

CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

R. Carlisle Roddey Chester County Government Building

1476 J.A. Cochran Bypass Chester, SC 29706

Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Present: Chairman Shane Stuart, Council Member Archie Lucas, Vice Chairman Joe Branham, Council Member Pete Wilson, Council Member Alex Oliphant, Council Member Brad Jordan, Council Member Mary Guy and County Attorney Joanie Winters. Clerk to Council Karen Lee was absent with prior notification.

1. Call to Order-Meeting called to order by Chairman Stuart.

2. Approval of Minutes-January 2nd, 2018 Council Minutes

Council Member Wilson motioned to approve, second by Council Member Guy. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

3. Citizen Comments

Jackie Kyles, no address provided stated she and Diana Holcomb gathered 14,362 signatures who are in agreement for a new animal shelter to be built. Diana Holcomb stated they met with Deputy Sprouse in July of 2017 and was told volunteers and temp testing were being stopped due to it being a liability to the County. She stated they have a new volunteer waiver form that would protect the County, and sent it to Sheriff Underwood, Deputy Sprouse, Major Robinson and Officer Glenn, no one has responded. She also stated rescue groups does not know what the animals will do without the temp testing being done and cannot adopt the dogs out without knowing how they will react around people. They have a benefactor who donates large sums of money to the shelter to be used for spay and neuter, medical emergencies, repairs and upgrades, its more money than Chester County allocates. Ms. Holcomb stated they have asked for lists of things to be done especially at the lower shelter but cannot get the information and the money sits there. They are running the risk of losing the benefactor if the money is not used for the purpose she gives it for.

John and Jill Wiedeman, no address given stated they were concern about the trash and litter in Chester County. He thinks there is a real problem in this County and it's not being addressed, he stated there has been an old burn barrel on Brown Road for a year, and an old mattress three miles south of the hospital, and can't believe no one has picked it up. Mr. Wiedeman stated he hopes things like this does not become part of the landscape for Chester County. To his understanding a litter pickup crew of six to eight people has been established but he does not feel this will help cover the County. Everyone needs to work together on this by fining people, enforcing it. He feels like there is no incentive to do anything, he has heard of Carolina pride but does not see much of it here.

Mr. Wiedman stated those who have been appointed or hired should be responsible or find other careers. He stated this is a great place to live but emphasis needs to be placed on litter in Chester County.

Raymond Carter, 881 Yarbrough Rd, Chester, SC stated he brought Council a document from City Council November 13th, and talked about the new City Police. On November the 13th, to the time a young man was killed the people involved in this were saying they brought in the dogs, but dogs were not brought in. The City and the County will have problems with litter and animals but the County will always have problems if they don't get rid of the Sheriff and the City Police Chief.

4. Proclamations

- a. **2nd Reading of An Ordinance to Authorize the County of Chester, by Chester County Council, to Assign a Real Estate Option Agreement.**

Council Member Guy motioned to approve, second by Council Member Wilson. Chairman Stuart stated this is reference to transferring the Counties options to tax map number 116-00-00-015-000 consisting of 155 acres, tax map number 116-00-00-132-000 consisting of 7.064 acres and tax map number 116-00-00-182-000 consisting of 1.12 acres. Council Member Jordan asked when will the options expire. County Attorney Winters stated she thought it was six to eight months. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

- b. **2nd Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 3-19-12A, to Update the Definition of “Projects”; and Other Related Matters.**

Council Member Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Council Member Wilson asked what was the list of projects and what the plan was. County Attorney Winters stated this was part of the Capital project sales tax and would like to update and clearly define the list of projects. She stated currently the County is ahead of collections and some projects were left behind and would like to bring these back to the table for Council to make sure they were funded through the Capital project sales tax. They would like to get the other projects completed before the next penny sales tax cycle, this will outline projects specifically by listing them.

Emily Washburn from Parker and Poe stated this is for the Gateway refunding for the projects installment purchase. Chairman Stuart stated at the last meeting this was to refund the Gateway in title only but come back with a list of items that needed to be addressed. In 2014 the voters approved a list of around fifty-five items to be done. The last item on the list is for the spec building, which has not been done yet. The other was for animal control offices but there was not enough money to build the offices because it was not estimated correctly. He stated by doing this ordinance the County could move forward with completing the spec building, then start at the beginning with the North Chester Sub Station and work down until the other items are completed.

Ms. Washburn stated the ordinance is taking the old definitions of projects under the installment purchase plan and clarifying it. The list is not final, the final list will be completed at the third reading. If any additional projects need to be included that can be discussed, this ordinance is clarifying the projects and is not changing the Counties obligation under the installment purchase plan until the resolution is adopted under exhibit B. This is allowing the County to do more things later on if you choose to. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

- c. **2nd Reading of An Ordinance To Authorize The County Of Chester, By Chester County Council, To Purchase The Real Estate Described On Attached Exhibit “A” Which Is Incorporated Herein By Reference Upon Such Terms And Conditions As Described In Exhibit A**

County Attorney Winters stated the piece of property is for exclusive use for the Chester County Airport, there had been issues with the airport on runways, height restrictions, this property will enhance and correct some of the issues. Between the State and Federal money, the cost of the

property will be reimbursed by ninety percent. Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Council Member Wilson. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

d. First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chester County Ordinance Section 6-26 Cruelty Prohibited

Council Member Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Council Member Oliphant stated this is an addition to the current ordinance concerning no tethering. It does not address the issue of neutering and spaying, this is a big problem in the County. County Attorney Winters stated Council Member Wilson had also made suggestions such as agriculture animals. Council Member Wilson stated the intentions is to protect the dogs and other pets, and thinks this should be applied to agriculture animals. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

5. Old Business

a. The Chester County Natural Gas Authority Building - Mike Enoch

Mr. Enoch stated on March 5th, 2018 their new office will open. The office is located at 517 Ballymenia Road, in Chester. Mr. Enoch stated since the new building has been built he wanted to explain to the citizens of Chester County the gas rates will not go up. A newsletter will be sent out to all active and inactive customers to explain how the new facility was financed. Mr. Enoch stated they have been at the existing office located at 2605 Dawson Drive since January of 1973. The new office will meet all of their needs along with space and future expansions and invited Karlisa Parker Dean to use the facility anytime she has a new client and would like to be closer to Chester and could use the conference room for presentations. Chester County Natural Gas Authority and the County of Chester agreed upon an exchange to acquire a site at the Chester County Technology Park in exchange for the existing office complex on Dawson Drive. On March 6th, they will provide Shane Stuart the keys to the offices on Dawson Drive and hopes the County will get another 45 years out of the facility. Council thanked Mr. Enoch for all of the extraordinary work he does for Chester County.

b. Discussion Concerning Property on Dawson Drive-Vice Chairman Branham

Vice Chairman Branham stated Mrs. Betty Anderson owner of the property will speak about this tonight, as far as negotiating the price he stated that should be done in the next Executive Session. Mrs. Anderson stated the property is located across from the animal shelter. The lot consist of 2.88 acres and includes a seven-foot fence in places, it also has a 20 x 21 cement block building. Vice Chairman Branham stated they would like to talk to her in Executive Session at the next meeting to discuss the price.

6. New Business

a. Information Pertaining to a Bond Referendum for a New Career Center- Brenda Cabrey

Mrs. Cabrey stated she is with the School Bond Referendum Committee as a volunteer to present to Council and the public the same information they have been presenting at other meetings. She stated with the economic boom in industries taking place in the County now, they need somewhere to train the workforce. Currently the Career Center is the oldest facility which was built in the 1960's, they have a done a great job utilizing it to provide opportunities for the students. The new facility would offer state of the art equipment and more opportunities for the students in the future.

Council Member Oliphant asked how much of the total acreage would be utilized for the new facility and if it was for another school. Dr. Angela Bain stated the total acreage was 108, some of it would be for the building, some for agriculture, the whole site would be used for the workforce center. It would also give them the opportunity to expand in the future. She stated it was not planned to be used for another school facility.

Council Member Jordan asked how they determined how much money to allocate for each attendance zone. Dr. Bain's stated through the facilities, demographic and curriculum studies, once they had the information they prioritized each school that needs repairs. The three high schools will receive the bulk of the money earmarked for repairs since they are in the worst shape. Mrs. Cabrey stated on February 13th, 2018 will be the day to vote yes for the bond referendum and encouraged people to go vote, the absentee voting is open.

b. From CCTC:

▪ **Approve bids on Chester Street Projects**

No action was taken. This item will be on the agenda at the next County Council Meeting.

▪ **Request to Reimburse the County Recycling Department for Sign Materials purchased from November 2017 to December 2017 in the Amount of \$ 1047.98.**

Council Member Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Council Member Jordan. Vote was 5-0 to approve. Council Member Guy was absent with prior notification.

7. Executive Session-Council Member Guy motioned to go into Executive Session, second by Council Member Jordan. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

- a. Economic Development Matter Regarding Project 1753
- b. To Hear and Receive Legal Advice Concerning Economic Development Around the Gateway Conference Center
- c. Legal Advice Concerning the Procurement Policy
- d. Legal Advice Concerning the Sheriff's Procedure to Sign Contracts
- e. To Receive a Legal Update on Southeastern Petroleum
- f. To Receive Legal Advice Concerning an Opioid Lawsuit

8. Council Actions Following Executive Session-Council Member Lucas motioned to go back to Regular Session, second by Council Member Guy. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

a. Action Taken Concerning Economic Development Matter Project 1753

Chairman Stuart motioned to allow Karlisa Dean to move forward with negotiations on Project 1753, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote was 5-0 to approve. Council Member Oliphant recused and left executive session while this was being discussed.

b. Action Taken Concerning Legal Advice Concerning Economic Development around the Gateway Conference Center- This was taken as information only.

c. Action Taken Concerning Legal Advice on the Procurement Policy- This was taken as information only.

d. Action Taken Concerning Legal Advice on the Sheriff's Procedure to Sign Contracts- This was taken as information only.

e. Action Taken Concerning Legal Update on Southeastern Petroleum- This was taken as information only.

f. Action Taken Concerning Legal Advice an Opioid Lawsuit- This was taken as information only.

9. Council Comments-Chairman Stuart stated this Saturday a volunteer clean-up will be held for the railroad river sweep in Great Falls.

Council Member Guy thanked Council, Chairman Stuart, all the citizens of Chester County, the Chester Reporter for attending the Martin Luther King Parade.

10. Adjourn

Council Member Jordan motioned to adjourn, second by Council Member Wilson. Vote was 6-0 to adjourn.

K. Shane Stuart, Chairman & County Supervisor

Karen Lee, Clerk to Council

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Chester News & Reporter, The Herald in Rock Hill, SC, WSOC-TV, Channel 9 Eyewitness News, the Mfg. Housing Institute of SC, WRHI Radio Station, C&N2 News, WCNC News and Capitol Consultants were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Chester County Government Building 24 hours prior to the meeting