Kirkland for maintaining universal masking.

Mayor Kirkland thanked Dr. Renzi for sharing this helpful information.

Public Comment

Livia Smith asked about the Chief Operating Officer. She asked where will his salary come from; a special grant or the city budget? She wanted to know what are the responsibilities of the COO.

Mayor Kirkland said, the COO salary will come from the city budget. He said, this is a position that has been agreed upon by Mayor, Council and Receiver Dowery and his team. The responsibility of the COO will be to take some of the weight off of Mayor and Council. The individual will be responsible for staffing in city hall, business persons and community at large. There will be a number of responsibilities that the COO will have.

Livia Smith asked if there is a job description for the position. She said, we had a prior COO and it seems that the salary is going up and up. She asked if the COO will have more responsibilities.

Mayor Kirkland said, yes, there is a job description and the responsibilities will be greater.

Livia Smith asked Councilman Roots about the next phase of the parks project after the dangerous equipment has been removed at the parks. She asked Councilman Roots if he has created a management system with policies and procedures for parks and recreation. She said she has volunteered to help but has not heard about anything coming up.

Councilman Roots said, you will see more park improvements.

Councilman Roots said, if there is anything that you would like to see done in the parks, to let him know.

Livia Smith asked about the air quality in the buildings. She asked Councilman Roots if he got a chance to read the memo that was given to the Receiver in regards to the air quality in the building. She asked Receiver Dowery to share the memo with Councilman Roots.

Councilman Roots said, if you have a memo that you would like me to read, to please send it to him.

Livia Smith said she had sent the memo to the Receiver.

Ms. McDaniels had a concern about the walking trail in Eyre Park. She was concerned about the upkeep. She showed pictures of the area. She said there were high weeds and grass. She said, over \$400,000.00 was put into the walking trail, so the maintenance should be kept up on it.

Mayor Kirkland said that was the responsibility of the Stormwater Authority. They will be informed of her concerns and their need to do a better job.

Councilman Roots said there is work being done in the building right now. The seals in the skylights are leaking. The skylights will need to be fixed before the tile is replaced. He said the work is being done; the building will be converted into an environmental center for kids to work in. He said, we are looking for funding to get the drywall fixed. Public works was asked to clear the walking paths of high grass.

Ms. Duncan was concerned about 3 shipping containers that were placed near her daycare at 828 W. 8th St. She has called numerous times to find out who the containers belong to. She said there are ground hogs and the grass is high. She is asking that the containers be removed. She noticed that L&I came out and placed stickers on the containers. She said there was a man who removed the stickers.

Mayor Kirkland said, we will speak with the inspectors to find out what's going on. He asked Ms. Duncan to leave her number so someone could reach back out to her.

Roxanne Johnson was concerned about the 2-hour parking. She was told that it was going to be checked into. She said she would like to get more information about the cooling stations. She would like to be a part of that. She asked, is there an update regarding the 2- hour parking?

Councilwoman West said she should speak to Commissioner Rigby about the cooling stations.

Mayor Kirkland said he will have an update for her today, regarding the 2- hour parking.

Closing comments from Mayor and Council

Councilman Roots – None
Councilwoman West - None

Councilman Morgan thanked everyone who came out to the American Rescue Plan meeting held on last Wednesday. He received a lot of great feedback from the community in regards to the presentation that was presented. There is no date yet on a follow up meeting, but he has weekly meetings internally with the committee/team as well as consultants. Details will be presented in the very near future on next steps. You may visit the website at www.chestercity.com to stay updated; there's a tab for ARPA. You can stay up to date on projects, project tracker and the filling of reports. The city is preparing the new Comprehensive Plan that will take us to 2040. The last comp. plan was in 2012. If you are looking for more information, reach out to the planning department at 610 447-7700 or email Peter Rykard at prykard@chestercity.com.

Councilwoman Williams - None

Mayor Kirkland said the Food Truck Festival was very successful. The goal is to bring more traffic to downtown Chester to help our vendors. He said, they are considering pushing this event to September. The Water Festival event held by Rondae Jefferson took place at Memorial Park. The young people and adults had a good time down Memorial Park. There was a basketball tournament in honor of KC's son/grandson Ny'ques at the Boys and Girls Club which was well attended. More high-powered weapons were taken off the street by way of the gun by back

program. Mayor Kirkland commended law enforcement personnel for their hard work. He said, our goal is to work toward 0 homicides 0 crime. We are working toward that. He said, he commends and appreciates law enforcement personnel and firefighters for all that they do.

The pool under the direction of Councilman Roots; due to the extreme heat, young people and families have been coming down to the pool to cool off and enjoy themselves. He said often people say that there's nothing for the young people to do, he begged to differ. There is plenty to do. We want to make sure that we get our parents involved in the lives of our young people and participate with them. This summer has been a very safe summer due to the parents, the work of law enforcement personnel and this Council. Parents made sure that your children had safe, wholesome activities.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk