

CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

R. Carlisle Roddey Government Complex

1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC

June 17th, 2019 Monday at 6:00 PM

Present: Chairman Shane Stuart, Vice Chairman Joe Branham, Councilman Pete Wilson, Councilman Alex Oliphant, Councilwoman Mary Guy, Councilman Brad Jordan, Councilman Mike Vaughn, Clerk to Council Karen Lee.

Absent: County Attorney Winters with prior notification.

1. **Call to Order**-Chairman Stuart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**- Pledge was recited in unison, Councilwoman Guy gave the invocation.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **May 20th, 2019 Council Minutes**-Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve.
 - b. **June 3rd, 2019 Council Minutes**- Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote was 5-0 to approve. Councilwoman Guy stated she was not in attendance and did not vote.

4. **Citizen Comments**

John Massey of 171 East Lacy St, Chester stated he spoke to Council at the May 20, 2019 Council meeting concerning Chester County creating a Citizens Review Board, they are all over the United States and would be great for Chester County.

Tiwana Young, 1984 Overlook Road, Blackstock and Arthur Craig, PO Box 43 Blackstock asked Council if they would pay to have the four existing street lights that are downtown Blackstock turned on. She had inquired to Fairfield Electric for the cost which would run \$72.00 a month. Mr. Craig stated the crime rate is up there and they need the lights for safety.

Ken Lebbon of 119 Sunset Dr, Chester stated Cures (Citizens United for Redevelopment for Economic Stability) in Chester South Carolina is a nonprofit community development corporation. They plan to hold a home ownership seminar to Chester resident's with low income and offers home ownership and repair programs offered by USDA Rural Development. The seminar will be held at 109 Ella Street, Chester on June 27th, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Patricia Craig, PO Box 43, Blackstock signed up but chose not to speak.

5. **Public Hearing**

Chairman Stuart opened the Public Hearing. No one signed up to speak.

- a. **3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-6** Chester County Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget To Establish Operating And Capital Budgets For The Operation Of The County Government Of Chester County, South Carolina For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2019; To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Chester County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2019; To Provide For The Expenditure Of Tax Revenues And Other County Funds; To Provide For Other County Purposes; To Authorize The County To Borrow Money In Anticipation Of Taxes And To Provide For The Repayment Of Sums Borrowed By The County Governing Body; To Provide For The Payment Of Tort Claims And Worker's Compensation Claims Against Chester County; To Provide For Certain Fiscal And Other Matters Relating To County Government.

Chairman Stuart closed the Public Hearing.

6. Ordinances/Resolutions/Proclamations

- a. **3rd Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-6 Chester County Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget To Establish Operating And Capital Budgets For The Operation Of The County Government Of Chester County, South Carolina For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2019; To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Chester County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2019; To Provide For The Expenditure Of Tax Revenues And Other County Funds; To Provide For Other County Purposes; To Authorize The County To Borrow Money In Anticipation Of Taxes And To Provide For The Repayment Of Sums Borrowed By The County Governing Body; To Provide For The Payment Of Tort Claims And Worker's Compensation Claims Against Chester County; To Provide For Certain Fiscal And Other Matters Relating To County Government.** After much discussion, from all Council members, Chairman Stuart motioned to adopt the third and final reading of the 2019-2020 budget amendment to include allocating \$25,000 dollars for a part time census worker and \$25,000 dollars for part time help in the Tax Assessor's office, grant line item for \$5000 dollars, the phase one for employees, add to section 4 to include the terminology on the budget ordinance " if future salaries and allocations are corrected they must be brought to County Council or other recurring expenses that would affect future budgets, two part time magistrates of \$31,750 dollars each and the Sheriff's audit of \$25,000 dollars, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- b. **1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-8 An Ordinance to Authorize the County of Chester, By Chester County Council, To Accept A Donation of The Real Estate Described on Attached Exhibit "A" Which Is Incorporated Herein by Reference.** Chairman Stuart motioned to approve, second by Councilman Oliphant. The land is behind the Old Mac's Exhaust beside Walmart. Councilman Oliphant asked if phase one had been completed, Chairman Stuart stated no but it would be done. Councilman Oliphant withdrew his second, Chairman Stuart withdrew his motion. Chairman Stuart motioned to approve the donation of the land to the County with a clean bill of health by doing phase one, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- c. **1st Reading of Ordinance No. 2019-9 An Ordinance to Approve the Extension of The Existing Medical Services Agreement.**
Purchasing Director Susan Cok stated the Sheriff's office would like to continue to do a monthly agreement with the existing medical services until they can put it out for bid. Chief Tate stated they had discussed doing this month to month with Dr. Crow until the bidding process was in place. Chief Tate stated this was medical services for the detention center and the jail. Chairman Stuart stated since this is extension, the agreement would not need an ordinance.
- d. **Resolution No. 2019-13 Resolution to Approve County Departmental 2019-2020 Organizational Charts** Chairman Stuart motioned to approve with changes: change the Parks & Recreation Director to Moral Wellness & Recreation Director, change one of the Animal Control Specialist to Animal Control Supervisor, add SRO to the Sheriff Dept and CAD Manager to 911, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve.

7. Old Business

- a. **2nd Reading CCMA19-09: Lin Yun Guanhg request Tax Map # 145-00-00-009-000 located on Lancaster Hwy, Chester, SC be rezoned from (R2) Rural Two to (RG-1) Multi Family Residential. Planning Commission voted 6-0 to approve.** Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- b. **May April Litter Pickup Report/Litter Enforcement- Chairman Stuart**
Chairman Stuart stated 595 bags of trash along with 10 tires and other miscellaneous items throughout the County was pickup in May. Under the litter enforcement report \$1887.50 dollars in fines were collected.

8. New Business

a. Colon Cancer Awareness- Dr. Stephen Lloyd

Dr. Lloyd stated there is a killer on the loose, colon colorectal cancer remains the number two cancer killer in America. Chester County is number four in the state and wants to eliminate the deaths from this disease. Colon cancer is preventable since it starts from a polyp but takes an average of twelve years before turning into cancer. If a colonoscopy is performed during the twelve years and the polyps removed the risk is eliminated. Dr. Lloyd stated Chester County was chosen from across the entire nation to eliminate this. We're not asking for money but maybe a proclamation from Council to say Chester County is behind the effort to try to eliminate colorectal cancer in Chester County. He stated Dee Frederick of Chester is the spokesperson for the program in Chester. Councilman Jordan thanked Dr. Lloyd for bringing this information, he stated his dad died from colon cancer.

b. Approval for TruVista Contract for EMA-Ed Darby

Chairman Stuart motioned to approve a three-year contract with Tru Vista, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.

c. Approval for Bid for Generator Set for the Government Complex-Susan Cok.

Councilman Oliphant motioned to approve the low bid of \$162,140.00 dollars to Southern Energy Resources, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.

d. Approval of 3-year or 5-year Lease for Postage Machine for the Government Building-Susan Cok

Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve a three-year lease contract with Pitney Bowes, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.

e. Request for Participation in US DOJ Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant- Sheriff Office

Chief Tate stated the Sheriff's department has been doing this grant since 2015, would be a 50/50 match for vest. The cost would be \$6417.80 and asked for Council's approval to apply for the grant, the money will come from Sheriff's departments budget. Councilman Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.

f. Discuss Victims Advocate Services Provided to Great Falls & Fort Lawn MOU Agreement-Sheriff's Office.

Chief Tate stated under the 2014 MOU the previous sheriff was asking for an upfront payment of \$10,000 that they thought went back to the sheriff's budget. The current Sheriff is not asking for the money, the money should go to the Victims Assistance Program. Treasurer Tommy Darby stated the money went through a special revenue fund on the Counties general ledger and was accounted for in the audit. The funding of how it was accounted was done properly through the victim's service account and no money was going to the sheriff's budget. Councilman Oliphant motioned to take as information, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to take as information.

g. Request Council to Sign Chester School District MOU Agreement. Sheriff's Office

Chief Tate stated the Sheriff's Office and the Chester County School District had come to an agreement for the extra SRO and the one that was not placed with a two-year contract. Dr. Angela Bain School Board Superintendent stated they were pleased to have the document agreed upon by the School district and the Sheriff's office which includes five SRO's and includes all three high schools along with Chester Middle and Lewisville Middle. Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve the MOU between the County, the School District and the Sheriff's Department, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve.

h. Discuss the Sheriff's Office Organizational Chart. This was discussed under agenda item 6.d.

i. Approval of Grant Match Fund for \$5,500 to Purchase UTV-Utility Task Vehicle for Woods Ferry Horse Trails Association - Ben Grant

Councilman Wilson motioned to approve the grant match fund for \$5500.00 dollars out of the contingency fund, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.

j. Discuss the Bid Process for TLC Cleaning and Janitorial Services for Animal Control. -Councilman Jordan

Councilman Jordan stated he became aware this contract during the budget process and would like to have more information such as the length of the contract and what is being paid. Chairman Stuart stated when the County took over the Shelter the funds to clean it was coming out of the Building Maintenance fund. Procurement Director Susan Cok stated she had contacted seven companies, Office Pride and TLC Cleaning and Janitorial Services were the only ones to submit bids out of the seven TLC was doing the cleaning but has not done it in the past month. The new contract will be on a month to month basis. *This will be brought back to the July 1st meeting to include the bid process, requirements of the job and the benefit of hiring someone versus a contract.*

k. Discuss Why Worker's Compensation Rate Has Risen. -Councilman Jordan

Councilman Jordan stated the information from the South Carolina Workers Compensation Trust members showed the workers compensation had went up to \$80,000 dollars, but the County's claims went down by nine and wanted to have a better understanding of why it went up. Human Resource Director Hyatte Kelsey stated he included in the information he gave Council the last three years of workers compensation renewal letter that explains what the annual premium would be. The insurance claims are factored and based off three consecutive years of data, the claims were based off of 2014, 2015 and 2016. He stated this year's premiums will be based off of 2017, the total cost of the claims went up dramatically even though there were nine fewer claims. The cost of those claims was more expensive the damages required surgeries and corrective procedures. Most of the big claims came from the Sheriff Department for the last two years. Councilman Jordan stated he seen the increase and the number of claims and was curious.

l. Discuss Chapter 5-500 Portable Signs in the Chester County Zoning Ordinance-Councilman Jordan

Councilman Jordan stated business signs were everywhere on the sides of the road in the County, he stated when the mowers cut grass the signs are being chewed up which creates more litter along with the wires that would creates hazards for vehicles. He stated this should be treated as litter and to have Code Enforcement Officer TJ Martin to call them and give them a warning and issue a citation if they don't pick the signs up. There are phone numbers on the signs and are considered as offsite businesses which is not allowed under our zoning ordinance.

Planning Director Mike Levister stated he did not mind picking the signs up and could work as a team from both departments. Councilman Vaughn stated he did not think the signs falls under the litter ordinance, Councilman Oliphant stated eventually it becomes litter when there cut down by the mowers. Councilman Jordan asked for this to be included on the next agenda along with the litter ordinance.

m. Discuss Grievance Committee- Vice Chairman Branham

Vice Chairman Branham stated there was several vacancies on this committee, he asked Chairman Stuart to explain what the committee does. Chairman Stuart stated the committee is composed of seven employees, three are exempt (not eligible for overtime or comp time hours) and three are non-exempt (paid by the hour and eligible for overtime and comp time hours) along with two alternates. There terms are three years and must be staggered, one-third of the term will expire each year. If someone is terminated, they can ask the grievance committee to hear their side, then the committee will decide and issue a decision at the hearing. Vice Chairman Branham then motioned to appoint Suzie Elms from the Tax Collector's office, second by Councilman Mike Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.

n. Discuss Adding the County Seal to all County Owned Vehicles-Vice Chairman Branham

Vice Chairman Branham asked how many vehicles doesn't have the county seal. This was discussed around five or six years ago, he stated the consensus was every county owned vehicle should have the seal on them except for the Sheriff and the Coroner. The county policy states" all county owned vehicles must display the county seal on the doors of the vehicle." Councilman Oliphant asked why this would eliminate anyone else. EMS Director Britt Lineberger stated if the coroner had to notify a family of something and the seals were on the vehicles it would not be the right way to notify them, that was the reason the exception was made. Vice Chairman Branham asked for

this to be added to the next agenda, to discuss the County Coroner and the Sheriff that is used for investigative purposes, and how many county vehicles does not have the county seal on them.

o. Discuss Barber Litter Pickup Machine-Councilman Vaughn

Councilman Vaughn stated he went to Myrtle Beach to see how the machine works, the company that manufactures the machine was used to clean up after a big country music festival that was held there. He witnessed how the machine works after watching them pickup road side litter. He provided prices which included a 2019 Barber Litter picker at \$ 60,800.00, a factory reconditioned model was \$41,500. He stated Myrtle Beach rents the machine for two weeks at \$2300.00 plus shipping. A tractor also must be used to pull the machine, it has little maintenance and only needs minor adjustments. By using this machine, the County would be working smarter since currently two part time employees are picking up trash throughout the County. He stated it took the two employees a month to pickup 595 bags of trash, where it would probably take a week and recommended evaluating the option.

9. Boards and Commissions

Councilman Oliphant stated the did not think Council could legally appoint someone to the board, this has come up before and stated he would like legal advice before Council appointed anyone, and asked for this be moved to the July 1st meeting to receive legal advice before appointing anyone.

- a. Appoint L. B. Cannon to the Chester Metropolitan District Board- Vice Chairman Branham
- b. Appoint Hal Stone to the Chester Metropolitan District Board-Vice Chairman Branham
- c. Appoint Kevin L. Emerson to the Chester Metropolitan District Board- Councilwoman Guy

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

- a. Employment Matters-Clerk to Court.**
- b. Receive Legal Advice Concerning County Owned Property.**
- c. Receive Legal Advice on an Economic Development Consultant.**

11. Council Actions Following Executive Session-Councilwoman Guy motioned to go back to Regular Session, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- a. Action Taken Regarding Employment Matters-Clerk to Court-Taken as information only.**
- b. Action Taken Regarding Legal Advice for County Owned Property. - Taken as information only.**
- c. Action Taken Regarding Legal Advice for an Economic Development Consultant. - Taken as information only.**

12. Council Comments

Chairman Stuart stated the Ag Art Tours starts this weekend.
Vice Chairman Branham asked to have the Blackstock lighting issue on the next agenda.

**13. Adjourn-Councilman Jordan motioned to adjourn, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to adjourn
Time: 9:40 pm.**

K. Shane Stuart
County Supervisor & Chairman

Karen Lee
Clerk to County 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