

MINUTES

**MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER
October 12, 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
Kim Bracey, DCED, Executive Director for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services

Absent: None

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 September 28 MFRAC Meeting

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the September 28th Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Hearing none, the Receiver asked for a motion to accept the minutes of September 28th.

It was moved by Ms. Diaz and seconded by Mayor Kirkland that:

"The minutes of the September 28 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee Meetings be accepted as written."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments

The Receiver noted the entirety of the 229 comments received pertain to the CWA. He noted a unique comment voicing a concern of whether the Receiver has responded to the CWA Commissioner, which he confirmed had taken place. The Receiver opened the floor to the committee for any comments, which there were none.

Recovery Plan Update

The Receiver passed the floor to Mr. Kapoor for his update. Mr. Kapoor began by stating his team has begun work on the 2022 budget with the City, with more developments to come. Other financial updates included the news received by the City that the state aid for the pension fund will be forthcoming. Cash flow projections have also been closely monitored by the Receivership team and the City.

Mr. Kapoor also mentioned the 5-million-dollar TRAN being requested by the City from the state to provide a loan to help with cash flows to be repaid next year.

Currently, his team is also gathering health care cost numbers to be presented in the following weeks to the unions for city budget projections.

Mr. Kapoor opened the floor for any questions, which there were none.

The Receiver and Director Bracey confirmed that it is in fact a loan coming from the State, which they are happy to provide, which is typical for any municipality.

Receiver Update

The Receiver began his update beginning with the announcement of the selection of a COO search firm to relieve the current interim COO, Cyrise Dixon, thanking her for her service and reiterating his commitment to finding a permanent employee. Affion Public is the search firm that has been chosen.

His second update was the ongoing process to fill the City's CFO position, with Nafis Nichols departure. His goal is to fill the City Manager/COO position first to work with that individual to build out their team, including the CFO. The Receiver did however name Sheila Brown as the interim Finance Director until this position can be permanently filled during the next 6-12 months.

The Receiver ended his updates stating that his office remains open to meeting with all members of the public to discuss all matters Chester. He shared his cell phone number and email address to be used to contact him.

He opened the floor for any questions, to which Mayor Kirkland noted that these selections for the COO Search Firm and Interim Finance Director were in opposition to the City's choices and made by the Receiver. The Receiver stated that this opposition is on record, noting that there will not be 100% agreement on all decisions made.

Member Comments

The Receiver opened the floor for any questions, to which Mayor Kirkland wanted to share the city's appreciation for the TRAN from the state, which has been done in the past. Director Bracey stated that it was commonplace for municipalities to request this and reiterated the State's position that they are happy to help.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th 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 26th Day of October 2021.

Michael T. Doweary
Receiver for the City of Chester

Secretary – Cody Deal