

**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 asked for public comment on agenda items only.

Anita Littleton asked how often does the city go out to remove handicap parking signs when homes are vacant.

Councilwoman West said, normally we get word from neighbors or family members of those persons who have moved or are deceased. She said, letters are being sent out from her office now asking people to come in to renew. That's another form of tracking. If there is no response of intent, then the signs will be removed. They are working on that project now. She said, if you would give me the address of the one next to you, we can check it out.

Anita Littleton said the address is 332 W. 9th Street.

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. Thomas R. King, 610 Highland Avenue, Chester, PA 19013;
2. Elsie Plummer, 902 Butler Street, Chester, PA 19013; and
3. Loretta Robinson, 2108 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 600 Block of Highland Avenue; in the 900 Block of Butler Street; and in the 2100 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 hereby authorize the proper City official to enter into a memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Chester and Teamsters, for the extension of the seasonal workers from August 31, 2022 through October 31, 2022, in accordance with Article 31 of the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement, under the terms and conditions as detailed in the MOA.

FURTHER, said Agreement is contingent upon final approval of the City Solicitor.

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 Caryn Thompson, to the position of Accounts payable Coordinator, Department of Accounts and Finance, effective September 12, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, with a 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 ratify the transfer of David Roten, from the position of temporary Driver to the position of permanent Driver, Department of Public Works, effective September 12, 2022, for 40 hours per week, with a 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 ratify the appointment of Thelma Evans, to the position of Full-time Residential Housing Inspector, Health Department, effective September 12, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, no benefits, with a sixty (60) day probationary period.

FURTHER, said individual has ninety (90) days to obtain the certification required for the position.

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 Janell Johnson, to the position of Permit Service Manager, License and Inspection Department, effective September 20, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, no benefits, with a ninety (90) day probationary period.

FURTHER, said individual will be benefit eligible after sixty (60) days of employment.

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 August 10, 2022 and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on August 18, 2022, it does hereby grant final approval to Shepard Garner to reverse subdivide two (2) lots into one (1) at 2508-2514 W. 3rd St., Chester, PA 19013, as shown on a plan prepared by Catania Engineering Associates, 520 W. Mac Dade Blvd., Milmont Park, PA. 19033 dated July 15, 2022.

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 for the period of August 15, 2022 through September 2, 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.

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REPEALING PART SEVENTEEN, BUILDING AND HOUSING, TITLE FOUR, ENTITLED, "CITY OF CHESTER WATERSHED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, BY ADOPTING A NEW COUNTY-WIDE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, ENTITLED, "CHESTER CITY AMENDED AND RESTATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE", AS DEVELOPED BY DELAWARE COUNTY FOR COUNTY-WIDE COMPLIANCE WITH THE 2022 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (PADEP) MODEL

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, AS REQUIRED
BY THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) FOR SMALL MUNICIPAL
SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4s), AND
REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES
INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.**

**Attachment #1
Attachment #2**

Covid Update/Ms. Rosetta Carter
Breast Cancer Awareness Billboard
October 13 Health Partners Luncheon 11-2 Chester City Community Room
October 20 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon 10-3:30 Keystone First Wellness Center
9th & Yarnall St.
Workforce Development and Health Dept. Program “How to Apply for a Pardon for a Marijuana Conviction”. Hours for City Hall Monday, Sept. 19, Thursday, Sept. 22 and Tues. 9/27 from 5-7pm

Mayor Kirkland thanked Ms. Carter for a thorough presentation and Ms. King for always keeping everyone abreast concerning the Covid numbers and how to take better care of ourselves.

Public Comment

Livia Smith asked about the falling limbs in Washington Park. She said that the trees are very old. She gave definition of a park. She asked Councilman Roots to come out to check out the park. She was also concern about the air quality in City Hall. She said that the vents are dirty causing coughing and burning eyes to employees. She shared a letter stating OSHAs regulations. She gave this letter to Councilman Roots.

Mayor Kirkland said, Council, COO, (Chief Operating Officer) and the Receiver would be addressing those issues with the ARPA funding.

Delores Shelton wanted to know why Councilman Roots wasn't present at the Play Day in Sun Village (an underserved community) that the organization (Bountiful Blessings Foundation) from her church sponsored; which took place on Sunday 12-5. She thanked Mr. Lee and the workers who help with the event. She said the children received book bags, books clothes, free haircuts, food and jewelry. She said Councilman Roots never said thank you.

Councilman Roots said, he was not available to attend. He said he did here about it the entire weekend. He said his job as the Director Parks and Rec. was to make sure that the parks are in great shape so that programs like hers can have a successful safe time. He said, he did his job in that regard. He said, his Deputy was there.

Delores Shelton said, she would have like to have seen him there. She also said, there was a big hole in the roof of the building where voting is held.

Mayor Kirkland said, he was there at the event that day. He was there for Mayor and Council on that day; sometimes we fill in for one another. The roof repair is part of what the ARPA money will be used for.

John Shelton asked, what does Chester City own? Do we own this building?

Mayor said City Hall is a city owned building and we have the responsibility as a city to find the funding to correct any problem in the building and all the city buildings.

The goal is to finalize what we can use the money for. We hope to have these things at least started in the new year, some have been started, some are 50% completed. We still have some work to do, we're in the process of ear marking and identifying those projects that we need to prioritize to make sure that our buildings are safe.

John Shelton asked, where are we in the progress for the city? Who has the plan for the funding? When are we going to know what we are going to do with the money?

Mayor Kirkland said, October 11th is when the plan will be presented to the community.

Councilman Morgan said, we had a community meeting in October 2021 and another community meeting in July and talked about our proposed draft plan of how we wanted to use the funds. The intent of the October 11 meeting is to give an update on the proposal of the budget for the ARPA fund. Also, to answer some of the questions and concerns of the community that we received in July. If you want to know what was spent thus far you can go on a tab in the website chestercity.com; you can go on there and see what projects were done up to date.

John Shelton asked for a copy of something so he can read it.

Councilman Morgan said, if he can get with him after the meeting, he can see exactly what he's looking for and provide it for him.

Mayor Kirkland said, we have every intention of being transparent; making sure the constituents know what projects we've been working on and what we want to work on. Unfortunately, it is impossible to include all 37,000 residents so, we will take the lead as elected officials in doing this along with staff. We are confident that you will be well pleased with what we have to present to you.

Bernadette Thomas said, 2 weeks ago her great grandson was hit by a car. She said the traffic is so bad. There are no stop signs at 4th and Ward St., no watch children signs and the speed limit is paid no mind. She said, something needs to be done. She is concerned about how the traffic does not slow down. There is a No Truck sign there, but it is faded. She also asked about the 7th Street bridge; is it ever going to be fixed?

Mayor Kirkland said he is appreciative that her grandson is ok. He said, we live in a society that is lost. He referred to the city engineer to see how we can address this issue; if we can place a sign there and replace old signage. He said, one thing that hinders us is the number of police officer that we employ in the city. He said, he wishes we could have the number of police officers that is needed in the city. He will be announcing again the opportunity for our residents to become law enforcement officers. He said he is so excited about the bridge. Late October/November the bridge should be complete.

Mike Galante, City Engineer said he will look into the placing of new signage.

Bernadette Thomas said, on 4th Street there are stop signs until you get to 4th and Ward.

Councilwoman West said, she had spoken to the engineer about the possibility of 4-way stop signs there.

Mayor Kirkland said, let's be mindful that even 4 way stop signs will not guarantee that these persons will not be driving like they have not lost their minds. There may be license plates that need to be taken down.

Bernadette Thomas said, she has no problem doing that.

Anita Littleton was concerned about nuisance lots and over grown grass. She said, she was also concerned about the incident that happen next to Chester High School. She said it was frightening for neighbors in the area. She asked if there is an emergency communication system for major incidences. She said she was thankful that safe corridors were there to comfort the children and help them get to school. Is there some way that we could have allowed the school to

have been shut down or delayed for a few hours. She said it was traumatic for her daughters and the children walking to school.

Mayor Kirkland said, it was 6am; the US Marshalls came in looking for a fugitive. Unfortunately, it was in a school area. He said, there were 2 Marshalls that didn't have their weapons drawn in Atlanta GA; lost their lives when they were going to a house to apprehend a fugitive. He shared a picture of an assault weapon and drugs that was retrieved from the home. We cannot jeopardize the lives of our officers, children or our residents when someone is held up with this type of weaponry and those types of drugs.

Anita Littleton said, she was concerned that the schools should have been shut down or delayed and the children should not have been subjected to this. Children's lives could have been lost that day.

Mayor Kirkland said, that might be a conversation you might want to have with the school district.

He said, no one was hurt; the perpetrator was apprehended; those drugs are off the street; those weapons are off the street; and our children are safe.

Anita Littleton said, children are traumatized; including her daughters. She said we can not gamble with our children's lives in situations like this; there was enough time to close the schools.

Mayor Kirkland said, Ms. Littleton your point is made.

Seifuiddin Simpson thanked Council for their support for the Delco ERA Program being a successful program. He said, what was done in the City of Chester has become a model, called the Chester model. As a result of the success of the ERA program, he has been approached to get involved with a health care company that is with Re-entry called Patient Sources; coordinated with Keystone Frist providing medical, dental, vision and prescription services for anyone who have been incarcerated free of charge. There are counselors on staff that are providing wrap around services. We are the second state in America out of 22 states to start this process. There will be no excuse for anyone who have been incarcerated to not have medical care or treatment. He said he spoke with Ms. Williams about the program and asked for support of this program.

Mayor Kirkland thanked Mr. Simpson for all the work that he has put into the program to help the residents in the City of Chester. He also thanked Councilwoman Williams. He said, he looks forward to continue working with him.

Harry Crawford asked if there were any updates on the holes on Carter Lane and Township Line Road.

Mayor Kirkland said, we will be getting our men out to take care of as many pot holes as we can. We know our streets are in need of repair; once again this is a conversation of how we get the funding needed for our streets.

Mike Galante said, he is still waiting to hear from Penn Dot.

Harry Crawford said, Mike Galante was suppose to be checking with the State to find out about Township Line Road and the stripping which is causing people not to park in front of Murphy Ford. He asked, is there a requirement that police officers have to serve in the city for 5 years? Not live in the city but work in the city for 5 years? He said, officers come to Chester, get training, once they are certified they leave.

Mayor Kirkland said, that has been a major problem. There will be a mechanism in place for the officers to sign a contract to ensure that they stay in the city and if they do not stay, and go to another municipality, they will have money to pay back to the city.

Harry Crawford said he was concerned about drivers not stopping at stop signs at Carter Lane and Township Line Road.

Mayor Kirkland said, it will take common sense of the drivers. He said, if our citizens would become a part of law enforcement, apply and take the test for police officers or fire fighters in the City of Chester, that would help us greatly. If you know of any young people, even if they are in high school or college, they can start that process now, even if they are considering being a part of the law enforcement community or fire fighters, we been encouraging that for the last 4-5 years. It's a great career, a great opportunity and a great way to give back to your community.

Ruth Richardson said, it took a 3 year-old baby to get hit because people are so ignorant in their driving and it's not fair. People should be a car length away where you can see the car tag. She asked about a strip being placed on the street to slow drivers down.

Mayor Kirkland said, we care and love these babies just as hard as anyone else. We want them to grow up, we see what you see. We lost 2 friends of our community tragically. We will continue to do our very best as Mayor and Council to ensure that our streets are safe as possible and that all our citizen are safe. We had drivers ed when we came up. Little things like that, no longer exist.

Councilwoman Williams said, when she saw the results from the rental assistance program; she was so happy because she knew no one was put out in the winter. It is one of the worst times to be without a home. The program and City Hall was open to Delaware County and most of the applications were successful. There were 4 young people who came here faithfully every Wednesday to do the applications. She thanked Clara, Michael, Janea, Amora and Mr. Simpson. She said, Mr. Simpson introduced her to the program. She was just happy that the winter went great. Mr. Simpson has a new program that she will be working with.

Councilman Roots said, he appreciates the attention that is given to Parks and Recreation. Parks contribute to the beautification of the city; gives kids recreation and reduces crime. There is a lot of benefit to the parks and recreation. He said, so please don't stop. There are 247 acres of parks. He cannot inventory every tree. A gentlemen came up to him who told him that there were invasive vines going up the trees. We will get our public works guys to help with that. Public property this building has been being worked on for years. He said he has been involved in inspection of our buildings. Inspecting of properties has been lacking over the years. He thanked Mr. Duane Lee, Mark Alexander, Mike Galante and Rodney Robertson for all that they have done this summer. There will be a new basketball court in Pulaski Park. One of the businesses in town will be putting up the money. Sun Village Park will need volunteers to build the new playground equipment September 27, 28 and 29th; just come on Thursday. He said, he will be setting up office hours to address issues, problems and concerns. He thanked everyone for supporting parks and recreation.

Councilwoman West thank Mr. Simpson for being helpful to the constituents for assisting them with mortgage, rent and utilities. She said she admire him for all the work he does. She wanted to let landlords who own commercial property know that she is on the lookout for those persons who have yet to get dumpsters on their property. They are required by law to have dumpsters on their property.

She reminded the constituency of the holiday trash pick up and no recycle that week. There is additional information on the website about trash collection. There are also flyers in the main lobby. She was notified about an electronic recycle event on October 4 from 9am – 1pm. in the Upland County Park. It is open for Chester residents. Staff will be going to training about tree trimming tomorrow. She thanked Mayor Kirkland for allowing Ms. Amanda Johnson to attend the Litter conference in Lancaster, PA and thanked her for agreeing to go attend. We are taking advantage of opportunities to train our personnel so they go and bring back information that we can do to learn new and creative ways of doing things in Chester.

Councilman Morgan thanked Councilwoman Williams and everyone who helped with the ERA program. There is an event in the Public Affairs Office under Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland and Workforce Development Coordinator, Eric Bayne. You can apply for a pardon, if you have a marijuana conviction. This have been posted on our social media platform and our website as well. You must apply by September 30th. You can come to

City Hall on Monday, September 19th, Thursday, Sept. 22, and Tuesday September 27th from 5-7pm in Chester City Hall; meet with Eric Bayne. If you need more information please go to the website or reach out to Eric Bayne at (610) 447-7793.

There are job postings for police officers and vacancies within the City of Chester. Also, two important vacancies in the finance department, Director of Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer. If you know someone, please send them our way to apply for these career opportunities. We are hoping to get some home-grown individuals to apply for these positions. There were back to school events, Councilman Morgan thanked everyone that supported those events. The City of Chester partnered with the CUSD gave out 3,500 book bags. He thanked Mayor and Council, vendors and faculty members from the Chester Upland School District for their support. In regards to The American Rescue Plan, we are looking to budget and prepare for projects such as upgrades to our facilities and parks. We are pushing for an October 11th meeting with the community. Also, we want to lay out a plan for what the financial forecast looks like for this year and 2023 and beyond as to how we will spend the American Rescue Plan funds. You will see more information about this in the coming days.

Mayor Kirkland said, thank you to all the residents who are here to share with us. He said, you bring us your concerns and the issues and not only your issues and concerns, but you bring us the things that we're doing right. You are our eyes and ears here in the city; we don't take that lightly. The food truck festival has brought folks downtown. The next food truck festival will be September 30th and October 28 from 5:30-10:00pm. He said, come on down to downtown Chester. He encouraged everyone to promote the positive; that's how we grow. In order to be a police officer, you will need to be 21 years of age. He said, he does not take the safety of our kids lightly. He said, he goes to the school and follow protocol when visiting. He said, we are not perfect; we are far from it, but we do our best with what we have. We are trying to make bricks without straw. The only way to get it done is with your help.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk