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**City Council Meeting**

**Minutes**

**September 25, 2023 – 6:30 pm**

**In Person**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Carlos Williams. Members of Council: Wade Young, Tabatha Strother, Dave Claytor, Jamie Price, Danielle Hughes, Tony Nelson, and Robbie King-Boyd

**ABSENT:**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams at 6:30 pm.

**Roll Call**

9 Present at the time of roll call (8 In Person) and (1 virtually, Hughes)

*\*\*Hughes later joined the meeting in person.*

**Prayer**

Councilwoman Strother offered prayer.

**Pledge**

Council recited The Pledge of Allegiance and The Civility Pledge.

**Approval of Agenda Amendments**

Councilwoman King-Boyd made a motion to accept the approval of the agenda with amendments under Executive Session: Personnel Matter-Administration Department. Mayor Pro Tem added a Resolution – Charletta Thompson. The motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem Strother. The vote was unanimous (8-0).

**Citizens Forum**

*John Massey* – East Lacey Street – Mr. John Massey spoke with Council regarding Mt. Hebron Cemetery.

**Petitioners**

*William King –*Not Present.

**New Business**

**Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Young made a motion to accept the minutes with necessary changes. Councilwoman Strother second the motion. The motion passed unanimous (9-0). *Councilman Claytor shared that he would like to update the minutes to state that at the close of the last meeting, Councilwoman Strother yelled across the room stating “She didn’t know what she was voting for”. Councilwoman Nelson stated that “I know what I voted for”. Councilman Claytor also stated that he had more to say and was cut off. He questioned if the meeting was adjourned. Councilwoman Hughes stated that her vote was not heard. When she came into the meeting.*

**City Administrator’s Report – Information Only**

City Administrator, Malik Whitaker presented the City Administrator’s Report as information only. No action was taken.

**Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions**

*Comprehensive Fee Schedule – First Reading*

Councilman Price made a motion to accept the First Reading of Comprehensive Fee Schedule. Councilwoman Strother second the motion. The vote was as follows: (***6 in favor: Nelson, Young, Strother, Claytor, Price, Williams***). (***3 Oppose: King-Boyd, Hughes, Boyd-Crosby)***. The motion carried.

*Fee Schedule to Committee*

Councilwoman King-Boyd made a motion to send the comprehensive fee schedule to the committees*.* Councilman Young second the motion*.* The vote was as follows: (***5 in favor: Nelson, Young, King-Boyd, Hughes, Boyd-Crosby***). (***4 Oppose: Strother, Claytor, Price, Williams)***. The motion carried.

*Hate Crimes Bill-2023-06*

Councilwoman King-Boyd made a motion to accept the Hate Crime Bill as written. Councilman Claytor second the motion. The vote was unanimous (8-0).

**City Administrator’s Update**

City Administrator, Malik Whitaker gave an update on the month of September’s projects.

**Unfinished Business**

*None*

**New Business**

**Boards and Commission Appointments**

*Historic Preservation*

Councilwoman King-Boyd made a motion to accept Annie Reid to Historic Preservation and Darren Brittan to Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilwoman Strother second the motion. The vote was unanimous (9-0).

*Sidewalk Project Bid (Penny Project)*

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to accept the bid of LCI in the amount of $90,430.00. Councilman Price second the motion. Councilwoman King-Boyd recused herself from voting. The vote was unanimous (8-0).

*Aquatic & Fitness Center Roof Bid*

Councilwoman King Boyd made a motion to accept the bid of Weather Guard Roofing in the amount of $390,500. Councilwoman Hughes second the motion. The vote was unanimous 9-0.

*Chester Live By-Laws*

Councilwoman Strother made a motion to accept the By-Laws of the Chester Live 501C3. Councilman Young second the motion. The vote was as follows: (***8 in favor: Nelson, Young, Strother, Claytor, Price, King-Boyd, Boyd-Crosby, Williams***). (***1 Oppose: Hughes)***. The motion carried.

*Visitors- Aquatic & Fitness Center*

Councilwoman Hughes shared that she received notice the business/contractors were coming to the Aquatic & Fitness Center unannounced. No Action was taken.

*City Finances*

Councilwoman King-Boyd requested a copy of all grants for the City and contracts. *No action was taken*.

*Code of Ordinances*

*Meetings of Council*

Councilman Claytor shared that Ordinance Section 2-30 “Meetings of Council. Mr. Claytor stated that he feels meeting twice a month would be better for the citizens. Councilman Claytor made a motion for City Council to meet twice a month. Councilwoman King-Boyd second the motion. The vote was as follows: ***(7 Oppose: Williams, Boyd-Crosby, Price, Hughes, Strother, Young, Nelson) (2 In Favor: Claytor, King-Boyd)***. The motion failed.

*Administrator*

Councilman Claytor made a motion that Chester City Council appoints a City Administrator who shall hold office at the pleasure of City Council including by contract. Councilwoman King-Boyd second the motion. ***(5 Oppose: Williams, Price, Strother, Young, Nelson) (4 In Favor: Claytor, King-Boyd, Hughes, Boyd-Crosby)***. The motion failed.

*City Administrator to Attend (Meetings)*

Councilman Claytor made a motion that City Administrator shall keep Council advised of matters and recommendation of all issues involving the welfare of the City of Chester. Councilwoman King-Boyd second the motion. ***(5 Oppose: Nelson, Young, Strother, Price, Williams) (4 In Favor: Claytor, King-Boyd, Hughes, Boyd-Crosby)***. The motion failed.

*Duties of Administrator*

Councilman Claytor did not want to present.

*City Parks*

Councilwoman King-Boyd made a motion to move forward with clearing out trees and cleaning up Guy Park. The motion was second by Councilwoman Hughes. After discussion, the second and motion was rescinded.

Councilwoman King-Boyd made a motion to clear tress and cleaning of Guy Parks using ARPA Funds. Councilwoman Hughes second the motion. The vote was as follows: ***(8 In favor: Williams, Price, Strother, Young, Nelson, Hughes, King-Boyd, Boyd-Crosby) (1 Oppose: Strother)***. The motion carried.

*Cross Walks/Signage – Downtown Chester*

Councilman Young shared that the Public Works Committee discussed putting new signs downtown to make the area safer. No action was taken.

*Speed Limit*

Councilman Young shared that the Public Works Committee discussed changing the speed limit in the City (streets) to 15mph. No action was taken.

With no other business, Councilwoman Strother made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was second by Councilman Young.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marquita Fair

Municipal Clerk