

CHESTER, ILLINOIS
April 3, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of Chester, Illinois, met in regular session on **Monday, April 3, 2023**, in the Municipal Building, 1330 Swanwick Street. Mayor Tom Page called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present:	Alderman Robert Buckham	Alderman Robert Platt
	Alderman Bryce Hill	Alderman Don Berry
	Alderman Randy Dudenbostel	Alderman James Maes
	Alderman Ray Allison	Alderman Jeremy Homan

Absent: None

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. READING OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Alderman Hill requested an amendment to the previous meeting minutes. Alderman Hill advised in New Business – Discussion on Street Signs under section three should read, “An Ordinance prohibiting parking on the West Side of Lee Street, from Swanwick Street to Hoppe Drive.” Alderman Maes moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to approve them with the amendment proposed by Alderman Hill as prepared by the city clerk. Alderman Dudenbostel seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Berry, Homan, Allison, Hill, Platt, Maes, Buckham, Dudenbostel. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was acknowledged:

- Monthly Superintendent Reports

IV. REPORTS

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cemetery & Finance Committee (Chairman Platt):

The Cemetery and Finance Committee met this evening at 5:30 p.m. to review city bills, and found them to be in order for payment. Alderman Platt moved to approve payment of bills, subject to audit. Alderman Dudenbostel seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Berry, Dudenbostel, Allison, Homan, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Platt moved to approve the March report of the Evergreen Cemetery Clerk as presented. Alderman Allison seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Dudenbostel, Berry, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Allison, Homan, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Platt presented Pay Estimate #10 payable to Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc. for Water-Treatment Plant Improvements – Phase 1 for \$120,916.98. Alderman Berry seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Berry, Homan, Allison, Hill, Platt, Maes, Buckham, Dudenbostel. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Platt moved to approve Invoice #21577 payable to J.T. Blankinship, Inc. for engineering for Water Treatment Plant Improvements – Phase 1 for \$15,189.00. Alderman Allison seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Berry, Homan,

Allison, Hill, Platt, Maes, Buckham, Dudenbostel. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Ordinance & Public Property (Chairman Hill):

Chairman Hill noted the monthly Code Enforcement Officer report is in the packets.

Economic Development, Chamber & Beautification Committee (Chairman Allison):

Alderman Allison thanked the city employees for placing rip rap on the riverbank on Water Street.

VI. DEPARTMENT HEADS

Police Department (Bobby Helmers):

The Chester Police Department responded to 484 calls for service in March. Lastly, Chief Helmers noted the new squad car arrived and that Officer Martinez and Officer Woods graduate from the academy on April 28th.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Hardy voiced displeasure with the installation of a stop sign at the corner of Field Drive and Ben Street. Mr. Hardy stated that he doesn't believe a stop sign would help with the issues in the subdivision of Field Drive and Ben Street. Mr. Hardy noted a stop sign would not slow down traffic on the street and cause additional issues in the winter months. Also, the installation of a stop sign would cause issues to the two homeowners on the corner.

Secondly, Terry Hardy commented on the recent newspaper article discussing the Code Enforcement Officer's monthly report. Mr. Hardy asked Alderman Hill if he has attempted to contact the Code Enforcement Officer directly. Mr. Hardy stated the Code Enforcement Officer does a fantastic job and is at the Welcome Center every morning to open up. Mr. Hardy stated the city is extremely fortunate to have such dedicated hardworking employees and it appeared Alderman Hill was trying to throw Code Enforcement Officer Lorin Mott "under the bus." Mr. Hardy asked Alderman Hill to take five minutes out of his day to go talk to the Code Enforcement Officer. Alderman Hill asked Mayor Page if he could address Mr. Hardy's public comment. Mayor Page said, not at this time.

Mike Young addressed the city council with concerns on passing an Ordinance to make High Street one-sided parking. Mr. Young presented petitions to the council with signatures from residents against one-sided parking on High Street. Mr. Young stated making the street one-sided parking will increase speed and cause safety issues. Cassie Helmers, a business owner on High Street, stated she has elderly customers that need to be able to park right next to her business. Also, she noted that she has four children that need a place to park. Pastor Phil Keeton noted his congregation has a difficult time parking for Sunday services on High Street now; stating it would be nearly impossible to find parking if High Street was changed to one-sided parking. Mr. Keeton asked the council to consider adding a handicap parking spot in front of his church on High Street for the elderly. Lastly, Richard Brown addressed the council asking them to leave parking on both sides of High Street. Mr. Brown noted there is problems with people parking on sidewalks along High Street.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Housing Needs Assessment:

Planning President Shane Wagner presented the Housing Needs Assessment completed by Steadfast City and Heartlands Conservancy. After a brief discussion, Alderman Hill moved to pass a resolution adopting the Housing Needs Assessment for the City of Chester. Alderman Allison seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen

Dudenbostel, Homan, Buckham, Allison, Hill, Platt, Berry, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: Alderman None. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1789 – AN ORDINANCE RESCHEDULING THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CHESTER, ILLINOIS FROM MAY 15, 2023, TO MAY 16, 2023:

Alderman Maes moved to approve Ordinance #1789 moving the city council meeting from May 15, 2023, to May 16, 2023. Alderman Hill seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Dudenbostel, Allison, Homan, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Berry, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Ben Street and Field Drive – Stop Sign:

Mayor Page suggested tabling this item at this time. Alderman Allison asked Mr. Hardy why a stop sign would not eliminate the speeding issues on Field Drive. Mr. Hardy expressed concern about residents getting stuck on the hillside during winter months. Alderman Allison inquired about the installation of speed bumps in this area. Attorney Kerkhover would need to check with the city's insurance on liability issues. Alderman Hill moved to send this item back to the Streets and Alleys Committee. Alderman Berry seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Dudenbostel, Allison, Homan, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Berry, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1790 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE A II OF CHAPTER 24 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, ILLINOIS, DESIGNATING THE INTERSECTION OF OLD PLANK ROAD AND DIXIE DRIVE AS A THREE-WAY STOP INTERSECTION:

Mayor Page advised the corner of Dixie Drive and Old Plank Road needs to be a three-way-stop intersection. Alderman Buckham's motion was seconded by Alderman Hill. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Dudenbostel, Allison, Homan, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Berry, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1791 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 24 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, ILLINOIS, DESIGNATING CERTAIN AREAS AS A NO PARKING ZONE:

Alderman Hill requested to have one-sided parking on High Street sent back to the Streets & Alleys Committee for review. Alderman Hill moved to approve the proposed Ordinance with the amendment to remove Section "D" designating one-sided parking along High Street. Alderman Buckham seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Dudenbostel, Allison, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Berry, Maes. Nays: Alderman Homan. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #1792 – AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 24-6-13 TO CHAPTER 24 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, ILLINOIS, DESIGNATING CERTAIN AREAS AS 30-MINUTE PARKING:

Alderman Maes moved to designate 30-minute parking between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. of the same day, Monday through Friday in front of City Hall and the Post Office on Swanwick Street. Alderman Hill seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Dudenbostel, Allison, Homan, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Berry, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Natural Gas Management Agreement with Utility Gas Management:

Alderman Dudenbostel moved to approve the Natural Gas Management Agreement with Utility Gas Management allowing them to serve as a consultant for the city's natural gas operations. Alderman Hill seconded the motion. UPON ROLL CALL: Ayes: Aldermen Dudenbostel, Allison, Homan, Buckham, Hill, Platt, Berry, Maes. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:34 p.m., Alderman Maes moved to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Dudenbostel seconded the motion. VOTE: Ayes: Aldermen Platt, Homan, Allison, Berry, Maes, Dudenbostel, Hill, Buckham. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

TOM PAGE, MAYOR

BETHANY BERNER, CITY CLERK