

CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

R. Carlisle Roddey Government Complex

1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC
Monday, October 5th, 2020 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Interim Chairman Wylie Frederick, Vice Chairman Joe Branham, Councilman Brad Jordan, Councilman Mike Vaughn, Councilwoman Mary Guy, Councilman Alex Oliphant, Councilman Pete Wilson, Clerk to Council Karen Lee and County Attorney Joanie Winters.

1. **Call to Order-** Interim Chairman Frederick called the meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation-** Pledge was recited in unison; Councilwoman Guy gave the invocation.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **September 21st, 2020 Council Minutes.**
Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.
 - b. **September 24th, 2020 Special Called Emergency Council Minutes.**
Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.
 - c. **September 29th, 2020 Council Workshop Minutes.**
Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve.
4. **Citizen Comments-**No one signed up to speak.
5. **Ordinances/Resolutions/Proclamations**
 - a. **2nd Reading 2020-30 An Ordinance to Amend Chester County Ordinance No. 2020-16 The 2020-2021 Chester County Budget Ordinance, In Certain Limited Particulars Only. Equipment for West Chester Fire Truck.** Councilman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Councilman Wilson said this would fund the entire amount for the equipment, the truck was new through the rolling stock fund but not enough money to equip it. Vote 6-0 to approve.
 - b. **2nd Reading 2020-31 An Ordinance to Amend Chester County Ordinance No. 2020-16 the 2020-2021 Chester County Budget Ordinance in Certain Limited Particulars Only. Two Trucks for Rural Fire.** Councilman Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Councilman Oliphant said since the past supervisor's truck was now available, rural fire could use it and they would buy one truck instead of two. Dr. Frederick would also need a vehicle and hoped by the next meeting this could be addressed. He asked to include on the next agenda discussion to purchase a vehicle for the Supervisor. Procurement Director Susan Cok said currently there were three 2020

trucks left on the lot where they had planned to purchase them, she wanted Council to be aware they could be sold before the third reading and possibly lose the quote. Vote 6-0 to approve.

c. Resolution 2020-25 (a) Amending Resolution 2020-25 to Amend the List of Capital Projects Being Funded as Part of a Program of General Obligation Borrowing; and Other Related Matters.

Councilman Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Treasurer Tommy Darby said the original list had an IT encoder/server but through discussion last week with the IT Director David Schuelke it wasn't needed. Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick had interest in upgrading the security in the Government Complex by installing a metal detector and wands at the back door and increase the number of security cameras. Councilman Wilson asked if this would include hiring a new employee, Interim Chairman Frederick stated yes. Mr. Darby stated the County use to budget for security but that had been taken out. If this was approved, they could fund the position temporally out of contingency. Vote 6-0 to approve.

d. Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week. -Councilman Jordan

Councilman Jordan said he had been asked by the Lando Fire Department to consider the proclamation for Chester County. This is the longest public service help in the country, during fire protection week children and adults and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Fire fighters also provide lifesaving public education to decrease casualties caused by fires. This week was chosen in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire October 8th, 1871. Councilman Jordan motioned to approve this as Fire Prevention Week, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve.

6. Old Business

a. 3rd Reading of CCMA20-08: Daisy Rollings request Tax Map # 159-01-01-044-000 located off Looper Road, Great Falls, SC be rezoned from RG-1 (Multi Family) to R2 (Rural Two). Planning Commission voted 5-0 to approve. Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.

b. Update on Pinckney Road & Eureka Community Project and Derelict Houses in Chester County, and Complaint Procedures from other Counties. -Councilman Oliphant.

Councilman Oliphant said bids were due the next day to tear down around seven houses. He asked Building Director Mike Levister where was he at with the contractor. Mr. Levister said he and County Attorney Winters had met with RCI to tie up some loose ends. Attorney Winters said they had suggested having a certain area to look at besides riding around the whole county trying to find homes that needed to be torn down. Councilman Oliphant also wants to have all the junk, derelict unlicensed vehicles removed as well. Mr. Levister said his department does not tag cars, that would fall under the Litter/Nuisance Abatement Officer, RCI would not provide that service. He said that was part of the modified job description that was made. Councilman Oliphant said that was a service Chester County needed to provide since that was one of the biggest complaints from citizens.

c. Update on Burnt Meeting House Cemetery Cleanup - Councilman Oliphant.

Councilman Oliphant thanked the public works department for the work done on the cemetery. He had interest from family members who wanted to help with the upkeep. He suggested creating an Ad-Hoc committee with no more than five members to advise Council on the cemetery. Councilman Oliphant motioned to create an Ad-Hoc Committee up to five people to advise Council on the Burnt House Meeting Cemetery Project, second by Councilman Vaughn. County Attorney Winters said she would create an enabling act for the next meeting. Vote 6-0 to approve.

d. Discuss the Discontinuance of The Hiring Freeze-Councilman Wilson.

Councilman Wilson said when the budget was put together, they had to make some tough decisions in cutting back and freezing some positions to save money during the coronavirus but still were during it. There have been some positive signs and stated this could be a good time to look at unfreezing some of the positions that were frozen. He asked Public Works Director Robert Hall if he needed a worker or a supervisor. Mr. Hall said supervisor, since he had taken the Public Works Director job Joe Roberts has been doing the supervision over the maintenance crew but wasn't being paid for a supervision role. He could also use another person in the Road Department since there are two employees not including the Road Department Supervisor.

Councilman Wilson said he would like to unfreeze at least two or three positions. Councilman Wilson motioned by title only to unfreeze certain positions, second by Councilman Jordan. Councilman Wilson suggested waiting to the second reading to decide which positions they would unfreeze. Vote 6-0 to approve.

e. Information on the Use of County Buildings for Functions-Councilman Oliphant.

Councilman Oliphant asked County Attorney Winters if she had any updates regarding this. Attorney Winters stated she had spoken to the employees who does the scheduling they assured her reports were given to the former supervisor containing the information Councilman Oliphant had requested. They were never actually told by the former supervisor what Council wanted so they were submitting information to him, but he was not sharing it with Council. They do want to do what Council has asked for, the reports from the Gateway were very detailed and recommended Council using the Gateway format. It gave details of who had a discount and who did not, what the event was etc.,

Councilman Oliphant said all he wants is a simple spreadsheet that shows the usage of county buildings, the rental cost for each, date it was rented, if it was an employee discount, non-profit or free. He would like to see a uniform procedure format for all the different facilities but have a box to check off for which building, or recreation facility would be used. He would also want the policy for each facility followed. Attorney Winters asked if he wanted this monthly, quarterly or weekly. He stated quarterly, this would help Council make better decisions on the usage of county properties.

7. New Business

a. 1st Reading of CCMA20-09: Matthew Lawson request a 2.994 portion of Tax Map # 133-00-00-023-000 located off Edgeland Road, Edgemoor, SC be rezoned from R2 (Rural Two) to ID-2 (Limited Industrial) Planning Commission voted 4-0 to approve with a three year time limit, eight truck limit and no other structure but the current one along with a Reverter Clause. Councilman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Councilman Jordan said this was a residence and asked Mr. Levister if Mr. Lawson's plan was to have access from Edgeland Road to park five trucks. Mr. Levister stated Mr. Lawson owned around forty acres and was using the facility and acreage to park his trucks at night only. When he asked for power to the storage shed that's when he was found to be running the business illegally, Mr. Levister's office gave him the option to come into compliance by asking for the property to be rezoned in order to keep his business. The Planning Commission gave him three years to find another place that was zoned for what he is doing, could have an eight-truck limit and could not place any other structure on the property besides the current one there.

Once the time limit is expired Mr. Lawson would have to move his business to property that would fit the zoning criteria of what he needs, and the current property would go back to the R2 Rural Two zoning classification. Vice Chairman Branham asked if any of the neighbors complained at the meeting

Mr. Levister stated one person, but after he heard the Planning Commission put the time limit and the reverter clause in place he was ok with it. Councilman Jordan said everything around the property was residential and he had an issue if it goes to ID2 which allows manufacturing, transportation, sewage, governmental utilities along with others that would not fit the area. Vote 4-2 to approve. Councilman Jordan and Oliphant opposed.

b. Discussion of Lewis Rural Fire Commission-Councilman Oliphant & Jay Williams.

Jay Williams, Assistant Chief for Lewis Fire Department said he would like Council to replace the chassis on a county owned tanker truck. The truck was not an asset to any fire service, it had a leaking PTO, pump needs replacing clutch issues, wiring and a major safety factor to his firemen. To his knowledge the Lewis Fire Department has never asked Council to fund any of their equipment. He was requesting \$45,000 dollars and wants to replace the chassis with a used one and remove the tank from one truck to the other. Councilwoman Guy stated they work hard there and puts on fund raisers. She stated Council should help them and asked Mr. Darby about the fund balance.

Mr. Darby stated that would be the appropriate source. Councilwoman Guy motioned in title only to give up to \$45,000 dollars to replace the chassis with a used one, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve.

8. Boards and Commissions-None

9. Executive Session

Councilman Jordan motioned to go to Executive Session, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.

a. To Receive Legal Advice Regarding the Animal Shelter. -Attorney Winters

b. Discuss Employment Matters Regarding Economic Development. -HR Director Hyatte Kelsey

10. Council Actions Following Executive Session

Councilwoman Guy motioned to go back to Regular Session, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.

a. Action Taken Regarding Legal Advice Concerning the Animal Shelter.

b. Action Taken Regarding Employment Matters Concerning Economic Development.

Interim Chairman Frederick said no action was taken regarding legal advice concerning the animal shelter as well as employment matters regarding economic development. He entertained any motions that were discussed in executive session. Councilman Wilson motioned the current name of the Animal Care & Enforcement Department be renamed to Chester County Animal Shelter, second by Councilman Oliphant. Councilman Jordan said that would include changing the name on all business cards, logo's, trucks, etc., as well as the organizational chart. Vote 6-0 to approve.

Interim Chairman Frederick introduced Robert Long, the new Economic Development Director and on behalf of County Council thanked him for accepting the position and looked forward to great things. Mr. Long said he was born and raised in Aiken South Carolina and was an economic professional with over twenty-five years of experience, he and his family were very pleased to come back to South Carolina.

11. Council Comments

Vice Chairman Branham said he would like to personally thank the fire departments and volunteers for the work they done at the Carolina Poly fire and feels sure the rest of Council feels the same. He also thanked them for their day to day responses. He said it was a welcome site to see fire departments coming to your aid to assist.

Councilman Oliphant thanked Dr. Frederick for running a smooth meeting and thought this was the best run meeting he had ever been in since he had been on Council. Nothing against anyone else but thought he had done an excellence job. He also thanked the fire departments and volunteers and stated he thought someone out of the Supervisor's office should write a letter to all the counties that sent equipment and personnel here to help fight the Carolina Poly fire and thank them.

12. Adjourn

Councilwoman Guy motioned to adjourn, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to adjourn.

Time: 8:10 PM

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.

*****PUBLIC NOTICE*****

Any citizen who wishes to make a public comment at the County Council meetings can do so in the following ways:

You may submit your comments in writing to the County Council by emailing Karen Lee, klee@chestercounty.org.

You may submit your comments by mail: Chester County Clerk to Council, Karen Lee, PO Box 580, Chester, SC 29706.

Anyone who wishes to appear in person before Council must register with the Chester County Clerk to Council by phone 803-377-7852 or by email at klee@chestercounty.org no later than 10:00 am on the day of the Council meeting. Such appearance will be limited to one (1) person to be permitted to enter the building while maintaining social distancing. The Clerk will confirm the appointment back to the requestor. A County employee will be on hand to open the back door of the Government Complex at the registered time. The individual may appear before Council for no more than three (3) minutes and will be required to leave the building immediately following their address to Council. Groups of presenters will not be permitted at this time, nor will individuals who have not registered by the deadline. All rules of social distancing as recommended by the CDC and the etiquette procedures of the County Council must be followed. Chester County Council remains committed and receptive to the comments of the citizens of Chester County and while the Council does not like these restrictions, they are being done in the interest of everyone's health.