

MINUTES

MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER September 14 , 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 27, 8/10, and 8/24 MFRAC Meetings

The Receiver noted there was not a quorum for this meeting, pushing the approvals for these to the next MFRAC Meeting.

Public Comments

The Receiver noted a few public comments, with the majority being verbatim comments regarding the ongoing CWA litigation. The Receiver answered some of the questions regarding this issue, with the main point being he is not advocating for any action until litigation is finished.

There were other comments relating to the recent Covanta tour presented by the City. Mayor Kirkland remarked that this was done on his behalf and out of his pocket in order to provide transparency to citizens per request of a community member. He encouraged residents to learn more about the Covanta operations and site as it is available for touring. The Receiver thanked Mayor Kirkland for his efforts. The Receiver opened the floor to the committee for any other questions or comments, which there were none. With no other comments to be made, the Receiver passed the floor to Mr. Kapoor.

Recovery Plan Update

Mr. Kapoor started by applauding the efforts of the City in getting residents vaccinated. He noted a great deal of work being done by the City Health Department in coordinating these efforts. He mentioned a few options for upcoming vaccination events in the City, including: ChesPenn Clinic Monday-Friday by appointment (610-872-6131); Saturdays at Keystone Wellness Center with no appointment necessary; and September 23rd at Chester City Hall with no appointment necessary.

Mr. Kapoor then went on to detail some of the other work being done by his team, including the beginning of labor negotiations with the Police and Fire unions. These contracts will need to be in place by end of the year. The Receiver's finance team is working on cash flow and revenue calculations to be used in the budgeting and planning process for next year as well. There is also ARPA planning still underway, with more info to come.

Regarding operations, Mr. Kapoor stated that his team has weekly HR meetings with members of the City staff to keep improving the HR capacity of the City. He opened the floor for any questions, which there were none.

Receiver Update

The receiver again took the floor for his closing update. He began by mentioning the ARPA summit which was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. It will now be held tomorrow, September 15th, at 7pm. All those previously registered remained so, but he invited those who have not already registered to reach out to his team through our info@chesterreceivership.com email address, or directly to the Receiver or Cody Deal.

His next item was the advertising of a tour of the Caleb Pusey House being presented by the CRC Watersheds Association. It is being held on Saturday the 25th at 10am. It is a free event, but registration is required. This is a historically based presentation.

The Receiver also mentioned the Missing Plug awards being held on the same day. The Receiver is unable to attend, but already purchased two tickets. He stated that these tickets would be given out in some sort of raffle to the community.

County Council also provided a statement for the committee, which the Receiver passed the floor to Ms. Diaz to provide. In summary, the County Council will be providing support to the city by demolishing the Pulaski School Building in Chester. Funding will come directly from the county. This will not only open up opportunities for more development, it will also raise local property values in the surrounding areas. The Receiver then passed the floor to Mayor Kirkland for remarks.

Mayor Kirkland first thanked the County for their assistance. He then went on to say the city plans on building a recreational facility on at least a portion of the site, with funds already in place. The remaining portion of the site will be used for housing, which the city needs. This will strengthen the tax base as well. Lastly, he mentioned what will be a resulting increase in the property value of the homes surrounding the site already.

The Receiver thanked all involved during this planning process. He closed by thanking the public works department and Councilwoman West for responding to the needs of the community by bringing on additional employees.

Member Comments

The receiver opened the floor for any closing comments. Mayor Kirkland also gave a shoutout to the public works employees and Councilwoman West on their efforts in mitigating the heavy amounts of illegally dumped trash. He encouraged members of the community to come together and report these activities. The Receiver closed by noting the efforts of other city employees as well, stating that this committee has been primarily focused on public works however that does not make any of the other departments any less relevant.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28th 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 28th Day of September 2021.

Michael T. Doweary
Receiver for the City of Chester

Secretary – Cody Deal