

MINUTES

MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER September 28 , 2021 1:00 p.m.

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

Present: Michael T. Doweary, Receiver
Kelly Diaz, County of Delaware, Office of the Controller, Sr. Accountant
Vijay Kapoor, Chief of Staff to the Receiver
Cody Deal, Executive Assistant
Councilman William Jacobs
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland

Absent: Kim Bracey, DCED, Executive Director for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services

The Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting began at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was streamed on the Chester City's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofchester/>.

Minutes of July 13, July 37, August 10, August 24, and September 14 MFRAC Meetings

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the last 5 copies of the Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Hearing none, the Receiver asked for a motion to accept the minutes of June 22nd.

It was moved by Ms. Diaz and seconded by Councilman Jacobs that:

"The minutes of the last 5 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee Meetings be accepted as written."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments

The Receiver noted the overwhelming majority of comments received pertain to the CWA, over 230 in total. The Receiver opened the floor for comment which there were none, and finished by providing his office's position that all alternatives are being explored as it pertains to the CWA litigation.

Recovery Plan Update

The Receiver passed the floor to Mr. Kapoor for his update. Mr. Kapoor began with stating his team along with the City are continually working to implement the recovery plan. Financially, the Receiver's Financial consultant continues to evaluate cash flows in the city, as well as the ARPA funding expenditures and how the money can be used. They have also begun the budgeting process for 2022.

Regarding HR and labor relations, the City is looking to hire several employees into vacant positions and has filled a few of the positions already posted. The city has also implemented its mandated vaccine policy. Beginning Oct. 4th employees must show they have received at least 1 dose of the vaccine or a negative test, and as of Nov. 1st all city employees must be fully vaccinated.

Mr. Kapoor also stated that his team would be starting engagement with a consultant to assist with Code's enforcement in the City. Lastly, Mr. Kapoor stated he would be going over the teams thoughts on the CWA ruling in his presentation today.

Receiver Update

The Receiver opened the floor first for any questions, which there were none.

His first update was regarding the summit held last week in partnership with the Rondae Hollis-Jefferson Foundation which hopefully will connect various community groups to move the city forward financially. More meetings are planned to be scheduled and continue on an ongoing basis starting in October. These meetings are primarily to prepare for upcoming grant opportunities.

The Receiver then mentioned that the city is still working on the auditing piece required for the ARPA funds to be used. Another update should be provided in October.

The Receiver also noted some economic and community development outreach, including the grant to the city from DCED earlier this year which is funding the study being performed by ReCast to develop the business district. This funding also is being used to develop a Municipal Comprehensive Plan which will be put out for public bidding next month as well. This grant will be used to work with A2Z Diversity in order to encourage various diversity practices within the business landscape of the city. Lastly, a professional who works in City Code's has been brought on as well to help with this area of revenue generation. The Receiver encouraged all members of the public to reach out to his team to get involved in all of the various ways the City needs.

Lastly, the Receiver stated his intention in trying to engage and meet with Seniors were they are which is not always easy in the Pandemic environment. His team has targeted the end of October to arrange some of these public meetings.

The Receiver ended by stating there is an Act 47 for a \$5 Million loan from the State tomorrow with the public hearing beginning at 1pm. Mr. Deal stated that there would be a ZOOM link provided on our website, chesterreceivership.com.

Presentation: CWA Monetization

Mr. Kapoor shared a presentation detailing the current financial situation of the City and how the monetization of the water system is necessary to provide relief. The presentation can be found on the www.chesterreceivership.com website.

Member Comments

The Receiver thanked Mr. Kapoor for his presentation and opened the floor for any questions, which there were none.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12th at 1:00 p.m. at Chester City Hall, City Council Chambers, 1 Fourth Street, 2nd Floor, Chester, PA 19013, and streamed VIA ZOOM through the City's Facebook page.

Approved this 12th Day of October 2021.

Michael T. Doweary
Receiver for the City of Chester

Secretary – Cody Deal