

## SPECIAL CALLED

### CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

1476 J.A. Cochran Bypass Chester, SC 29706

**Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:00 AM**

**Present:** Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick, Vice Chairman Branham, Councilman Jordan, Councilwoman Guy, Councilman Wilson, Councilman Vaughn, County Attorney Winters, and Clerk to Council Lee.

**Absent:** Councilman Killian.

1. **Call to Order-** Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick called the meeting to order.
2. **Executive Session-** Councilwoman Guy motioned to go into executive session, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 5-0 to approve.
  - a. To receive legal advice regarding the distribution of fee in lieu. Councilman Jordan.
  - b. To receive legal advice regarding Richburg Millage. Councilman Jordan.
3. **Council Actions Following Executive Session**  
Vice Chairman Branham motioned to go back to regular session, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 5-0 to approve.
  - a. **Action taken regarding the distribution of fee in lieu.**  
Councilman Jordan motioned first reading in title only to amend the master ordinance for fee allocation to increase to five percent and it would be the allocation for the fire district the industry is located, second by Vice Chairman Branham.  
Treasurer Tommy Darby stated he ran the numbers for what the 5% equated to for each fire district. It would increase and based off the 2021 tax year Richburg \$12,923.39, Chester \$17,392.08, Lewis \$ 4,507.55. Those were what he called the post Gateway and that would be the impact on the fire district. **Vote 5-0 to approve.**
  - b. **Action taken regarding Richburg Millage.** Taken as information. Councilman Jordan asked to have this back on the next regular meeting.
4. **Public Hearing-** Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick opened the public hearing.
  - a. **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2022-7 Chester County Fiscal Year 2022/2023 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, 2022; To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Chester County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2022; 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.**

Eddie Murphy, 4667 Edgeland Road, Edgemoor stated fire districts would prefer impact fees instead of development fees.

T. Melton, 3066 Goblet Road, Richburg stated Council should consider finding more ways to put more paid staff in fire departments since call volumes were going up.

John Agee, PO Box 9, Richburg stated the Richburg Fire District has more call volumes in the county at 42%.

- b. **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2022-10** Amending Ordinance No. 2021-16, which provides for the use of ARPA funds, to include funding premium pay for county employees: and other related matters. No one signed up to speak.

Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick closed the public hearing.

5. **Ordinances/Resolution/Proclamations**

- b. **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2022-7** **Chester County Fiscal Year 2022/2023 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, 2022; To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Chester County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2022; 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.** Interim Chairman Dr. Frederick stated before they voted on the total budget, they did have items that had been recommended to be added to the budget. Each one would be discussed separately and voted on separately. Afterwards they would vote on the total budget.

**1. Allocate funds to accommodate the personnel needs of the Richburg Fire District.**

Treasurer Darby stated, the reallocation from four to 5%, and the gateway fees that fire districts are losing those funds would be built into our budget to allocate to the fire districts, and then they would be able to use those funds to meet their needs. Those four amounts were Lewis Fire \$4507.55, Chester Fire \$27305.05 Richburg Fire \$10788.50 and Lando Fire \$17,024.58. And that would be based on the increase from four to 5% plus the gateway fees that they're losing currently that would be built into the budget to increase their allocations. Councilman Jordan motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 5-0 to approve.

**2. Payment of debt for a truck for Lewis Fire District.**

Mr. Darby stated the county could fit that in within the parameters of the budget. Councilwoman Guy motioned for Lewis Fire Department to receive the amount owed for the remaining debt due on the firetruck, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 5-0 to approve.

3. **Sheriff's Office, E911, Dispatch and the Detention Center for up to \$70,000 be earmarked and designated to a special line item for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be used for LPR cameras and gunshot detection system.** Sheriff Dorsey stated the camera system had been previously discussed with Council and the community. What he was asking was not to affect the new budget but was asking for any savings realized from the current fiscal year to be designated to a special line item up to \$70,000 where LPR cameras and a gunshot detection system could be purchased. It would go through a contract, and all would be brought back to Council for approval but now he was asking for that ability to pay for it. Councilman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 5-0 to approve.

4. **Lando Fire District-Moisture issue in building.**

Councilman Jordan stated it was his understanding that a moisture issue that's causing the glue under the tile to come up making the floors sticky and squishy.

Chief Eddie Murphy stated they didn't know exactly what caused the moisture issue. But their recommendation is that the plants come out and drainage put in and the tile be taken up and resurfaced for something like what is in hallway of this building. It has been going on about 10 years. The building was built in 2007 and appears to be dry around the outside but it still has moisture that comes up when you step on it pushes up the glue which was a poor grade of glue. The estimate cost to install the new flooring was \$25,000. Councilman Jordan motioned to include \$25,000 to repair the moisture issue at Lando Fire Department in the budget, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 5-0 to approve.

Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve the total budget, second by Councilwoman Guy.

Councilman Wilson asked if Mr. Darby if he would go over one of the first power point presentations, he gave from the first budget workshop.

Mr. Darby stated the county is mandated to increase retirement rates based on the state's retirement system changes. There's a 1% change for the county's state retirement and police officer retirement for next year. Its approximately \$120,000 increase to the budget. The County included a 3% cost of living for all employees. That's roughly a \$424,000 increase. The County also continued to implement the salary study. And there were some compaction adjustments included. That's roughly a \$90,000 increase for next year. Also included four new EMT AE EMT positions, one per shift for the EMS office as well, which considered was kind of a floater that's roughly \$170,000 increase for part time firefighters for the fire coordinators office, roughly \$121,000 increase, of course fuel is something that we're battling with now. So that's about a \$200,000 increase based on current rates. The Sheriff's Office requested a progressive pay scale which is in the in the budget for the sheriff, detention and 911 for all three departments that's roughly \$800,000 difference.

Sheriff Dorsey stated in all your packets, provided to you back in March, a breakdown of what we were requesting a sheriff's deputy or sheriff's employee and remember we have three umbrellas. The detention center, 911 and the sheriff's office side, we asked for a 10% increase in our sheriff's office side the operation side, a 6% salary increase for the 911 operators and then a 4% increase

in the detention center. That puts them with competitors with surrounding counties right now. The Chester County Sheriff's office was the lowest paid Sheriff's Office. These deputies are the lowest paid sheriff's office in the surrounding counties, Fairfield, Union counties, pay their deputies more. What he wanted to do was not only bring those salaries up to where they could be competitive with surrounding counties, but also provide some incentive for longevity to ensure that these employees that they invest so much in stay after so many years and not only did they request salary increases in the bottom line, but they also implemented some longevity, pay scale so pay bands that incentivize those employees to stay. Last year, they had somewhere depended on the department they had somewhere between a 25% and a 35% turnover rate just in 2021. And they realized that they invest a lot of time, money and effort into these employees, and it was looking like they were just training them and were getting that basic training and then they were leaving and going to another agency where they were making a substantial amount of money. We have established some pay bands. There are incentives for them to stay at here for four years, six years and then 10 Plus, we've implemented some small monetary incentives for those who have college education, associate bachelor's, master's plus, they then implemented some incentives for military veterans who served honorably for in service of our country. When they come to our agency, they receive some monetary incentive for that, and those who are bilingual those who have another language that they speak. A Chester County Sheriff's deputy at this time makes \$17.75 cent per hour compared to York County who make 21.66 Lancaster County is 19.74 but put that 17.75 an hour in perspective. A line worker at the Amazon warehouse makes \$18 an hour at Costco you can make \$25 an hour the newly opened Buckie's down and Florence has gotten a lot of attention. They're making \$17 An hour running the cash register. He asked Council to support this. They know they have worked on this for probably the past four or five months. You know every year that he has been here they have had budget priorities. And he had told Council many times this is the priority for the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's office appreciates it but and he knew Council knows that they are working hard to keep this community safe. He said he has good men and women and they're not just the ones you see in uniform carrying a gun. They have great men and women who are doing their job to the best of their ability in the dispatch and detention center. He would greatly appreciate support for this budget request.

Councilman Wilson asked about the percentages of 10% 6% 4%.

Sheriff Dorsey stated the reason that those percentages were not the same it was important for folks to understand. Last year they had some positions that were becoming unfrozen. In the prior administration, there were some frozen positions that saved some salary money, but the agreement was those positions were becoming unfrozen in the detention center. What they did was dissolved those positions and took that money and gave raises to detention and 911 centers. This year, they're requesting additional funds. Last year they gave the detention 6% and 911 4% this year 911 will get 6% detention will get 4% they flipped it around.

Councilman Wilson stated the line item for the County Supervisor with the change of form of government happening in January there would be additional cost related to that. Another at large council member as well as compensation to the administrator and asked if that was in budget

number. On the budget it had 232 and asked if that would be pay for personnel and if it would be for the administrator and the deputy position.

Mr. Darby stated there was a deputy but there was a six-month window and did not budget the whole amount. They only budgeted the amount that would be for the change for that fiscal year, in fiscal year 2024 there would be a greater increase since they only budgeted for half of that change since it would happen in January. Vote 5-0 to approve.

- c. **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2022-10 Amending Ordinance No. 2021-16, which provides for the use of ARPA funds, to include funding premium pay for county employees: and other related matters.** Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilman Wilson. Mr. Darby stated \$600,000 dollars was set aside from the APRA funds for premium pay for employees. Vote 5-0 to approve.

## 6. **Adjourn**

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