

MINUTES

MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER November 23, 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
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland
Kim Bracey, DCED, Executive Director for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services
Councilman William Jacobs
Seth Williams, PFM
Ronald Serpas, PFM

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 November 9 MFRAC Meeting

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the November 9th Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Hearing none, the Receiver asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 9th.

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

"The minutes of the November 9 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee Meetings be accepted as written."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments

The receiver noted the 3 unique public comments received, with 14 in total, indicating that all pertain to the ongoing CWA litigation. The Receiver opened the floor for any comments which there were none. The Receiver also noted hundreds of more comments received to his email address, also pertaining to CWA.

Recovery Plan Update

The Receiver passed the floor to Mr. Kapoor for an update on the Receiver's recovery plan.

Mr. Kapoor began with an update on the budgeting process, with the Receiver's team working closely with the city finance staff to put together the 2022 Budget. Secondly, he discussed his team's preparation to have a discussion with retirees soon regarding changes to their pensions and healthcare coverage. He also mentioned that the city is on track to make the full required payment for the Pension. He noted a special pension board meeting called for this upcoming Monday to discuss the issues discovered regarding police retirees.

Mr. Kapoor also mentioned that there is a presentation regarding a police staffing study that will be given today, and a fire study presentation for the 7th of December.

Councilman Jacobs asked Mr. Kapoor to elaborate on the tax changes used to fund the pensions and the other actions taken that made a difference in being able to make the full pension payment. Mr. Kapoor started by stating the tax increase was required by law, then going on to detail the furloughs that happened last year which caused a smaller amount of employees on salary in the city, as well as other cost saving actions taken including changes to retiree health plan to a Medicare supplemental.

There were no further questions.

Receiver Update

The Receiver gave a brief update as well. First he thanked the various people who have worked towards improving the vaccination rate in the City of Chester, as well as those residents and business owners who have taken the necessary precautions to help slow the spread. With the holidays coming up, the Receiver encouraged all to continue to take caution.

He also announced a virtual town hall on December 13th at 6pm, with more info available on the receivership website. The hope is to have these monthly moving forward as a chance for the public to interact with the Receiver.

Lastly, December 14th MFRAC meeting will include a presentation on the recently completed fire study.

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

Presentation RE: Police Study

The Receiver gave the floor to Seth Williams and Ronal Serpas from PFM to provide a presentation on their recently completed study of the Chester City Police Department and how it can possibly become more efficient and effective.

The presentation as well as the follow up questions/discussion from the committee can be found on the receivership website, www.chesterreceivership.com

Member Comments

Mr. Kapoor closed the meeting as The Receiver was having connectivity issues. He opened the floor for any questions or comments in closing, to which Director Bracey had one question about the 2022 Budgeting process and where it currently stands. Mr. Kapoor stated that it is going well and is on track to be completed in the coming weeks as all of the data is finalized.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14th 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 14th Day of December 2021.

Michael T. Doweary
Receiver for the City of Chester

Secretary – Cody Deal