

**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 10:02 AM with Mayor Thaddeus 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  
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 Ms. King, Health Department to read her announcement.**

Ms. King Announcement Attachment #1

**Mayor Kirkland asked for public comment on agenda/action items only.**

*Mayor Kirkland announced that if anyone would like to address council, to please sign the sign in sheet on the podium with your name and address.*

Livia Smith 930 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St. asked for clarification on Resolutions #8 and #10.

**Councilman Morgan says Resolution #8 is a loan/grant from DCED which is a Tran tax anticipation note for 2024 that supports the budget at the beginning of the year; as tax revenue typically doesn't come in until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. This resolution allows Mayor and Council to consider to apply for 2024 loan/grant from DCED.**

Livia Smith asked, what is the amount/percentage; if loan what is the percentage?

**Councilman Morgan says, he didn't know the amount but, in the past, they applied for five million dollars. It's a forgivable loan at 0 %.**

Livia Smith asked for clarity of Resolution #10 Authorize approval to release a portion of the Financial Security for the 218-224 Fulton Street project.

Peter Rykard, Planning Director says, Resolution #10 is the release of the development agreement funds. Once a project is completed there is still funds left over.

Ken Shuster, Solicitor says, that is correct. It is security funds upon completion of the project.

**Mayor Kirkland asked, do you know actually what the project was?**

Peter Rykard, no, I don't but they built a warehouse at 218 Fulton St.

The Acting City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Resolutions.

**RESOLUTION**

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

That it does hereby hire Casandra Miller for the part-time position of Animal Control, Department of Licenses and Inspections, effective October 23, 2023, at the rate of \$27.90 per hour, on an on-call basis, with no benefits, not to exceed 25 hours per week.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, West, Roots. Nays: 0 Abstain 2 Morgan, Mayor Kirkland

## **RESOLUTION**

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

That in accordance with recommendations of the Chester City Planning Commission dated September 13, 2023, and reviewed by the Delaware County Planning Commission on September 21, 2023, it does hereby grant final approval for the Aids Care Group to reverse subdivide two parcels into one and construct a 3-story building addition with off-street parking for the AGS Counseling Center at 2304-2308 Edgmont Ave., as shown on a plan prepared by Linn Architects 1140 N. Providence Rd. Media, PA 19063 dated August 24, 2023.

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**, Chester City Council approved Resolution 104-2023, awarding Street Sign Improvements (Project 55) to Garden State Highway Products, Inc; and

**WHEREAS**, since the award of Project 55, the aforementioned company has changed its name; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to comply with all American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Compliance and Reporting guidelines.

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

That it does hereby award the contract for Street Sign Improvements (Project 55) to National Highway Products, Inc. formerly doing business as Garden State Highway Projects, Inc., for which responses were received through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Cooperative Purchasing Program (COSTARS), in the amount of \$89,272.00 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. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Chester City Council approved on December 14, 2022, the award for Memorial Park Pool Upgrades – Phase 2 (Project 19) to S.J. Thomas for which responses were received through Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN), in the amount of \$299,745.57, to be paid from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has complied with all KPN bidding requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined there is a need for a change to the scope of work in order to complete the project.

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

That it does hereby approve Change Order #1, to increase the contract price by \$47,723.48, for changes to Project 19 scope of work to include refurbishing the women's restrooms installation of new doors, exterior lighting, grab bars, lifeguard stands, pool ladders, stainless steel covers, vacuum cleaner and miscellaneous painting.

**FURTHER**, all work is to be performed to the satisfaction of Chester City Council and the City Engineer.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0. Abstain 1 Morgan

#### **RESOLUTION**

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

That it does authorize the proper City official to prepare Request for Proposals to solicit sealed proposals for the following services for the City of Chester:

1. Cleaning services for the Chester Police Station; and
2. Citywide parcel condition survey services

**FURTHER**, it does authorize the City Clerk to advertise the aforementioned notices.

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 authorize the proper City official to prepare Bid Specifications for the Chester City Public Works Garage Site Improvements project, to be available through PennBid.

**FURTHER**, it does authorize the City Clerk to advertise the aforementioned notice.

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**, Delaware County Council has established the Delco Green Ways Grant Program to be utilized by the municipalities of Delaware County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delco Green Ways Conserve, Enhance, Connect or Planning and Design grants may be used by the municipality for the improvement or acquisition of recreation land or planning services for such activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, desires to participate in the Delco Green Ways Grant Program in order to help fund the Sun Village Community Spray Park project; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester will have available any and all funding needed to complete this project.

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

1. That the City of Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, hereby approves the filing of an application for the Delaware County Municipal Grant Program Assistance; and
2. That Mayor Thaddues Kirkland is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file the appropriate forms with the Delaware County Planning Department.

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 was designated as a distressed municipality under the authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act on April 25, 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chester desires to make an application for financial aid by way of loans, grants, and otherwise under and by authority of the Municipalities financial Recovery Act, Act 47 of 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development makes available loans and grants-in-aid to such projects through the Municipalities Financial Recovery program for projects that implement adopted recovery plan strategies.

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

That the Elected Council of the City of Chester is hereby authorized to make an application for such a loan or grant under the authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the proper officers of the City of Chester are hereby authorize on behalf of the City of Chester to execute applications, agreements, contracts or other documents necessary to apply for and to secure aid for the City of Chester, from the Department of Community and Economic Development under and by authority of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act.

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**. City of Chester (“Applicant”) desires to undertake the project, “Highland Avenue East Coast Greenway Connector” (“Project Title”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Applicant desires to receive from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (“Department”) a grant for the purpose of carrying out this Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the application package includes a document entitled “Terms and Conditions of Grant”: and

**WHEREAS**, the Applicant understands that the contents of the document entitled “Terms and Conditions of Grant”, including appendices referred to therein, will become the terms and conditions of a Grant Agreement between the Applicant and the Department.

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

1. The grant application may be electronically signed on behalf of the Applicant by “Leonard Lightner”, who, at the time of signing has a title of “Chief of Staff: and the email address of [LLightner@chestercity.com](mailto:LLightner@chestercity.com).

2. If this Official signed the Grant Application Electronic Authorization prior to the passage of this Resolution, this grant of authority applies retroactively to the date of signing.
3. If the Applicant is awarded a grant, the Grant Application Electronic Authorization, signed by the above Official, will become the Applicant/Grantee's executed signature page for the Grant Agreement, and the Applicant/Grantee will be bound by the Grant Agreement.
4. Any amendment to the Grant Agreement may be signed on behalf of the Grantee by the Official who at the time of signing of the amendment, has the Title specified in paragraph 1 and the Grantee will be bound by the amendment.

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**, on August 24, 2022, Chester City Council approved the Final Land Development Plan for the project at 218-224 Fulton Street, Chester, PA 19013; and

**WHEREAS**, a financial security bond was received in the amount of Forty-two thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-one Dollars \$42,961.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Gilhool, Sr. has requested the release of the financial security funds associated with the development of 218-224 Fulton Street, Chester, PA 19013.

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

That it does hereby approve the release of Thirty-eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-one Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$38,421.90) in accordance with the recommendation of the City Engineer, who has conducted an inspection of the property and has determined a substantial portion of the project has been completed and the remaining funds be released upon receipt of the Final Certificate of Occupancy.

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 Lists dated September 13, 2023, September 22, 2023, and September 25, 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: 1 Roots

### **AN ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA, ENACTING NEW ARTICLE 361, PURSUANT TO THE**

**IMPROVEMENT OF DETERIORATING REAL PROPERTY OR AREAS  
TAX EXEPTION ACT (IDRPA), ENTITLED “RESIDENTIAL” OF TITLE  
FIVE – PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES  
OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 1978, AS SUPPLEMENTED  
AND AMENDED, BY AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS FROM  
PROPERTY TAX FOR CERTAIN DETERIORATED RESIDENTIAL  
PROPERTY; DEFINING ELIGIBLE DETERIORATED RESIDENTIAL  
AREAS; SETTING A MAXIMUM EXEMPTION AMOUNT AND AN  
EXEMPTION SCHEDULE; AND PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR  
SECURING AN EXEMPTION; AND SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION  
TO MEET APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

**Councilman Morgan says, after looking through this Ordinance, bill #17, he requested a motion to have an amendment to 361.04 Exemption Schedule Section B. He requested a motion to amend 361.04 Exemption Schedule Section B to read 100% from Year 1 - Year 10. Page 7**

**Mayor Kirkland says, there’s been a motion to amend, is there a second?**

**Councilwoman West seconded the motion.**

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor West, the above Ordinance was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 1 Roots

#### **AN ORDINANCE**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA, ENACTING NEW ARTICLE 363, PURSUANT TO  
LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE LAW  
(LERTA), ENTITLED, “INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL” OF TITLE  
FIVE – PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT, OF THE CODIFIED  
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, 1978, AS  
SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED, BY AUTHORIZING TAX  
EXEMPTIONS FROM PROPERTY TAX FOR CERTAIN  
DETERIORATED INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL OR OTHER  
BUSINESS PROPERTY; DEFINING ELIGIBLE DETERIORATED  
AREAS; SETTING A MAXIMUM EXEMPTION AMOUNT AND AN  
EXEMPTION SCHEDULE; AND PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR  
SECURING AN EXEMPTION.**

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

**Councilman Morgan says, there was a motion to amend bill #17 which was passed now. I believe we have to make a motion after we read the Ordinance with the amendment so we can pass the Ordinance for the first reading.**

Ken Shuster, Solicitor says, there's a motion to pass the Ordinance as amended; then there's a second, then there's vote on that.

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

Proclamation presented to the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired **Attachment #2**

Mr. Daniel Wesley Administrative Director of Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Tom Campbell, Secretary for CBVI says, if anyone is in need of services, they can call (610) 874-1476. They thanked Mayor and Council for recognizing White Cane Day.

**Mayor Kirkland says, Mr. Daniel Wesley will do an excellent job as the new director of the center. He says, (to Mr. Campbell) the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a place where may folk have received services. He said there's a program that was done in Harrisburg many years ago, called "walk a mile in my shoes." that he hopes will come to City Hall. Mayor Kirkland congratulated them and wished them continued success.**

#### **Public Comment**

Marcella Johnson asked what was animal control?

**Mayor Kirkland says, that the main focus deals with dogs, cats and other animals from the park area that we have to deal with.**

**Councilman Morgan says, the animal control person will focus on dogs and cats. There will be a third-party agreement with an outside agency that will deal with more of the wild life throughout the city of Chester.**

Marcella Johnson says, in 2017 the four corners of 24<sup>th</sup> Street was not done for handicap accessibility. She said, she was told by Michael that there was no more money. She had a problem with a shed. She said, Ms. West and another Michael came out. She landed in jail due to a problem with a neighbor. She said, city hall should have handled the problem and she would not have landed in jail. She visited planning and license and inspections Peter; spoke with Peter. She was told that there was a violation for the distance of the shed to the fence being close to her garage. She said no one did anything about the fence or the shed. She had a concern about overgrown grass at 302 W 23<sup>rd</sup> St she called a forest. She says nothing has been done.

**Mayor Kirkland says, Mr. Rykard and Mr. Galante is here. He asked that she hang around to speak with them.**

Patricia Dunbar says, she has a problem with a vacant lot next to her. The lot need to be cut. She said, they just mowed the middle of the lot. She said, she saw a large animal. Her garage is leaning from a tree that is coming up in the garage from the vacant property next to her.

**Mayor Kirkland said, he will let the person in charge of that department respond.**

**He said, since nobody will respond, he will make sure that the right department looks into it.**

Adelaide Evans says, there was an ordinance passed back in May in reference to oversize vehicles and has been an ongoing problem. There are trucks on Flower Street parked on both sides of the street. Also, when there are soccer games, the lights that are flashing are not being changed. She said, tractor trailers are coming off the ramp and they don't stop. She asked, what is the point of the no parking signs for persons who are parking illegally on Flower Street?

**Councilwoman West says, she has been complaining about this for a long time. She has been to the police department. She said, doesn't have enforcement power because she doesn't have inspectors. She has been in touch with Comm. Gretskey and Major Blackwell. She said, she was down there last month about these trucks. She has been complaining about these trucks parking all over the city because they damage our streets. There have been some concerns from the neighbors. She had new parking signs installed. She said, Flower Street is a state road from 291 and Flower up to 9<sup>th</sup> St. is a state road.**

Adelaide Evans says, she spoke to the Chief of Staff and he stated that those no parking signs would need to come out and new ones needed to be put in. The signs have been ordered.

**Councilwoman West says, new no parking signs that have arrows going both ways have been ordered. She will speak to Commissioner Gretskey about the traffic lights once the soccer games are over, that the lights go back.**

**Mayor Kirkland asked Mr. Galante, who's in charge of the traffic lights?**

Mchael Galante says, he will contact Signal Service to see if there's an electrical issue going on there. All traffic signals in the city are the responsibility of the city.

**Mayor Kirkland, Commissioner Gretskey has been in touch with the state police and they are doing their due diligence to work out a fix for that area. It is not something that we are ignoring; it's a problem and we're trying to fix it.**

Livia Smith says, she frequents the area where the trucks are parked and that is a problem. She was glad to hear that it was being looked into. She asked, is there a reason why Councilman Roots vote no all the time on the expenditure list? Are you not getting the information?

**Councilman Roots says, he has answered this question multiple times. He said, if we all voted no, the bills will still be paid. The checks that have already been released, will not be**



brought back. It is something that is brought to council on a monthly/bimonthly basis our vote has no bearing on. The expenditure report shouldn't be brought here. If we all vote yes nothing changes; if we all vote no nothing changes; I believe that the role of mayor and council with our votes if its yes something moves forward if we say not something ceases; something stops. He said, as you know, these expenditure reports are nothing but a check run from the time period that its presented; checks has already left the building; several of those checks has been cashed. It an exercise of futility and not necessary. That's why I vote no.

Livia Smith says, do you get a chance to look at the report?

**Councilman Roots says, yes, I do look at it.**

**Mayor Kirkland says, just to follow up; exercise of futility. If we all vote no, on that particular item then the next time the expenditure list came up it would probably not come up.**

Karen Dunlap says, the street lights were completely off. She called 911 to put up stop signs on horses. She was concerned about the traffic lights not working and the trucks using alternative routes; turning on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Flower left off of 3<sup>rd</sup> to Rainey. The applications for the grant for \$10,000.00 for homeowners in the city of Chester. She was told that the application wouldn't be available until October 26. Prior to this date it was suppose to be October 9<sup>th</sup>. Will the application be available on October 26<sup>th</sup>?

**Councilman Morgan says, not sure of that particular date. We are working on amending the contract with the administrator and getting things approved by the boards which has been the hold up. The plan is to get them out by the end of the month. He referred to Chief Lightner to give additional clarity.**

Leonard Lightner, Chief of Staff says, we are scheduled to release on October 26. Applications will be available on line and here in city hall. We just got the contract back for the mayor and legal's review and approval. He said, we want to give ourselves another week to make sure everything is ironed out before the release on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Karen Dunlap asked is there a specific deadline for those applications to be submitted?

**Councilman Morgan says, no, as soon as possible. You should bring in your application with your documentation. If you bring in your application without the documentation, your application will just sit to the side until everything comes together to start the process.**

**Councilwoman West asked, does your name need to be on the sign-up sheet from the meeting in order to get an application?**

**Councilman Morgan, says no, the application will be on the website and physical applications will be in the lobby as well as for the contractors.**

Yvonne Mitchell says, she is concerned about an abandoned car. She is having a difficult time getting into her driveway due to the abandoned car that has been sitting since April. She would like the car removed.

**Councilman Morgan asked for the year make and color of the vehicle so he can make sure the car gets removed.**

**Mayor Kirkland asked, do you know if inspection stickers are on the car?**

Yvonne Mitchell says, the sticker says April 2023.

Commissioner Gretzsky says, we will go out together and check it out.

Abdul Salim says, you can't get blood out of a turnip. We turn this around; this is just the beginning of a turn around. I've dealt with nine mayors. We're here now with this Mayor and administration. He asked people to be patient. Jesus healed the blind. It's in the making.

Anita Littleton says, it is frustrating as a resident; 24 plus years to see what we've had to endure. She said, she stopped coming to council meeting because it appeared that nothing was ever going to get done. Some of the issues that are valid goes to the welfare and the care of the beautiful residents of Chester city. This is not a joke. She said, in other municipalities these issues would get taken care of because its about the safety of the residents. She said, Chester city is having an influx of homeless and drug addicted people. She is concerned about the safety of the residents of Chester city. She asked if there's a plan moving forward with getting the funding from Delaware County to help with drug addicted people who ae being dumped in the city.

**Mayor Kirkland says, when people make comments/concerns as if we don't live here. As if we don't have children here, as if we haven't been here for a very long time. He said, he has been in this city all his life. I raised my children here; I raised my grandkids here. A lot of time I hear a lot of negative stuff. There is a lot of positive that is happening in this city. He said, we have people from Philadelphia coming here asking us for help to reduce crime in their community. but I don't hear about that; they come to us saying how did you do it? We have upgraded our parks; I don't hear about that; we've provided our residences with new trash cans and we try to encourage them to put the trash in the cans so we can keep our city a little cleaner. We do have street sweepers going in certain parts of the community. It's unfortunate that you have a resident next door to you whose grass is high. Hopefully, the right department will correct that. Nobody wants to live next to somebody who has grass 5-6 feet tall. We accept that and need to correct that. But there are a lot of things we do to protect our people. I think we do a better job than a whole lot of municipalities. I have not seen anyone come in here to say that they have been mugged, beaten or robbed. He said, he is not minimizing the grass or the truck situation. With the issues that we face in this city, we're doing pretty darn good. (Interruption from audience member) we are responding the best way we can. We have a police force that should be 125 officers, we're lucky if we have 60. He said, we try to get our own residents to become police officers and firefighters because it is important. We will continue to do our very best and will continue to point out the things that are positive in our community. Continue to work with each and everyone in this community. We live here; we raise our families here. We want this to be the best city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**

Bernadette Raymond 1206 Beverly Lane says, she has been asking for a street light. The alleyway has a big pot hole. She asked, how many people are allowed to live in a household? She said, there is about 17 people living next door to her. There is constant noise and trash all over the place; nothing has been done.

**Mayor Kirkland says, he didn't think there's an ordinance of the number of people who can live in a home.**

**Councilman Morgan says, he doesn't think there's an ordinance of how many people can live in a home; but there is an ordinance of how many vehicles can be in each household.**

**Mayor Kirkland says, Mr. Lightner, Chief of Staff will investigate.**

Thomas Gordy, 1111 Butler St. says, he was born in this city and always loved the city. He has two questions; he is not saying that you are not doing your job; we can do our jobs better if we bring things up and working. He and his wife had a problem with racoons, possums, muskrats; they asked for help and was able to get help. In regard to overgrowth in the city; abandoned houses; where does the ownership revert back to? The county, city or who? Who is responsible to make sure that it's cleaned up. Recycling; they would put it out and no one came to get it. Will they get the recycling? It hasn't been picked up in 2-3 weeks.

**Councilwoman West says, recycling is picked up every Wednesday for the whole entire city. She will call the vendor supervisor to let them know that it hasn't been picked up. She apologized.**

**Councilwoman Williams says, there's a new UPS and Fed Ex store downtown; they also do copying at 518 Avenue of the States. She said, she received a letter from the trash removal vendor that Chester has a problem of not recycling. She said, we need to recycle. Everyone in the city of Chester needs to recycle.**

**Councilman Roots says, he will see Ms. Dunbar after the meeting. He responded to Ms. Littleton's concern; we are aware of people being dropped off in the city; it's been happening for years. It is coming to a head now. He said, he has sat down with the downtown business community. They are coming up with some solutions and identifying some the problems. There have been trees cut down at 7<sup>th</sup> and Avenue of the States and Welsh to stop some of the loitering. He has been in touch with the police department and Septa police where they hang out a lot at transportation center; it's going to get more attention with cameras and security. We've talked to some of the mental health organizations here in the town.**

**He said, it will take a concerted effort to squash this, but it is becoming a really big problem. Some people are pointing to City Team as part of the problem; he said they provide more help than issues. City Team has very strict requirements for getting services, they only have so many beds and there are more people coming into the city than can be served by City Team. He said, it's not being ignored; it's getting addressed in a real big way right now.**

**Councilman Morgan says, Delaware County has a homeowner rehabilitation program called the Whole Home Rehabilitation Program. The eligibility requirements are different from ours. The maximum allotment is \$50,000.00. Applications are open now. If you're looking to get work done and you think you may exceed the \$10,000.00 that we may offer, go out to the county or look on their website to see if you are eligible for their grant funds.**

**Mayor Kirkland says, we have a meeting set up with City Team to talk to them about their feeding program and the homelessness that has been happening here in the City of Chester. City Team does a lot of good work, but at the same time they have some responsibility to share and to bear when it comes to outside persons who comes into the city. Mayor Kirkland said, anyone who is helping the less fortunate to please don't forget the cleanup portion. We have to be mindful of the cleanup. Folks are coming in by bus, coming from Kensington. They arrive here in hopes of sharing/selling their drugs; then they catch the bus back. This is not something we have overlooked or turned away from. We're working and should be working collectively to figure out how we correct this problem. He said, he wished we had 125 police officers. He has been pushing for cameras for the bus station for the longest. Hopefully and finally, we'll get some.**

**Mayor Kirkland thanked the streets department and parks and recreation for beautifying our downtown area and for the work they put in.**

**Councilwoman West says, she empathizes with Ms. Johnson and what she has been going through. There will be a meeting after the council meeting with Ms. Johnson. She said, we do need you to recycle. If there is a concern about recycling not being picked up on a Wednesday, please give her a call. She said, she sees co-mingling of the trash and recycling from the residents and the workers. If recycling is put out on a day other than Wednesday, we're telling them not to not pick it up. The city has to account for the amount of recycling that we take in and turn into our trash facility. We have numbers that we have to report on recycling every year. She said, the trucks and abandoned cars have been a real issue for her. She asked that she and Mr. Lightner can get together; she really need an inspector so she can address some of these issues and to be able to enforce certain things in her department.**

**Mayor Kirkland announced that there will be an executive session held after the council meeting.**

**There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk**