

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
September 28, 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 Deputy Mayor Morgan presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

Deputy Mayor William Morgan
Portia West
Stefan Roots

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

Deputy Mayor Morgan asked for public comment on agenda items only.

There were none.

Deputy Mayor Morgan 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. Roger Bailey, 336 W. 21st Street, Chester, PA 19013;
2. Jane Bugara, 2416 W. 4th 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 300 Block of Highland Avenue; in the 300 Block of W. 21st Street; and in the 2400 Block of West 4th Street in the City of Chester.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the execution of R22060013, by Michael Hurst, Department of Accounts and Finance, as a requirement of PENNDOT's Reimbursement Agreement System for construction of the Lloyd Street Bridge Project.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize entering into an agreement with General Recreation, Inc., P.O. Box 440, Newtown Square, PA 19073, for the purchase of playground equipment, in an amount not to exceed Nineteen Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars (\$19,200.00), to be paid from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

FURTHER, the City has complied with all purchase requirements of the Commonwealth.

FURTHER, that the Solicitor's Office shall review and approve the contract and the contractor shall furnish a Performance Bond in the full amount of their respective contract, to the satisfaction of City Council.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to prepare a Request for Proposal ("RFP") for Management Services for the City's Parking System and to otherwise modernize various aspects for the City's parking System with a vision for economic development in accordance with the specifications contained in this RFP.

FURTHER, that it does authorize the City Clerk to advertise for the aforementioned RFP.

Deputy Mayor Morgan asked if there is a motion. Councilwoman West said no. No motion was made. Deputy Mayor Morgan said, with no motion put forth, he asked that the members of Council table the resolution for further discussion with Mayor and Council, Chief Lightner, the entire team and the Receiver's team as well. He said, there are unanswered questions and concerns that we may have to move forward with this Resolution. Deputy Mayor Morgan asked for a motion to table Resolution 162-2022 for further discussion.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester is interested in developing a Chester Creek Trail/East Coast Greenway Connection Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester desires to receive from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, a Coastal Zone Management Grant for the purpose of developing this Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester is seeking an amount not to exceed Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) in Coastal Zone Management funding for the completion of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Economic Development Authority will be applying for matching funds through the Regional Trail Fund from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

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

That it does hereby authorize Thaddeus Kirkland, Mayor of the City of Chester, and/or his designee to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Chester and the Department of Environmental Protection, for the Coastal Zone Management Program to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That in accordance with Section 503.06©(d) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chester, the Mayor of the City of Chester does hereby authorize, the proper City official(s) to erect stop sign(s) at the following intersection in the City of Chester:

1. 4th and Ward Streets, with sign(s) being posted on 4th Street along both Ward Street approaches.

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the proper City officials to install the appropriate signage to notify the public of said stop signs.

Councilwoman West said, at the last Council meeting, there was grandmother who said her grandchild had been hit at the intersection of 4th and Ward. This is an effort to try to slow down the traffic by having a 4-way stop at 4th and Ward.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Roots, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: West, Roots, Deputy Mayor Morgan. 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 September 10, 2022 through September 24, 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 Roots, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: West, Roots, Deputy Mayor Morgan. Nays: 0.

Presentations

Covid 19 Update – Attachment #1

October billboard will be going up in October for Cancer Awareness sponsored by Roe Fabricators

October 13 Health Partners Luncheon 11-2 Chester City Community Room – Attachment #2

October 20 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon 10-3:30 Keystone First Wellness Center
9th & Yarnall St.- Attachment #3 & 4

Dr. Carl L. Pierce Jr., MD - Attachment #5

Deputy Mayor Morgan thanked Dr. Pierce for all that he does and all that he has done over the many years serving the City of Chester residents; on behalf of Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland and Council, he thanked him for his years of serving the community.

Councilwoman West asked Dr. Pierce to introduce his family.

Dr Pierce introduced his wife Barbara, mother Roosevelt Pierce and his father Carroll Pierce.

Councilman Roots thanked Dr. Pierce for his years of service in the city of Chester. He said, you are a great example for those following in your footsteps.

Rosetta Carter, Health Department said, during the pandemic; it was difficult to get the vaccine for Chester residents. She said, before you could get the vaccine, you had to have doctor to prescribe the vaccine. She called Dr. Pierce and asked him if he would mind prescribing the vaccine for the City of Chester; he said, yes. Dr. Pierce was the reason we received the vaccine. The results had to be sent back to the doctor's office so, he allowed the results to be sent back to his office. She said, she appreciated him for that.

Dr Pierce thanked Mayor and Council for the honor. He said it was an honor to have met and help a number of people who have meant a lot to him over the years.

Members of Council Comments

Councilman Roots followed up on Ms. King's update, the booster clinic and vaccine clinic and bingo in October. He said, his big announcement is the long awaited Kaboom playground build that is going on right now in Sun Village Park. He said, it's a 3-day build that started yesterday. He said, they did such a good job yesterday that they were asked not to come out today. They will be picking it up tomorrow; over 100 ppl will be there. If anyone is available, please come out, we'll give you something to do. He thanked Duane Lee and the public works crew. He thanked the police department and fire department for their support. The ribbon cutting will be between 2-2:30. He thanked everyone inside and out for their help with this.

Councilwoman West reminded the community to recycle and to use the blue recycle cans. She said, some people are saying that the vendor is co-mingling. They were working with the trash vendor on that. She said, when the big report is done at the end of the year, we are able to get funding or reimbursement for the amount of tonnage that we turn in for recycling. She asked for the residents' support on this so that we can recycle properly. She asked residents to be mindful of how the trash is put out. A lot of people use trash bags and not trash cans with lids. Put trash out at 4pm the day before your trash collection. We want to clean up our city. If you see anyone dumping, try to get the make, model, and color of the vehicle or license plate, it will be very helpful, then we can turn it over to the Commissioner who have been very supportive of these incidences.

Commissioner Gretskey said, he has to give Mike Galante his props working with the camera system; we have a few videos and we are going to post video of the trucks and individuals who are dumping.

He said, if you see box trucks or u haul trucks; that's what they are using for illegal dumping. He let the public know that those persons will be aired out and put on social media.

Deputy Mayor Morgan said, the American Rescue Plan follow up discussion will be on October 11th in the Council room; starts at 4:30-5:00 surrounding around the funds of the American Rescue Plan. The objective of the meeting is to answer all the questions, comments or concerns that the public provided back in July's meeting. Job Postings, there are a few vacancies in varies departments. Chief Financial Officer, which is posted on the website. Director of Human Resources as well. There are a few other positions, you can go

to www.chestercity.com. There is a tab for jobs and you will see the jobs postings that we currently have.

There is progress being made on our waterfront and route 291. These are a few small projects that we accomplished over the last 2 years; road re-pavements and beautifying the areas near the boat launch and boat dock area. He encouraged everyone to go down to check out the progress.

There will be a big announcement in October with the Philadelphia Union and what we're looking to do in partnership with them.

He announced that the food truck festival event has been extended. It is this Friday, 5:30-10:00pm.

Duane Lee, Recreation Department, announced that the Chester Education Foundation has 20-30 positions available for the youth 18-26. Please send them over to Ms. Green at the Chester Education Foun

Councilman Roots said, Chester Education Foundation is located in the Fidelity Building on 5th and Avenue of the States on the 7th floor. The options for the 18-26 year-olds will provide them with soft skills training for a week or two then they would be placed in employment. The pay is good and many of the jobs are benefit related. They are not flipping burgers unless that's what you want to do. There are employers that are waiting every year. He said, unfortunately almost every year she never fills the quota of young people that can go through this program. Elaine Upton Green is who you need to contact. Blueprint for Success is the name of the program

Public Comment

Ms. Brown thanked Council for getting the trucks moved from parking on 291 and Engle St. the dumping has stopped but she still wants the dumpster at Wilson and Hayes Street. Also, she put in for stop signs at 2nd and 291, Highland Ave down to flower St. She said 291 is a speed trap. She would like Council to consider putting speed bumps at Wilson, Ward and Engle Streets.

Councilwoman West said, they are looking at a light at 291 and Jeffrey.

Mike Galante, City Engineer said, there is a big project going on on 291.

Councilwoman West said, Councilman Roots just shared with her that there is \$150,000.00 earmarked for a study of the 291 corridor. She said, 4th and Ward St was a quick fix.

Ms. Brown said, on 291 and Ward St. the dirt pile has been removed and now they are piling crush stone in the yard. She would like the company to put something around the fence because the dust in the area is tremendous.

Councilwoman West referred Ms. Brown to Mr. Collins; she asked Ms. Brown to send her the name of the company and she would forward it to Mr. Collins.

Councilman Roots said, 291 isn't a city street; it is a state highway. We will be engaging the public as we study as how to best get on to 291 from our city streets. Some suggestions were to prohibit going down 291; going down our city streets to 291; to make them one way just off of 291 to 3rd St; in some cases, maybe no left turn from the city side. We are thinking and talking about these things. There will be a lot of people involved that will help make the final decision including those of you living in those areas.

Councilwoman West said, with the trees that block the vision of persons trying to turn onto 291, the Streets Department along with Lisa Gaffney, Shade Tree Commission, we're looking at tree trimming as well.

Christine Moss said, she lives on 9th Street, between Lamokin and Pennell. She said, there's 3 empty houses next to her; there are mattresses on the porch. She said it's like a dump. She said, there is a lot of trash out in front of her house and around the back the grass is high.

Councilwoman West said, those concerns will go to Gary Collins who is the head of L&I and the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Salim said, it was good seeing everyone. This is the first step of the new order. We are going to continue moving. We have to know what is happening here. We cannot look back expecting to bring back what cannot go. We heard the expression in the south doctors, lawyers, Indian chief. We have to be willing to succeed.

Councilman Morgan said, Mr. Salim is right, when he goes to speak to the youth, he always tell them that they have to be willing to learn; that they always have to be a sponge, to soak up all the knowledge and education that they can get. They are great careers that you mentioned.

He said, Ms. Moss made a comment that landlords are owners of property that have these properties that are vacant for many years and they go and live where they choose to; they really don't provide any accountability or responsibility to the home in the City of Chester. We are looking to see what type of Ordinances we can put into place to tax a different code to these dilapidated, blighted properties that have sat for many years. We have been talking with the Receiver's team and consultants to speak to that to see how we can enforce and address in the future.

Vijay Kapoor, Chief of Staff for the Receiver for the City of Chester said, he wanted to give context as to the parking issue and to address the unfortunate inaction by Council this morning on moving forward with the advertising notice for a parking management system RFP. He said, the commonwealth court found that the existing contract between the city's parking manager PFS in the city was void. **(Reading from the Parking Contract Case Decision Attachment #7)** He said, it was void because the city failed to comply with the advertising competitive bidding requirements of the 3rd class city code. When a contract is void it means that it never existed. PFS cannot continue to enforce parking in the city. The Receiver has been dealing with this for a couple of years now. They felt that this was a terrible contract for the city to begin with and last Monday the court acknowledged the Receiver to terminate the contract and the contract was voided. As a result of that, there has been a lot of calls to what should happen next. They have

received a number of calls especially from individuals who live in neighbors where there is a residential permit parking program. They have been working on an RFP process brought the notice to council last week requesting that it be put on this council agenda to authorize an RFP so they can move forward. The existing parking manager cannot enforce it. In the RFP they are looking for someone to enforce the current parking regulations, including residential permit parking program, develop a comprehensive plan; which should have been done the first time and implement and manage the parking program for the city. As a result of this being tabled this is going to be delayed as far as what happens next. The reason why the Receiver is actually here is because there isn't a plan. He said, Council doesn't have a plan for what next steps are. We're trying to move forward with the RFP to get the process going so that we can address the various significant parking issues that we have in the city. What was simply asked here was to place a notice for an RFP so we can work with it and get it out and be able to address the situation; and that didn't happen, you all have been fighting us for the last 21/2 years on the parking contract. It is not helpful to the public; it is not helpful to the residents. The court found that you didn't follow the procurement process the first time. We are trying to address the situation the right way; in a way that benefits the city; and in a way that is in the best interest of the residents of the city. It is extremely disappointing today to see that you would table this motion. We would have been happy to speak with you all over the past couple of days. We spoke with the COO and the Solicitor and nothing happened. For those of you who will be calling the Receiver's office with questions about the residential parking program with questions about why this is taking so long, or what may not happen; I would refer you to the inaction that was taken this morning by Council.

Councilman Roots said, he would like to make a statement to that affect. He said, I made a motion that I didn't realize what I was making a motion to. He said, I understand that I made a motion to table this? That was not my intent. I was making a motion because there wasn't a motion made to approve as it was presented to us. It was not seconded; we voted unanimously, but I would say, I didn't intend to make a motion to table; I was making a motion for the original Resolution as it was listed here. How do we proceed there?

Ken Shuster, City Solicitor said, we should adjourn temporarily and meet in executive session.

Deputy Mayor Morgan said, members of council and the Solicitor will go into a temporary executive session and will be back momentarily.

Deputy Mayor Morgan resumed the meeting.

Ken Shuster said, Council convened in executive session to discuss Roberts Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure after a motion was potentially made in error by Councilman Roots. In an abundance of caution and fair to certain council folks who may not have understood what motion was made. Council would like to redo the motion. He asked madam clerk to re-read the motion as made.

The Resolution was re-read.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE;

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to prepare a Request for proposal (“RFP”) for Management Services for the City’s Parking System and to otherwise modernize various aspects of the City’s Parking System with a vision for economic development in accordance with the specifications contained in this RFP.

FURTHER, that it does authorize the City Clerk to advertise for the aforementioned RFP.

On motion of Councilor Roots, Deputy Mayor Morgan asked if there was a second. The Resolution was not seconded. He said, no second, this resolution cannot carry forward. Deputy Mayor Morgan made the recommendation that members of council look to table this resolution for further discussion with all parties involved.

Deputy Mayor Morgan asked for a motion to table the Resolution.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Deputy Mayor Morgan the motion to table the resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: West, Deputy Mayor Morgan. Nays: 1 Councilman Roots

Deputy Mayor Morgan said members of Council believes that we have a parking issue here in the City of Chester. Whether it’s in the business district or whether it’s in a residential area. There are houses that have 2,3,4,5 vehicles. No matter if it’s in the section near Crozer Hospital, in the Sun Hill area, no matter if it’s the downtown business district area; there is a parking issue here in the City of Chester. We are looking to find strategic ways to be able to resolve that. Mayor and Council will sit down with all members of Council, the Receiver’s team, our COO to discuss the best options moving forward. We will do this in collaboration and partnership with everyone involved. There are a few unanswered questions and concerns that we want to be clear on so we know how to best proceed forward and make the best decision and selections for our constituents and the business community in the City of Chester. He thanked members of Council for what has happened today and look forward to continued discussion with the Receiver and his team on what we can do in the coming weeks and or coming meetings so we can look to have some form of parking enforcement here in the City of Chester.

Deputy Mayor Morgan asked if there were any other comments.

There were no additional public comment.

Commissioner Rigby announced that on October 7th from 7-9pm there will be an open house for fire prevention month at Fire Station 81, 30 Tilghman St.

Deputy Mayor Morgan announced that the City of Chester is doing a 2035 Vision Comprehensive Plan. He held up the Chester Vision 2035 survey flier. He said, it has a QR

code; scan that code with your phone and that will take you to a survey to input your ideas or thoughts of what need to be in this 2035 Vision Plan for the City of Chester.

Councilwoman West asked Commissioner Rigby if there were any updates about Hurricane Ian.

Commissioner Rigby said, no updates at this time. He will keep everyone up to speed. He said, just pray for our folks, friends and family.

Councilwoman West said, Commissioner Rigby is the city's emergency management person for the City of Chester.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk