

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 10:13am with Mayor 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
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland

Mayor Kirkland asked if anyone in the audience had any comments on Agenda items only.

Livia Smith says can you give me clarity on Resolution #2.

Councilman Morgan says we wanted to create a policy to have some guidelines, structures, procedures around employees acting in a higher capacity. So, if there is someone who resigns or is terminated here from the City of Chester and that leaves a vacancy or a void within someone taking on those responsibilities or in that role. So, we have individuals here at City Hall within that vacancy that has taken on those responsibilities and we wanted to make sure we are able to compensate them for that.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hired Lamont Collins, II, for the full-time Residential Housing Inspector position, L & I Department, effective February 28, 2022, with no benefits and a sixty (60) day probationary period; and

WHEREAS, said employment was contingent upon said individual obtaining the required certification for the position within ninety (90) days from the date of hire; and

WHEREAS, there has been a request to extend said individual's certification period an additional sixty (30) day period.

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

That it does hereby extend of the probationary period of Lamont Collins, II, for the full-time Residential Housing Inspector position, L & I Department, an additional thirty (30) days period with an expiration date of January 30, 2023, for said employee to obtain the required certification for the position.

FURTHER, if said employee fails to obtain the required certification after the sixty (30) day extension period, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said 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

WHEREAS, the City of Chester desires to implement guidelines for a temporary pay acting assignment for current classified employees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester has determined that the guidelines set forth in this policy shall constitute special provisions applicable to all who are temporarily assuming the full set of duties from high-level vacant position or from a higher-level encumbered position whose incumbent is on an extended leave; and

WHEREAS, said policy is not a substitution for the promotional or allocation process.

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

That it does hereby adopt the attached Temporary Pay Acting Assignment Policy which provides the guidelines for eligibility, rate and other conditions for a clear understanding of the requirements to qualify for a temporary pay acting assignment.

FURTHER, this policy will take effect immediately upon the passage of this Resolution.

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.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

**BILL NO. 6
ORD. 6, 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE
LAST AND FINAL READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS
ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC
PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT,
HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, DURING THE 2023
CALENDAR YEAR.**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. That for the expenditures and expenses of the 2023 calendar year, the following amounts are hereby appropriated from the fund equities, revenues, and other financing sources available for the 2023 calendar year for the specific purposes herein set forth.

SECTION 2. The General Fund Budget for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at **\$63,650,000** and appropriated from the following revenues, as more fully detailed in the attached Exhibit A:

Real Estate Taxes	\$ 9,996,000
Taxes - Act 511	\$ 21,363,000
Fines	\$ 100,000
Licenses and Permits	\$ 1,605,000
Interest, Rents and Royalties	\$ 3,660,000
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 12,655,000
Charges For Services	\$ 7,006,000
Reimbursements	\$ 1,417,000

Other Revenue	<u>\$ 5,848,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 63,650,000</u>

SECTION 3. The General Fund Budget for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at **\$65,553,445** and appropriated to the following departments, as more fully detailed in the attached Exhibit A:

Department of Public Affairs	\$21,682,514
Department of Accounts and Finance	\$23,854,236
Department of Public Safety	\$ 8,798,088
Department of Public Works, Parks & Property	\$ 5,874,607
Operating Transfers	<u>\$ 5,344,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$65,553,445</u>

SECTION 4. The Residential Rental Property Registration Fund for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at revenues of **\$227,000** and expenditures of **\$151,818** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2023 Budget".

SECTION 5. The State Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at revenues **\$827,972** and expenditures of **\$827,556** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2023 Budget".

SECTION 6. The American Rescue Plan Act Fund for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at **\$7,694,000** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2023 Budget".

SECTION 7. The Grants Fund for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at **\$470,000** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2023 Budget".

SECTION 8. The Debt Service Fund for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at **\$3,954,265** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2023 Budget".

SECTION 9. The Delaware County Community College Fund for the 2023 calendar year is hereby set at **\$390,000** with detailed appropriation described in greater detail in Exhibit A, "City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, 2023 Budget".

SECTION 10. That any Ordinances conflicting with this Ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 6, 2022 was passed on its Last and Final Reading.

Councilman Morgan says this Budget for 2023 was worked on by Members of Council, Department Heads, the Receiver's Team, got together to come as close as we could to get the Budget balanced. I do believe that the numbers that were read off that we have anticipated for the revenues and expenses for 2023 are fairly accurate and we hope that we can continue to improve the revenues, the collection of taxes and the reinforcements that we have in L & I to better support the Budget that we have been able to provide for the constituents here.

The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**BILL NO. 7
ORD. 7, 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE
LAST AND FINAL READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, PRESCRIBING THE NUMBER,**

**DUTIES AND COMPENSATION OF THE
EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER FOR
THE YEAR 2023, DIRECTING PAYMENT ON AN
ANNUAL BASIS; PRESCRIBING THE METHOD
AND TIMES OF PAYMENT; AND REPEALING
ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES
INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 7, 2022 was passed on its Last and Final Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**BILL NO. 8
ORD. 8, 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE
LAST AND FINAL READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY
THE HOME RULE CHARTER, REENACTING
WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE THE
BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX FOR THE YEAR 2023,
AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 307 OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
CHESTER, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND
AMENDED, IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH IMPOSES
A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES
UPON PERSONS, FIRMS, COMPANIES, AND
CORPORATIONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN
BUSINESS WITHIN THE CITY OF CHESTER
EXCEPT FOR THE AMENDMENT TO
SUBSECTION 307.02(a) ENTITLED "RATE AND
BASIS OF TAX" OF SECTION 307.02 ENTITLED
TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES OF
SAID BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX, TO SET THE
SAID RATE OF TAX TO 2.0 MILLS FOR RETAIL
AND 3.0 MILLS FOR WHOLESALE; AND
REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF
ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 8, 2022 was passed on its Last and Final Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**BILL NO. 9
ORD. 9, 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE
LAST AND FINAL READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY
THE HOME RULE CHARTER, REENACTING THE
EARNED INCOME TAX FOR THE YEAR 2023, AS
SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 303 OF THE CODIFIED**

ORDINANCES OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, IN ITS ENTIRETY, WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE EXCEPT FOR AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 303.02 ENTITLED "IMPOSITION OF TAX" TO IMPOSE A TAX OF 2.00% FOR 2023 FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON SALARIES, WAGES, COMMISSIONS, NET PROFITS AND OTHER COMPENSATION EARNED BY NONRESIDENTS, OF THE CITY OF CHESTER FOR WORK DONE OR SERVICES PERFORMED OR RENDERED IN THE CITY OF CHESTER, AND TO ESTABLISH THE EARNED INCOME TAX RATE AT 3.75% FOR 2023 ON SALARIES, WAGES, COMMISSIONS, NET PROFITS AND OTHER COMPENSATION EARNED BY RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER; WITH ONE PERCENT (1.00%) OF THE RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS EARNED INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS BEING DESIGNATED TO DISTRESSED PENSION PAYMENTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 9, 2022 was passed on its Last and Final Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

**BILL NO. 10
ORD. 10, 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE
LAST AND FINAL READING**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE HOME RULE CHARTER, REENACTING WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE FOR THE YEAR 2023 THE "LOCAL SERVICES TAX", AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 305 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH IMPOSES A TAX, FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES, UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF ENGAGING IN AN OCCUPATION WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER AT THE RATE OF FIFTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$52.00) PER YEAR.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 10, 2022 was passed on its Last and Final Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**BILL NO. 11
ORD. 11, 2022**

AN ORDINANCE

LAST AND FINAL READING

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
ENACTING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2023,
ON ALL REAL PROPERTY AT 9.4041 MILLS AND
FIXING THE LIBRARY TAX AT .4017 MILLS.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 11, 2022 was passed on its Last and Final Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**BILL NO. 12
ORD. 12, 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE
LAST AND FINAL READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER,
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
AMENDING SUBSECTION 925.021, ENTITLED
“FEES”, OF ARTICLE 925 ENTITLED “REFUSE
COLLECTION” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, 1978, AS
SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED BY
INCREASING THE FEE TO \$250 OF SUBPARTS
(a)(1) AND (a)(2); AND TO AMEND SUBSECTION
925.06, ENTITLED “RECEPTACLE CAPACITY AND
WEIGHT”, TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO SIXTY-FIVE
GALLONS OR ONE HUNDRED POUNDS WHICHEVER
IS THE LESSER AMOUNT; AND REPEALING ALL
ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES
INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 12, 2022 was passed on its Last and Final Reading.

Councilman Morgan says for this particular Bill/Ordinance, unfortunately the City is in a position in where we are seeing a sizable deficit when it comes to the trash being picked up in the City of Chester...waste and recycle...paying our trash hauler and also for the dumping tipping fees at Delaware County Solid Waste. We had to increase the fee from \$225 to \$250. So, there is a \$25 rubbish fee increase.

Mayor Kirkland says are there are any other tax increases.

Councilman Morgan says no. There are no other tax increases or fee increases outside of the one I just mentioned.

The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

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

Public Comment

Livia Smith says I see that there has been some (inaudible) in (Deshong Park). Can you tell me what's going on? I know it's a County owned Park but are you aware of what's happening?

Mayor Kirkland says you are correct. The County (inaudible) the property. I haven't heard about (inaudible) other Council persons to tell me what exactly they are doing there in the Park. But maybe some of the other Council persons have.

Councilman Roots says the custodians of the Park (inaudible) the Delaware County Industrial Development Authority. They're insurance carrier for Deshong Park required them to do some safety improvements into the Deshong Properties in order to get their insurance reinstated this year. I have asked what is the extent of the work that they're planning to do. I'm still waiting for a response. But at this point I do know that they have taken down some old trees, some sidewalk improvements, some facade improvements on the Museum itself and they've laid down new black top in the parking lot behind the Museum. Apparently, they are almost done with that work and weather permitting they will continue through 2023. You shouldn't expect to see anymore work done until the Spring.

Ms. Smith says can you make sure they do something to the bricks out front. The stone wall is falling down.

Councilman Roots says the wall is part of what their insurance carrier is asking them to repair.

Ms. Smith says the air quality...has anything been done with the air quality in this building as far as the vents?

Mayor Kirkland says not to date.

Adelaide Evans says it was stated that the trash was going to be increased. Can you explain a little bit more? Is that due to the fact that a new contract was signed or is there going to be a new contract signed and how will the public be notified? There has been a truck stop that has been created on Flower Street and there is nothing really being done. You can't see left or right when you're coming off 6th Street because truckers have put trailers out there and cars. There is no End of the School Zones on 9th Street or Providence Avenue. So, when you're going through the 15mph zone there is no indication of where it's supposed to end. It was also discussed that Cops could not patrol those areas because we are limited with the Cops so I'm confused as to why does Charter East have a Cop directing traffic when the school is being let out or starting. Who is responsible for the Edgemont Avenue/95 on Ramp because you can be coming from...let's say you're going towards the Dollar Tree and there are two lanes (inaudible) turn. That middle lane collides because they are thinking that it's two lanes to get on 95 when there is only one. So, they are almost colliding with the car that's in the closest lane to 95 which can cause an accident.

Councilman Morgan says the City hasn't passed an increase on the Residents. This is the second increase it's been probably in over a decade. Whereas most of the Residents may know that costs are continuing to inflate. Especially when it comes to trash. We do have a Contract that ends is 2024/2025. So, we are at a fixed rate. The City has to balance the gap a little bit when it comes to paying our trash hauler and paying our tipping fees to Delaware County Solid Waste. There is a sizable deficit. One that is roughly over about \$600,000 or \$700,000.00 when we do the numbers of how much the City is paying out and how much collection of revenues, we're bringing in just solely for trash. The Residents does have to pay a fee on an annual basis for trash pickup. In 2019 we raised it to \$225 and we haven't increased it since then. We just changed it to \$250. We have to close that gap. The City has continued to take the blows on a lot of financial decisions that we have to make to continue to provide the services here.

Ms. Evans says does that also include Recycling.

Councilman Morgan says yes.

Ms. Evans says people don't know where to get the information when it comes to trash pickup when there is a Holiday (ex. Christmas fell on Monday). I've noticed on Recycling days they pick up the Regular Trash. We're not getting our proper fees when it comes to Recycling.

Councilwoman West says the information is on the City's Website for the Trash pickup for the year. I believe it's also on the TV Channel.

Ms. Evans says people that are not computer savvy...how do they get the information.

Councilwoman West says we have put out notices as well. You can also call into our Office. Which some people have done when there is a Holiday to see when their trash will be picked up.

Ms. Evans says maybe you can do something also to spark the Recycling as well because not to many people do Recycling. Maybe they don't think it matters.

Councilwoman West says we look at the numbers at the end of the year and we coordinate with the County's Recycling people. Some people put in their regular trash with recycling, which should not be.

Mayor Kirkland says as far as the truck stops parking, we have sent our Officers out down there to ticket/fine them. I will send our Police Officers back down there once again to address that issue.

Ms. Evans says they are dropping a massive amount of trash.

Mayor Kirkland says you also said about the Schools that we send a number of Officers to Chester High School. (Inaudible) the Superintendent, Receiver of the District they will call on us and ask us if we could send our Police Officers at dismissal or when kids come to School. So we do make that a priority. As far as Edgemont Avenue, I think you're talking about the on Ramp, that is a PennDot issue. You can talk to our City Engineer.

Rodney Robertson, Public Works Director says there is proper signage there. (Inaudible) we do agree that there should be more signage up there. It's just back a little to far.

Councilwoman West says there is just one turning lane there correct.

Rodney Robertson, Public Works Director says yes.

Councilman Morgan says I don't think they are Chester Police Officers; I think they are Township Officers. (Charter School East)

Corinn Butler says between 7th and 4th Street on Flower Street with the numerous amounts of Truckers that are parking there were the visibility has decreased to see around the corner. They are parking in front of the fire hydrant which is safety issue. There has been an increase of trash in that area and it's not the Residents. It's the people parking there. Can there be some signage put up saying "NO PARKING" or "NO COMMERCIAL PARKING". Also with the trucks being there, they are tearing up the street and it would be a cost to the taxpayers in the end.

Mayor Kirkland says we will look into that possibility as well.

Tonita Austin says I come here to bring some awareness about a group of us that are concerned about Delaware County's plan to move forward to reopen the Detention Center in Lima and to double the size of it. We are doing some Town Hall Talks in different parts of Delaware County to make the Public aware because I don't think people are aware of what's going on and because no one is attending their meetings they're just moving forward with this plans to build without a plan on how they are going to care for the youth and how this facility is going to be used. We don't want a facility. We think the Community should be caring for our youth. We need support and help. **(see attachment #2)**

Andre Simms, Executive Director of the Organization Non-Profit Day One not Day Two says we have a lot of programs and opportunities for the young people to advance and enhance their (inaudible) as alternatives to what we find in the Streets. Our meetings are every third Tuesday of the Month. How can we get more programs in the Community specifically for our young people? **(He also references to attachment #2)**

Mayor Kirkland says I think that you can talk to any of the Council persons here. They can provide you with information and support. This year was a very productive year that we have had in a very long time when it comes to our Recreational (inaudible). And in having those recreational opportunities I believe helped us to decrease crime in our Community. I think even more so we have to get the Parents a lot more involved and not just dropping kids off...being there with their children and having that recreational opportunity with their children. I think that's one of the biggest challenges we have.

Councilman Roots says the work you are doing is super important. But by the same token there are juvenile criminals and that's why we have the juvenile justice system. A combination of the work that you do and recreational opportunities and properly structured facilities all have to work together. They can't put the same thing back into Lima that was there before.

Councilwoman West says I also agree that we do not need a facility that we had before out Lima. We do need to hold the County accountable.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Williams says I want to send out Get Well Wishes to my Firefighters. Happy New Year!

Councilman Roots says I've learned a lot in my first year and I still have a lot to learn. It's been a pleasure every day serving the City of Chester and I'm looking forward to doing it next year!

Councilman Morgan says continue to check our website for job postings and opportunities that we have here in the City of Chester. Happy Holidays and see you in 2023!

Councilwoman West says Happy New Year!

Mayor Kirkland says Happy New Year! Whatever we do here in Council, increase/decrease, it affects us as well. We live right here. We try to do what we think/believe in our hearts is best for this Community.

Mayor Kirkland says yesterday we had an Executive Session at 3:30p.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.

Respectfully submitted,

DECEMBER 28, 2022

Candice Newsome, City Clerk