

MINUTES

**MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER
October 26, 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 October 12 MFRAC Meeting

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the October 12th Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Hearing none, the Receiver asked for a motion to accept the minutes of October 12th.

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

"The minutes of the October 12 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee Meetings be accepted as written."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments

The Receiver noted the comments received through the appropriate channels, with 71 total comments received. He thanked those who submitted. He noted he received about 40 voicemails per day from the public but that he did not have a total number. He thanked those who called in as well, but cautioned that answering that many phone calls a day may take away from the work at hand, while still encouraging public outreach.

The receiver opened the floor for any committee questions, to which Director Bracey asked if there was a way to respond to acknowledge receipt of these comments. The Receiver noted that there is an automatically generated response when the comments are received through the Receivership website or email address. He also noted that we do respond to questions or concerns raised via statements and press releases. There were no further questions.

Recovery Plan Update

The Receiver passed the floor to Mr. Kapoor for an update on the Receiver's recovery plan implementation. Mr. Kapoor had a few small items to share aside from his presentation.

He began by mentioning that the budgeting process for next year is still ongoing, and his team is working closely with City staff to complete this.

He also mentioned that his review of the police pension is the primary subject of his recent work and presentation today. There has been a miscalculation issue that needs to be addressed regarding the amounts of pension payouts for a select number of retirees.

Receiver Update

The Receiver began his update by encouraging the community to continue to monitor the calendar on the receivership website for upcoming events. He specifically mentioned the upcoming clean ups before passing it over to Mayor Kirkland for more details. Mayor Kirkland shared that 6 or 7 dumpsters had been placed in certain parts of the eastside last Thursday, with west end work to commence this Thursday. Rodney and Mark from public works will be leading these efforts. Flyers will also be distributed for public info on these cleanups and dumpsters.

The Receiver then highlighted the work being done by the Amache Program and their community events which will be posted as well.

Lastly, the Receiver noted that there have been quite a few right to know requests received and that he and his team are open to any and all requests to this public information.

Presentation RE: Police Pension

Mr. Kapoor's presentation was centered around an error that is being made in the calculation of certain retiree payouts under the current plan and the actions that are being taken to correct this. Once completed this should result in a huge cost savings and a much more sustainable plan.

The presentation can be found on the receivership website, www.chesterreceivership.com

Member Comments

The committee discussed the possible ramifications and next steps to be taken, including legal and financial implications. Mr. Kapoor explained that this process is just getting started and much more info will be following as more is uncovered. The Mayor thanked both the Receiver

and the State for their efforts in uncovering this information. The Receiver opened the floor for any further questions, which there were none.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9th 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 9th Day of November 2021.

Michael T. Doweary
Receiver for the City of Chester

Secretary – Cody Deal