

**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 10:03am with Mayor Kirkland presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

William Morgan
Portia West
Stefan Roots
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
Elizabeth Williams (**Absent**)

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: 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. Darlene Palmer, 1307 Tilghman Street, Chester, PA 19013
2. Diego Nieves-Melecio, 724 McIlvain Street, Chester, PA 19013
3. Delores R. Shelton, 138 East 18th Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Neea Taggart, 1014 Concord Avenue, Chester, PA 19013
5. Irene M. Tucker, 128 West 21st 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 1300 Block of Tilghman Street, in the 700 Block of McIlvain Street, in the 100 Block of East 18th Street, in the 1000 Block of Concord Avenue, and in the 100 Block of West 21st 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: Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Chester Police Department directs members' action through the establishment of policies, procedures, and rules, as found within the Department Directives; and

WHEREAS, the City desires the use of portable recorders, either audio or video, or both to enhance the mission of the Department by accurately capturing contacts between members of the Department and the public.

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

That it does hereby authorize the implementation of a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Policy, to uphold the civility of police-citizen encounters and enhance citizen perceptions of police transparency.

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

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

Mayor Kirkland says thank for working so hard on this Commissioner. We've been trying to get this done for the past seven (7) years. It protects both the Police Officers as well as the Citizens.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester is constructing a regional stormwater control basin also known as the Veteran's Memorial Park Regional Stormwater Facility ("VMPRSF" or "Stormwater Facility"), to target both flood control and water quality benefits, in the area downstream between the existing railroad tracks and the Delaware River, which experiences flooding that impacts both structures and roadways; and

WHEREAS, Chester City Council by a majority vote, approved Resolution No. 151-2023, on August 23, 2023, waiving all City fees for the completion of this Project; and

WHEREAS, Receiver Michael Doweary has filed a Petition for Writ of Mandamus against Chester City Council for the above-referenced action.

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

That it does hereby rescind Resolution NO. 151-2023 in full.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does hereby authorize the Department of Account and Finance to refund the sum of \$300.00 to Mortgage Contracting Services f/k/a ProChamp, for a vacant property registration error, for the property located at 14 West 14th Street, Chester, PA 19013.

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Morgan, the above Resolution was adopted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: 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 October 3, 2023 and October 6, 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: Morgan, West, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: Roots.

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

**BILL NO. 17
ORD. 14, 2023
(AS AMENDED)**

AN ORDINANCE 2nd READING (AS AMENDED)

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 EXEMPTION 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 DOCUMENTAION TO MEET APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor West, Bill No. 17, 2023 was passed on its **2ND Reading**.

Councilman Morgan says the amendments listed were adjusted for the Homeowner non-occupied or the rental units for 100% with the 10 year period. Also added was a three (3) year sunset provision for that portion of this Ordinance for the rental or non-owner occupied residential units as well.

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

BILL NO. 18
ORD. 15, 2023

AN ORDINANCE
2nd READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ENACTING NEW ARTICLE 363, PURSUANT TO THE 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 Morgan, seconded by Councilor West, Bill No. 18, 2023 was passed on its **2ND Reading**. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Morgan, West, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Presentations

Health Update by Ayanna King, COVID-19 Support Specialist (**see attachment #1**)

Proclamation

National Lights On for Stetser Elementary School

Public Comment

NONE

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilman Morgan says tomorrow, October 26, the Homeowner's and Contractors (that would like to be considered to complete the work in the Homeowner's home here in the City of Chester) can now be able to pick up the applications at City Hall M-F 9a-4:30p. You can also print the application from our website at www.chestercity.com/arpa. **YOU CANNOT SUBMIT IT ON-LINE!** It must be turned in with all the documentation requested, if not it will be set aside until you bring in all the necessary documentation. **IT'S FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!!!**

Councilman Roots (None).

Councilwoman West says Lloyd Street Bridge has been down for over a decade. It seems to be per our Engineer that the City of Chester Project has been put on a low priority list as far as Amtrak is concerned. So I reached out to Senator Bob Casey and Senator John Kane's Office asking them for some support in helping us getting the Bridge restored. It presents a dangerous situation to our Community and it's an eye sore. In addition to the letters sent to the two (2) Senator's Office, I have a Petition that I have distributed to a number of Churches last weekend and I am asking for Chester Residents for your support. **We have to make some noise! Enough is Enough!! We want our Bridge restored!! We want to be put on a high priority list!! Please sign the Petition!!**

Mayor Kirkland says (see attachment #3).

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.

Respectfully submitted,

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Candice Newsome, City Clerk