

Public Hearing

The Town of Chester Council held a Public Meeting on December 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen, Council Persons, Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Rachel Ghekiere, Garrett Graff, and Scott Ross

Members Absent: Tina Neer

Staff Present: Terry Tyler (PWD)
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Pat Ludwig and Jim Sivils

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the special meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Public Comment: None
3. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm

Regular Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held the Regular Scheduled Council meeting on December 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen, Council Persons, Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Rachel Ghekiere, Garrett Graff, Tina Neer and Scott Ross

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Terry Tyler (PWD)
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Pat Ludwig and Jim Sivils

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 pm
2. Mayor Dahlen moved the Building Permit- Garden Club Gazebo at City Park to the beginning of the meeting. Pat Ludwig, presented the council with the information on behalf of the Garden Club. They would like to put a gazebo in the garden area of the park. They would like to fund raise and have people who would like to make donations to the purchase as well. The Garden Club would like to work with the Town to install the gazebo. To make sure it fits with any of the redesigning of the park. The Garden Club would like the gazebo to be a relaxing area to rest. The Town would have to make sure the area is level. The Garden Club will maintain the gazebo. Scott Ross made the motion for the Garden club to proceed with fundraising and

planning for the gazebo. Once they have a final plan for the size and location of the gazebo. They will present it to the council to finalize the project with the Town. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes. Pat Ludwig left the meeting at 6:16 pm.

3. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to accept the minutes from both the special Council Meeting November 8, 2023, and the Regular Council Meeting, November 8, 2023. Garrett Graff seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed with all voting ayes.
4. Claims were presented to the council for approval. The AFR is completed and the claims for the AFR assistance and filing fee are both included. Sonja Dahlen made the motion to approve the claims submitted for payment. Ck # 19923-19967, electronic payment -99984 & Payroll Advances Ck #19968-19970. Rachel Ghekiere seconded the motion. Motion to approve claims passed with all voting ayes.
5. The council reviewed the adjustments and journal entries made in November. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve the JV & Adjustments. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
6. Public Comments: none
7. Sheriff's Office Report: will be emailed.
8. New Business:
 1. Resolution #03-2024 to Raise Garbage Rates: Scott Ross made the motion to accept Resolution #03-2024 as presented. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
 2. HB 355 Priority Project list: The council discussed HB 355. There will be a 25% match on the entire project. Projects include:
 - Sidewalk and curb project downtown First Street East, Main Street and high traffic areas. Make all sidewalks and curbs in these areas' ADA accessible.
 - Gravel and maintain roads on northside of Town. Work with County to fill potholes. The possibility of fixing culvert on the road between the cemetery and tracks.
 - Storm drain maintenance by the Art Center and School
 - Valley Gutters and drainage on First Street East.Jim Sivils asked who was responsible for the sidewalk in front of the post office. Mayor Dahlen explained that the ordinance reads that the sidewalks and curbs are the responsibility of the property owners. However, there are many high traffic areas in need. Garrett Graff inquired about making sure the sidewalks and curbs would be ADA compliant. There is also a section of street by the school that needs to be filled between the curb and the street. Terry stated that the Town filled it before, but it has settled again and needs to be done again. Scott Decker asked about possibly doing the Filter media as was discussed. If it's part of the water project then the 25% match is on the entire project. Terry will check with Chris Hayes about the cost of the filter media and if it needs to be engineered. Ashley will submit the list to the State. The final public hearing and application need to be completed before the end of March 2024.
 3. Award for the Wastewater Improvements, Schedule I- Lakeside Excavation, Inc.: Schedule I came in \$508,650 under the engineers estimate. Scott Ross made the motion to approve and award Schedule I in the amount of \$1,350,930.00 to Lakeside

Excavation, Inc. contingent on SRF approval. Sonja Dalen seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.

4. Award for the Wastewater Improvements, Schedule II- Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc.: Schedule II came in \$4,899 under the engineers estimate. Rachel Ghekiere made the motion to approve and award Schedule II in the amount of \$397,336.00 to Planned and Engineered Construction, Inc. contingent on SRF approval. Tina Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting ayes.
 5. Approval Chamber Bucks: approval of chamber bucks was included in claims.
9. Old Business: None
10. Mayor Report/ Additional Agenda Items: None
11. PWD update: Terry Tyler updated the council that the radiator needs to be repaired on the new CAT, the old CAT is currently broken down as well. MET is planning to be up during the week of January 8th to complete the installation of the SCADA system. Terry found out that a new barrel for the fire hydrant on Jefferson and Main St is about \$2500 and a new hydrant is about \$3600. Discussion about putting in the new one, and making sure everything is up to grade, and putting in a valve before the hydrant. Recommendation by the council is to fix it right away as the weather is good.
12. Clerk update: Ashley Wickum updated the council that the Audit is scheduled for February.
13. Council: Scott Ross presented the council with information from the Bear Paw Cooperative meeting including a list of their current projects and suggested that the Town work with them to get assistance to clean out the creek. Ashley will contact the County Disaster and Emergency Coordinator to talk about this as it was a hazard mitigation action they discussed early in the year.
14. Rachel Ghekiere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tina Neer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Submitted by _____ Approved by _____
Clerk Mayor