

MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHESTER

An organization meeting of the Council of the City of Chester was held on the above date at 10:00am with Mayor Stefan Roots presiding.

Swearing-In of Councilors and Controller

Councilor Tameka Gibson
Councilor Fred Green
City Controller Joy Taylor

Mayor Roots says we will going into an Executive Session (10:06am). The Organization Meeting resumed at 10:26am.

A prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and the following were present:

Tameka Gibson
Portia West
Fred Green
Stefan Roots

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

The City Clerk proceeded with the reading of the Motions.

1. Motion to authorize approval to accept Councilmember's (**Stefan Roots**) resignation

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Gibson, the above Motion was approved. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, West, Green, Mayor Roots. Nays: 0

2. Motion to authorize approval to fill vacancy in the office of Councilmember (**Ken Schuster, City Solicitor says Before we proceed with that motion, the Mayor and Council has agreed that since there are three nominations to fill that appointment, that those three individuals will have a three minute opportunity per person to address the Public and Council**)

- a. Christopher Garrett
- b. Shy'Quan Davis
- c. Andrew Nelson

On motion of Councilor West, seconded by Councilor Gibson, **Shy'Quan Davis was chosen** out of the nominees and the above Motion was approved. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, West, Green. Nays: Mayor Roots.

Shy'Quan Davis is Sworn-In as a Council Member

3. Motion to authorize approval of appointment of City Solicitor

On motion of Mayor Roots, (**chooses Sean Kilkenny**) seconded by (**none**).

On motion of Councilor Green, seconded by West, **Ken Schuster was chosen** and the above Motion was approved. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, West, Green, Davis. Nays: Mayor Roots.

4. Motion to authorize approval of appointment of Assistant City Solicitor

On motion of Mayor Roots, (**chooses Sean Kilkenny**) seconded by (**none**).

On motion **to table approval of appointment of Assistant City Solicitor**, Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Gibson, the above Motion was approved. The following vote was taken: Yeas: West, Green, Davis. Nays: Mayor Roots. Abstain: Gibson.

5. Motion to authorize approval of appointment of Deputy Mayor for the City of Chester

On motion of Mayor Roots, (**chooses Councilor Portia West**) seconded by Councilor Gibson, the above Motion was approved. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, Green, Davis, Mayor Roots. Nays: 0 Abstain: West

6. Motion to authorize approval of reappointment of Candice Newsome, City Clerk

On motion of Councilor Gibson, seconded by Councilor West, the above Motion was approved. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, West, Green, Davis, Mayor Roots. Nays: 0

a. On motion to authorize approval of reappointment of Joan Neal, Acting City Clerk

On motion of Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Gibson, the above Motion was approved. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, West, Green, Davis, Mayor Roots. Nays: 0

7. **Mayor Roots says he appoints Stephen Gretskey to Police Commissioner**

8. Motion to authorize approval to issue a Request for Proposal for the position of City Solicitor and Assistant City Solicitor

On motion of Mayor Roots, seconded by Councilor West, the above Motion was approved.

Councilor Green says can we amend the Motion to not solicit proposals for a City Solicitor but to do a RFP for an Assistant City Solicitor because we just appointed a City Solicitor.

On motion of Councilor Green, (**for the above amended motion**) seconded by Councilor West. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, West, Green, Davis, Mayor Roots. Nays: 0

Councilwoman West says Mr. Mayor, are you going to appoint Councilmembers as Directors to various Departments.

Mayor Roots says yes and no. Because we are in Supreme Court and Supreme Court is in a position to rule on whether or not Councilpersons can maintain their positions as Directors. Because that Supreme Court ruling has stayed we really go back to what's normal/what we have done in the past.

On motion of Mayor Roots, (**for Councilor West to be Director of Public Works**) seconded by Councilor Gibson.

Councilman Green says what about the rest of the Councilmembers.

Mayor Roots says for the rest of the Councilmembers, we're going to leave that decision up to the Chief of Staff.

Councilor Green says no we won't. The Chief of Staff works at the pleasure of the Council. The Council does not work at the pleasure of the Chief of Staff.

Mayor Roots says we will just wait for the litigation to play itself out. It's being litigated that (inaudible) that the Chief of Staff can make those appointments.

The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, Green, Davis, Mayor Roots. Nays: 0 Abstain: West.

On motions of Councilor West, **(for Councilors to be Directors of the following Departments: Councilor Portia West, Streets and Public Improvements; Councilor Fred Green, Parks and Public Property; Councilor Tameka Gibson, Public Safety and Shy'Quan Davis, Accounts and Finance)** seconded by Councilor Green. The following vote was taken: Yeas: Gibson, West, Green, Davis. Nays: Mayor Roots.

**Swearing-In Police Officers
Brianna Schrader
Michael Bramble**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following gave their Congratulations, Prayers and willingness to work together with Mayor and Council.

Anita Littleton, Mr. James (?), Mr. Simpson, Lisa Dennis, Chaplain Kendon Gibson, State Representative Carol Kazeem, Mr. Tucker, Catherine Flagg-Justice, Pastor Everett, and Marceline Roots.

Ms. Kane **(didn't like the outbursts)**, Hilda Campbell **(if we're going to do things better for the City of Chester, we can't fight one another)**. Geo Stockman **(this is not what I envisioned, I thought we were going to work together and put our City forward)**. Lorraine Lavender-Sams **(less personalities and more principles)**.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL AND CITY CONTROLLER REMARKS

Mayor Stefan Roots, Councilors Tameka Gibson, Portia West, Fred Green, Shy'Quan Davis and City Controller Joy Taylor all gave their thanks and support to everyone!!

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

JANUARY 2, 2024

Candice Newsome, City Clerk