

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MAY 10, 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 10:06am 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

**10:07am Mayor Kirkland says we will be meeting in an Executive Session for about five minutes. 10:23am the Council Meeting Resumes.**

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

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says we are going to add Resolution #9 which would be an Engagement of a CFO for the City of Chester. So that is subject to Public Comment (inaudible) and that was advertised 24 hours in advance (inaudible).**

**Livia Smith says #7...to authorize to approve an award of a bid...a bid for?**

Councilman Morgan says the American Rescue Plan Act for Waste Trash Bins...for Residents to have trash bins.

Ms. Smith says you just added #9...an engagement of a CFO. Are you getting ready to hire a CFO or are you advertising for a CFO?

Mayor Kirkland says to prepare to possibly hire someone.

Ms. Smith says is the CFO internal, resident of the City or External, living in another place.

Mayor Kirkland says the person that we are speaking of was the individual recommended by the body that interviewed the Gentlemen. The Gentlemen is from out of State.

Ms. Smith says before you'll vote can you tell me what State that Person is from.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says yes...Rhode Island.

Ms. Smith says so there was no one in the Tri-State Area that was qualified for that or internally.

**Anita Littleton says** I know you said Item #9 was 24 hours but is there any reason why it didn't make it on the Agenda for this particular Council Meeting. Are there some things still untied of why it didn't make it on the Agenda.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says yes. It was on the Agenda. A Council person asked that it be tabled and it was inadvertently removed instead of it being Tabled. So therefore, it is being added now.

Ms. Littleton says so in normal procedures it would be to add it now and not to wait for another Council Meeting.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says it was on the Agenda. It was discussed in Deliberative. It was advertised 24 hours in advance on the website which is required by law. It was inadvertently removed instead of perhaps a motion to tabled.

Ms. Littleton says I have a question about Item #4, if you can explain exactly what that is going to entail and also #5 and #6...is this a new policy. Is there an issue with Cell Phone Use?

Councilman Morgan says #4...Telecommuting/Working Remotely...since the pandemic and with technology allows a good amount of Employees to work from home and I think we need to put some parameters around that. When it comes to the Cell Phone Policy...it was always in our Handbook but we had some blurs or areas that spoke about Cell Phones on personal use but we needed to have something to revert back to that really astounds on how the phone should be used and carried in that manner as far as responsibilities as things like that.

Ms. Littleton says were there any problems with cell phone usage.

Councilman Morgan says no. We just wanted to have a policy in place.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

## **RESOLUTION**

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

1. Vonicensa Emmens, 3006 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Chester, PA 19013; and
2. James Harris, 311 Taylor Terrace, Chester, PA 19013
3. Derrick Smith, 731 Hinkson 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 3000 Block of West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, in the 300 Block of Taylor Terrace, and in the 700 Block of Hinkson 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**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That it does hereby appoint Kiara Morales, to the position of Director of the Summer Food Service Program, effective July 5, 2023, at the hourly rate of \$21.50 per hour, with no benefits, not to exceed 37.5 hours per week for the duration of the program ending August 15, 2023.

**FURTHER**, said position is a seasonal position and is not benefit eligible.

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**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That it does hereby appoint Beverly Harris to the position of Assistant Director of the Summer Food Service Program, effective July 5, 2023, at the hourly rate of \$18.56 per hour, not to exceed 37.5 hours per week for the duration of the program ending August 15, 2023.

**FURTHER**, said individual is currently an employee of the City of Chester with the title of Crossing Guard Clerk and will have a temporary title change to Assistant Director of Summer Food for the duration of the Program.

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 is desirous of implementing a Telecommuting Policy to establish guidelines for all City employees for the purposes of regulation and setting procedures in place for its use.

**WHEREAS**, said Policy will allow some employees and positions but not all employees to work at home, on the road or in a satellite location for all or part of their workweek.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester considers telecommuting to be a viable, flexible work option when both the employee and the City are suited to such an arrangement.

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

That it does hereby adopt the Telecommuting Policy for all City of Chester employees.

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

**EVEN FURTHER**, said Policy may be changed or updated from time to time as City Council deems necessary.

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 is desirous of implementing a Personal Cell Phone Use Policy to establish guidelines for all City employees.

**WHEREAS**, said Policy is to establish guidelines for the use of personal cell phones in the workplace and it intended to ensure that personal cell phone use does not interfere with employee productivity, safety, or privacy, and that the City's resources are used appropriately.

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

That it does hereby adopt the Personal Cell Phone Use Policy for all City of Chester employees.

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

**EVEN FURTHER**, said Policy may be changed or updated from time to time as City Council deems necessary.

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 is desirous of implementing a Cell Phone Use Policy, establish guidelines for the use of all City issued cell phones or City issued communication devices.

**WHEREAS**, said Policy is to establish guidelines for the appropriate use of all City issued cell phones or communication devices during work hours and is applicable to all employees who are in possession of a City issued phone or communication device.

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

That it does hereby adopt the Cell Phone Use Policy for all City of Chester employees.

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

**EVEN FURTHER**, said Policy may be changed or updated from time to time as City Council deems necessary.

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**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:**

That it does hereby award the contract for the Program for Trash Waste Bins (Project 39) to Toter, LLC, for which responses were received through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Cooperative Purchasing Program (COSTARS), in the amount of \$432,341.48, to be paid from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

**FURTHER**, the City has complied with all COSTARS bidding requirements.

**FURTHER**, the Solicitor's Office shall review and approve the purchase order/contract and the successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond in the full amount of the respective contract, to the satisfaction of City Council.

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

**Councilman Morgan says we've been talking about doing something like this for about a year or two now since we received the American Rescue Plans. I think it's a great idea. Councilwoman West provided the City with Recyclable bins a few years ago and now we're at the stage where we're going to try and find out other ways or alternatives to help clean up our City via given our Residents 65-gallon trash bins. Every Resident will get a trash bin.**

**Councilwoman West says I would like to ask the Community to commit to this project and make sure that you are utilizing the trash cans and putting out your trash properly. We need your help to help keep the City clean.**

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 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 April 21, 2023, attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester hired James Lathrop as the full-time Chief Financial Officer, Department of Accounts and Finance, effective June 5, 2023, for 37.5 hours per week, with benefits and a sixty (60) day probationary period; and

**WHEREAS**, said employment is contingent upon said individual successfully completing (60) days probation from date of hire.

**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.

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

A vote was taken to adopt the above Resolution: The following vote was taken: Yeas: Morgan, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: Williams, West.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

**BILL NO. 10  
ORD. \_\_, 2023**

**AN ORDINANCE  
FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ARTICLE 507, ENTITLED "VEHICLE OPERTION", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED; BY AMENDING SECTION 507.04 ENTITLED "TRUCKS PROHIBITED; EXCEPTIONS; LICENSING WASTE TRUCKS OVER 18 TONS" SUBSECTION (a) INCREASING THE GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT TO UP TO 18 TONS AND ADDING NEW SUBSECTION (8) TO ADOPT A NEW TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PROHIBITING VEHICLES UP TO 18 TONS FROM TRAVELING ON CROSBY STREET FROM EAST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO EAST 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 10, 2023 was passed on its First Reading.

**Councilman Roots says we had spoke in Deliberative about changing the language just a little bit. To change the original language from 10,000 pounds to 16,000 pounds. It really didn't matter because the only language that we needed here was that trucks would be prohibited over 18 tons. So, 10,000 pounds and 16,000 pounds are both below 18 tons.**

**Mike Galante, City Engineer says the 18-ton limit is for trash trucks only. So, we are allowing trash trucks to get down the block. The 16,000-pound limit is for any other truck. So, if you're not a trash truck you shouldn't be going down that street. It's to prohibit tractor trailers.**

**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says my recommendation is that it reads with the exception of trash trucks.**

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

**BILL NO. 11  
ORD. \_\_, 2023**

**AN ORDINANCE  
FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ARTICLE 511 ENTITLED "STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, BY AMENDING, SECTION 511.11, ENTITLED, "OVERNIGHT PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS" TO PROHIBIT PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WITHIN 100 FEET OF ANY PROPERTY USED PARTIALLY OR COMPLETELY FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 11, 2023 was passed on its First Reading.

**Councilman Roots says didn't we say we were going to change the word Residential to Public Streets.**

**Ken Schuster says Dedicated Public Streets.**

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

**BILL NO. 12  
ORD. \_\_, 2023**

**AN ORDINANCE  
FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 12, 2023 was passed on its First Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**BILL NO. 13  
ORD. \_\_, 2023**

**AN ORDINANCE  
FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7, 2022, PRESCRIBING THE NUMBERS, DUTIES AND COMPENSATION OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, AS SAME PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BY CHANGING THE NAME OF THE POSITION OF NUISANCE INSPECTOR TO THE POSITION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.**

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 13, 2023 was passed on its First Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**Presentations**

**Councilman Morgan presents Ms. Stephanie Willis (Vittles) Everybody Eats Philly Inc. with a check for \$8,000.00.**

**\*\*Councilman Morgan leaves at 10:59a.m.**

**Councilwoman Williams presents Certificates to High School Students for the Pennsylvania DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Corporation**

1. Santos Martinez
2. Kayla Oseyemi
3. James Carr
4. Kyra Oseye
5. Dasani White
6. Mehki Thomas
7. Shamiyah Townes
8. JaMichael Winston
9. Damir Robertson
10. Meki Bennett
11. Tay'Onn Irving
12. Jameel Gethers
13. Marcus Benson

**\*\*Councilwoman Williams leaves at 11:07a.m.**

**Proclamation for Jewish American Heritage Month (see attachment #1)**

**Anyanna King, COVID-19 Support Specialist, gives a COVID-19 Update (see attachment #2)**

**Darren Laws recognizes Reece Brown for the amazing work he has done not only in Chester but all over the Delaware Valley. Mr. Laws presents a plaque to Mr. Brown.**

**Angie Johnson, Boys & Girls Club says there will be a Town Hall Meeting, youth lead, at the Boys & Girls Club on May 19 @ 4p.m.**

**Public Comment**

**Andrew Nelson, Chief Financial Officer of the Stormwater Authority says** I'm here today to have a conversation in a public forum so that way I can clear up any misconceptions about the Stormwater Authority. (For more information, please see the video from May 10, 2023 Council Meeting on our website [www.chestercity.com](http://www.chestercity.com)) **(also see attachments #3 and #4)**

Mayor Kirkland says thank you. That was information folks needed to hear.

**Leola Williams says** we need to praise our City because if we don't nobody will. I have looked at books that were published and left us out of the books. I have read books that do not include us in the History of Chester. I've read newspapers that will not give our story in a positive way. So, what we need to do every now and again is to praise the City of Chester and its Residents for a job Well Done! Let's praise our City for its accomplishments because we are somebody! We are great and we do great work! If nobody else writes our story...we should be the ones to write it!!

**Virginia Demby says** I am a native of Chester and I'm a mad black woman. Things didn't just start happening when Mayor Kirkland came in office. I was here before he became the Mayor and I'm going to stay with him. I know what's going on. Covanta has messed up persons health. Covanta is doing a few things now but it's too late. I'm grateful of Chester! Stand with each other and share your concerns.

**Delores Shelton says** thank you to the Residents who came out to the Council Meeting today. Thank you who came out to the Debate. Thank you to the Stormwater Authority. Since then Chester has had NO FLOODS!

**John Shelton says** these years here have been trying. (Inaudible) so they can get here where you are. (Inaudible) manage, create by Council. (Inaudible) the Stormwater Authority was able to go in and change that. We are Blessed!

**Livia Smith says** we are living in a time where there is a spiritual warfare out here and you need to recognize that when you say things and do things that are not about God. Thank you that the crime is down. The lights...the many streets that I have gone down that did not have lights...have lights! We just need to make sure that the City that we live in, that we love, is going to be in a good position to do what is said thus (inaudible). There are multiple industries on that Waterfront. Covanta is not the only industry that has pollutants. You have I-95, 291, (inaudible), PQ, Delcora...they all have emissions.

**Jamie Cottman says** whether we no it or not they are trying to rewrite the History Book on Rosa Parks story. We better realize that they are trying to rewrite our own history because we are not given the opportunity to do so because we are writing ourselves away. (**Teen Stride will be...see attachment #5**).

**Anita Littleton says** Mayor there was an article in the Inquirer about Bankruptcy filing and you said that is not the direction that we wanted to go. What is the direction that you wanted to go? Were things taken or implemented to go the direction in which you are inquiring to go? I know we were in financial trouble. What could we have done to avoid Bankruptcy? Disincorporating the City that has been established for three centuries? Why are we getting to this drastic place? What has happened that the State wants to disincorporate Chester City? What are we doing to fight to ensure that Chester City will not become disincorporated? Maybe this is a question for the Receiver. What is the fight to save!! The City was scammed out of \$400,000.00. Are there any updates on this? Was any of that money ever recovered? What is being done about gentrification in the City that you govern?

Mayor Kirkland says Bankruptcy... I never thought filing bankruptcy was the direction we wanted to go in for these reasons...it's hard to bring back vendors that want to do service with the City. It's the way they went about the bankruptcy. It was done in a very poor manner. We were downstairs with all the Retirees and current workers and they were told at that meeting this is not something that is not happening. We just want to give you a heads up about the possibilities. Less than 24 hours bankruptcy was filed and many folks thought that I filed the bankruptcy. That was something that the Receiver felt that he needed to do to move us in the direction that he needed to see the City moving. That was something that we didn't agree on. We had a couple of options. I had worked with Chester Water Authority. Chester Water Authority...for two and half years I had worked with Mr. Frank Catania on a project that would bring a lump sum of money to the City of Chester that would cover our Pension problem of 60-80 million dollars and then over a period of time it would eventually bring in on an annual basis 400 million dollars. The other thing was the possibility of selling the Water Authority to Aqua. Aqua would have given us 12 million dollars from the door. Then they would have given us 400 plus million dollars to cover all of our outstanding expenses and still end up with about 250 million dollars in our treasurer. That was two options that we had on the table that we looked at but we (inaudible) pushed aside. Another piece of action I took was I went to Harrisburg. I questioned Harrisburg and I asked Harrisburg how much was in their Rainy-Day Fund. They had 8 billion dollars in a Rainy-Day Fund. Rainy Day Funds are used to try and help distressed Communities such as ours. I went with a plan and in talking to them I told them that our Police Pension was in dire need of funding. The persons I spoke with were all in agreement and support of helping Chester financially. Disincorporation...I don't believe in threats. I think that's what that was. The City is not going to be disincorporated. Especially when the State has 8 billion dollars. If we work with the State to help us wipe out that Pension problem debt we can get back on financial solid ground. Gentrification...you see the signs...you see the signs We Buy Homes Cheap. They are all over the place. There is nothing hidden or quiet about it. They're calling people...I'd like to buy your house. The sad part is some folks are falling for it. If folks are selling their homes, I can't stop folks from selling their home.

**Harry Crawford says** can you explain again Bill #11. Does that mean that large trucks are not actually allowed to park on the Street? Or does that mean only in certain areas.

Mayor Kirkland says we've realized that there is a number of 18 wheelers parking in Residential areas. So, we're trying to remove them from the areas where we have heard complaints from Residents in the Flower Street area and other areas throughout the City. We're trying to designate them to an area by DeShong Park to park, rest or stop as they prepare to go to our Waterfront to (inaudible).

Mr. Crawford says would things like tow trucks, large moving trucks, also fall into that category.

Mayor Kirkland says I would have to research that. I don't know if tow trucks because some tow trucks are smaller than others.



Mr. Crawford says back in 2021 I had asked about the holes that are on Carter Lane and then also the potholes that are on Township Line Road or (inaudible) 15<sup>th</sup> Street where as they need to be filled. What they did was line off the parking in that area in front of Murphy Ford which then makes everything else (inaudible). Are they ever actually going to fix the problem?

Mayor Kirkland says to patch the roads.

Mr. Crawford says patch the roads and restripe it. So that people will know that they can park on both sides of the street.

Rodney Robertson says that's PennDOT and I will reach out to our contact and find out where they are with that.

Councilwoman West says and Carter Lane, we can check to see if that's on our list that is designated to be repaired.

Mr. Crawford says I have heard a number of times that the Chester Police force is actually down sized that you don't have enough Officers. But is it not possible for them to actually ride through the City to make people aware that we do have Police Officers other than the other side of town.

Mayor Kirkland says our Police Officers are constantly riding through the City. You might not see them all the time but they have different sectors that they are assigned to. That is why crime is down.

Mr. Crawford says I'm trying to keep the crime from coming from other areas to our areas. When talking to the neighbors most of them say we don't ever see them.

Mayor Kirkland says Mr. Crawford, we have a substation on your side of town which our Police Officers (inaudible). I see Officers over there.

Mr. Crawford says when we're talking about cleaning up the City...for the people using the trash cans...to put trash bags in the trash can because as soon as the lid is lost there goes the trash again.

Councilwoman West says the cans that we're providing for the Residents...they have attachable lids and they are of a certain size. We are putting out an educational piece instructing people how to put their trash out.

**Amin Abdul Salim says** I heard some excellent comments. But we need to calm down and put them into perspective. You have to trust in God. (Inaudible) some perspective you are the first and the last. God raises us up first (inaudible). Then it comes back first...to us. (Inaudible) last. God is going to give us the understanding.

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

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS**

**Councilwoman Roots says** I want to thank the Stormwater Authority for representing today explaining the good work that they do. My comment last night was in reference to the 1600 property owners that have been saddled with liens because of non-payment and are probably not paying their bills because they just don't understand the good work, the importance that the Stormwater Authority is all about. Just looking at the numbers that I saw before me...we saw rate increases once...we are going to see a lot more rate increases. Pulaski Park (8<sup>th</sup> & McDowell Avenue) just opened a new basketball court. It was an existing basketball court there and it wasn't regulation size. It is a full-size basketball court now. I was told what was missing...there are no benches...some are being moved there. There will be a fence going around it and we will get trash cans out there.

**Councilman West says** former Councilwoman Marrea Walker-Smith will be hosting (**see attachment #6**). We (Chester Citizens) are fighting with one another and talking about how raggedy Chester is and about the trash which is something that my department and others to try and get a control over the trash. We we have cameras...especially in sites where there is illegal dumping. We can clean up a dump site today and tomorrow the trash will be right back there again. It's something like a no-win situation. We also get help from the Chester Police Department. They will come out and cite individuals. While we are fighting and talking about Chester and how bad it is we have other folk who do not look like us who see a window of opportunity and they are coming in...and yes regentrification is here. We have to think about those individuals who are opening up a window of opportunity to these people who don't look like us. There are people in the Community saying oh yea you can come in. They

have real estate in Media, Swarthmore, Chester, other places and they want to come here too! I think about those individuals who are not homeowners that are in assisted living, in public housing developments, section 8...what's going to happen to them when others start coming in and moving them out of where they live. What are they going to do and what opportunities...there is a lot of interest in that Waterfront that we have and people know this and they want in! So, think about what you are doing.

**Mayor Kirkland says** it has been stated that I either put somebody on the Board or appoint someone in my family or my friend...that is a lie. I don't do that. I put professionals/qualified persons. As Mayor, that's my job. I would not put a person on a Board for \$6,000.00 an hour. That's not true. They don't make \$6,000.00 an hour. Councilman...seven days went by...came to work an hour and a half...I wonder how much that was of taxpayer's money. But we don't talk about that. If we're going to talk about some things let's be clear...let's put it all on the table. Let's not tell folks untrue stories when we say it's a lake. When it is really a catch basin. Thank you for being here young man and letting them know it's not a lake it's a catch basin. I want you to be so kind and keep the families of the two young boys who were killed on that train track in Prayer...not just the families of the two young boys...all those children that were there (possibly ten of them). Those family members of those young people are going to need some counseling, support. I had the unfortunate opportunity of seeing that tragic accident by way of film/tape and it sticks with me today. So those kids are going to need a whole lifetime of support.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**MAY 10, 2023**

Candice Newsome, City Clerk