

## MINUTES

### MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER

July 13, 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  
Kim Bracey, DCED, Executive Director for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services  
Kelly Diaz, County of Delaware, Office of the Controller, Sr. Accountant  
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland  
William Jacobs, City Councilman  
Vijay Kapoor, Chief of Staff to the Receiver  
Cody Deal, Executive Assistant  
Rodney Robertson, Director, Public Works  
Mark Alexander, Public Works

**Absent:**

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 June 22 MFRAC Meeting**

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the June 22, 2021 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

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

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

**"The June 22, 2021 minutes of the Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee be accepted as written."**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Reports**

The Receiver opened the floor to Mr. Kapoor to provide a progress update for the Receiver's team.

Mr. Kapoor gave brief updates on current activities of the Receiver's team along with the city. Grass Cutting and trash collection have been the recent focus, and the topic of today's presentation.

Word has also been received that the City will be making the full MMO pension payment for the first time since 2018. The pool is also currently open for residents.

The last part of his update was about the ongoing police staffing study, and the analysis on how we can get more officers on the street. This will most likely be discussed with the committee in the coming weeks.

## **Receiver Update**

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

The Receiver first mentioned that the date for "Breakfast with the Receiver" has been pushed to July 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am. The location is still to be determined, but registration is open. RSVP's can be sent to [info@chesterreceivership.com](mailto:info@chesterreceivership.com) with more info on the receivership website as well. There will be a focus on the ARPA money and how it can be allocated in the community.

Director Bracey congratulated the receiver on organizing a good event like this to have more public engagement. The Receiver thanked Director Bracey, and then went on to Thank the mayor and Ms. Barnes for hosting and participating in a recent clean up.

He closed by thanking the community stakeholders for the warm reception and feedback given to him and his team. He opened the floor for any questions, which there were none.

## **Public Works Presentation**

The Receiver passed the floor to Mr. Kapoor, Rodney Robertson, and Mark Alexander, for their Public Works Presentation, which can be found on the receivership website – [www.chesterreceivership.com](http://www.chesterreceivership.com).

The presentation centered around Trash Collection and Grass Cutting issues and the various options for moving forward to get better results for the citizens of Chester. He also asked for public input as well.

After the presentation, Director Bracey mentioned other municipalities where residents are engaged in these efforts to maintain code enforcement. She recommended finding a way to get the community as involved as possible. Mr. Robertson mentioned that there are members of the public who assist and it is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Kapoor opened the floor for any other comments or questions. Councilman Jacobs mentioned that community service has been integral over the year to keep the city clean. He feels it would be good for the Receiver's team to check out the status of these programs. Ms. Diaz said she could raise this discussion with county council and report back to the committee.

Mayor Kirkland then thanked Mr. Kapoor for their presentation. He acknowledged that the city is in a much better place because of the work of the Receiver and the City. He hopes those in the community will continue to help in getting the city back to where it used to be. He ended by thanking everyone involved for their efforts.

The receiver extended a thank you to the committee for all of the interaction on these public works efforts and discussion.

### **Public Comments**

The Receiver noted the comments received through [info@chesterreceivership.com](mailto:info@chesterreceivership.com). The majority were related to the CWA and potential sale, still in litigation. There was one comment related to today's presentation, mentioning he hoped that the questions were answered. There were 2 meeting requests from residents as well, 1 already scheduled with the other to be decided.

The receiver opened the floor for any questions or comments, which there were none.

### **Member Comments**

The receiver opened the floor for any closing comments, 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, July 27<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 25<sup>th</sup> Day of June 2021.

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Michael T. Doweary  
Receiver for the City of Chester

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Secretary – Cody Deal