

**MINUTES**

**MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER  
May 11, 2021  
1:00 p.m.**

**Chester City Hall  
Council Chambers  
1 Fourth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Chester, PA 19013  
And VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Michael T. Doweary, Receiver  
Kelly Diaz, County of Delaware, Office of the Controller, Sr. Accountant  
William Jacobs, City Councilman  
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland  
Kim Bracey, DCED, Executive Director for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services  
Vijay Kapoor, Chief of Staff to the Receiver  
Cody Deal, Executive Assistant

**Absent:**

The Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting began at 1:04 p.m. The meeting was streamed on the Chester City's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofchester/>.

**Minutes of April 13 and April 27 MFRAC Meetings**

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the April 13, 2021 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Hearing none, the Receiver asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 13th.

It was moved by Ms. Diaz and seconded by Director Bracey that:

**"The April 13, 2021 minutes of the Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee be accepted as written."**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the April 27, 2021 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Hearing none, the Receiver asked for a motion to accept the minutes of April 27th.

It was moved by Mayor Kirkland and seconded by Director Bracey that:

**"The April 27, 2021 minutes of the Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee be accepted as written."**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **Reports**

Mr. Kapoor provided an update on the status of the Receiver's Recovery Plan, as well as some initiatives that the Receiver's team is working on with the city. The amended plan, which was filed on April 7<sup>th</sup>, is in the process of being reviewed by the Commonwealth Court. There were a few days of testimony before the court as well. The deadline would be 60 days from April 7<sup>th</sup> for final determination by Judge Crompton.

Mr. Kapoor went on to highlight some other initiatives, first being the ongoing weekly meetings between the Receiver and the City's HR staff which have been productive in addressing some HR needs. He also discussed our efforts in working with the City to address the current fee schedule it is currently charging residents. Mr. Kapoor also highlighted the ongoing process by the City currently selecting a bond council to refund the 2017 bond issue. He opened the floor for any questions, to which Director Bracey confirmed the timeframe for hearing back from the courts in regard to the amended plan, which is until June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Kapoor closed by bringing up the upcoming ARP money that will be coming in from the Federal Government. The receivers team is currently working on determining how best to utilize these funds.

## **Receiver Update**

The Receiver opened by stating that we are open to any an all comments or questions from members of the public regarding the Recovery Plan. He went on to Mention The Receiver "Office Hours", an event that is open to the public through preregistration, occurring tomorrow, Wednesday 12th. The Office Hours will be used to answer questions from any who wish to attend regarding the recovery plan. He noted that registration can be completed by contacting the Receivership email account – [info@chesterreceivership.com](mailto:info@chesterreceivership.com).

He opened the floor for any comments or questions, to which Ms. Diaz asked whether these office hours would be weekly or what schedule they would follow. The Receiver responded saying that the plan is still developing, and they will have a better idea of scheduling after this first session was completed.

## **Public Comments**

The Receiver noted the majority of public comments were again pertaining to the Chester Water Authority litigation to which we are still awaiting the outcome. There were 25 comments, but only 6 unique comments, each received multiple times from various submissions. The floor was then opened to the committee for any comments, which there were none.

## **Member Comments**

The receiver asked the committee if there were any comments they wished to be made, asking each respective member of the committee. Mr. Kapoor raised the possible idea of having one agenda item for each future MFRAC meeting that will have a deeper level discussion on a certain issue that both the Receiver's Team and the City are working on, whatever that may be. This will allow for more education and interaction for the public as well. Councilman Jacobs and Mayor Kirkland both voiced their support for this idea. Mayor Kirkland noted it would help counteract any misinformation that is being spread within the community. Director Bracey echoed the mayor's sentiments from the state's standpoint, which has Chester City and its resident's wellbeing in mind. Kelly Diaz was in favor of the idea as well, noting its benefit of additional transparency for the City.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Chester City Hall, City Council Chambers, 1 Fourth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chester, PA 19013, and streamed VIA ZOOM through the City's Facebook page.

Approved this 25th day of May 2021.

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Michael T. Doweary  
Receiver for the City of Chester

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Secretary – Cody Deal