



Livia Smith, Chair
Portia West, Vice Chair
Joan Neal, Secretary
William Riley, Treasurer
John Shelton, Board Member
Fred Green, Board Member
Joy Taylor, Board Member
Susan Dennis, Board Member
Elizabeth Williams, Board Member
Steven A. Hann, Esquire, Solicitor
Bruce Conner, Jr., Interim Executive Manager

MINUTES
Board of Directors
STORMWATER AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF CHESTER
October 8, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester held a Board meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the Stormwater Authority office located at 29 East 5th Street, Chester, PA 19013.

Call to Order

Ms. Livia Smith called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Smith asked the Executive Secretary (Vanessa Gosa) of the Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester if she had verification of the published meeting.

Verification of Published Meeting

Executive Secretary (Vanessa Gosa) stated that the notice of the published meeting appeared in the Delco Times on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. On that same date, the verification of published meeting was forwarded via email to Solicitor, Steven Hann. Mr. Hann confirmed receipt.

Roll Call of the Board

The following people were present: Mr. William Riley (Treasurer); Ms. Portia West (Vice-Chair); Ms. Joan Neal (Secretary); Ms. Susan Dennis (Board Member); Ms. Joy Taylor

(Board Member); Ms. Elizabeth Williams (Board Member); Mr. Fred Green (Board Member); and Ms. Livia Smith (Chair). Mr. John Shelton (Board Member) was in attendance via telephone. There were nine board members in attendance. Let the record show that Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager of the Stormwater Authority, was absent from the meeting.

Livia Smith stated that before beginning the meeting she would like to make note that after the meeting, there will be an executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer led by Livia Smith, Chair. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only

None.

Approval of August 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Livia Smith (Chair) asked that a motion be made to approve the August 13, 2024 board meeting minutes. Ms. Susan Dennis made a motion approving the August 13, 2024 board meeting minutes. Mr. William Riley seconded the motion.

Motion for Approval of the August 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. William Riley (Yes); Ms. Portia West (Yes); Ms. Joan Neal (Yes); Ms. Susan Dennis (Yes); Ms. Joy Taylor (Yes); Ms. Elizabeth Williams (Yes); Mr. Fred Green (Yes); Mr. John Shelton (Yes); and Ms. Livia Smith (Yes). Motion carried.

Approval of Report of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

Livia Smith (Chair) asked that a motion be made to approve the Report on Current and Most Recent Expenditures.

Mr. William Riley made a motion for approval of the Report on Current and Most Recent Expenditures. Ms. Susan Dennis seconded the motion.

Ms. Livia Smith asked if there were any questions. Ms. Susan Dennis had a question about the permit from the City of Chester for the Community Day that the Stormwater Authority was planning to have, however, was cancelled. Will Stormwater Authority get that money back or will the Stormwater Authority get credit?

Vanessa Gosa (Executive Secretary) of the Stormwater Authority asked permission from Chair, Livia Smith, to answer the question. Permission granted by Chair, Livia Smith. Ms. Gosa provided the answer to the question, stating that she spoke with a woman at City Hall who informed her that the money would not be refunded, however, the City will issue a credit.

Ms. Livia Smith asked if there were any other questions about the report on current and most recent expenditures. Vice-Chair, Portia West had a question regarding the landscaping charges. She wanted to know if the \$6,500 was a monthly charge. Andrew Nelson, CFO replied “yes,” it is monthly during the growth season, May through October. Mr. Nelson stated that \$3,000 is for the maintenance at Veterans Memorial Park, \$3,000 for maintenance at Eyre Park, and \$500 is for the landscaping and grass cutting around the Stormwater offices (Headquarters, Payment Center, and parking lot). Vice-Chair West also asked if the Stormwater Authority (SAC) has someone to do snow removal. Mr. Nelson replied, “no.” The SAC crew does snow removal.

Joan Neal asked the question, “Who is Vadar?” Mr. Nelson answered by saying that Vadar is the company that hosts the software for our billing department.

Motion for Approval of Report of Current and Most Recent Expenditures

Mr. William Riley (Yes); Ms. Portia West (Yes); Ms. Joan Neal (Yes); Ms. Susan Dennis (Yes); Ms. Joy Taylor (Yes); Ms. Elizabeth Williams (Yes); Mr. Fred Green (Yes); Mr. John Shelton (Yes); and Ms. Livia Smith (Yes). Motion carried.

Solicitor’s Report

**Submitted by: Steven A. Hann, Esquire
October 8, 2024**

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

1. STORMWATER FEE CASE BEFORE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT:

At the August meeting, I reported on a significant case before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dealing with stormwater fees that could have a major impact on municipal entities that assess stormwater fees in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On September 11, 2024, oral argument was held before the Supreme Court on this case. As soon as a decision is issued, I will provide the Authority with my analysis of the Court’s opinion.

2. MATTER BEFORE THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA:

In the matter involving the debtor City of Chester before the above-referenced court, the depositions of Dr. Strand and Chairperson Smith had to be postponed, and have not yet been rescheduled.

Executive Manager's Report

**Submitted by: Dr. Horace W. Strand
October 8, 2024**

I would like to report that the Stormwater Authority is actively working to maintain the inlets around the City and keep our system free and clear of debris. The men are working well. The Memorial Park Project is moving ahead and is ahead of schedule. We check the site on a daily basis to assure that dust and debris is not creating problems for the neighbors. We are using the street sweeper to clean around the work area.

During our most recent storms, we have done very well as a community with little flooding issues. We are still navigating through the numerous issues with the City and are dealing with them one step at a time.

Our board room has received a new air conditioning unit, and the unit on the second floor of our Payment Center has been replaced.

Unfinished Business

None.

Board Matters

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comments on Agenda on Other Matters

Connie Irving – 1121 Chestnut St., Chester, PA – Ms. Irving asked what is the progress of project that is taking place at Memorial Park.

Bruce Conner, Assistant Executive Manager, provided in Dr. Strand's absence, the latest update that 90% of the Memorial Park project is almost complete. Originally, we were looking at the project to be completed by early summer, however, at the rate the contractors are going, it looks like the project will be completed by late spring 2025.

Ms. Irving asked what the residents can expect to see when the project is completed. Mr. Conner stated that the park will have a retention pond, gazebos, and a walking trail. The park will be a beautiful place where people can come and relax, have barbecues and picnics if they choose to do so. Mr. Conner emphasized that the residents will be very pleased with the outcome.

Ms. Irving asked if the rate of reserving the park will be increased for events since the park will have a whole new look. Mr. Conner stated that it is something she would have to address with the City, the Stormwater Authority does not have anything to do with reserving the park for events.

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Livia Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Susan Dennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fred Green seconded. All in favor Meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. Executive Session followed the meeting.

Next Board Meeting: December 10, 2024