

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 8, 2023

**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 7:02 PM with Mayor Kirkland presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

Mayor Kirkland
Elizabeth Williams
William Morgan
Portia West
Stefan Roots

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 Kirkland asked for public comment on agenda items only.

Livia Smith asked about Resolution #2; the change of a job title. She asked what job title was being changed.

Mayor Kirkland said, the job title was being changed from Chief Operating Officer to Chief of Staff.

Zulene Mayfield asked about the Eagles celebration on the expenditure list. She asked if the residents had to pay for it. It was \$288.82

Councilman Morgan said, yes, we had an employee morale Eagles celebration for the super bowl. There were sponsorships from local businesses for that event. Many recreational events they we have had in 2023 were sponsored by local businesses. No, it is not tax payers money.

Zulene Mayfield asked, did it come out of the General fund?

Councilman Morgan said, no, a special revenue fund. It is a restrictive funding source that come from local businesses or grants. Grants are also a separate fund. Again, it did not come from the general fund.

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. Charlie Fernandes, 136 East 18th Street, Chester, PA 19013; and
2. Bonnie L. Tucker, 215 Hayes 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 100 Block East 18th Street; and in the 200 Block of Hayes 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

WHEREAS, effective August 15, 2022, Chester City Council (“Council”) hired Leonard Lightner as the Chief Operating Officer; and

WHEREAS, to accurately reflect the actual duties of Mr. Lightner it is necessary to change his job title; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester has an open Chief of Staff position which is a better representation of the current duties of Mr. Lightner.

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

That it does hereby authorize the proper City official to change the current job title for Leonard Lightner from Chief Operating Officer to Chief of Staff, effective immediately.

FURTHER, all other terms and conditions of his employment will remain the same.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, 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 passed Resolution 23-2023 on February 8, 2023 which shall be amended to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Chester has designated Santander Bank, N.A., (the “Bank”) as its depository of funds and the Bank requires a resolution approved by the Council of the City of Chester to make changes to position titles and personnel authorized to sign on City accounts; and

WHEREAS, Chester City Council has elected to change the authorized signers that act on behalf of the City of Chester in accordance with the terms and conditions, as detailed in the Bank’s Universal Resolution.

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

That it does hereby designate the following individuals as authorized signers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Leonard Lightner	Chief of Staff (COS)
Arleen R. Geathers	Deputy Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Michael Hurst	Accountant
Eleanor F. Golson	Treasurer

FURTHER, that it does authorize the proper City official to provide this Resolution, the signed Universal Resolution and Bank Signature Card to the Bank, for and on behalf of the City of Chester.

FURTHER, this Resolution supersedes any other Resolution addressing the subject matter discussed herein.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, 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 reappoint Darrell Jones as a member of the Chester Economic Development Authority, term to expire December 31, 2026.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, 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 reappoint Frances G. Whittington as a member of the Chester Economic Development Authority, term to expire December 31, 2027.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, 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 Amanda Johnson, as a member of the Chester Economic Development Authority, to fill the expired term of Desmond Irving, term to expire December 31, 2027.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, 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 reappoint Joan Neal, as a member of the Chester Redevelopment Authority Board, term to expire December 31, 2026.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, 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 reappoint Janell Brown, as member of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester Board, term to expire December 31, 2027.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, 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 the Receiver has authorized the proper City official to prepare specifications for the advertisement for Request for Proposals (RFP) for Parking Design, Implementation and Management Services for the City of Chester.

FURTHER, that it does authorize the designated City official to advertise for the aforementioned RFP and accept bids in consultation with the Receiver.

Mayor Kirkland asked if there were any questions.

. Councilwoman Williams asked if all 900 parking spaces on Widener University campus is included in this RFP?

Mayor Kirkland referred to Solicitor Ken Shuster.

Ken Shuster, City Solicitor said, the RFP indicates the entire city but, there is currently a parking agreement with Widener.

Councilwoman Williams asked, does that include all parking spaces in Chester, Pennsylvania?

Ken Shuster read the resolution; the RFP is for parking design, implementation and management services for the City of Chester. That's what it includes.

Councilwoman Williams said, that's not answering my question.

Mayor Kirkland asked, does that encompass the University?

Ken Shuster said, without having the agreement in front of him; he believes the agreement addresses the university property separate from this; this resolution encompasses the entire city. He said, I don't have the parking agreement in front of me.

Councilwoman Williams said, she wants her residents to know that they need to look into it. She said, the residents should not be denied their rights; I really need the citizens of Chester to look into that parking situation. She Abstained.

Councilman Morgan said, he is supportive of the City of Chester having parking management, residential, and parking in the business district. He believes that it is needed; there are many vehicles to one household. He said, what he is not in support of is, the isolation of Widener University and excluding them from having parking meters around the university. He believes they should be around the university and the thought of having them around the downtown business district area and also having residential parking in specific areas in Chester. He agrees that we need parking management in the City of Chester, but Widener University should not be isolated from the RFP. His vote was no.

Councilwoman West said, she agrees with Councilman Morgan’s comments. She said, she never felt that Widener should be excluded from the parking requirements. So, no. Her vote was no.

Councilman Roots said, with this Resolution is for an RFP for a parking design. That’s what didn’t happen with the last management services as he understands it. He said, what happens first is a study to see where parking services need to go. With any study once completed, everyone in the room will be able to have an opportunity to review that study and give comments. He said, to Councilman Morgan’s point, there are areas in the city that resident parking is challenging, that needs to be studied; the entire city needs to be studied if we plan to bring parking management back. He is in favor of having a study to determine how we are going to move forward. His vote was yes.

Mayor Kirkland said, let me correct the Councilman. It’s not true, we had a study done in the City of Chester concerning our parking. It was done in the past. He said, His issue is, we have modified other things along with the Receiver. By being in Receivership I would have hope that we could have modified the parking situation here in the City of Chester. He said, he looks out the window everyday at a giant parking lot with no people. People are leaving their cars and catching the train to Philadelphia; leaving their cars in downtown Chester all day long. They come back, get in their cars and go home. The judge has put in place a ruling concerning contracts and the signing of contracts. There was a contract that was signed with Widener University that was not signed by me and the judge has placed those contracts under my authority. His vote was no.

Abstain: Williams Nays: Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland Yeas: Roots

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania is most vulnerable to natural and human-made hazards which may result in loss of life and property, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2000) requires state and local governments to develop and submit for approval to the President a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying their respective natural hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, THE City of Chester acknowledges the requirements of Section 322 of DMA 2000 to have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as a prerequisite to receiving post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by the Delaware County Planning Department and the Delaware County Department of Emergency Services in cooperation with other county departments, and officials and citizens of City of Chester; and

WHEREAS, a public involvement process consistent with the requirements of DMA 2000 was conducted to develop the Delaware County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends mitigation activities that will reduce losses to life and property affected by both natural and human-made hazards that face the County and its municipal governments;

RESOLUTION

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

The Delaware County 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the City of Chester; and

The respective officials and agencies identified in the implementation strategy of the Delaware County 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan are hereby directed to implement the recommended activities assigned to them.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hired Judy Richards for the full-time Deputy Director of Inspectors, Licenses and Inspections, effective March 23, 2023, for 37.5 hours per week, with no benefits and a sixty (60) day probationary period; and

WHEREAS, said employment is contingent upon said individual successfully completing sixty (60) days probation from the date of hire; and

WHEREAS, the City is required by law to offer said employee medical benefits after sixty (60) consecutive days of employment, which is completed on May 22, 2023; and

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

FURTHER, if said employee fails to meet the job expectations within the sixty (60) days probation, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said position.

Councilwoman West said she could not move on this resolution. She said there has been comments made by the Receiver's team and others that people who work in city hall are not competent and not able to hold or fill meaningful jobs in city hall. She said she has a problem with this particular applicant because she is

suppose to work within Councilman Roots' department and he never interviewed her. Councilman Morgan was unable to get into the meeting to interview her and was not able to get in. She said at least those 2 persons should have been in to interview this person. The members of council do not know much about her; she's from Allentown. A lot of our jobs that I see that are going out from the Receiver and the team are for people who are outside of our city. On our applications, we say that we would like the applicants to be from the City of Chester. I know there is something that says that if we can't find anyone in Chester to fulfill the job who is qualified; then we can go to the outside to look. It is her understanding that it was well advertised and we had 4 applicants from Chester who applied and 1 from Allentown. There were 2 applicants who qualified but the offer was made to the person from Allenton. I don't believe that anyone from the city has met her. Also, the salary is set at \$80,000 dollars. She said, I think \$80,000 is a lot of money especially when our code enforcer is only making \$74,000. The salaries don't match up. She said she is not for this; we need to have further discussion. She did not move the Resolution forward.

Councilman Roots said, so moved.

Mayor Kirkland asked for a second. He said, having no second this resolution is tabled.

Councilman Morgan said, he would like to table this resolution. He said he believes that this is a very important role for the City of Chester with a new project and program that we're looking to implement. He said, he would like a city resident that he feels will be invested here in the City of Chester and have our best interest to be in this role. He would like to table it for deeper discussion with members of Council and the director of that department.

Mayor Kirkland said, the resolution has been tabled.

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY 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 dated February 20, 2023 through February 24, 2023 attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

Councilman Morgan said, there has been conversation about the expenditure list. He said, Councilman Roots provided an email with some questions. He asked for details of the particular payments that were made. He added details to all of his questions. The expenditure list was reviewed on Monday. He answered 99% of them. He was asked about what was purchased for office basics? He replied, many items such as, paper, pens, paper clips, office supplies. For specifics Councilman Roots would need to speak to the department accounts payable to pull that actually invoice for office basics. He said, he doesn't care if a voting member of council says yes, no or abstain, I care that you use your voice so, if it's something you have questions or concerns on, or not agreeing on that's fine,

we can agree to disagree but use your voice so we can find out how we can come to some accord. I hope I was able to do that with providing some clarity from the questions that were asked about these invoices.

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: Roots

Covid Update – Attachment #1

First Annual Women’s Health Conference March 11, 2023 9am-1pm at Widener University (FREE)

Booster, Vaccine, Flu and Shingle Shots March 22, 2023 11am – 1:00pm Chester City Hall Community Room

Free Blood Pressure Screening every Wednesday in the Lobby from 11:00-1:00pm

Councilman Roots asked about the TB shot.

Rosetta Carter, Director of Community Health and Education Services said, the pharmacist provides all the shots whether its shingles, flu or the vaccine shots; if there is a request from a resident saying that would like to get a TB shot, she would call the pharmacist and she would bring it to the clinic so the person can get that shot.

Public Comment

Mary Waites question to the leadership, are you being proactive on working on ways to protect us, such as making robo calls when there is an emergency? Would you supply or suggest emergency survival kits for each household? She said on the agenda, there is a Delaware County Hazard Mitigation plan, would this be included in that?

Rosetta Carter said, she asked Mr. Lightner if we had an updated emergency plan. Mr. Lightner said he would look into it. He also said that Commissioner Rigby is over our emergency department will look into it as well. This did come up in the CEP (Chester Environmental Partnership) meeting. They are looking into the trains that are coming through Chester as well.

Mayor Kirkland applauded Commissioner Rigby for the work that he does with our emergency plan and he also works very closely with Delaware County. He’s one of the lead persons in the County when it comes to the emergency plan.

Commissioner Rigby said, we have 3 rails systems that come through the city. We are actively always training with them and their resources; being Conrail. We had a public safety meeting with the County last week. We are scheduling some training working with some of the rail companies to bring more training to our first responders.

Mary Waite said, she is more concerned about safety precautions for the residents.

Commissioner Rigby said, safety precautions are set in place for the city and residents in our emergency operation plan for the city as well as the county. It is laid out for plans to mitigate, protect property and lives. The plan spells out how we respond to those emergencies.

Councilwoman West asked, do we know what is carried on the trains that come through Chester?

Commissioner Rigby said, they carry a wide arrange of things that come through Chester.

Mary Waite thanked Commissioner Rigby. She said, this is not new to her. She has been doing this for years. She is concerned about the trains and wants to be proactive and not waiting for something to happen. She said, we need to be prepared.

Ms. Brown asked if Council is aware of the train work that is going on the overhead train tracks. They said they are preparing to stack the trains. There are some areas that where the streets will be lowered for the trains to go under the passes.

Mayor Kirkland said, no. he is unaware of this happening.

Michael Galante, City Engineer said, he was unaware of trains being stacked; he doesn't have an update on that. He will reach out to Amtrak.

Darren Laws said, he wanted to make residents aware of the great things that are happening with students at the high school. There was a conversational panel lead by Councilwoman Elizabeth Williams. Conversations with police officer enactment. He wanted to commend Councilwoman Williams as well as the Mayor for coming through. He said, they took some 30 students on a college tour and all of the students got excepted. He said, the kids are doing some great things. He had a meeting with the March of Dimes and they agreed to partner up with our students of Chester High School. He stressed working together and bringing in resources for them.

Councilman Morgan said, he wanted to give Darren Laws his flowers. He commended him for the work that he does; our youth is the future.

Anita Littleton asked, if the members of the CEDA board paid?

When there are things happening in the city is there anyone communicating with the people to know what's going on so the residents will know what's going on? What has determined the need for an assistant city solicitor? Who writes the city job descriptions? The IT position has a large amount of responsibilities. Who is the 3rd party information tech company who manages the city's information, who is that company? Is it on a contract basis, is it a yearly contract? How much are we paying them? Does the City do a class compensation study?

Mayor Kirkland said, the CEDA board is not a paid board. One member of the CEDA board was replaced with Ms. Amanda Johnson. He said, the CEDA board works on our economic development projects in the city; they meet regularly to discuss and help us with our economic development in our community. He said, there is no communicator in the city that knows what's happening at all times. No, there is not one. We do have a competent

fire chief and fire commissioner who oversees emergency management that is going on in our city and are able to provide us with information pertaining to our safety and health. Do we see everything, no we don't. Are we going to miss some things? Yes, we are. Are they working diligently to make sure our citizenry is safe, yes, they are. In regards to the need for an assistant city solicitor; the work load is tremendous. At one point in time, we had 3 solicitors and we had a secretary in that office as well. We are in desperate need of another solicitor. Job descriptions comes from our HR department and Mr. Lightner has been very helpful and as a part of his job description, is helping us with our job descriptions.

Councilman Morgan said, as far as communication, we have a newsletter and our app which we are finding ways to revamp. Residents can also sign up for Delco Alert www.delco.gov. if you sign up you will be able to receive emergency alerts. Our workers are overworked and underpaid here and Mayor and Council and Chief of Staff Lightner has had conversations of how we fully compensate our workers here in the City of Chester that provide services to the residents. He said, he has not seen a classification study but, they are looking for some type of study/pay scale to get our employees on better financial ground for the amount of work that they do.

Many departments are understaffed. Painless Technology is the IT company with the city. He said, he doesn't know exactly what the IT provider is contracted for. He estimates close to \$200,000.00 and that's for management, software, etc.

Cacynthis Ross asked about the marijuana plant in Upland. She asked why the Chester residents weren't notified about the plant; never offered to go to any meetings. Did Upland Borough let you know about the plant? Is Chester getting revenue? Why are the residents paying more taxes than the outside workers? Who is over Keystone? Why are the residents paying more to work?

Mayor Kirkland said, Upland officials did let us know that they were building. He said, he wrote a letter to the Upland Borough Council members and to the President requesting that the residents have an opportunity to talk to them about their concerns. He walked to the facility with a gentleman and his wife together while they were building. He asked them to share the letter with the rest of the community and be sure to go to the council meeting to address your concerns. The President was upset about the letter that he had written. The City of Chester does not get any revenue from the facility in Upland.

Mayor Kirkland said we encourage all of our folks in the city to be gainfully employed right here in the city of Chester. We want them to be trained and be prepared to take those jobs in the City of Chester. On an annual basis there's an Explorers Program that is ran by our firefighters. We encourage our young people to get involved in the Explorers Program, so that one day that could become a career. We want them to become law enforcement personnel right here in the City of Chester. We have just gone through the process of taking apps from persons, we had a few Chester residents that came in and applied for law enforcement opportunities. On our website, jobs in city hall no matter if it's \$55,000, 65,000, 75,000 there are job opportunities that you will see posted. We are fighting everyday, you heard the councilpersons say how important it is for our residents to get these jobs that are presented in our community. He said, the Charter schools are hiring everyday for educators and assistants to those educators. Penn Home Health Care is an opportunity for employment for Chester residents; the Post office just did a 2-day job fair.

Councilman Morgan said, its state law ACT 511 for the residence to pay EIT rate has be higher than non-resident. We also have a distressed pension tax at 1% for non-residents that goes directly to the pension to assist with our underfunded pension.

Commissioner Rigby said, the Upland facility is in Upland, we have worked with the Borough of Upland from a emergency response, emergency management standpoint, they have provided us with a key off Elkington Avenue, so we can make access there if they have an emergency. The Explorers program is off the ground and running.

Delores Shelton recognized and thanked the Greeks for coming out to the council meeting. She said, the Greeks want to be involved so feel free to contact them. She said they have scholarships; they have the money and no children. She asked about Santander bank, where is it. Is it a new bank that we're connected with or is it a new bank?

Councilman Morgan said they are many places. The closest is in Marcus Hook. Morgan said it is not a new bank for the city, we just updated signers on our accounts.

Delores Shelton asked Councilman Roots about not voted on the expenditure list. She mentioned the emergency training that took place years ago. Said she was impressed as to how the mayor and deputy mayor was able to answer all the questions asked by a prior resident.

Livia Smith asked, are we ready for the next generation? Is the generation that's coming after us ready to take this position in order for them to be in leadership? In regards to transportation dollars, do we have money to improve some of the streets especially Melrose Ave. between 20th and 21st St.? Is there any money allocated for those streets?

Mayor Kirkland said, yes, we have been working with our streets department and our engineer. We have a streets plan put together for last year but was unable to implement it. This year we hope that we will be able to implement the plan that has been put together.

Livia Smith asked Councilman Roots if he got a chance to look at the expenditure list.

Councilman Roots said, yes. He said, Councilman Morgan provided him with a list of questions that he responded to.

Livia said, if you are here, you would be able to get the information. Are you taking a leave of absence from your job so you can be more productive to do the business of the citizens of Chester?

Councilman Roots said, once we get time clock then you'll know exactly when I'm here and when I'm not here. My job as a city council person is to serve the people of the city whether I do it here, in the streets, in my car, in my bedroom, it doesn't matter.

Zulene Mayfield asked, is there a mechanism if or when a derailment or disaster would happen in our community what plans does the leadership has to notify the community of an emergency. There has to be a siren or text for the community to be moved out of harms way. There are 4 active train lines that run through Chester. She asked about the parking down at the stadium. What is the compensation that the city is receiving from the stadium?

Mayor Kirkland said, unfortunately things begin to get put in place after a disaster. Every community in every state is learning from the disaster in Ohio. They know that they along with their first responders have to come up with a plan to keep their residents as safe as possible. The great thing that we have in the city is 2 commissioners that work very closely with Delaware County and their first responders in helping us to prepare a plan. Do we have everything in place, no, because this is something that is fresh and just happened. Our hope is that we have everything we need in order to inform the residents, protect and evacuate the residents and place them in a safe environment if needed. So, once again it's an unfortunate thing when you have such a tragic situation as it was in Ohio, but at the same instance it puts every other community on alert so that we must have mechanisms in place. Are we working on those things? Yes.

Zulene Mayfield asked, do you have a scheduled time when you will have programs or systems in place where you can do residential notification in the event of an emergency?

Mayor Kirkland said, we are working with our commissioner to make sure that we have things in place. He said, the wade dump fire happened decades ago and we learned from that.

Councilman Roots thanked everyone for coming out. He was happy about the attendance at this evening's meeting. He shouted out to the public works department. He applauded them for working on the illegal dumping sites. He commended the L&I department and the ladies that work at the front desk in L&I. He said he was disappointed about not getting the Resolution through for the deputy director of inspections. He said, it seem like the person was well qualified, wherever we can find them we want the best and the brightest working in the city. Hopefully, we have a do over on that. He was disappointed about not approving the parking RFP. The mayor stated that people are parking all over the place The only way we can correct that, is to restudy it and put another program in place. The contract that we had in the past was voided by the commonwealth judge and the federal judge in bankruptcy court. He said, as an engineer who work in the industrial environment, safety has always been a big deal. I have always been concerned about the trains coming through Chester. He said, the most explosive stuff that comes through, comes down on Front Street and travel at a very low rate of speed. Unlike what you saw in Ohio. those guys were flying and they flew off the tracks; that's a safety precaution in itself; not to negate the fact that there's some dangerous stuff going through Eddystone. Living in Chester, it is an industrial town. Many businesses have a lot of material in their business that we have to be ready to deal with so we don't have another wade dump site surprise. We're by the airport, on the river, I-95; thousands of vehicles we have to be prepared for that; even underground we have to be prepared for that. He commended Commissioner Rigby.

Councilwoman West thanked Councilman Roots for thanking her department for the work that they do. She thanked them for the work that they do for the citizens of Chester. She said it's a never-ending situation when it comes to the trash. She asked the community to assist with the collection of trash; when you see something in your yard or on the street; in front of your house, you should clean it up. She said she thinks about her friend Bonnie Waites everyday, down by the railroad tracks. She said, she is concerned for her about what's going on along the tracks and with the emergency management plan. She thanked everyone for coming out to tonight's meeting. She has a concern about the hiring of people who do not live in the city. She said, there are competent and talented people in Chester. With the jobs that are coming up; we should be able to fill the jobs with our people from Chester; the people who live here, work here, play here and has been contributing to community for years. She said, she is concerned about the talent that we have inhouse and rewarding them when we can. There's an upward mobility program that she has in her department. She has 3-4 people that are going for their CDL license so they can get other employment or advance here in the city.

Rosetta Carter announced that this month is Women's history Month.

Councilman Morgan announced that it's time of year for homeowners to pay realstate taxes. You can pay here in the city or on line at www.chesercity.com. If you want to pay and get the discount you will need to pay by April 30, 2023. You can pay the face value by up until June 30, 2023 after June 30 there is a penalty assessed on that tax payment for 2023 which can be paid up until February 15, 2023. You can pay on line or come into City Hall no cash, check or money order. Job opportunities, you can continue to look on the website there is a tab for jobs.

They are putting together an Autism Walk. The date is April 23, 2023. Please spread the word. He gave a shout out to his department; the finance and Human Resources department. They do a tremendous job with the resources they have.

Mayor Kirkland thanked everyone for being here tonight. He said, when we hear from our constituency and our community; you become our eyes and our ears. We are not omni present. There are some situations, some problems and some good things that are happening throughout the community that you can share with us and by sharing we correct them; or and we can add to those good things that are happening. He said, all the employees here in city hall and outside of city hall do a yeoman's job; they work hard and we appreciate all their hard work that they do.

He said, he appreciates the work of everyone in this building because they have had to deal with their own personal challenges. People like Rosetta Carter and Gary Collins. They come to work when they feel good and when they don't and they do an excellent job. He said, he has nothing against anyone who is trying to find employment in the city of Chester, but, when we have the talent that we have in this city, we have to learn how to utilize it; not too many folks are going to go through what they have gone thru and say I'm going to work today. Sometimes you go to let people know that you appreciate them because when you let them know that you appreciate them, they might even work a little harder. The

parking; He said, he voted the way he voted because, there was a parking system in place; it was said that he might have missed a step. He knew that we needed parking in our community that no one was tackling. The hold up with the parking situation was the court situation with Widener University. He said, he doesn't know how many people would be in court for 4 years trying to decide if the street belongs to the university or if it belongs to the city; four years holding the city back. "That's a fact" I had no problem with modifying the contract but, when it becomes politicized and now I'm suppose to go back and vote on the parking; sure I want to make sure that we generate revenue down here, sure I want to make sure that the folks in Nova Vista and over by Crozer and Sun Hill have adequate and decent parking in their neighborhoods; that's what I wanted to happen in the first place. Now I'm being asked to go back and do it again; I can't do that without some insurances. When those insurances are in place, then I'll work on that. I get tired of seeing all these cars parked down here; Delaware and everybody elses tags. Where else do you have more cars than you have people; it's not fair. We are willing to work things out for all our citizens I'll be there.

The last week of this month will be the city-wide clean up. The guys have already started the process. On 10th and Walnut people were just dumping so, the guys are there cleaning it up. We will make sure that we have eyes and cameras over there. We can't do this by ourselves. We'll be out there the last week in March; working with our men; cleaning up our city. It's a mind-set that has to change about cleanliness. Mayor Kirkland thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He said, please feel free to come as often as you can.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk