

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 22, 2023**

**MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER**

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Chester was held on the above date at 10:03am with Mayor Kirkland presiding. A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

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

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Roots, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, 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. Wayne Jozwiak, 1407 Ridley Avenue, Chester, PA 19013
2. Joyce Gilbert, 922 Elsinore Place, Chester, PA 19013
3. Mark Hoffman, 421 East 12th Street, Chester, PA 19013
4. Donald H. Miller, 109 E. Avon Road, Chester, PA 19013
5. Linda Green, 720 Pennell Street, Chester, PA 19013
6. Russell Queen, 3362 Carter Lane, Chester, PA 19013

WHEREAS, after a thorough investigation by the Department of Public Works, it has been determined the aforementioned individuals have met all of the required criteria and have a need for said handicapped parking zone.

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

That it does hereby authorize the proper City officials to install a handicapped parking zone in the 1400 Block of Ridley Avenue, in the 900 Block of Elsinore Place, in the 400 Block of East 12th Street, in the 100 Block of East Avon Road, in the 700 Block of Pennell Street and in the 3300 Block of Carter Lane, in the City of Chester.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chester City Council passed Resolution No. 196-2023, on November 8, 2023, which is amended to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hired Frank Morgan for the position of Laborer, Department of Parks and Recreation, effective November 20, 2023, for 40 hours per week, with no benefits and a ninety (90) day probationary period; and

WHEREAS, said employment is contingent upon said individual successfully completing a ninety (90) day probation from the date of hire; and

WHEREAS, the City is required by law to offer said employee medical benefits after sixty (60) consecutive days of employment, which is completed on January 19, 2024; and

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

FURTHER, if said employee fails to meet the job expectations within the ninety (90) day probation, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said position.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chester City Council passed a Resolution No. 197-2023, on November 8, 2023, which is amended to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hired Truitt Redd for the position of Field Inspector, Department of Public Works, effective November 20, 2023, for 37.5 hours per week, with no benefits and a ninety (90) day probationary period; and

WHEREAS, said employment is contingent upon said individual successfully completing a ninety (90) day probation from the date of hire; and

WHEREAS, the City is required by law to offer said employee medical benefits after sixty (60) consecutive days of employment, which is completed on January 19, 2024; and

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

FURTHER, if said employee fails to meet the job expectations within the ninety (90) day probation, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said position.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hired Jeffrey Dzielak for the position of Staff Accountant, Department of Finance, effective December 4, 2023, for 37.5 hours per week, with no benefits and a sixty (60) day probationary period; and

WHEREAS, said employment is contingent upon said individual successfully completing a sixty (60) day probation from the date of hire; and

WHEREAS, the City is required by law to offer said employee medical benefits after sixty (60) consecutive days of employment, which is completed on February 2, 2024; and

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

FURTHER, if said employee fails to meet the job expectations within the sixty (60) day probation, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said position.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester hired Tyjere Lewis for the position of Associate Project Manager, Mayor's Office, effective December 4, 2023, for 37.5 hours per week, with no benefits and a sixty (60) day probationary period; and

WHEREAS, said employment is contingent upon said individual successfully completing a sixty (60) day probation from the date of hire; and

WHEREAS, the City is required by law to offer said employee medical benefits after sixty (60) consecutive days of employment, which is completed on February 2, 2024; and

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

FURTHER, if said employee fails to meet the job expectations within the sixty (60) day probation, said employee will no longer be eligible for the position and will be subject to termination from said position.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chester is a third-class city organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Chester Upland School District is a second-class school district organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Pennsylvania law (53 P.S. § 37010), upon the request of the board of school directors of a school district, the city council of a city may appoint school crossing guards who shall have the duty of controlling and directing traffic at or near schools and who shall be in suitable and distinctive uniform.

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

That it does hereby hire Sandra Cunningham, as a Crossing Guard, to control and direct traffic at or near schools and other route locations to school identified by the City and the School District for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$9.00 beginning December 4, 2023, with no benefits, not to exceed 20 hours per week.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

The following is the list of the Legal Holidays for the City of Chester for the year 2024:

New Year's Day	Monday, January 1
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Monday, January 15

President's Day	Monday, February 19
Good Friday	Friday, March 29
Primary Election Day	Tuesday, April 23
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27
Flag Day	Friday, June 14
Juneteenth	Wednesday, June 19
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 2
Indigenous People's Day	Monday, October 14
General Election Day	Tuesday, November 5
Veteran's Day	Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28 Friday, November 29
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That the City Council of the City of Chester will be holding their Deliberative Only Meetings in City Council Chambers, One Fourth Street, 2nd Floor, Chester, Pennsylvania 19013 at 2:00pm, prevailing local time, on the following dates for the year 2024:

January	08 22	July	08 22
February	12 26	August	12 26
March	11 25	September	09 23
April	08 22	October	07 21
May	06 20	November	12 25
June	10 24	December	09 16 23

FURTHER, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to advertise the foregoing as required by law.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That the regular meetings of the Chester City Council will be held in City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, One Fourth Street, 2nd Floor, Chester, PA, 19013, at 10:00a.m., prevailing time, on the following dates for the year 2024, except where designated by an asterisk (*) which meetings will be held at 7:00p.m., prevailing time.

January	10 24	July	10 24
February	14* 28	August	14* 28
March	13 27	September	11 25
April	10* 24	October	09* 23
May	08 22	November	13 27
June	12* 26	December	11* 18 26

FURTHER, the City Clerk is hereby directed to advertise the foregoing as required by law.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That the regular meetings of the Chester Aggregated Pension Board will be held in City Council Chambers, One Fourth Street, Chester, PA 19013, 2:30p.m., prevailing local time, on the following dates for the year 2024:

January 22

April 22

July 22

October 28

FURTHER, the City Clerk is hereby directed to advertise the foregoing as required by law.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That the reorganization of the Chester City Council will be held on January 2, 2024, at 10:00A.M., City Council Chambers, One Fourth Street, Chester, Pennsylvania 19013, for the purposes of organization and appointments to various positions.

FURTHER, that it does authorize the City Clerk to advertise said organization meeting.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That Public Hearing for the 2024 Budget shall be held on December 20, 2023, at 9:45A.M., in City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 1 Fourth Street, Chester, Pennsylvania 19013.

FURTHER, the Final Action on the 2024 Budget Ordinance will be taken at a meeting of Council to be held on December 20, 2023, at 9:45A.M. in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 1 Fourth Street, Chester, PA 19013.

FURTHER, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to publish a notice of the date, time, and place of the aforesaid hearing.

FURTHER, that a copy of said the proposed Budget can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office for a fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00).

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Chester of Delaware County hereby request a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Chester City Police Department Addition and Relocation to Chester City Hall.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Chester does hereby designate Leonard Lightner, Chief of Staff, and James Lathrop, Chief Financial Officer as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Chester and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

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

RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER DOES RESOLVE:

That it does approve and order payment of a series of bills and refunds as prepared by the Department of Accounts and Finance and as shown on Expenditure Approval Lists dated October 28, 2023, November 2, 2023 and November 3, 2023, attached hereto and made a part hereof, subject to approval from the Department of Accounts and Finance.

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

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Ordinances.

BILL NO. 19
ORD. __, 2023

AN ORDINANCE
FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, DELAWARE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS, EXPENDITURES, AND EXPENSES FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR, THE ESTIMATED AMOUNTS ARE HEREBY APPROPRIATED FROM THE FUND EQUITIES, REVENUES, AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OPERATION DURING THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR, AS MORE FULLY DETAILED IN THE ATTACHED PROPOSED BUDGET.

On motion of Councilor Morgan, seconded by Councilor Roots, Bill No. 19, 2023 was passed on its **First Reading**. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Williams, Morgan, Roots, Mayor Kirkland. Nays: 0.

Proclamation

Tau Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Celebrates 32 Years of Service!
(Attachment)

Public Comment

Amin Abdul Salim says it's a very good morning. I'm proud to live in this Great City just like Councilwoman has said. There are some things in the City that we do not see. God is going to show us so so much and we do not want to disbelieve in our Lord. We have to be patient. We have to have faith and we have to believe. Jesus said at the end of his time "It is Done". The book of Revelations and in the beginning it says "It is Opening...it is the Beginning". This is the life that we want to get into. This is the life that is opening up to us now...this the new message. We want to be acquainted with him...we want to move with that. We want to continue on (inaudible) our faith. A new life. A life never that has never been seen or heard before. Be patient with strong faith. This is much more. A child is born (inaudible) during this Christmas Holiday.

Mayor Kirkland says thank you for your kind words. Life is about Chapters and we go through Chapters in life. Also remember Revelations 6:9.

Livia Smith says just for clarity...the expenditure list. Councilman Roots you voted yes this time. Are you happy with the way it looks now? Because you said the last time it didn't make no difference. So that's why you voted no. Prior to that you said you voted no because you didn't get your stuff in time. So where are we now with the Expenditure List to your liking?

Councilman Roots says going back to original statement, it doesn't make a difference.

Ms. Smith says #13...did you say that it is a Police Relocation project in place.

Candice Newsome, City Clerk says (rereads a portion) the Chester City Police Department Addition and Relocation to Chester City Hall.

Ms. Smith says for clarity...are you saying that the Police Station is going to move in this particular building if you get the money.

Leonard Lightner, Chief of Staff says we're looking at the options of that, yes.

Ms. Smith says so are you planning on extending the building in some kind of way to accommodate the Offices that are currently at the old Police Station.

Mr. Lightner, Chief of Staff says we're looking/getting our architectural design work to look at that, yes. Not an extension to the building but a remodel.

Ms. Smith says the new hires. We're in a bankruptcy state, that's what they tell me, they're hiring individuals based on needs that you needed prior. Are these new hires Chester Residents?

Mayor Kirkland says to my understanding Ms. Smith, some of them are and some of them are not.

Ms. Smith says may I ask which positions are not Chester Residents.

Mayor Kirkland says I know that Mr. Frank Morgan is a Chester Resident.

Mr. Lightner, Chief of Staff says Mayor, the only one that is not is Jeffrey.

Ms. Smith says that's the Staff Accountant. Is he required to set up residency once he gets hired?

Councilman Morgan says no. It's not a requirement for that position to be a resident.

Ms. Smith says and it was nobody...

Councilman Morgan says we did interview a handful (inaudible) that applied for the position. Maybe one was from the City of Chester. The person that we did interview honestly wasn't qualified for the type of work that we needed in that role right now.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilwoman Williams (NONE)

Councilman Roots says Happy Thanksgiving!

Councilman Morgan says though the person wasn't qualified for that role, we did keep that person's resume in the record to see if there is another role in the Finance Department as they look to restructure some things to see if there is a fit in another position/role. The American Rescue Plan...there has been a lot of questioning about the Homeowner Improvement program. We launched it on October 26, and from day one there were tons of applications that were walking through the door. Like any project we have a certain amount/allotment towards the project and once the Budget is gone/tapped out, it's gone and you try to find ways to potentially keep the project going or just say what a success it was. So at the current moment we (the City of Chester) took the website for the applications down/removed it so that Residents cannot go on there and print it and bring the application in. If someone has an application handy and they want to bring it in with all of the proper documentation, they can bring it in and we will keep the record of it (date stamp it) so that they don't lose their place in line if the project is able to go beyond what our initial budget was. I want to say we received 90 applications in 60 days. We had to put a pause on it so that we could go through all those applications to see who qualifies and who doesn't qualify. Then we can see how much money we have left over to be able to open the program/project up and/or allocate more money towards it. I don't think the project is done just yet. Delaware County has their program going on right now which is called Delco Whole Home Program. Their eligibility requirements are a little different and more money and it may fit your needs. The Chester High Football players are making history. **WE ARE IN THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP!! So, this Saturday @ 1p we will play Strath Haven at home. Please show your support. The tickets are \$7. You cannot pay at the door. You have to purchase your ticket on the PIAA website!! If we win, we then will go on the bracket for the State Championship which is the second weekend in December. GOOD LUCK TO THE CHESTER HIGH CLIPPERS!!!**

Mayor Kirkland says I appreciate all the new hires that we have here in the City because the City of Chester Residents deserve to have the best service that they can have coming out of our Community and I'm hoping and praying that our Residents will take advantage of the opportunities that have been presented to them. **Happy Thanksgiving!** I pray that it is safe and an opportunity to get with your families. Happy Birthday Commissioner!

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

NOVEMBER 22, 2023

Candice Newsome, City Clerk