

CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

R. Carlisle Roddey Government Complex
1476 J A Cochran Bypass, Chester, SC
Monday, June 1st, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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. He asked if item 7.a. Discuss Policy Instructions of how 911 dispatches calls to Animal Control could be discussed in executive session due to new information that was received prior to the meeting from the Animal Control Supervisor. Chairman Stuart motioned to amend the agenda and add Executive Session item under 9.c. To receive legal advice regarding E911 Dispatch calls for animal care and enforcement, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve. Chairman Stuart motioned to amend the agenda and add 10.c. action taken regarding new information regarding E911 dispatch calls for animal care and enforcement, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation-** Pledge was recited in unison; Councilwoman Guy gave the invocation.
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. May 18, 2020 Council Minutes.**

Councilman Jordan stated under 8a. where he recused under the Fort Lawn Fire it should read “he was related to a board member as well as several fire fighters. Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve with changes, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.
 - b. May 21st Special Called and Budget Workshop Minutes.**

Councilman Jordan motioned to approve with changes to paragraph two where it stated “until such time the County could apply” it should state “comply”, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote 4-0 to approve. Vice Chairman Branham and Councilwoman Guy were not present for this meeting and did not vote.
- 4. Citizen Comments**

Melba Carter, 872 Yarborough Rd, Chester stated she felt some sheriff deputies doesn’t show respect. The citizens pay for a K-9 truck and driver but there wasn’t a K-9 dog, Ms. Carter stated you can’t put a mentally ill patient in jail knowing they will not get the help they need.

Tabatha Strother, 2449 N. Dawson Drive, Chester stated she was concerned about racism in Chester County. November 23rd, 2019 Ariane McCree was killed at Walmart by two white officers and her family still did not have any answers of what happened that day. She explained Walmart has the tape showing what happened and asked if Council would help her get it.

5. **Public Hearing**-Chairman Stuart opened the Public Hearing, no one signed up to speak.

- a. **3rd Reading of Ordinance 2020-15** An Ordinance to Adopt the Purchase Agreement for Southeastern Petroleum.

Chairman Stuart closed the Public Hearing.

6. **Ordinances/Resolutions/Proclamations**

- a. **3rd Reading of Ordinance 2020-15** **An Ordinance to Adopt the Purchase Agreement for Southeastern Petroleum.** Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- b. **2nd Reading of Ordinance 2020-16** **Chester County Fiscal Year 2020/2021 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, 2020; To Provide For The Levy Of Taxes For Chester County For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2020; 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.**

Treasurer Tommy Darby stated the total for the fiscal year of 2021 was \$34,057,823 million dollars, the general fund at \$22,095,081 million dollars. He stated Mr. Stuart provided him the letter from South Carolina Association of Counties the cost of workers comp and property and liability insurance was going up to \$237,000 dollars for the next fiscal year and wasn't built into the budget but would be addressed at the third reading. Mr. Darby explained in the current recommendation there were fourteen frozen positions, code enforcement officer in building and zoning, building maintenance supervisor and worker, four deputies in the sheriff's office, four-line officers in the detention center, one 911 telecommunicator, one truck driver in the roads dept., operations manager in ems in the upcoming budget. Councilman Wilson asked about economic development position and the new employees for ems. Mr. Darby stated those positions are in the recommendation for the new budget. Attorney Winters asked if \$750 dollars could be added to TJ Martins budget to pay for a deputy sheriff for personal service when the certified letters, he sends out comes back.

Mr. Darby reminded Council they are still waiving the online convenience fees for taxes and building and zoning permits to date the cost was \$21,443 dollars the County has absorbed. Budgetary money would need to be added to that as well if the Council wanted to continue that action and something to consider for the budget workshop and third reading. Currently through FEMA a special revenue fund had been set up to recoup some of the cost, he stated Emergency Management was currently preparing the first draw. Chairman Stuart stated the fund for Census was running out and asked if they could reallocate money left over to pay out for the rest of June. Mr. Darby stated with the approval of Council, Chairman Stuart stated this could be added to the budget workshop. Councilman Wilson suggested looking at the current revenue budget at the next budget workshop meeting. Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- c. **1st Reading Ordinance 2020-17 An Ordinance To Amend An Agreement For The Development Of A Joint Industrial And Business Park Of Chester And York Counties So As To Enlarge The Park To Include A Portion Of Those Certain Pieces, Parcels, Or Tracts Of Land, With All Improvements Thereon, Situate Lying Or Being In The County Of Chester, State Of South Carolina, Bearing Tax Number: 165-00-00-002 And Other Real Property.**
Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.

7. Old Business

- a. **Discuss Policy Instructions of how 911 Dispatches Calls to Animal Control. Councilman Wilson.**
Moved to Executive Session.
- b. **Approval to Accept the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant-Sheriff Dorsey**
Councilman Oliphant motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- c. **Discuss Posting Media Packets Online-Councilman Wilson**
Councilman Wilson stated York County post their agenda packets to their website and feels like Chester County can do the same to have transparency. This would give citizens an idea of what is being discussed at the time of the meeting. He would like the information they receive to be posted online prior to the meeting, he asked Attorney Winters when she received the packet on Friday if any information needed to be redacted if she could have it back to the Council clerk by 2pm Monday to post. She stated yes, any items with personal information and her memo from tonight's meeting which would be waiving the attorney's client privileged would be redacted. Councilman Wilson motioned to add properly redacted media packets online prior to normal regular County Council meetings starting the first meeting in July 2020, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 6-0 to approve.

8. New Business

- a. **Discuss City Parks Lawncare Services Proposal-Chairman Stuart**
Chairman Stuart explained the City had asked for the County's assistant in providing lawncare for nine of their city parks. Councilman Oliphant asked if Chairman Stuart would provide a list of related services the County provides to other municipalities at the next budget meeting. Chairman Stuart said it would be ready at the next Council meeting.
- b. **Discuss Chester Fire District Procurement Request Consideration-Chairman Stuart**
Chairman Stuart explained the Chester Fire Commission determined it would be better for the fire district and constituents' best interest to request the County to allow the Director of Contracts and Procurement to administer the operation portion of their budget and follow the county's procurement procedures. Chief James Jackson explained it would be the operational side only of what they currently do. Treasurer Tommy Darby stated he did not participate any issues doing it. Attorney Winters asked if Council would want a MOU, and asked if Chief Jackson could provide her with a copy of the minutes from the commission where it was approved. Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve with the MOU, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- c. **Discuss the Impact of Cleaning Up Great Falls After the May 5th Tornado-Councilman Vaughn.**
Councilman Vaughn thanked Eddie Murphy, Ed Darby and Barkley Ramsey for their assistance the morning after the tornado. He also thanked Governor McMaster, Mike Fanning, Randy Ligon and Sheriff Dorsey, Shane Stuart along with SCDOT. He explained a massive amount of wood was cleared by SCDOT from falling trees in the city limits. After talking with Chairman Stuart, it was arranged to take the wood to the Chester County Landfill, and what the impact it would have on the County. Treasurer Darby stated

the cost to the County would be long term, Councilman Oliphant asked what the cost was of the tonnage. Mr. Darby stated he did not have those numbers yet, Councilman Oliphant suggested waiving the fee. Councilman Vaughn motioned to waive the fee for SCDOT, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.

d. Discussion Pertaining to the Opioid Litigation- Attorney Winters

Attorney Winters stated there would be no litigation cost if there wasn't any recovery. Councilman Jordan asked if there were enough cases the County could seek reimbursement from. Attorney Winters stated she did not have an answer but would check and bring it back to the next meeting. Councilman Jordan stated he did not want to spend more on the data trying to retrieve all the numbers than what the County would recover. Attorney Winters said she would contact Hazel Pittman and the Coroner to see how many the County had and bring it to the next meeting.

9. Executive Session.

Councilwoman Guy motioned to go to ES, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.

Councilman Jordan stated he had signed the recusal form for 9.a.

- a. Receive Legal Advice Pertaining to Fort Lawn Fire District-Chairman Stuart.
- b. Receive Legal Briefing Pertaining to the Planning Commission Meeting on June 16th, 2020.
- c. Discuss Policy Instructions of how 911 Dispatches Calls to Animal Control. Councilman Wilson.

10. Council Actions Following Executive Session

Councilman Jordan motioned to go back to Regular session, second by Councilman Oliphant. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- a. **Action Taken Regarding Legal Advice for Fort Lawn Fire District.** Taken as information.
- b. **Action Taken Regarding Legal Briefing Pertaining to the Planning Commission Meeting on June 16th, 2020.** Taken as information.
- c. **Discuss Policy Instructions of how 911 Dispatches Calls to Animal Control. Councilman Wilson.**
This was moved to the June 15th Council meeting.

11. Council Comments

Vice Chairman Branham asked to have a Personnel Matter on executive session for the next meeting. Councilman Oliphant asked to have discussion on media packets for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals on the first meeting in July.

12. Adjourn

Councilman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to adjourn.

K. Shane Stuart, County Supervisor & Chairman

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