

# **CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

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

**1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC**

**Monday, May 4th, 2020**

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

1. **Call to Order-** Chairman Stuart called the meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.** - Pledge was recited in unison; Councilwoman Guy gave the invocation.
3. **Approval of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council Minutes.**  
Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.
4. **Citizen Comments**  
Roxanne James, 3007 Steele Village Road, Rock Hill gave an update to Council regarding Rodman Ballpark Complex 2016 master plan. She stated Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be meeting tomorrow night and hopes they approve the design.
5. **Public Hearing- Chairman Stuart opened the public hearing and stated no one signed up to speak.**
  - a. **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2020- 12** An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving the Development Of A Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park in Conjunction with York County, Such Industrial/Business Park To Be Geographically Located In York County And Established Pursuant To Sec. 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended; To Provide For A Written Agreement With York County To Provide For The Expenses Of The Park, The Percentage Of Revenue Application, And The Distribution Of Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.  
**Chairman Stuart closed the public hearing.**
6. **Ordinances/Resolutions/Proclamations**
  - a. **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2020- 12** An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving the Development Of A Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park in Conjunction with York County, Such Industrial/Business Park To Be Geographically Located In York County And Established Pursuant To Sec. 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1976, As Amended; To Provide For A Written Agreement With York County To Provide For The Expenses Of The Park, The Percentage Of Revenue Application, And The Distribution Of Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.  
Vice Chairman Branham asked to have this on the next agenda the value of the project and what Chester county would receive. Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- b. **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2020-14 An Ordinance To Amend Chester County Ordinance No. 2019-6 The 2019-2020 Chester County Budget Ordinance, In Certain Limited Particulars Only. EMS.** Councilman Wilson stated in the ordinance it reads to hire as needed only. Councilman Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- c. **Rescission of 3rd Reading of Ordinance 2020-6- An Ordinance to Dissolve the Lando Rural Fire District; To Create the Lando Fire Protection District; To Provide for The Governance; To Create The Boundaries; To Provide for The Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes; To Provide for the Imposition Of Fees; To Provide for The Issuance of Bonds; And Other Related Matters.**  
Attorney Winters stated the three publications was not posted in the newspaper before the third reading on April 20<sup>th</sup>. By rescinding the ordinance this clears the slate, it will be on the next agenda for the third reading. Councilman Jordan motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- d. **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2020- 15 An Ordinance to Adopt the Purchase Agreement for Southeastern Petroleum.** Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- e. **Proclamation of Recognition for Everyone on the Frontlines in Chester County Related to the Coronavirus.** Councilwoman Guy stated everyone was going through challenging times with COVID-19 and has been impacted in some way. She wanted the public to know County Council, County Attorney and Clerk to Council are very appreciative of everything people on the front lines have done and continues to do.

## 7. Old Business

- a. **Update on Budget Impact Regarding the Coronavirus-Councilman Jordan**  
Treasurer Tommy Darby gave an update of how the coronavirus is impacting the budget. The budget was down 42 % in revenue collections for March and April of this year and about \$1 million dollars short of what the County normally collects. Mr. Darby suggested cutting back on travel, no non-essential items etc. He asked for a special called meeting to look over the budget with Council before the first reading on May 18<sup>th</sup>. They have reached out to departments asking them to cut back on their budget and has received some back. Councilman Oliphant stated Council could also look at their budget line as well.
- b. **Job Description for Nuisance/Litter Abatement-Attorney Winters**  
Attorney Winters stated nuisance/abatement would be added to litter enforcement, she was also working on the job description for code enforcement officer and what duties would entail with Planning Director Mike Levister. Councilman Oliphant motioned to adopt a resolution for litter enforcement/ nuisance abatement position, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- c. **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of CCMA20-02:** Lewis Fire Protection Association, Jay Williams, President request 1.45 acres of Tax Map # 104-00-00-024-000 located approximately 1000 feet from Fishing Creek Rd be rezoned from R2 (Rural Two) to R1 (Rural One). Planning Commission voted 6-0 to approve. Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve.

**d. Update on Hiring Part Time Employees- Councilman Oliphant.**

Operations Manager Tyanne Perry stated they had hired three part time people and was in the process interviewing more. Councilman Oliphant asked if the call volume had gone up or down, she stated currently they were the same as last year. She stated right now they were at a 15 percent decrease; they have increased around ten percent on out of town transport in which Lifeguard from Richburg does all the out of town transport. They have been overwhelmed and has called upon them to transport. Since the hospital closed the call volume was average.

Councilman Oliphant asked if they need to hire twelve part time people right now since council was preplanning when the ordinance was approved, and nobody knows at this point what will happen with the virus, it could get worse but hoped it didn't. None of the questions has been totally answered and asked how far they planned on hiring temporary people. Ms. Perry right now, once they have been hired and trained, she really did not know how long since they would have to wait to see if the part time employees wanted to stay here. She stated everyone was staying at home, but now people are going out especially without mask the increase will be there.

Councilman Jordan stated part of the problem were the EMS trucks and personnel tied up out of the County in transports to other areas. Ms. Perry stated someday it was a three or four hour turn around. Councilman Jordan also asked would the part time help alleviate with the overtime, Ms. Perry stated yes, before they didn't have part time pool to choose from. Taken as information.

**8. New Business**

**a. Request Approval to Apply for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant- Sheriff Dorsey**

Sheriff Dorsey stated the grant did not require matching funds from the county. They would receive \$ 33,202.00. Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.

**b. Discuss Employee Overtime-Councilman Wilson.**

Councilman Wilson stated at this time and uncertainties it was important to examine the budget and make improvements. It was his goal to find ways to reduce the amount of overtime and recognized it was an essential tool for law enforcement and EMS. The five departments that receives overtime were EMS, Sheriff Department, Detention Center, E911 and Animal Care Enforcement. He stated the Sheriff dept was doing good on keeping the overtime down but had questions regarding the Detention Center and E911. Sheriff Dorsey stated they must have three to four people per shift for 911, the overtime comes in when someone is out sick, on vacation, or in training. The detention center was similar, by regulations they are required to have a certain number of employees there based on the number of inmates. They have more employees so the overtime will look better in the future. Sheriff Dorsey explained overtime is not to be used to supplement one's salary but used to pay employees in the event of something happening outside of their control.

Councilman Wilson stated no overtime was budgeted for Animal Care Enforcement, asked if the HR Director and the County Attorney would do a audit on EMS, Sheriff Dept, E911, Detention Center and Animal Care Enforcement to see who is exempt and non-exempt and who should not be receiving overtime pay and a report for the next meeting. He suggested Council freeze

overtime in Animal Care Enforcement since it wasn't budgeted this could be a place where money could be saved in the next two months of the budget cycle.

Jenna Laws stated they were on call seven days a week, and it would be hard to cut out the on-call hours. So far, they have had seventy-six 911 calls for 2020 after hours. Councilman Oliphant asked how many vehicles they had and if they were taken home. Ms. Laws stated five vehicles and they all take them home in case they get a call after hours. Councilman Oliphant stated why wouldn't the person on call take a car home, this could be something to look at as well to save money.

Councilman Wilson asked Chairman Stuart what the plan was when ACE was not approved for overtime last year. Chairman Stuart stated at the time they did not have the data to go by to implement overtime in the budget. Councilman Wilson asked if there was a written policy as to how 911 dispatch's calls to them. Ms. Laws explained that they told 911 what they can and cannot go out on and 911 has tried to explain that to the public.

County Attorney Winters stated the difference of being on call was if you are engaged to be waiting you would get paid, if you are waiting to be engaged you do not get paid. Vice Chairman Branham suggested alternate work schedules, Ms. Laws stated some of her employees would like that.

Councilman Wilson stated in EMS there was around four to five employees receiving overtime and stated there should be some management tools to reduce the overtime. Maybe a floater who could be hired in a full-time position, another idea would be to document the overtime when it was initiated and show this was offered to part time employees. This would be a savings by not using higher paid employees who would be receiving time and half. Councilman Wilson stated he was told they do switch shifts such as when an employee takes a vacation another employee takes a vacation both employees receive time and half. He understood that was part of the annual leave system and they were owed the time and half but there could be management tools that would reduce it. Every year the budgeted overtime goes up, but also exceeded over what was actually budgeted.

Tyanne Perry stated they did not have the part time to pull from, there issue comes when people call out sick. The part time coming in now are coming for the higher wage that is being offered by COVID-19 when July 1<sup>st</sup> comes there is no guarantee they will still get the higher pay. They try to do the schedule six weeks in advance so the part time employees could benefit from the overtime. She agreed the floaters would be a good idea and was willing to do what was needed to bring the overtime down. Councilman Wilson asked if the floater idea could be revisited the first meeting in June and Chairman Stuart stated it could.

HR Director Hyatte Kelsey, stated there would be four additional employees hired if they chose to go with a floater for each shift. They have had more EMT's than paramedic employees than as needed prn employees since he has worked for the county. Since the wage increase for the prn it has showed him the issue to keep prn's was the money. He stated the prn's now make \$14.00 an hour, but with the COVID-19 the ones being hired make \$25.00 an hour and were coming out of the wood works for a job here. Before no one would apply and suggested raising the hourly rate to be an incentive to get people to work and stay with the county.

**9. Boards and Commissions**

**a. Consideration of Appointees to Chester Metropolitan District Commission.**

Chairman Stuart motioned to appoint Matt McCrorey, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve. Chairman Stuart motioned to appoint Chris Winters, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve. Councilman Oliphant stated Council was recommending the two appointments, it would go to the Governor to approve them.

**10. Executive Session**

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

- a. To Receive Legal Advice Regarding County Property-Attorney Winters
- b. To Receive Legal Advice Regarding the Fort Lawn Fire District. -Chairman Stuart
- c. To Receive Legal Advice Regarding the Magistrates Office-Attorney Winters

**11. Council Actions Following Executive Session**

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

**a. Action Taken on Legal Advice for County Property.**

Councilman Oliphant motioned to allow Coroner Terry Tinker to proceed with building a mediation area beside the coroner's office, which will be no cost to the county, Councilman Wilson second the motion. Councilman Oliphant stated Mr. Tinkers grandson Evan Bass had planned to bring this before Council for his eagle scout project but died in a tragic accident a few weeks back. He wanted to have a place people could go after learning of their loved one's death. Vote 6-0 to approve.

**b. Action Taken on Legal Advice Concerning the Fort Lawn Fire District. Taken as information.**

**c. Action Taken on Legal Advice Regarding the Magistrates Office. Taking as information.**

**12. Council Comments**

Councilman Wilson stated he would like to receive information being considered by the one cent sales tax commission regarding the funding for the radio system at the next council meeting.

**13. Adjourn-Councilman Oliphant motioned to adjourn, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to adjourn.**

Time: 9:45 PM.

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K. Shane Stuart, County Supervisor & Chairman

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Karen Lee, Clerk to 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