

# CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## **R. Carlisle Roddey Government Complex**

1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC

**Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 at 6:00 PM**

**Present:** Vice Chairman Joe Branham, Councilman Pete Wilson, Councilman Alex Oliphant, Councilman Brad Jordan, Councilwoman Mary Guy, Councilman Mike Vaughn, Clerk to Council Karen Lee and County Attorney Joanie Winters. **Absent:** Chairman Shane Stuart was absent due to a family emergency.

1. **Call to Order-**Vice Chairman Branham called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation-**Pledge was recited in unison, invocation was given by Councilwoman Guy.
3. **Approval of Minutes-February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes-**Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve the minutes as written, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote was 5-0 to approve.
4. **Citizen Comments**

Jeanna Johnson of 622 Still St, Chester, SC stated quoted County Ordinance 6-24 adoption of pets. She read aloud the ordinance which states “Any pet impounded under the provisions of this article may, at the end of the legal detention period, be adopted by an adult. All animals will be spayed and neutered and receive all vaccinations necessary to ensure the health and well-being of the animals and the general public before leaving the custody of animal control personnel. All required fees and veterinarian's charges for required services must be paid at the time of adoption. Ms. Johnson stated under the adoption agreement for the animal shelter it states “the adopter agrees to have the adopted pet spayed and neutered within thirty days of adoption” Ms. Johnson stated animals are being adopted from the shelter from out of state without being spayed and neutered and wanted to know who is responsible for making sure the animals are spayed. She wanted to bring this to Council’s attention the law states they must be spayed and neutered before leaving the shelter since this was not happening.

Jackie Kyles, 2505 Woodberry Lane, Catawba, SC stated every resident of Chester County deserves to know how the Sheriff’s department was able to spend over \$100,000 dollars in donations and shelter funds for items not related to the animals or the shelter. Deserve to know who gave permission for the misappropriations of funds and to make a deal with the Sheriff’s department to keep the items. She stated she was positive no one was ok with the person having this much control over the County government and deserves to know who the person is. The cover ups need to end.

Rhonda Adimaro, (she did not sign the comment sheet) but was given permission to speak. Ms. Adimaro stated she did not understand the concept of this animal shelter that is not friendly to the public. The animals want to be loved and if she could do anything herself she would.
5. **Old Business**
  - a. **Inmate charges -Chief Sprouse**

Chief Sprouse stated at the last meeting it was brought up by Council inmate compensation issues of obtaining inmates. The information provided by other counties, for example Abbeville pays \$20 dollars a month by check. The second page is the pay rate by the County with twenty inmates, with the cost of \$4800.00 a year based on 20 inmates. If the inmates are paid less than minimum wage it is nontaxable, he stated the Sheriff’s

department stance for this is they're not for it or against it. This is information for Council to have. Cannot say for sure if inmates were compensated it would help bring more inmates in, the only thing they ask if Council does decide to do this is to do deferred payment. They would get half of the money, with the other half going into a savings for them to have when they are released from prison.

Councilman Oliphant asked how many inmates are working now. Chief Sprouse stated on average 16 inmates but has 3 leaving in March. Councilman Oliphant stated a lot of people were under the presumption you can take inmates out and put them to work doing anything. The County cannot use the ones who are up for murder, waiting for trial. Chief Sprouse stated the only ones they can use are state inmates. The 4 extra inmates would be used to pick up litter or work at a convenience site.

**b. Employee information update -Chief Sprouse**

Chief Sprouse stated they have started doing exit interviews to find out why employees are leaving and asked if anything as a department they could have done to keep them here in Chester County. The exit interview consists of nine questions, but he presented four of them. The employee was asked why he was leaving, his wife was pregnant, and Lancaster County offered more money. Two-Anything the department could have done better. Employee- have a better incentive program. Three- Would the employee recommend the department. Employee- yes. Four- How long have you worked here. Employee- four years.

Chief Sprouse stated when budget talks are discussed he would like to talk about incentives for all county employees to keep them here in the County. Vice Chairman Branham asked since the four positions had been frozen had the money been reallocated for salary raises to the employees. Chief Sprouse stated yes, they loved it, it started with the captains all the way down with no one above receiving a raise.

**c. January Litter Pickup Report**

Vice Chairman Branham stated 209 bags of trash was picked up in January, but you can't tell it by the way the roads look its getting worse by the day. Hopefully we can get inmates to help with this.

**d. 3rd Reading of CCMA19-01: Allen Douglas Josey request Tax Map # 106-00-00-095-000 located at 2605 Kee Moore Drive, Chester SC, be rezoned from GC (General Commercial) to ID-1 (Restricted Industrial) Planning Commission voted 4-0 to approve. Councilman Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 5-0 to approve.**

**e. 3rd Reading of CCMA19-02: Mahendra Patel request Tax Map # 124-00-00-013-000 located on Lancaster Highway in Richburg SC, be rezoned from R2 (Rural Two) to RS-1 (Single-Family) Planning Commission voted 4-0 to approve. Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 5-0 to approve.**

**f. 3rd Reading of CCMA19-03: Mahendra Patel request Tax Map # 124-00-00-052-000 located on Lancaster Highway in Richburg SC, be rezoned from R2 (Rural Two) to RS-1 (Single-Family) Planning Commission voted 4-0 to approve. Councilman Vaughn motioned to Approve, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 5-0 to approve.**

**6. Boards and Commissions**

**a. Resignation of Brian Singleton from the Gateway Steering Committee.**

Councilman Oliphant motioned to accept Brian Singleton's resignation, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 5-0 to approve

**b. Resignation of Dilip Patel from the Gateway Steering Committee.**

Councilman Oliphant motioned to accept Dilip Patel's resignation, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 5-0 to approve.

7. **Executive Session-** Councilwoman Guy motioned to go to Executive Session, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 5-0 to approve. Councilman Oliphant recuse himself from item 7.b stating he was a customer and would leave the room when this was brought to the table to discuss. He also signed a recusal form and presented it to the Clerk to Council.
  - a. Discuss Economic Development Project 1844.
  - b. Receive Legal Advice Related to A Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes Agreement Regarding PPG Industries, Inc. and Electric Glass Fiber America, LLC
  - c. Receive Legal Advice on Animal Control Donations
8. **Council Actions Following Executive Session-**Councilman Jordan motioned to go back to Regular Session, second, by Councilman Wilson. Vote 5-0 to approve.
  - a. **Action Taken Concerning Economic Development Project 1844.**  
Vice Chairman Branham motioned to give Karlisa Parker Dean permission to negotiate on Project 1844, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote was 6-0 to approve.
  - b. **Action Taken Concerning a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes Agreement Regarding PPG Industries, Inc. and Electric Glass Fiber America, LLC.** No action, taken as information only.
  - c. **Action Taken on Legal Advice Concerning Animal Control Donations**  
No action taken as information only, will be added to the next agenda under Executive Session.
9. **Council Comments**

Councilman Wilson stated it was very sad to hear about the passing of Mrs. Hampton, she had a great impact on the community as a teacher and mother along with being on the school board for all the right reasons. Thankful for who she was and what she accomplished. Councilwoman Guy asked everyone to continue to pray for Shane's mother and for the Mrs. Hampton's family.
10. **Adjourn-**Councilwoman Guy motioned to adjourn, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote was 5-0 to adjourn.

**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**