

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARCH 22, 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 10:01am 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
Stefan Roots
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
Portia West (**Absent**)

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

Adelaide Evans says in regards to the expenditure list, who approved the bills and have they already been paid. Why are we paying for sponsorships and why are we operating like we aren't a distressed municipality?

Councilman Morgan says the Receiver and Chief Lightner approves the bills. Anytime we pay for an event/sponsorship it doesn't come out of the General Fund unless we put in the Budget throughout the year. This is actually a Grant. So, when you see PCCD, this is our Amachi Program. So, it's not General Fund money it's a State Funded Grant.

Ms. Evans says who makes the final determination when these bills are paid.

Councilman Morgan says a team of individuals that reviews the bills and right now it's Chief Lightner. Prior to that it was myself and the Finance Team.

Ms. Evans says can you'll speak to the tree removal that was done on the 100 Block of Hayes Street?

Rodney Robertson, Public Works Director says the tree several years back damaged the homeowner's and we weren't able to take care of it back then because we didn't have the money for a tree contractor. So, we finally got a tree contractor.

Ms. Evans says when it comes to bankruptcy there is a lot of itemized bills on there when it comes to bankruptcy. Is that from fighting the bankruptcy or just representing ourselves?

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says they are (inaudible) the bankruptcy and they are for Council (inaudible).

Hailey Gerena says I saw on the expenditure list that we are paying some vendors outside of Chester for services that could be filled by businesses in Chester (ex. Mano's Auto and Broomall Truck & Auto). I think we need to do just better outreach to qualified Chester Residents when there is a job opening in City Hall. Is there any applicants from Chester for the open CFO position and how we can as a City and how City Hall can do better in recruiting qualified Chester residents for the open positions?

Tameka Gibson says in regards to the expenditure list what is the masters service agreement and why is it \$56,000. Why are the tax payers paying for an assault investigation? The vehicle maintenance...which cars are they paying for?

Councilman Morgan says Protiviti is a team of individuals in the Finance Department that are assisting in trying to bring the City of Chester current on (inaudible) and it's monthly for at least four to five individuals. The vehicle maintenance is for Police Vehicles.

Commissioner Gretskey says the payment for the assault investigation is for training purposes for the promotions of Detective/Corporals to be certified.

Anita Littleton says can you explain Resolutions #4, 10 and 11 on the Agenda.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says it says a take-out restaurant (Resolution #4).

Mike Galante says PECO is proposing a project on 291. (Exact location is on the Resolution and I believe it's a gas main or electric project)(Resolution #10). We received the ARLE Grant for Jeffery Street and 291. This allows us to enter the agreement for that project. (A light (full traffic signal) will be put there)(Resolution #11)

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the following individuals have requested a handicapped parking zone:

1. Michael Bell, 605 Central Avenue, Chester, PA 19013; and
2. Danielle Tillery, 1231 Pine Lane, 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 600 Block of Central Avenue and in the 1200 Block of Pine Lane, in the City of Chester.

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 Stephanie Moye as the Human Resource Director, effective December 5, 2022, and due to staffing limitations Ms. Moye had to complete another assignment within the Department of Accounts and Finance; and

WHEREAS, the City would like to amend Resolution No. 185-2022 to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hired Stephanie Moye as the full-time Human Resource Director, Department of Accounts, Finance and Human Resources, effective February 27, 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 a sixty (60) day 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 April 28, 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) day probation, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said position.

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 27, 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 a sixty (60) day 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 26, 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) day probation, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said position.

On motion of Councilor Morgan seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted.

Mayor Kirkland says I met with Ms. Richards earlier this week to see and hear about her qualifications. We did not move on Ms. Richards at our previous Council Meeting because no one from Council had sat in the interview with Ms. Richards. I do believe that we have persons here who can and will do the job. Ms. Richards has a contract with the City and we're going to honor that contract and she has 60 days to prove her worth.

Candice Newsome, City Clerk says she wanted to ask a few questions to be clear about the wording on the Resolution since it wasn't passed at the last Council Meeting.

Leonard Lightner says she was sent an offer letter.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Holding Brothers, LLC wishes to purchase and redevelop certain real property located at 1900-1910 W. 2nd Street to develop a take-out restaurant; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester has approved the Redevelopment Authority entering into a Redevelopment Agreement conditioned upon approval of the Agreement by the Chester City Council; and

WHEREAS, the subject properties at 1900-1910 W. 2nd Street are located in a redevelopment area in the City of Chester and as such, the sale, lease or transfer of such property is subject to approval by Chester City Council under the Urban Redevelopment Law, at 35 P.S. Section 1709(k).

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

That it does hereby approve the Redevelopment Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester and Holding Brothers, LLC., for the purchase of certain real property at 1900-1910 W. 2nd Street, for the development of a take-out restaurant.

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, Diego Nieves-Melecio, Jr. and Dorothy Jackson wish to purchase and redevelop certain real property located at 722 McIlvain Street as a side yard; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester has approved the Redevelopment Authority entering into an Agreement of Sale with Mr. Melecio, Jr. and Ms. Jackson conditioned upon approval of the Agreement by the Chester City Council; and

WHEREAS, the property is located in a redevelopment area in the City of Chester and as such, the sale, lease or transfer of such property is subject to approval by Chester City Council under the Urban Redevelopment Law, at 35 P.S. Section 1709(k).

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

That it does hereby approve the Agreement of Sale between the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Chester and Diego Nieves-Melecio, Jr. and Dorothy Jackson, for the development of a side yard at the certain real property located at 722 McIlvain Street.

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, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to communities in the prevention and elimination of slums or urban blight, carry out activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income persons or address other urgent community development needs; and

WHEREAS, under the HOME Program created by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, the Secretary of HUD is authorized to extend financial assistance to participating jurisdictions to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester has been notified that the F.Y. 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program allocation will be \$1,261,211.00 and its HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) allocation will be \$407,146.00; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester intends to reprogram prior year CDBG funds in the amount of \$125,000 that are currently unprogrammed and \$25,000 for the Penn Home Health Care Foundation public service activity that did not move forward; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester, in collaboration with the Chester Economic Development Authority, has prepared a draft Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2023, which proposes how the entitlement grant funds will be expended to address the housing and community development needs identified in the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan; and

WHEREAS, a draft of the F.Y. 2023 Annual Action Plan was on public display from February 1, 2023 through March 3, 2023, and the City held a series of public meetings and hearings on the said Plan, and the comments of various agencies, groups and residents were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final document; and

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

Section 1. That the Annual Action Plan for the Fiscal Year 2023 CDBG and HOME Programs is hereby in all respects approved, and the City Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of said Annual Action Plan for Fiscal year 2023 with the Official Minutes of this Meeting of this Council.

Section 2. That the City Council of the City of Chester is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program with Federal financial assistance under Title I, including those relating to (1) the relocation of site occupants, (2) the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, and (3) other assurances as set forth under the certifications.

Section 3. That the Mayor of the City of Chester, on behalf of City Council, is authorized to file an Application for financial assistance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the F.Y. 2023 CDBG Program and HOME Program.

Section 4. That the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Chester, Pennsylvania, is authorized to provide assurances and/or certifications as required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and any other supplemental or revised data which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in review of the City's Application.

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, Congress approved the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and appropriated American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to be administered through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME Investment Partnerships Program; and

WHEREAS, HOME-ARP funds are to be used to perform the following four (4) activities for qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations: Development and support of affordable housing; tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA); provision of supportive services; and acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated a total of \$1,318,782 in HOME-ARP funds to the City of Chester; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared a Proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan in accordance with HUD HOME-ARP Allocation Plan requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chester has met the requirements for the public comment period and public hearing.

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

Section 1. The Amendment to the City of Chester's F.Y. 2021 Annual Action Plan to add \$1,318,782 in HOME-ARP funding is hereby approved, to be utilized pursuant to the City's Proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

Section 2. The proposed use of HOME-ARP funding as set forth in the Proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is as follows:

Development of Affordable Housing	\$989,087.00
Supportive Services	\$131,878.00
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 65,939.00
Administration and Planning	<u>\$131,878.00</u>
Total	\$1,318,782.00

On motion of Councilor Morgan seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted.

Councilman Morgan says the Resolution prior to this one read F.Y. 2023 Annual Action Plan for CDBG...many of our local organizations, businesses, CCIP are often times recipients of that and those monies are funded directly to our Community to rebuild our Community. The Resolution that was just read is an additional funding from the Federal Government and the Department of Housing and Urban Development...it's additional American Rescue Plan funds that has come down in \$1.3

million. If you the public have any questions, comments or concerns/additional clarity on these funds and how we plan to use these funds please reach out to CEDA at jar@ceda.cc.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester (“City”) requires the services of a firm that provides management of Information Technology/Systems (IT/IS) support services and will provide a complete IT infrastructure assessment within the first 30 days of award; and

WHEREAS, the City issued a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) 2023-01 for IT/IS Management through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Cooperative Purchasing Program (COSTARS); and

WHEREAS, as a COSTARS member, the City has met all the requirements of the Commonwealth Procurement Code; and

WHEREAS, the proposals were due back on February 20, 2023 and the Scoring Committee met to review the three (3) proposals that were received and found no discrepancies with the proposals.

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

That it does hereby award the contract for RFP 2023-01 for IT/IS Management to Wake Technology, as the lowest, most qualified and responsible bidder, for a total price of Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$240,000.00) annually for three years.

FURTHER, said bidder submitted an initial IT infrastructure assessment price of Fifty Thousand Dollar (\$50,000.00) which shall be paid with American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds.

FURTHER, all other proposals for the above services are hereby rejected.

FURTHER, the proper City official shall provide a copy of the contract to be reviewed by the Solicitor’s Office and the successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond in the full amount of the contract in accordance with the RFP, and to the satisfaction of City Council.

Councilor Morgan says...I would like to ask Mayor and Council if we can Table this Resolution for a discussion with Mayor and Council with Chief Lightner.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester has commenced a public improvement project for the Reconstruction of the Lloyd Street Bridge, (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, it has been determined in order for the Project to move forward, the City will have to enter a Temporary Easement for Construction agreement for the real property located at 1029 West 5th Street, owned by Penn Street Apartments, LP; and

WHEREAS, this will allow for the entry and re-entry of City employees, agents, and contractors to do any and all work necessary for the completion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City agrees to restore the area covered by the easement to a condition consistent with the balance of the property.

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

That it does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute the Temporary Easement for Construction agreement for the real property located at 1029 West 5th Street, owned by Penn Street Apartments, LP, permitting access to the property for the Reconstruction of the Lloyd Street Bridge Project.

FURTHER, it does authorize payment of the Final Settlement for this project by the Department of Accounts and Finance, in an amount not to exceed Three Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$3,800.00).

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

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 installation of 690 feet of new electrical lines within the City of Chester, at the following locations:

1. PA State Route 291 from Ridley Creek to Hinkson Street
2. Hinkson Street from PA State Route 291 to E. 6th Street
3. E. 7th Street from E. 6th Street to Caldwell Street

FURTHER, said permit is contingent upon PECO's compliance with all the conditions outlined by the City Engineer and performed in a manner that is satisfactory to City Council, specifically the following:

1. PECO performs a half mill and overlay on all road openings exceeding 100' or three (3) patches within 100'.
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.
4. PECO obtain a PENNDOT Highway Occupancy Permit.

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, Chester City Council approved the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ("PENNDOT") for an ARLE grant for the construction and installation of a new Automated Traffic Signal at the Intersection of PA State Route 291 and Jeffrey Street; and

WHEREAS, all grant documents must be signed through Commonwealth's electronic signature portal.

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

That it does hereby approve Michael Galante, City Engineer, to electronically sign all documents necessary for completion of the PENNDOT ARLE grant application for traffic signal improvements.

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, a Property Review Policy, ("Policy") has been developed to outline the steps necessary to sell or rent vacant or surplus City owned real estate for fair market value; and

WHEREAS, the Policy requires the creation of a Property Review Committee, ("Committee"), which will consist of one (1) Chairperson and five (5) regular members, who will make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and Chief of Staff regarding the disposition of vacant or surplus City real estate which have been determined by the Committee to be non-essential to providing current or future public services to the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Committee shall meet on an as needed basis and shall periodically review a list of City owned real estate to determine the advisability of selling or leasing vacant City owned real estate; and

WHEREAS, the Committee shall address requests from elected officials, department directors, City staff, interested citizens and organizations that maintain valid interest concerning matters related to City owned real estate; and

WHEREAS, the Committee shall summarize its recommendations which will include the method of disposition for each property and shall prepare a final report containing the Committee's recommendations, Director's comments and supporting documentation to be reviewed by the Mayor and Chief of Staff and then forwarded to Council for consideration.

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

That it does hereby approve the Property Review Policy and does appoint the following individuals to the Property Review Committee:

Chairperson – Director of Planning or designee
Director of Public Works or designee
Superintendent of Parks/Recreation Coordinator
Building Code Official or designee
Assistant City Solicitor
Engineer

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

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 Temporary Parking Management Services & Development of Comprehensive Parking Plan for the entire City of Chester.

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

On motion of Councilor Morgan seconded by Councilor Williams, the above Resolution was adopted.

Mayor Kirkland says we did not support the move on the RFP, this same RFP, that was brought before in front of Council at the last Council Meeting simply because it did not include the entire City of Chester. This one does.

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 authorize the proper City official to prepare the specifications for the advertisement for the following bid:

Street Light Maintenance

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

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

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 dated March 10, 2023, attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

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

Mayor Kirkland recognizes Shawn Draughn, Brian Sellers and Kenny Jones on obtaining their CDL. They have been working very well with Eric Bayne, Workforce Development Director (he recognizes him also).

Councilman Roots says Congratulations!!

Presentations

**Ayanna King, COVID-19 Support Specialist, gives a COVID-19 Update (see attachment #1)
Amachi Program Update by Jamar Daniels (see attachment #2)**

Mayor Kirkland says thank you Mr. Daniels.

Councilman Roots says you have a heck of a staff!!

Mayor Kirkland recognizes Lamont Collins on passing the Residential Building Inspection Exam.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says thank you Mayor and Council for allowing me to make a statement on the following Solicitors Legal Services...There are specialized legal matters in the City that the Solicitor never handles for at least the past 40 years that I am aware of. Specialized legal matters are always referred to outside Counsel (ex. Bankruptcy Counsel, Labor Counsel, Tax Assessment Counsel for Real Estate matters). My role/responsibilities as of 2012 as a Solicitor, by the Home Rule Charter, Administrative Code and the Third-Class City Code are as follows: (1) Preparation of Agenda and attendance at Deliberative and Regular/Special Council meetings and Executive Sessions. (2) Consultation as needed on a timely basis with all Elected Officials of the City, the Mayor/Council, the Chief of Staff, the Fire and Police Commissioner, License and Inspection, including availability by cell phone, mail and in person. (3) Development and review of Ordinances, Resolutions and Policies. (4) Handling legal matters related to interpretation of the Home Rule Charter, Administrative Code and Third-Class City Code, the Sunshine Act, The Right to Know Law, the Ethics Act, Act 47 and other Municipal and State Laws plus the review of Bankruptcy. (5) Preparation and review of contracts and the budget and providing advice and counsel regarding competitive bidding requirements, including grants. (6) Review of all legal matters related to personnel and labor relations; zoning, subdivision and land development; code enforcement; public bidding; sewage system and stormwater and law enforcement (including traffic and parking). (7) Oversight of all the City's Litigation, State and Federal Court, as necessary and tax appeals. (8) Recommending other legal counsel, such as labor counsel, real estate, bankruptcy court, insurance defense counsel, to represent the City.

Mayor Kirkland says thank you for all your hard work.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says thank you for the opportunity.

Councilman Roots says a couple Council Meetings ago we had a Resolution saying we are looking for an Assistant Solicitor. I appreciate that you are always there when I call.

Public Comment

Diana Daniels says I am here to get a follow up about the parking problem. It has gotten worse. There is no place to park. (She shows Mayor and Council pictures) People are parking in my handicap parking spot in front of my house.

Mayor Kirkland says I spoke with Mr. Rykard in Zoning and he is investigating the situation and Councilwoman West is looking into the possibility of extra signage on there (resident only) so that you can park in front of your home. We haven't given up. It's a process that we have to go through.

Commissioner Gretskey says I've been down there and talked to her and we're trying to have a meeting to try and rectify the situation.

Mark Alexander says her Residents Only sign will be installed today.

Adelaide Evans says I love the signs from CUSA to Chester High, the school speeding signs, but they are not being enforced. The School Zone on Providence is also not being enforced. Who is responsible for the Crossing Guards because not all the schools have one. Between 4th and 7th Street on Flower the truckers have made it a truck stop and nothing has happened. You guys were saying you could possibly put up signs for no parking there but nothing has happened. What is the interview process?

Mayor Kirkland says the school zone signs not be enforced...unfortunately we do not have enough Officers to be everywhere at the same time. As far as the trucks on Flower Street...a lot of the trucks you see down there are working on the Bridge itself. We will continually send a detail pass there. The interview process...is basically done with our Chief of Staff, HR Staff and sometimes members of Council are part of those interviews and also someone from the Receiver's Team. They call the individual in. The individual has to have a resume presented to the team. They are asked a series of questions pertaining to the job they are applying for. The team then comes up with the best candidate and then they will present them to the Council.

Ms. Evans says no one addressed my question about the Expenditure list. Are those bills paid out already or are they bills that need to be paid?

Councilman Morgan says some could be waiting to be paid and some of them are paid.

Delores Shelton says you mentioned a Stephanie in Human Resources you're going to hire; did you say how much that person is making.

Councilman Morgan says the Resolution doesn't say.

Ms. Shelton says is that new funds. Is this person new to the job?

Councilman Morgan says yes.

Ms. Shelton says at some point can you let me know what that salary is.

Councilman Morgan says I'll tell you what that process is.

Ms. Shelton says because my concern is we're supposed to be bankrupt and we keep hiring. Is that still \$80,000 for the one you turned down last month and sent a letter?

Councilman Morgan says from my knowledge it is but you can do a Right to Know and we can provide that information.

Ms. Shelton says she wants to know why some people have the Expenditure List in detail and we all don't have it. I would like to have that same copy because that would give me a better understanding of why Councilman Roots seems to always vote no.

Livia Smith says just for clarification, Item #12, you approved a Property Review Policy, and you indicated where the persons will be coming from to be a part of that board. One of the positions you stated was an Assistant City Solicitor...now I don't recall in my previous Agenda's that you hired an Assistant City Solicitor. So, who has to take that spot? Is there movement on in getting an Assistant City Solicitor?

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says most likely I will accept that role in the absence of an Assistant City Solicitor. A City Solicitor has been advertised for but there has been no interest at all.

Anita Littleton says thank you Solicitor for explaining your responsibilities. I was specifically speaking about that position of IT being a lower pay. I just wanted to make that clarification from the last meeting. As far as the positions here as Council, is that a full-time position and what are some of the legal ramifications around that according to either Local Federal, or State Law? Is it against the law to have a full-time job/business outside of your being Elected? Do we just have one City Engineer? (Someone says yes) We have a lot issues going on here and it seems like we need another Engineer. Some things that need to be worked on is the blighted unsafe properties. Why are those properties still sitting there? Are we going to get to tearing these facilities down? The students are prepared to go and stand in front of those buildings (across from the High School) and express their disgust.

Mayor Kirkland says Mayor and Council are part-time. However, I consider this as a full-time job. Are Council allowed to have other employment...yes. The demolition of the property across from the High School that has been there forever...some of it has to do with bank ownership, availability of money to demolish the buildings.

Ka'Cynthia Ross says Mayor can I get a copy of that letter that you sent out that was talked about at the night meeting.

Mayor Kirkland says before you leave here, I will make sure you have that letter in your hand to the Residents and Council of Upland Borough.

Ms. Ross says thank you because the Residents and I on that street would like to have that letter.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Williams says when that question comes out about part-time...24/7 because if somebody sees you anywhere, they are going to come over and ask you a question. Mr. Daniels thank you so very much for all you do for my children here in the City of Chester.

Councilman Roots says on the website chestercity.com...those little boxes all the way at the bottom or on the side (whatever device you are using) is where you can find the full package of what we have up here. The interview process...at a certain level of employee probably Mayor and Council should be involved in those interviews. Public comments are public comments...I would think that he has the right to free speech. I think we need to determine for sure what is allowed and not allowed to be spoken. Eyre Park...at a tree planting last year a gentleman was interested in the building to use it for his headquarters for the 9th Street Community Environmental Health Youth Core. The young man teaches young kids how to plant trees/flowers. It's an environmental learning situation. There was junk in there and he fixed it up (plumbing, patches, toilet). He cleaned it up and I said he can use it and he started having programs in there. Our Chester Shade Tree Commission also uses that building. The young man got a grant to do more work on the building. I told him it's not his building and I have to see if there is some way that Mayor and Council would be willing to transfer this building to you by lease or ownership. I had to go back to the Solicitor and he said he would be happy to draw up the lease. That got put on hold because I'm over another department now. The Resolution you heard today for the Property Review Policy...where we are putting a committee together who will assess some of the property the City owns to see if it's better use for these properties. So, if you as Citizen see a property/land that is City owned, you can come to that committee and say I would like to buy/lease that and put it to use. The locks were changed on the building and they weren't able to have one of their sessions. The Women's Health Forum was fabulous!! We're going to put some heads

together and see if we can do a Men's Forum. This Saturday will be a lot of clean ups going on at least three locations. They're all water type/near water clean ups with CRC (Chester Ridley Creek)(5th and Edgemont, Chester Waterfront, Delaware Riverfront and Upland (Incinerator Road)).

Councilman Morgan says Real Estate Taxes...please pay them. You can pay online at chestercity.com. If you did not pay your 2022 taxes it is now delinquent/past due and you can reach out to E-Collect to make that payment and all of their information is on our website. You have up until April 30 to pay with a 2% discount of your base rate for your Real Estate Taxes. Thereafter will be the base rate up until June 30. Then after June 30 is a penalty and you will be able to pay that up until February 15, 2024. Autism walk (**see attachment # 3**). Please check our website for jobs. We have at least six or seven posted. They did a great job putting together the Women's Health Conference!

Mayor Kirkland says starting Monday running through Friday, we will begin our City-Wide Clean-Up. Council should be in the interview process. (**Mayor explains why. He states how for the Police Officers he is present because he is over the Police Department and he wants to see who is applying and ask questions of that person**). So, I think especially because we are Department Heads that we have an obligation to be in those interviews. Free speech is one thing and everybody has the right to that. You do not have the right to insult me or any member of Council nor do we have the right to insult you in this room...not really anytime. I will not...I/we have a title/I/we have a name...if it's not Mr./Mayor, Council person...I will not be insulted by anyone calling me out of my name or by some other name. I don't do it to them and I will not allow them to do it to anyone on Council. Reputation would have gotten worse if someone would have been injured in that building. There is a program in that building and we don't have insurance/State Police Clearance. The building was not a safe place and I changed the locks and gave the keys to Mr. Lightner and I explained and he agreed. The Bankruptcy...it has been stated by the Receiver as well...I did not call for Bankruptcy. Let's be clear and the reason I did call for Bankruptcy is because of the way it was handled before it was called upon. There was a meeting here in this building with retirees, current employees, and members of this Council...the Receiver and his Chief of Staff, VJ Kapoor, told that entire room (tv cameras too) he said we're just trying to give you'll some information, we're not there yet. We're not at that point of bankruptcy yet. We just want to give you a heads up and some information. He said it time and time again. Just a heads up of possibilities. That's what he said. Less than 24 hours later the Receiver and Mr. Kapoor declared that they were going to go into bankruptcy and after making that statement to everyone that was there...was a lie. I was not going to sit there and be a part of that lie. That was very deceitful on their part.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCH 22, 2023

Candice Newsome, City Clerk