

**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 10:04am 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

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.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION

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

1. Alfred Sargent, Sr., 813 MacDonald Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Dorothy Solis, 3131 West 3rd Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. Julia Williams, 227 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 800 Block of MacDonald Street, in the 3100 Block of West 3rd 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

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby ratify the appointment of Marlon Jones to the position of Patrol Officer, Chester Police Department, Department of Public Affairs, effective June 19, 2023, with a one (1) year probationary period. On a full-time basis, with all benefits applicable thereto, at the salary range provided in the Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

FURTHER, said Patrol Officer is required to reside in the City of Chester for the first five (5) years of employment and must submit proof of residency to the Human Resources Department within 3 months of this date of hire. Thereafter he may maintain his residence within 50 miles of City Hall.

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 amend Resolution 96-2023, passed by Chester City Council to read as follows:

That it does hereby authorize the employment of the following named individuals listed on the attached sheet as Site Supervisors and Monitor, for the City's 2023 Summer Food Program, Department of Public Property and Recreation, for the stated hourly rates beginning July 10, 2023, and ending August 25, 2023, with no benefits, not to exceed 20 hours per week.

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 Shirlene Laws, as a member of the Chester City Planning Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Britney Morgan, term to expire December 31, 2024.

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 in accordance with the recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated December 14, 2022, and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on December 15, 2022, it does hereby grant final approval to Olalus Tax & Financial Services, LLC/Sanpha Kamara, to reverse subdivide eight lots into one and create a parking lot to be used as accessory parking at 5 W. 3rd St. (Rte. 291 and Avenue of the States) as shown on a plan prepared by Catania Engineering Associates, Inc., 520 MacDade Blvd., Milmont Park, PA 19033, dated November 2, 2022.

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 in accordance with the recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated June 15, 2023, and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on December 15, 2022, it does hereby grant final approval to the Chester Stormwater Authority/HDR Engineering, Inc., to construct a stormwater retention facility to alleviate flooding in Memorial Park through a Council approved easement at 7th Street between Ward and Engle Streets, as shown on a plan prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc., 3025 Chemical Rd., Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462, dated December 2, 2022.

Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says before Council votes on this particular Resolution, it has been brought to my attention that this Resolution was added subsequent to the Deliberative Meeting and may not have been posted on the Website, (inaudible) in accordance to the Sunshine Law. So, the Legal Option would be to table it or make a motion to amend the Agenda to include this additional Resolution.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Williams, to amend the Agenda to add Resolution 120-2023. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: Roots. Abstain: West

Mayor Kirkland says many of you may have ridden by an area of Memorial Park and you see the constant flooding. We have now been working on this project for the past three to four years and here is an opportunity to alleviate some of this flooding.

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

Councilman Morgan says I've been able to drive down to Memorial Park over the last few days and I've seen the flooding that has happened in Memorial Park. I have pictures and videos in my phone if anyone wants to see or review them. People say that it doesn't flood in Memorial Park and we have proof that it does flood in Memorial Park. With this project I hope that it could eliminate or alleviate the flooding in the future.

Councilman Roots says why didn't we discuss this in Deliberative.

Mayor Kirkland says we didn't discuss this in Deliberative. My apologies for not having it drawn up. We had already gone through the planning process. They went before the Planning Board and our Planning Board approved it. When I realized we hadn't placed it on there, I thought that it was important that we do it immediately. Simply because of the constant flooding that we have down there. If I'm correct you were one of the persons that said it never floods. We made sure that we had photos and everything else to show that this area floods. It's not only hurting the homes and the Library it has become a danger to our Children. So, it's important.

Councilman Roots says did we go through a Land Use Evaluation.

Mayor Kirkland says we went through everything for the last four (4) years.

Councilman Roots says how much is this going to cost.

Mayor Kirkland says it won't cost the City a dime.

Councilman Roots says (inaudible).

Mayor Kirkland says it was a grant received by the Stormwater. (Ten Million Dollars)

Councilman Roots says at one point we said it was going to be for recreation (ex. boating, fishing, fountains, chilling) then we said...**Councilwoman West says we never said (inaudible)**...**Councilman Roots says** that was never said. So, it's going to be secured. I haven't seen the final design. I don't think anybody up here has. A lot of the flooding that is occurring now is a

result of all the trees that were torn down. Does anyone remember that? Who gave permission to just go in there and plow out trees that was absorbing much of the flooding that's going on today. Let's vote.

Councilwoman Williams says if you go down there right now, you'll see that there is flooding in the Park and I have pictures of it.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That is does hereby ratify the authorization for the proper City official to execute a Performance Agreement with Shannon E. Entertainment, LLC, to provide a musical artist to perform at the July Fourth Celebration in Chester Park, in an amount not exceed Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00).

FURTHER, that said agreement is contingent upon final approval of the City Solicitor.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That is does hereby ratify the authorization for the proper City official to execute the Display Agreement between the City of Chester and Celebration Fireworks, Inc., to stage the firework display in Chester Park on July 4, 2023, for the sum of Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$11,770.00), in accordance with the specifications of the agreement.

FURTHER, said agreement is contingent upon final approval of the City Solicitor.

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, Chester City Council approved entering into a Commercial Lease Agreement with Silvercare Real Estate, LLC by Resolution dated October 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, both parties desire to amend the current Lease Agreement to extend the term of the Lease for an additional one (1) year and increase the occupied space by 60+/- square feet; and

WHEREAS, all other terms and conditions of said Lease shall remain in full effect.

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

That it does hereby authorize the extension of the Commercial Lease Agreement with Silvercare Real Estate, LLC, for an additional one (1) year period and to increase the occupied space to 460+/- square feet at 2600 West 9th Street, Chester, PA 19013, to be used solely for the purpose of a Police Substation for the Chester Police Department at no cost to the City of Chester.

FURTHER, said amendment is contingent upon the final approval of the City Solicitor.

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 Chester Economic Development Authority (CEDA) has been designated as the Applicant for the submission of a Combined Application and Business Plan to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grants totaling \$4,000,000.00 on behalf of Silvercare Real Estate LLC and Silvercare Subacute Care LLC (Sub-Applicants) for the redevelopment of the third and fourth floors of the South Building of the former Chester Community Hospital, 2600 W. 9th Street, Chester, PA; and

WHEREAS, one of the requirements of the Combined Application and Business Plan is the submission of an Executed Cooperation Agreement between the City and the Sub-Applicants, in which the City approves the Project, and which obligates the City to reimburse the Commonwealth for any RACP grant reimbursements that may later be determined to have been ineligible expenses for the Project; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed and considered.

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

1. That the Cooperation Agreement by and between the City of Chester and the Sub-Applicants, Silvercare Real Estate LLC and Silvercare Subacute Care LLC, is hereby approved.

2. That the Mayor and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement and to take such steps as may be necessary to implement the intent of this Resolution.

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

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 May 23, 2023, through June 7, 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.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

**BILL NO. 14
ORD. 11, 2023**

AN ORDINANCE LAST AND FINAL READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ARTICLE 507, ENTITLED "VEHICLE OPERATION", 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 16,000 POUNDS AND ADDING NEW SUBSECTION (8) TO ADOPT A NEW TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PROHIBITING VEHICLES OVER 16,000 POUNDS FROM TRAVELING ON CROSBY STREET FROM EAST 13TH STREET TO EAST 14TH STREET, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 14, 2023 was passed on its Last and Final Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

**BILL NO. 15
ORD. __, 2023**

AN ORDINANCE FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ENACTING NEW ARTICLE 106, ENTITLED "REALTY TRANSFER TAX", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER PENNSYLVANIA, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURPOSE, INTENT, APPLICABILITY, ASSESSING PENALTIES AND INTEREST THEREON AND, SEVERABILITY OF A REALTY TRANSFER TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL ESTATE OR INTEREST IN REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN THE CITY OF CHESTER IN THE AMOUNT OF 1.5% TO BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHESTER AND THE CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, Bill No. 15, 2023 was passed on its First Reading. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0

Ayanna King, COVID-19 Support Specialist says (see attachment #1)

Swearing-in of Patrol Officer Marlon Jones

Public Comment

Adelaide Evans says can we get a little more clarification on the Stormwater Retention Facility because I know it was originally called an Easement. Who is going to be liable once it's been constructed? I know we are a distressed municipality and we do deserve celebrations but I don't think we should be celebrating at the cost of \$27,700.00 for Fourth of July. Considering a fact that Children have been going over Chester Park and running amuck over there, how is the security going to be for this event?

Ordinance #11...you guys approved the Truck or Vehicle Ordinance...will the current Truck Stop on Flower Street be dismantled and can we have "NO TRUCK PARKING SIGNS" installed? Why hasn't the Expenditure List been provided to us any longer?

Mayor Kirkland says as far as the Stormwater Authority...we have been working on this for a few years and we have been modifying it, making it better. The reason for the catch basin is simply to alleviate the flooding in that area. We are putting in mechanisms right now to make sure that it is safe for both our Children and our Adults. As far as security for the City, the Stormwater has taken some responsibility. We are confident that this catch basin will be safe. The City will take care of the Parks and Stormwater will take care of the water. Security for Chester Park...it's not the job of just our Police Officers, we're also the hoping the whole Community will take part also.

Police Commissioner Gretskey says it almost mimics the term "Flash Mob" over at Chester Park. What I noticed is that a lot of these Children are not from the City of Chester. You get a lot of them from these Boroughs, Townships, Districts and from Philadelphia. I believe it's more from Social Media.

Mayor Kirkland says as far as the Parking of the Trucks, we are working with Mr. Lightner, Chief of Staff, to work on some signage and language that will not have those Trucks park there. What we're trying to do is find them some place to park.

Councilman Morgan says as far as the Expenditure List, when they were initially put up some months ago that was by error. The Fourth of July...the Police Department has been undermanned for years. So, I think they have been doing a hell of job trying to limit any types of wrong doings when it comes to these types of events/activities that we have in Chester Park. When it comes to the expenses...last year was definitely 100% sponsored. I know we have reached out to some Local Sponsors to assist with donations as well. When it comes to Fireworks...the cost is roughly \$11,000.00 is really a decrease of what the cost really is or has been in the past.

Delores Shelton says can the City write, send letters or some signs on E. 18th Street (in regards to cleaning up their trash, put it trash bags). It floods. You have to clean the drains immediately because when it rains the trash comes down the street and clogs the drain.

Mayor Kirkland says what we're about to do a roll out of brand-new trash bins here in the City and an educational piece as well. We're trying to change the mindsets that trash goes in the trash can and not on the streets.

Livia Smith says with all this rain that has taken place, the trees in Washington Park are falling down. When roots rot a tree will fall and I am fearful that the trees will fall and take out half of block of Residents. We need an Arborist to come through and check those trees. They are too high for where Residential people live. P.S.A. people need to clean up after themselves. Thank you, City, for supporting the Stormwater.

Mayor Kirkland says Mr. Robertson and I have been talking about having to remove some trees from properties of some of our Residents but it's about having finances to do so.

Margaret Brown says Memorial Park has been flooding since before I was born. Who exactly owns that piece of land (where the retention facility will be) because there is a fence around it that says "Property of the Railroad Company"? It's in Memorial Park...now are they renting/leasing that space? Who is responsible with that piece of Land where they are going to put the retention facility?

Mayor Kirkland says it's the City.

Ms. Brown says so why is the train people allowed to put a fence up that says "No Trespassing Private Property".

Councilman Morgan says that piece is Amtrak's property.

Mayor Kirkland says where they are putting the Retention Catch Basin that's the City property.

Ms. Brown says but it's enclosed of that fence. So where exactly is the pond going to be because I'm not clear on that.

Councilwoman West says (with hand gestures and a conversation to make it clear) it's on this side of the fence.

Ms. Brown says trucks are parked all over the City. Where have they been going? Why have we become a parking lot now? It's bad for them to parking on Flower Street. It needs to be some kind of Organization for Parenting for these young Mother's. It's not really advertised out here where to go. What can they do?

Mayor Kirkland says Ms. Amanda Johnson always advertises all the recreational opportunities that are going on in the City.

Councilwoman West says Life In Christ, Pastor Dickie Robbins Church, they have a wonderful program for young Mothers and there are other Organizations.

Ms. Brown says Mr. Roots what happened to the investigation of those three lots down at 2nd & Ward, 291, Wilson Street and Hayes Street with those lots with those bid containers. Have you been around checking this stuff out?

Councilman Roots says I know the three lots you're talking about. If you're doing some work getting in touch with the Environmental people let me know. I will follow up and help you with that.

Brown Williams says Stormwater...a lot of people applaud it. I condemn it. (Inaudible) Eddystone, Brookhaven, Aston even Marcus Hook so why Chester have to pay it? A lot of old people are saying they have a lien on their property. How can you put a lien on people property for rain water (inaudible). And none of them don't clean nothing. I cleaned up in front of my house this morning, even in the rain.

Mayor Kirkland says Stormwaters was created by State Legislature. There are Stormwaters all over.

Councilwoman West says the next Stormwater Meeting is in August. Thank you for the way you handle your neighborhood. We need more people like you that have an interest in their area.

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

Duane Lee, Parks & Recreation says with Washington Park we will have the Shade Tree Commission who has an Arborist on that Committee, to come out there either Monday or Tuesday. FYI... **(see attachment #2)**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Williams says I want the Residents to know that we have been challenged to do certain things and we try our best to carry them through. So, Stormwater and whatever other projects you see going on around in the City has been given to us by the United States Government and we are following their law and order. Things are subject to change without notice. Things are changing everyday to protect our environment and our City and we're following it.

Councilman Roots (None)

Councilman Morgan says I want to thank everyone that came out to participate in the Daddy & Me Dance. I want to thank the Philadelphia Union for opening their doors for us all. The kids enjoyed it. Thank you to all the Sponsors and Vendors that supported the Event. Thank you to Stephanie Hall, my Assistant, for all the work she was able to do behind the scenes. I also want to acknowledge Ms. Lorraine Lavender-Sams, she works for the SCOOP and she did an article on the Daddy & Me Dance. July 13th **(see attachment #3)**. Fourth of July...over the last six or seven years the City has removed Annual Events that we have throughout year, big and small (Chester Fest which was at least \$80,000.00 to \$125, 000.00).

Amanda Johnson, Press Secretary says (see attachments #3 and #4). To sign up for the Monthly Newsletter go to www.chestercity.com, scroll all the way to the bottom, put in your email address and hit submit and you are registered!

Councilwoman West says the Recycling Event...thank you to everyone that came out and supported it. Recycling...our numbers for 2022 is down to 2% collection and that's horrible. **WE ARE SUPPOSED TO RECYCLE!!** Moving forward I will be looking for the remainder of this year and the two years that I have left to find out how we can encourage you to recycle. It's important to the environment. We need you to recycle and when we do well in terms of recycling numbers then there are certain things that we are able to get by way of grants to get things that we need. The one year we were able to purchase the blue cans for everybody in the City. I'm going to be looking at enforcement. **YOU HAVE TO RECYCLE!!** Everybody should have a blue can and if you don't have one you can get one here at City Hall. I've spoken with the vendor and told them not to pick up the blue can if it is out there with their regular trash. There are fines on the book that we can look at in terms of fining people as well. For your regular trash, we are purchasing trash cans (65 Gallons) for every Resident here in the City. Our expectations are that you put everything in a bag, tie it up and put it inside of that trash can. Illegal Dumping...we have to be accountable for our own City! I would appreciate if everyone could just help us out!! Commercial Trucks are not supposed to be on our City Streets and Major Blackwell with another Officer, they are going around looking at that situation.

Mayor Kirkland says I want to give a big shout out to Mr. Eric Bayne with all his hard work with the gun buyback program this past Saturday. It was very successful. We do appreciate the financial donations from companies like Monroe Energy and Covanta. I understand the concern about spending money on certain events in the Community but we try to do is find different ways to bring the Community together and sometimes that costs. It's not always is it on the City with their Budget but we do reach out to other companies and they do usually support us the best way they can. I also want to give a shout out to Ms. Amanda Johnson. She makes sure that our City and our Residents are informed. Hopefully all of you will be able to attend the Food Truck Festival to see how it operates and see all the fun activities that happen in our Downtown Area!!

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44am.

Respectfully submitted,

JUNE 28, 2023

Candice Newsome, City Clerk