

**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
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, 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. Brenda Gibson, 1130 Clover Lane, Chester, PA 19013;
2. Charles Johnson, 325 E. 20th Street, Chester, PA 19013;
3. Diana McDaniel, 3015 W. 9th Street, Chester, PA 19013;
4. Dinah Mobley, 20 E. 16th Street, Chester, PA 19013; and
5. Kebdiel Pizzarro, 915 Hyatt 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 1100 Block of Clover Lane; in the 300 Block of East 20th Street; in the 3000 Block of West 9th Street; in the Unit Block of East 16th Street; and in the 900 Block of Hyatt 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, 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 advertisement of notice, accepting applications for the Associate Project Manager position, within the City of Chester.

FURTHER, that it does hereby authorize the City Clerk and other City officials(s) to advertise said notice in the Help Wanted section of the Delaware County Daily Times, the designated Employment Boards and to post said notice on the City of Chester website.

Councilman Morgan said, he wasn't sure of this position since he wasn't present at the deliberative meeting and asked for insight on it. He asked the COO if he could elaborate.

Leonard Lightner, COO said this is a position was just added on yesterday. The position is for Cyrise Dixon. He said, it is a part-time position for her to stay on to help out with some of the final projects that she is working on.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That in accordance with the recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated May 11, 2022 and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on May 19, 2022, it does hereby grant final approval to US Supply Company to construct a 2,904 sq. ft. one story storage building located at 1301 Morton Avenue, Chester, PA 19013, as shown on a plan prepared by H. Gilroy Damon Assoc., Inc. 1343 Chester Pike, Sharon Hill, PA 19079, dated March 22, 2022.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That in accordance with the recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated October 12, 2022, and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on October 20, 2022, it does hereby grant final approval to Michael Gilhool, Sr./American Wood Design to reverse subdivide eleven (11) lots into one (1) lot and construct a 14,265 sq. ft. warehouse with adjacent parking at 406-424 West 2nd Street, Chester, PA 19013, as shown on a plan prepared by Catania Engineering Assoc., Inc. 520 W. MacDade Blvd., Milmont Park, PA 19033, dated August 17, 2022.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), for the COVID-SFR Local Law Enforcement Support Grant, for the sum of Two Million, Nine Hundred Forty-two Thousand, Four Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$2,942,427.00), which will be used for the purchase of modern technological hardware, to ensure that personnel has the means to protect themselves and properly investigate criminal acts, for the benefit of the City and its residents.

FURTHER, that it does hereby ratify the execution of all documents necessary for the submission of said grant application 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, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester, (hereinafter referred to as "SWA"), is proposing to construct a regional stormwater management basin at Veterans Memorial Park, located at 7th and Engle Streets, within the City of Chester, to prevent flooding in the Veterans Memorial Park area and alleviate the longtime flooding problem for residents in that area; and

WHEREAS, the City agrees that flooding is a problem in this area and would like to support the SWA proposed project.

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

That it does hereby approve the development of a stormwater basin and park improvements within Veterans Memorial Park by the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester subject to all of the conditions outlined by the City Engineer, Planner and Solicitor as follows:

1. The SWA shall comply with all land development requirements and ordinances set forth by the City, County, State and Federal government in the development and construction of the project.
2. The SWA must enter into an easement and/or subdivision and land development agreement with the City pursuant to which: (i) the City will grant an easement and/or subdivision at the City's discretion, to SWA for the purpose of construction and maintaining said basin and all site improvements. The SWA shall conduct a title search of said property to ensure there are no restricting covenants on the property; (ii) SWA will assume the obligation of maintaining the stormwater basin and all improvements and indemnify the City of all risk and liability related to such improvements during construction of the project and for the life of the improvements, pursuant to an agreement satisfactory to the Solicitor and City; and (iii) SWA will add the City as an additional insured both during construction of the project , in amount that is satisfactory to the Solicitor and the City.
3. It is understood that all improvements that are completed as part of this project will be the sole ownership of the SWA in terms of construction, maintenance and repairs. Furthermore, the City of Chester is not accepting dedication of any improvements, which will be further defined once an easement/subdivision plan is recorded. Any easement/subdivision areas shall be clearly delineated in the field at a means acceptable to the City to define maintenance obligations and all costs to be borne by the SWA.
4. The SWA shall move said basin and improvements to the southwest of the suggested location in accordance with the needed land space east of the improvements for future development.
5. That pursuant to Section 921.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Chester, said land shall be laid out, improved and maintained forever as a public park for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the City and that the land is subject to the Public Trust Titling and Disposition Law (53P.S. Section 3381 et seq.) (the "Public Trust Law").
6. The SWA shall obtain all necessary building, road opening, sidewalk and curb permits from the City of Chester Public Works Department, County and State.
7. SWA shall pay all costs incurred by it or the City in conjunction with the development of the basin, including but not limited to legal, planning, engineering and inspection expenses, review of construction plans and documents title search(s),

subdivision and land and development fees, and any and all other costs, fees, expenses pertaining to the development, construction and maintenance of the basin.

Councilman Morgan asked if there were questions, comments, or concerns raised at the deliberative?

Ken Shuster, City Solicitor said, yes and they were addressed.

Mayor Kirkland said, questions/comments were raised; answers were provided but everyone on Council did not speak up.

Mayor Kirkland said, these regulations that have been put forth; the Stormwater Authority has been doing the work since its inception. He said, he appreciates the work that they do and continue to do and he looks forward to this being an addition to our community and to our park in making our park and waterway safer. He said, he will make sure that any authority that comes before this Council will have to go through the same rules and regulations, guaranteed!

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby approve the first amendment to the Scope of Work, included in the Master Services Agreement between the City of Chester and Protiviti Government Services, Inc., amending Section 3, entitled “Name of Project: Audit Readiness Support and Additional Accounting Resource Support”, by providing additional personnel and services, until March 31, 2023, as further outlined in the amendment dated September 28, 2022.

FURTHER, that it does hereby ratify the execution of said amendment for the engagement of services for and on behalf of the City.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, 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 October 8, 2022 through October 22, 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, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Covid Update **Attachment #1**

Delaware County Health Department offering Novavax vaccine as of October 14, 2022
Delaware County Health Dept., PA Dept. of Health and Keystone First vaccine and booster shot clinic, October 28, 10am-2pm, 1929 W. 9th St. **Attachment #2**
Veterans Day Luncheon, November 10, 2022, City Hall Community Room 12pm-3pm.

Mayor Kirkland said, we want to make sure that folks get their vaccinations and their boosters. Covid is still here with us. We are doing better but we can do better. He thanked Ms. King and Ms. Carter.

Public Comment

Karla Beaver had a concern about illegal dumping on Sadiq's property. She said, it is happening after hours at night. There are mattresses, sofas and love seats out there. She said, she reached out to Sadiq and gave him Councilwoman West's number.

Councilwoman West said, she and Ms. Beaver spoke earlier. She said she will talk with her staff about the illegal dumping and get with L & I.

Zulene Mayfield had a complaint about city employees sitting in the audience making comments. She said, it is disrespectful. She said, the residents have to understand that the City of Chester is a business. Everything that is done should be for the well-being of the residents. It should be done with a certain amount of expertise. Residents' issues should be in the forefront. She said, there have been issues with money. The IRS was going to levy against the residents of the City of Chester. We could potentially be hit with a \$750,000 fine. It was in the paper that a \$400,000.00 payment was made. Council has not addressed it. How did this happen? Who authorized it and how can a payment of \$400,000.00 go out to the wrong person?

Councilman Morgan said, this information was put out last year. The City of Chester has a financial liability with the IRS; roughly about \$700,000.00. Majority of that is due to penalties and interest. There were some filings with the IRS but the data that was filed was not matching up to what was being reported as far as payroll between the years of 2016-2019. We are currently working with the IRS and the financial internal team to rectify the situation. One of the resolutions on the agenda today was the extension of financial support with Protivity. Protivity is an agency that have brought in some accountants to help with becoming current with audits and to help rectify the situation with the IRS. We have until the end of the first quarter of 2023 to rectify the issue and we are progressing in doing so. The Phishing email; we were a victim of that. He said he was on all the emails as they were coming in, for us to submit wires to individuals posing as our insurance carrier for workman's compensation requesting payment and everything looked usual and typical as far as the broker reaching out requesting payment. There is a meeting today with the

Receiver and financial team to discuss more in-depth. Next steps will be to look at internal controls to how wires go out, how transfers are happening and monies that are incoming and outgoing. They will be speaking with the bank; making sure that the proper policies are in place so that if this does happen in the future, such as the cyber policy, we will be able to put claims against that policy. There are a few things that we are looking at. We are moving in the right direction to avoid/limit this, but this is happening across the country. Unfortunately, some of this in right in our back yard as well.

Mayor Kirkland said, as far as our employees being respectful or making comments while others are speaking; respect goes both ways. He said, there are times when others persons, myself and council may be speaking and other persons would be making comments as well. Let us be reminded that respect goes both ways. We are going to be looking at those persons who have been delinquent on their taxes. Especially since there are seniors who have paying their taxes on a regular basis. We will start a deeper dive into those individuals who own property in the city and have been delinquent on their taxes. We will find out why they are delinquent.

Rev. Strand thanked Mayor and Council for their support for allowing them to carry out the work that they set out to do. He said, the federal government has mandated that all communities come up with a comp. plan to deal with the flooding. Fifty million dollars have been put into the streets of Chester to deal with antiquated systems; inlets that were caving in, to advert some of the water away from the combine water system. He thanked the engineers, staff and residents that are employed with the Authority. He said, there was another street sweeper purchased because keeping our streets clean is essential to stormwater management. He introduced six apprentices that are being trained and asked them to stand. He introduced Dr. Holden the field representative who works directly with the apprentices. He wanted everyone to know that the Stormwater Authority is here to serve the city.

Councilwoman Williams reminded property owners of multi-family properties that their inspections are due. She asked that they call in to make appointments to get their properties inspected. She said, right now they are out of compliance.

Councilwoman West reminded the community to be diligent in recycling. She thanked Mayor and Council for their support from the police perspective as they go through the city to look at illegal dump sites. She has solicited support from the police department, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Robertson and the staff in the streets department. She thanked them for their diligence. She said, it's not perfect because, her staff can go and clean one night and the very next day, there's trash out again in that very same place. She asked the residents to be diligent and let us know when you see people illegally dumping. She said we need to do this together to keep our city clean.

Councilman Morgan shouted out to all the classes and alumni who participated in the Chester High School Home Coming this weekend. He said, he didn't go to Chester High but he still represents C-Pride. American Rescue Plan; there was meeting a week or two ago. They will be establishing an oversight committee which will include members of the

community. If anyone is interested, reach out to Michael Hurst via email at MHurst@Chestercity.com. Also, you can go on the city website for updates.

Commissioner Gretskey said, Sunday will be Trunk or Treat. There will be moon bounce, DJ, and water ice. He asked everyone to spread the word. Location, Police Department 160 E. 7th St.

Councilwoman West thanked and commended Mayor Kirkland, Commissioner Gretskey and partners D.A. Jack Stoltsteimer, Josh Shapiro and Mary Gay Scanlan. They have participated in reducing the crime in Chester. She said, it is much more comfortable in the City of Chester than it had been and our crime rate is down. She thanked them as a resident and a member of the team.

Mayor Kirkland addressed the question about bankruptcy. He said bankruptcy has been placed on the table a number of times, by the Receiver. He said, the city went to court and we would not do or say anything until the courts made a decision. The court found that the city owns the Chester Water Authority. It continues to be in court: if we have such an asset in our community that is worth approximately, ½ billion dollars; he said, if your house is on fire and the fire company is next door to your house and it does not pour the water on your house your house burns down. We have a ½ billion-dollar asset in this community. If it means to sell the water authority to save our community and our people, so be it. I want to make sure that there is a future for your grandkids and your great grandkids and your great-great grandkids as well as mine. You make sure that the money is used properly, invested properly, saved properly, and you make sure you spend properly. You put the proper persons in place to make sure that the money last generation after generation. You don't just willy nilly go out and spend that money.

Mayor Kirkland thanked the Stormwater Authority for the partnership. He applauded the workers of the Stormwater Authority for the work that they do each and every day. He said, these are men and women who clean our gutters and drains so that there is no flooding in our community. He said, we don't have a KFC, but KFC boxes end up in Chester, we don't have a Wendy's or a Chick-fila but all these boxes end up in our gutters and drains. He said, these people are the ones who go out in the sun, rain, cold and the heat to clean up after grown folk. He said, they are out there visible; working, and they are Chester. He said, he is excited about the project in the park. They have been working on this project for two years. He said, we went to Philadelphia to look at the basin. He said, he is excited about it. He clarified that this is not a lake; it is a storm water basin to help alleviate flooding. He said, it is his hope to go to Darby to help them with their flooding problem. This will not eliminate the use of our softball fields. He will be talking to Rev. Strand; it is his hope that Stormwater Authority will be able help us to beautify the softball fields to match up with the stormwater basin.

Mayor Kirkland said, the stormwater basin minimizes the flooding in the area of the homes and businesses. He said, the homes on Bradley St. and Engle St. basements slant. When the stormwater comes from the Township down Engle St., it rushes into the basements of these homeowners and businesses. This will help eliminate some of that. We are trying to make life better for our residents in the city. After a heavy rain, there is enough water in the

park where a small child could drown. Our library also gets flooded. Ten million dollars of grant money will be used for this project. Folks are investing in this community. Chester is getting better. Fifty-Five million dollars is being invested by the Philadelphia Union for our community.

He said, when the Philadelphia Union opened up, and encouraged our folk to go down there, Cheryl took the challenge to go down to the Philadelphia Union and now she has a huge operation there.

He said, I dare you to take the challenge; look at that fifty-five million dollars and say what type of talents do I have, so that I can be a part of this rebirth of this community and benefit financially? He encouraged everyone to do so.

Mayor Kirkland said, in reference to the question about duplication; why didn't the stormwater authority do the same thing in Eyre Park that they want to do in Memorial Park? He said, there is no creek that runs pass Memorial Park. There is no creek of that magnitude that runs pass Memorial Park. There has to be a different type of build that has to be put in place. He said, he is excited; once it is done the naysayers will see the blessing that has been bestowed on us because of this project.

Councilwoman West said, she wanted to bring to the Mayor's attention that there's a young man from Chester, his name is Marcello Grooves who is on the Voice. He sang just the two of us. She said, he proudly announced that he was from Chester. She said, Mayor and Council should reach to get him at City Hall.

Mayor Kirkland said, we have tried. Ms. Amanda Johnson has reached out trying to get him to City Hall. He said, we will keep trying to get him here.

Rosetta Carter said, October is Breast Cancer Month. The city has a billboard about breast cancer at no cost to Chester. She said, 40% of women of color are dying of breast cancer. She said, she wanted to spread the word of the importance to get a mammogram once a year. If you don't have insurance, call her office she can direct them to where they can go to get a free mammogram. She wanted to encourage everyone to do that.

Mayor Kirkland thanked Deputy Mayor Morgan and members of Council for holding it down while he was down; conducting business in the city (as always) in a professional manner. He thanked them for their prayers.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk