

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 9, 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 10:03am 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
Stefan Roots
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
Portia West (**Absent**)

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

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 following individual has requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Lorna Campbell, 710 Ward Street, Chester, PA 19013

WHEREAS, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Public Works, it has been determined the aforementioned individual has met all of the required criteria and has 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 700 Block of Ward Street in the City of Chester.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby appoint Thelma Evans, to the position of Residential Housing Inspector, Health Department, effective November 10, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, with all benefits applicable. Said individual has successfully completed the sixty (60) day probationary period.

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

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby appoint Stephanie Moye, to the position of Human Resource Director, Department of Accounts, Finance and Human Resources, effective December 5, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, with a sixty (60) day probationary period.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby appoint Caryn Thompson, to the position of Accounts Payable Coordinator, Department of Accounts, Finance and Human Resources, effective November 10, 2022, for 37.5 hours per week, with all benefits applicable. Said individual has successfully completed the sixty (60) day probationary period.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby grant permission and authorize the issuance of a road opening permit to PECO for the project at Washington Avenue from Glen Terrace to East 16th Street, for the installation of 420 feet of new Gas Mains and transfer of services within City streets, in accordance with the documents on file in the City Engineer's Office and under the following conditions:

1. PECO performs a half mill and overlay on all road openings exceeding 100 feet or three (3) patches within 100 feet.
2. PECO provides appropriate traffic control measures to ensure continual operation of City Streets.
3. PECO obtains all required Road Opening Permits from the City as well as any other required permits.

FURTHER, said permit is contingent upon all work being performed in a manner that is satisfactory to City Council and PECO's compliance with all of the conditions as outlined by the City Engineer.

On motion of Councilor Williams, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, 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 October 28, 2022 and November 4, 2022 attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

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

Ayanna King, COVID-19 Support Specialist, gives a COVID-19 Update (see attachment #1)

Public Comment

Harry Crawford says does Chester have the right to actually decide on what is actually built here. (ex. the active prison here) Did Chester have the right to actually make a decision to say that the Prison could be built here?

Carl Ewald, Solicitor says I can't speak historically but going forward Chester has a Zoning Code which lays out the plan for what can be built where. The State Supreme Court has ruled that Municipalities can't prohibit legal uses. So, they have to be accommodated somewhere within the Municipality. But if someone comes with a plan that complies with the Zoning Code and complies with the Subdivision Land Development Ordinance then NO Chester can't tell them your use is legal but you can't put it here. If it comes with a Use that violates the Zoning Code then they would have to go to the Zoning Board for relief or they will be administered if legally denied.

Mr. Crawford says would the people of Chester have or had any kind of recourse to say we don't want this here.

Mr. Ewald, Solicitor says so speaking specifically about the Prison.

Mr. Crawford says yes.

Mr. Ewald, Solicitor says then no. The deadlines have passed. Speaking to future uses that are hypothetical?

Mr. Crawford says correct.

Mr. Ewald says there are two ways that the Public can have input. (1) In the event that the City were to change the Zoning Ordinance. They will advertise the Zoning Ordinance changes and there will be a Public Comment and a Public Hearing before those changes are made. (2) If you live in close proximity for the Uses that's going to be proposed you have the right to participate in the Hearings if you live close enough. If it is a Uses permitted by right then there is not a whole lot that can be done. You can examine the Permits and make sure that there are no mistakes that were made and if you think there was a mistake you can file an appeal. If it someone who is coming to propose a Use that is not permitted by the Zoning Ordinance, then the Zoning Hearing Board will hold a Hearing and you can come and if you want to give Public Comment then you can give a Public Comment and if you can prove that you live in very close proximity and you have an interest greater than that of the general public, you can ask for what is called a (inaudible) status. In which case you can have an Attorney, you can cross examine witnesses, you can present witnesses and prevent evidence (inaudible).

Mr. Crawford says if the people of Chester do not want that actual plant that's being proposed down off of Exit 291, the actual LNG place, if they meet all requirements, we basically have no power to stop them.

Mr. Ewald, Solicitor says if they meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Land Development Ordinance then the City does not have the ability to stop them, no.

Mr. Crawford says so if they wanted to actually put a pile of in return something right in the parking lot or vacant lot because they own that lot then as you own it meets the actual criteria even though it is an eyesore, maybe whatever, the only way to stopping it would be to actually (inaudible) that was it sounds like to me.

Mr. Ewald, Solicitor says you could implore the owner not to put a different use there or make accommodations to try and make it a less intrusive use.

Mayor Kirkland says you said something about the liquid gas.

Mr. Crawford says yes.

Mayor Kirkland says so your questions are specifically focusing on liquid gas.

Mr. Crawford says yes it does.

Mayor Kirkland says Mr. Crawford, this Mayor and Council have not had a conversation with the liquid gas persons for quite some time. We do entertain different types of Businesses that might want to come and be a part of this Community. We will listen, we provide them with our input. Also, before anything like that ever happens, if it were to happen, only if we were to entertain it inadvertently, we would make sure that the Community is involved and invited to those conversations.

Mr. Crawford says okay. That would be very good.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Williams says I've been reading over the Agreement that the Receiver has made and signed and under that you are violating our Rights. You have violated them. There is no way in the world that 80% of the People that come here in the City deserve to have the right to take away our Rights! So, by you signing that you took away our Civil Rights. It's called discrimination. There are 30,000 people that live here in the City of Chester and we represent them. They should have been known that you were signing and got the okay from them to sign that letter you signed. The People you signed the letter for giving them the rights to discriminate against us. Under the 14th Amendment, "All Men Are Created Equally". When you did that, you took my rights away and I want the City of Chester to know that what you did was wrong! You disrespected the Citizens here in the City of Chester! I want (and I asked you before) and need for you to have a Meeting and read out what you wrote in that Agreement that you signed and then you'll see how you violated everybody rights that live here in the City of Chester

Councilman Roots says (see attachment #2)

Councilman Morgan says (see attachment #3)

Mayor Kirkland says congratulations to those Employees that stepped up to the plate and filled some of those positions that were made available. We appreciate your hard work here and your willingness to continue to work on behalf of the Citizens here in the City of Chester! On our next Council Meeting we will be recognizing Football Coach Bell because of their accomplishments. Also, we will be recognizing members of the Philadelphia Union. They may be named the Philadelphia Union but we realize that just like Columbus they landed right here in Chester. So therefore, we're going to recognize them as our team here in the City, the City of Champions. Good job Commissioner with the Trunk or Treat! Everyone had a great time! This has been an extremely productive Summer for all of our Residents!! I also want to thank the Firefighters. They rescued a cat/kitten that had been stuck in a tree for four days!!! Thank you, Ms. Carter and Ms. King, for always proving us with the updates that we so desperately need.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31am.

Respectfully submitted,

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk