



CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Chester County Government Complex
Council Chambers June 1, 2015 at 5:45 PM
1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC 29706

Chairman Shane Stuart - Presiding

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE: CHAIRMAN STUART
VICE CHAIRMAN BRANHAM
COUNCIL MEMBER OLIPHANT
COUNCIL MEMBER GUY
COUNCIL MEMBER JORDAN
COUNCIL MEMBER LUCAS
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLCOMBE
COUNTY ATTORNEY WINTERS

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Chairman Stuart asked for a motion to include the Chester County Transportation Business item #3 under new business on the agenda. Vice Chairman Branham requested to add the EMS building as a public auction on the agenda.

Vice Chairman Member Branham motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Holcombe. Vote was unanimous.

III. Approval of Minutes Chester County Council Meeting of May 18, 2015

Council Member Lucas motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Guy. Brad Jordan abstained (was absent from last meeting) 5-0 to approve.

IV. Citizen's Comments

Nettie Archie of 557 Sunrise Blvd, Chester, SC stated when people come before Council they should be polite to them. At the previous meeting a sheriff's officer was attacked by

Council, he had representative from the company with him to explain his request. On the back of the agenda it states how we the public should act, by the same token we should have respect also. Mrs. Archie stated she did not understand why the Tax Assessor did not explain why he wanted to postpone the reassessment to next year. She asked what this would do for the citizen's taxes. She also asked why Judge Underwood was suspended without pay and Carolyn Clayton was suspended for doing wrong but continues to get paid. Miss Archie stated she never sees the airport on the revenue, if the airport is not doing anything for Chester County why do we need it. She was happy to know the procurement contract policy is taking place now, bids are submitted by companies who want to do work for the County. She also stated she was putting the Council on notice following up on all contracts to see if the bidding process was done correctly.

Elizabeth Claytor of 119 Pinckney St, Chester, SC where she and her husband runs a B&B Inn Upon Moon Plantation. Mrs. Claytor stated she wanted to make Council aware of the upcoming I2I yard sale that will start in Chester and surrounding neighborhoods and end in Whitmire.

V. Ordinances & Resolutions

1. 1st Reading (In Title Only) of the 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance.
Council Member Jordan motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Holcombe. Vote was 6-0 to approve.
2. 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Code Section 2-176 Office Established.
Council Member Guy motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Vote was 6-0 to approve.
3. 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Code Section 2-356 Fire Control; Regulations.
Council Member Lucas motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Oliphant. Vote was 4-3 to approve.
4. 1st Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the Third Amendment to Fee Agreement for Haile Gold Mine. **Council Member Oliphant motioned to approve, seconded by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote was 6-0 to approve.**
5. Resolution to Adopt Memorandum of Understanding between Chester County and the City of Chester for the Collection of Ad Valorem Taxes.
Sandy Worthy, Administrator for the City of Chester stated for several years they had talked about combining the City taxes to the Counties. Council Member Guy stated this would be a burden to the citizens by paying it all at one time. Mrs. Worthy stated this would save the City \$15,000 dollars a year. County Attorney Winters stated there were holes in the memorandum of understanding. Chairman Stuart stated they would have further discussions with the City and County.
Council Member Oliphant motioned to draft a resolution for a memorandum

of understanding to enter into the negotiation process, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Vote was 5-1 to approve.

VI. New Business

1. Gang Task Force Recommendation – Brad Jordan

Council Member Jordan thanked everyone who served on the committee.

GANG TASK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORT

June 1, 2015

PURPOSE

The Chester County Gang Task Force was initiated by then County Supervisor Carlisle Roddey. There were three members of County Council appointed to serve and various individuals representing law enforcement, the schools, the Solicitor's office and Public Defender were also asked to serve. The purpose of the Gang Task Force was to obtain information concerning gang presence in our county.

MEETINGS

There were five meetings of the Gang Task Force. They were held on January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23 and March 19 with recommendation that the Gang Task Force continue to meet on either a quarterly or bi-yearly basis.

January 12, 2015

The first meeting of the Chester County Gang Task Force Meeting was held at 6 p.m. on January 12, 2015 in the conference room of the government complex. The meeting was basically an organization meeting. The following people were present:

Brad Jordan- County Council

Andrew Dys- The Herald,

Brian Garner- The News & Reporter- bgarner@onlinechester.com- (803)385-3177 *26

Christopher Culp- Ft. Law PD- flpd_cultc@truvista.net – (803)872-4995

Steven L. Rice- Gt. Falls PD- gfpdchief@gmail.com – (803)374-2504

Tommy Robertson- SLED- TRobertson@sled.sc.gov- (803)260-0818

Robert Sprouse- Chester Co. Sheriff's office- rsprouse@chesterco.com- (803)519-7475

K. Shane Stewart- Concerned citizen- citizenshane@outlook.com

James G. Knox III- Chester Co. Schools- jknox@chester.k12.sc.us

Jeff Gardner- Chester Co. Schools- jgardner@chester.k12.sc.us

Mike Lifsey- 6th Circuit PD Office- mikelifsey@yahoo.com (803)374-0238

Reverend O.L. Smith- Browns Chapel AME Zion Church- osmith319@aol.com (803)487-3045

Mary A. Guy- Chester Co. Council- maguy@truvista.net (803)385-3271

James Sanders- Concerned Citizen

Odell Kennedy

Fred Stewart- Solicitor's Office

Julie Hall- Solicitor's Office- Juliehall@aol.com

Makeesharia S. Tobias- mtobias@chester.sc.gov

Chief Andre Williams- awilliams@chester.sc.gov

Rickey Sanders- rsanders@chester.sc.gov

Gwendolyn Gleen- WFBC Charlotte

Randy Newman- Randy.Newman@SCSolicitor6.org

Joe Branham- branhamjoe@truvista.net

It was decided to add the Department of Juvenile Justice and Probation and Parole.

The members were asked to complete a survey concerning gang activity in their community. Also the communities of Richburg, Fort Lawn, Lowry's and Great Falls were asked to complete the survey.

Grants, STORM project were added to the next meeting.

January 26, 2015

The following people were present for the January 26, 2015 meeting:

Brad Jordan- bradjordan@comporium.net

Regina Douge- SLED rdouge@sled.sc.gov

Tommy Robertson

Mike Lifsey- mikelifsey@yahoo.com

Rick Wessinger- rbwess@scdjj.net

Steven Rice- Great falls PD- gfpdchief@gmail.com

David Hayes- Fort Lawn PD- flprdhayes@comporium.net

Randy Marsh- Chester Sheriff's Department- rmarsh@chesterso.com

Joe Branham- Chester County- branhamjoe@truvista.net

Mary Guy- Chester County

Darrell Smith- dsmith2@sled.sc.gov
Molly Leake- molly.leake@ppp.sc.gov
Julie Hall- julie6hall@aol.com
Randy Newman- randy.newman@scsolicitor6.org
Keith Lewis- kLewis@scsolicitor6.org

Two new members were added, Molly Leake with Probation and Parole and Richard Wessinger with DJJ.

There was a presentation by Officer Sanders concerning Gangs in Chester. Chief Williams with the City of Chester also provided some information on gangs in Chester. It was reported that there were 5 separate gangs in Chester who participate in group criminal activity. The ages range from 14-26 with a few being younger or older. They are recognizable by their symbols, tattoos and dress. The reasons that young people join gangs are peer pressure, excitement, protection, money and acceptance.

(The specifics concerning gangs and gang activity in the county are left out of this report at the request of law enforcement).

FINDINGS

- In 2014 there were 14 gang incidents in the City of Chester.
- There were 0 gang incidents documented in 2014 for Fort Lawn and 0 for Great Falls. (The Chief at a subsequent meeting reported there was one incident in Great Falls that involved a gang want to be from Lancaster County)
- Problem is more or more complex than just a law enforcement issue. Funding for the Solicitor and Public Defender are low.

Mike Lifsey, the 6th Circuit Public Defender provided the information concerning funding for his office.

- Chester County only funded at \$1.75 per capita compared to \$5.76 for York and \$3.48 for Union.
- Funding more officers who make more arrests without also funding the Solicitor and Public Defendant to be able to handle the additional caseload would only exacerbate the problem.
- There is currently a backlog of cases in the 6th Circuit with a problem of the taxpayers paying for food and medical for incarcerated individuals waiting for trial. If more cases could be moved it may free up funds currently used to staff the jail which could be added to county budget for law enforcement.

6th Circuit Solicitor Randy Newman also provided information concerning funding for his office.

- The per capita funding for Chester is \$2.20, for Fairfield \$2.76 and for Lancaster \$3.12. York is funded at \$13.58 and Union at \$8.44. Solicitor Newman echoed the fact that adding officers without funding additional personnel for the Solicitor and Public Defender would only add to the problem and backlog.
 - You cannot go to Court Administration to seek additional court time without showing that you are using all court time that you are given and making strides to do what you can with the backlog. By adequately funding Solicitor and Public Defender it may assist them in disposing of cases and then allow them to petition Court Administration for additional court time.
 - There is a problem with repeat offenders, people who are awaiting trial on one charge committing another crime.
 - Definitions for Gang, Gang Member and Gang Incident were approved by the committee as provided by the City of Chester. The definition of a gang is 5 or more people who are associated for the purpose of criminal activity.
-

February 9, 2015

The Gang Task Force Committee met on February 9, 2015. The following people were present:

- Brad Jordan
- Lt. Tammy Lester
- Joe Branham
- Molly Leake
- Mike Lifsey
- Rickey Sanders
- Fred Stewart
- Tommy Robertson
- Robert Sprouse
- Shayne Stuart
- Johnny Neal
- Mary Guy
- Solicitor Randy Newman

Dr. Jim Knox had a School Board meeting but arrived during the meeting.

Joe Branham asked SLED if the number of active gang members in the computer database could be provided.

Statistics from Chester County compiled by Sheriff's Department concerning the gangs and gang members was added to the agenda.

Molly Leake with Probation and Parole provided information and statistics through this agency. She reported that about 30 gang members had been identified among 261 total offenders. Mrs. Leake indicated that a problem has been that most offenders know that in the past no one was

asking for a full revocation when they violate probation. This is changing. Mrs. Leake stated that technical violations are addressed sufficiently but if high risk, then you issue the process for a full revocation to take them back. Mrs. Leake also reported on the Safe Street Initiative and the Job Readiness programs.

Joe Branham read an article called CMC in Fairfield County that has helped reform with pro social positive support groups to reduce recidivism rate.

Deputy Neal with the Chester County Sheriff's Department provided information on the STORM program.

Deputy Robert Sprouse with the Chester County Sheriff's Department provided information on the current organizational chart for the Sheriff, the number of incidents including gang related incidents for Chester County and the Grants which were applied for by the Sheriff's Department.

FINDINGS

Molly Leake with Probation and Parole provided information for us concerning gangs. She reported:

- Probation and Parole - 261 offender's total that were through their system. Approximate 200 that were reporting in the office, 40 in SCDC waiting to come out and 20 active warrants. Of those 261, 30 have been identified as gang members.
- The Safe Street Initiative was started in January. One of the conditions for gang members was a curfew. Probation and Parole was working closely with the Chester Police Department and had a relationship with all law enforcement agencies.

Mrs. Leake also mentioned a Job Readiness program through the Austin Wilkes Society funded by United Way in May, 2014.

- If work is available, the offenders are less likely to commit new crimes.
- The Chester United Way funded a part time position. The goal was to improve the unemployment rate.

Chester County Sheriff Department STORM program by addressed by Deputy Neal. He stated that he was involved with gangs as a young man but was able to escape that lifestyle. He said that you cannot stop a gang and expect to change a person overnight.

- The STORM program is #1 in country. It is non Profit.
- Approximately 172 Kids have gone through the program and only 7 have had further problems. The parents recommend their children ages 8 through 16. The child stays in the jail from 6 pm through 6 am. 8/16 and under. There is a 30 day follow up with the children and more often if needed. There is also a parenting class that is offered. There are two alternative schools, Will Lou Gray and Camden Military that he gets referrals from also.
- Solicitor indicated he may refer juveniles to this program. DJJ is not currently a partner with STORM.
- The Department offers the program every other month. There is a girls and boys Crossroads program in Lancaster.
- Funding and manpower are the reasons why more counties do not offer this type of program.

Deputy Sprouse provided information on the organization of the patrols for Chester County.

- There are 22 deputies to patrol along with the Major and Captain. There are 5 per shift and 12 hour shifts. There is a split shift from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m.
- The necessity to transport mental patients takes patrol deputies off of patrol.
- There are 54 deputies total, 3 reserve deputies who work 20 hours per month or 60 per quarter.
- Out of 54 deputies, only 24 are patrol officer including major and captain
- 5 School Resource, 2 civil process, 1 court, 5 investigations, 5 narcotics, 5 animal control, 1 evidence.
- There are approximately 8 detention officers per shift with approximately 200 inmates.

Deputy Sprouse also provided information on the number of gang incidents for Chester County.

- In 2014 there were 2,074 incidents in Chester County involving the Sheriff's Department. 1600 involved males and approximately 474 females. Of those 2074, there were 47 gang related incidences with 6 confirmed in the last month. Some of the 2074 were multiple incidents by the same offender.
- Repeat offenders are a problem. The problem is compounded by the fact that the backlog of cases means that offenders whether or not they are gang related are out and free to commit other crimes while they are waiting on their case to be called.
- Great Falls and Fort Lawn provide backup for the Sheriff's Department. The presence of an officer deters not only gang activity but crime in general. Of these incidents, there is some overlap with the City of Chester, Great Falls, Fort Lawn, Family Court, etc.

The Sheriff's Department also reported on several pending Grants including the following:

- \$137,000.00 for a new hire with a 10% match.
- There is also a grant for \$22,000 for 4 radios; a grant for 5 Tasers in the amount of \$5500.00 and a grant to upgrade the live scan at the Detention Center for \$13,000.00. All grants were a 10% match.

February 23, 2015

The Chester County Gang Task Force Committee met on February 23, 2015 with the following people present:

Present were, Brad Jordan, Mike Lifsey, Rick Wessinger, Shane Stewart, Deputy Sprouse, Chief Rice, Julie Hall

Rich Wessinger with DJJ spoke concerning his observations and provided information and statistics from DJJ.

Mike Lifsey provided information on Juvenile cases. Tyre Lee is the attorney and he is going to be asked to attend the next meeting.

Chief Rice with Great Falls provided statistics and information. Deputy Sprouse provided information on the Chester County Detention Center.

FINDINGS

- From DJJ standpoint - Overall crime is on a decline in Chester County. He had one gang related DJJ case for 2014 and it was in December, 2014.
- Overall offenses are lower in Chester County than Fairfield.
- Concerning the juveniles, there were 12 in Chester County that are supervised. 7 are in placement and 5 are associated with gangs.
- It costs \$42,000 a year to house a juvenile. The problem is sending them back to the same environment.
- The problem that he sees is that 73% of the juvenile offenders come from single parent households. Ineffective parenting is a problem.
- Issue with gang affiliation is that they continue to get into trouble. The adults will have the juvenile take the rap for them.
- Recidivism is a big problem. All of the people charged with Councilman Williams shooting were part of the DJJ system.
- 80% of juvenile offenders are on probation. Problem is sending them back to the community. Greenville, Richland/Columbia own their own detention centers where juveniles can be housed. There is a problem housing them with adults. It cannot be done.

- When incarcerated the kids from Chester County are split up. However, juvenile crime is way down in Chester County.
- #1 problem with juveniles (on a statewide basis) is fights at school. Must keep gangs separated during incarceration. There are 113 young people locked up in South Carolina.
- 66% of these will go to SCDC.
- Parents have to attend an 11 week group.
- DJJ is working on prevention through programs with the YMCA and Rotary Club paying to have them pick up trash. They earn \$5 for the Earn and Return program. The money goes to pay victims of their crimes.
- There is a program out of Georgia called G FIT. They will keep the kids until 8 p.m. and Medicaid pays for the program. 4 programs of this type in Chester County. There has to be a medical necessity for the child to enter the program. Most are diagnosed with PTSD – for issues of violence. There is also low socioeconomic status. Must meet the Health and Human Services Regulations.
- They have paid for 5 basketball team sponsorships. 2 football and 4 basketball (biddy) for the younger kids.
- 3 weeks ago the Y started hiring off duty SC SO officers. Follow through is an issue. There are kids who need mentors but finding people who will be a mentor is a problem. They show up one time and never come back.

Mike Lifsey from the Public Defenders' Office provided information on Juveniles.

- The Public Defender as 1 attorney who handles juvenile cases full time. He handles it for 3 counties because not enough work in just one county.
- There is Court on March 16. They have one juvenile case. (NOT gang related) There is no backlog for juvenile cases.
- If the punishment is swift there is a deterrent effect. They have that in the juvenile system.
- DJJ only detains young people who are danger to themselves. Deputy Sprouse indicated that it has helped that DJJ works with families.

Chief Rice spoke about Great Falls. He states that one of the issues with being in Great Falls is that he has to properly evaluate his resources and determine where they use them. Town did not budget money for retaining juveniles. Hardship to transport juveniles. Cannot house juveniles under age 17 in Chester County. They must be out of the sight and sound of other inmates. Cannot house 17 year old with 18 and above.

- Great Falls had app. 850 cases in 2014. They had only 1 incident that was possibly gang related. (Gant want to be) It involved gangs out of Lancaster County.

Deputy Sprouse spoke about the Detention Center.

- There were 64 inmates pretrial. There are 4 shifts and 12 hours shifts. When full there are 8 officers per shift.
- Top 5 inmates 2 have been there for 755 days. 1 for 754 days, 1 331 days and 1 for 310 days.
- These are all people waiting for trial. It was later determined that it costs the county 45-55 dollars per day to house an inmate.
- There are issues with gang member who fight in the detention center. 14 individuals who are separated because they have co-defendants in jail or gang affiliated.
- There are 10-15 inmates per block and all gang members have to be separated.
- 5 blocks with a maximum of 4 per cell.
- There would be some funds that would be saved if we could get solicitor and public defendant to move these cases due to not having to pay for housing at the county level. They would be moved from the Chester County tab onto the state's tab.
- If the sentence is over 90 days then they go to SCDC.
- The more complicated cases have a longer pretrial detention. If cases could be moved both Solicitor and Public Defender agree that funds could be saved from cutting down on pretrial detention.
- There is a GPS monitoring device that can be used. There are 2 companies that monitor APEX and Ned Polk. The notification is by email when there is bond violation. Home Detention Act allows county to enter into contract with private company for monitoring. Lancaster County has done this. Chief Stewart from SLED has a company. There is a fee to serve home detention. They must pay. This would be one alternative for lowering the inmate population for the county. Spartanburg Sheriff's Department has this program. There is an issue of who gets notification when there is a bond violation.
- When the Sheriff's Department has to transport inmates for medical treatment, it takes a patrol officer out of service. Officers from detention center could be utilized and could be good patrol officers by a lateral job move. Problem is low starting salaries.

MARCH 19, 2015

At the March 19, 2015 Gang Task Force Committee meeting, the following people were present:

Brad Jordan, Joe Branham, Mary Guy, Capt. Dwayne Robinson, CCSO, William McCoy, CCSO, Tommy Robertson, Keith Lewis, Solicitor's Office, Shane Stewart, Tyre Lee, Mike Lifsey, Sandy Worthy, City of Chester. Solicitor Newman came in late due to former engagement.

Tommy Robertson from SLED spoke about the Gang Database with SLED. Also, Tyre Lee with the 6th Circuit Public Defender's office spoke about juvenile issues in the Circuit.

FINDINGS

- SLED reported that Chester County had 172 documented gang members in 10 different gangs. Fairfield had 7, Union 82 and York 137.
- The criteria for placing someone in this database was if they admit to being a gang member, Identified as a gang member by a gang member, frequents the area and adopts the dress and signs of a gang member, associated with gang members or admits during field interview to being in a criminal gang.
- The database was discussed at length about why Chester would have more documented than larger counties. It was determined that this is a law enforcement generated tool which is unlike other registries. It was determined that the Chester County Sheriff's Department is aggressive in placing someone in the database while other counties are not utilizing the database.
- You don't have to have committed a crime to be in the database.
- Discretionary with law enforcement as to whether or not the person is placed in the registry.
- Unfair to compare numbers in the database when law enforcement can either be aggressive or not with entries.
- SLED uses the database as a tool. They check each witness and interview each witness with regard to gang activity.
- GANGNET is a state databased that will tap into the NCIC with documented gang members in other databases.
- SLED began documenting gang members about 5 years ago.

Chester County Public Defender, Tyre Lee who is the Chief of the Juvenile Division and PD of the year for juveniles which is a statewide honor spoke to the group.

- In Family Court there are 2 functions for the juvenile, to punish and to help.
- When juveniles get into trouble and go through the system, the goal is that they will not get into trouble again and become adult offenders.
- Juveniles are 17 years of age and under.
- There are 2 types of offenses, status such as truancy and runaways and criminal offenses where they have broken the law.
- The juveniles have the same right as adults.
- Delinquent adjudication, not a conviction but adjudication.
- They have the right to trial, to present evidence and to testify. They have the right to present mitigating evidence if found guilty.
- The attorney represents the juvenile, not the parents. Sometimes parents are the victims.
- The standard is beyond a reasonable doubt.
- Cases can be moved up to General Sessions Court. If the juvenile is 16 years of age and there is more than a 10 year sentence with the crime, then they can go into the adult system... Sometime they can be waived up to General Sessions. If the juvenile is 14 or older and commits a serious offense they can be waived up. Solicitor can do a reverse waiver.
- Mandatory waiver if 2 offenses for more than 10 years.
- Mr. Lee has never had a client say they were a member of a gang. He does get that information from law enforcement or from DJJ on occasion.
- Sometimes an adult offender will get a young person to commit a crime since they will not be punished as much.
- There were more juvenile cases in 2009 than now.
- No young guys admit to being in a gang.
- There is a decline statewide in juvenile cases. The School systems have programs.
- It is important that officers dealing with juveniles make better cases not more cases and this seems to be what is being done.

SUMMARY

14 documented gang related cases for the City of Chester. They had 413 violent crimes for 2014 which include assault, homicides, robbery and burglary. Total cases for the City of Chester both violent and non-violent is 1848.

0 gang related cases in Fort Lawn out of a total of 240 cases for 2014.

47 documented gang related cases for Chester County out of 2074 total cases. Some of these are repeat offenders and some of the numbers overlap with the City.

1 gang related case in Great Falls involving a gang from Lancaster out of 850 total cases. This was a case that involved a gang want to be from Lancaster County that came across the county line starting trouble.

Total Crimes Reported from Chester County, Chester City, Fort Lawn and Great Falls Police Departments

Chester County	2074
Chester City	1848
Great Falls	850
Fort Lawn	240
Total	5012

Crimes Involving Gang Members

Chester County	47
Chester City	14
Great Falls	1 (possibly)
Fort Lawn	0
Total	62

Percentage of total crimes which are gang related

1.2%

(Figure is probably less as there is overlap between Chester City and Chester County).

The Chester County School District reported no gang problem in the schools

From surveys, the Towns of Richburg, Fort Lawn, Lowry's, Great Falls and Edgemoor residents all reported no known gang problems. West Chester reported no known gang problems.

Probation and Parole reported that 261 people were on Probation or Parole and only 30 identified as a gang member.

Most gang related activity seems to be concentrated in and around the City of Chester rather than the smaller communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GANG TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Not all of the Gang Task Force members submitted recommendations. The recommendations that were submitted are included in this report verbatim as received. The recommendations that were received are as follows:

Recommendation #1

In order to be more efficient in preventing gang activity and crimes within Chester County, an increase in manpower will be necessary for the Sheriff's Office. Due to this much needed necessity, it is my recommendation to the Gang Task Force that the Sheriff's Office be provided with more manpower.

Recommendation #2

Each branch of the justice system desperately needs to be properly funded. If the Solicitor, Public Defender, and Law Enforcement are properly funded, the entire justice system will become more efficient. Cases will move through the system faster with less people out on bond who can re-offend, and less being housed in the local jail for far too long.

1. Fund 1 additional Prosecutor and 1 additional investigator in the Solicitor's Office. A Solicitor's Investigator can help to bridge the gap that apparently exists between County and the City law enforcement.
2. Fund 1 additional Public Defender attorney.
3. Fund 1 additional Gang Investigator for the Sheriff's Office, with the stipulation that they must work together with Chester City Police Department Investigations.
4. Fund 2 additional road deputies for Chester County Sheriff's Office
5. Fund 1 School Resource Officer for each Chester County School.

Recommendation #3

1. More help for Solicitor and Public Defender office
2. Support Groups from community and churches and pastors
3. No more than one (1) more deputy also restructure the organization as to where deputies are placed.

Recommendation #4

1. The Task Force should remain intact and continue meeting on a quarterly basis. This will insure the lines of communication remain open.
2. Chester County should create an FTE slot to hire a Grant Writer to assist with funding sources for the risks that have been identified. This position would pay for itself.

3. The Public Defender and Solicitor's office should receive additional funding to assist with decreasing the back log of the Docket. Hopefully cases can be moved forward rapidly.
4. Assess the funding allocation for the Sheriff's Department. They have one of the highest budgets and it appears they have created numerous high ranking positions. They may indeed need more officers, however, if they put more emphasis on the community with officers on the streets as opposed to management position.

Recommendation #5

1. Keep the Task Force in place to meet on a quarterly or bi-yearly basis so that needs and funding can be re-assessed in the future.
2. Additional funding for the Solicitor's office to equate to one part time attorney.
3. Additional funding for the Public Defender to equate to one part time attorney.
4. Determine if some positions with Sheriff can be re-assessed on the organizational chart to give at least one more deputy per shift on the road with the deputy to patrol higher crime areas in and around Chester City.
5. Attempt to obtain grants for 2 more positions with the Sheriff's Department for road deputies and have the county determine a way to pick up the costs after the grant expires. Reassess at future Gang Task Force meetings the counties needs and ability to fund new positions.

Recommendation #6

1. Increased funding to the Public Defender Office. At least one new attorney and perhaps an additional paralegal.
2. Increased funding to the Solicitor's Office.
3. Expansion of the School Resource Officer Program.

Council Member Jordan stated during the budget process they were trying to include some of the recommendations. Chairman Stuart stated that was correct, they increased the budget in the solicitors and the defense attorney's office. He also stated they were trying to get the captia to \$3.00 for each department.

Council Member Oliphant and Vice Chairman Branham thanked Council Member Jordan and Council Member Guy for the time they put into the Gang Task Force.

2. Veteran's Day Parade – Shane Stuart

Chairman Stuart stated the parade was being planned at the Joshua Lodge for November 11th at the Chester Fairgrounds.

3. Approval of sidewalk project on J.A. Cochran Bypass, Chester, from Wilson St. to Walmart on the West side. Approximate amount - \$180,000.00.

Council Member Oliphant motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Holcombe. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

Approval of an additional amount of \$50,000.00 for the Dearborn St. Project (C-Project from 2014).

Council Member Lucas motioned to approve, seconded by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

VII. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointment of Susan Cruse to Olde English District – Brad Jordan
Council Member Jordan motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

VIII. Executive Session

Chairman Stuart called for a motioned to go to Executive Session. **Council Member Holcombe motioned to go in to Executive Session, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Vote was unanimous.** Time was 7:50 pm.

Council returned from Executive Session: **Vice Chairman Branham motioned to go back into Regular Session, seconded by Council Member Guy. Vote was unanimous.** Time was 8:05 pm.

1. Personnel Matter to discuss pending employment action.
No action was taken.
2. Legal Advice; Giti Tire.
County Attorney Winters stated they discussed legal advice for the lawsuit filed by Richardson Construction which has been dropped against Chester County and GITI Tire.

IX. Council Comments

No comments

X. Adjourn

Council Member Holcombe motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Vote was 6-0 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 R. Carlisle Roddey Government Complex 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**Shane Stuart, Chester
Council Chair and County Supervisor**