

CITY GOVERNMENT

Chester OKs 5 projects for stormwater authority

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CHESTER » City Council passed a resolution granting permission to the Chester Stormwater Authority to carry out five projects at its regular meeting Wednesday.

The projects named in the resolution are: Memorial Park - GSI [Green Stormwater Infrastructure] Project; City Hall Pavers; Water Quality Inlet Improvements; Rain Garden at Eyre Park; and Eyre Park Greenway.

The projects are the first approved by council for the authority, incorporated in October 2016 and announced to the public in June 2017, created to reduce stormwater pollution and runoff while creating economic opportunities in the city through its environmen-

tally-friendly infrastructure development.

Council's passing of the resolution occurred as a preliminary injunction hearing is set for today in the Delaware County Common Pleas Court to prevent the authority from collecting fees from city business owners and residents.

As of Monday, the plaintiffs, represented by Rocco Imperatrice III of Imperatrice, Amarant & Bell, P.C., based in Newtown Square, are made up of approximately 35 business and property owners, and about another 12 individual property owners being represented pro bono, according to Imperatrice.

Controversy around the authority began in November when property owners received letters notifying

them of monthly charges. The fees are imposed based on the amount of impervious surface on an average single-family residential property in the city, or Equivalent Residential Units (ERU). An ERU was set by the authority as equal to 1,139 square feet. The original monthly fee for one ERU was set at \$15.60, before being reduced to \$8.25 and billed quarterly after pushback from city businesses.

A petition for preliminary injunction filed by Widener University calls the designation of the ERU and fee arbitrary and the Chester Stormwater Authority's projects "allegedly to help combat the effects of polluted stormwater runoff" would duplicate the stormwater control already performed by DELCORA.

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