****

**Economic Development Committee Meeting**

**August 22, 2023 – 6:30 pm**

**In Person &Virtual**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Members of Council: Tabatha Strother - Chair, Tony Nelson, Wade Young and Jamie Price

**ABSENT:**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Tabatha Strother at 6:30pm

**Prayer**

Councilwoman Nelson offered prayer.

Councilwoman Strother welcomed those joining in person and virtually to the meeting.

Councilman Price made a motion to amend the agenda to add roll call. The motion was second by Councilman Young.

Councilman Price made a motion approve the agenda. Councilman Young second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

 **City Administrator’s Report**

The City Administrator gave a report regarding the upcoming Kuester project. The staff met with the officials of Chester County.

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to discuss the National Fitness Campaign. Councilwoman Nelson second the motion.

**Old Business**

*National Fitness Campaign-Next Steps*

Ms. McKenzie Coltrin presented a slideshow. There is currently one court in South Carolina (Located in Aiken, SC). The average match cost (if approved) is $30,000. The total cost of funding is $155,000.

Councilman Young made a motion to take the NFC to full council engage in the application process. Councilwoman Nelson second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

Councilman Price made a motion that the Economic Development Committee submit potential location via email to the City Administration by September 8, 2023. Motion was second by Councilwoman Nelson. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to discuss the Special Events Committee. Councilman Young second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0)

*Special Events Committees*

Councilwoman Strother read the duties of the Special Events Committee. Councilman Young made a motion to accept the commission profile of TaTanish Campbell. The motion was second by Councilwoman Nelson. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

Councilman Price made a motion to accept the commission of Dr. Sam Stone. Councilman Young second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to accept the commission profile of Ms. Viola Hudson. Councilwoman Nelson second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to add Mayor Carlos Willimas as Council’s representative of the Special Events Committee. The motion was second by Councilwoman Nelson. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

*Open Container Ordinance*

Mr. Whitaker stated that he and the Mayor met with the City’s Attorney regarding the open container. Mr. Whitaker read a statement from the Attorney regarding the Ordinance. The first step is to repeal the open container ordinance. The second step would be to draft the ordinance.

Councilwoman Stother made a motion to discuss Main Street SC. The motion was second by Councilwoman Nelson. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

*Main Street SC*

Councilwoman Strother shared with that Council has agreed to become a Member at the “Friend” level. Mr. Whitaker shared that when staff shortages are over, the idea be shelved for the time being. Councilman Prices wanted to know what is required of the City. Is there something that must be managed by someone? Mr. Whitaker said that it’s a main street development. Councilwoman stated that someone from the Economic Development can take on the responsibility.

**Quick Updates**

*Strategic Planning*

Councilwoman Strother mentioned sending out dates for October for Strategic Planning for the City of Chester 2024. Councilwoman Strother encouraged each member to come up with (3) things to discuss. Mr. Whitaker stated that he would like to help with the process.

*Zoning Map*

Mr. McBeth was not present to provide an update for the zoning map.

**New Business**

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to discuss the MASC Economic Development Grant. Councilwoman Nelson second the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

*MASC Economic Development Grant*

Mr. Whitaker gave an overview of the MASC Economic Development Grant. Councilwoman Strother wanted to know if the $25,000 could be added to the $150,000 to the downtown streetscaping to make the street more inviting. Mr. Whitaker said his proposal is to ask the contractor what could be done by adding the $25,000. Councilman Price requested to see the scope of work for the streetscape. Mr. Whitaker assured Councilman Price that he would get a copy of the scope of work. A tree scape project is a part of the project.

Councilman Young wanted to know if the scope of work interferes with planter work being done downtown. Mr. Whitaker assured him that it would not.

Councilwoman Nelson made a motion to take to Council to apply for the MASC Economic Development Grant. The motion was second by Councilman Young. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

With no other business, Councilman Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marquita Fair

Municipal Clerk