

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 12, 2015

Call to Order

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Council Vice President Marie Lawson, Mssr, Joseph Hamrick, Edward Simpson and Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, and Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones. Staff members present included Acting City Manager Michael O'Rourke, City Solicitor John Carnes, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Director of Planning and Codes Enforcement Damalier Molina, Public Works Director Donald Wilkinson, and Police Chief John Laufer.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening January 12, 2015, to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the December 8, 2014 meeting minutes; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to approve the December 22, 2014 meeting minutes; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1. Mrs. Jones abstained from the vote.

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to approve the December 29, 2014 meeting minutes; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1. Mrs. Jones abstained from the vote.

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to approve the January 5, 2015 meeting minutes with corrections; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

There were no additions, deletions or modifications at this time.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Citizens' Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

Khadijah Al-Amin

Ms. Al-Amin questioned miscellaneous bills from the Solid Waste Department such as oil deliveries, cell phone, cable and food paid by the City credit card. Mr. Wilkinson explained food was purchased for the employees while they plowed last winter.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans voiced his concerns on the solid waste billing. He inquired about the property transfers since 2009. The bill owners names are not corrected with the property addresses on the bills. He asked if the serial numbers on the totes are listed and assigned to the property. If so, where can he get a copy of the list of addresses with the assigned serial numbers?

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky appreciates the agenda on the website the Friday. Can the Ordinances be posted on the website prior to the meetings? It would help the citizens that have questions to read the Ordinances prior to the meetings.

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Citizens' Hearings – *Non-Agenda Items Only* (3 Minutes)

Alphonso Williams

Mr. Williams voiced his concerns with the Codes Department neglecting their responsibilities. There are several new tenants in his building and no inspection reports since 2005. There should be an inspection before each property is re-rented out.

John Pawlowski

Mr. Pawlowski updated the Council on the status of the gazebos on the Riverwalk. Mr. Molina advised John about a grant program from PECO for some funding. Mr. Pawlowski asked for permission for Mr. Molina to apply for the grant. The City is required to approve and submit a Resolution with the grant. President Lavender-Norris stated the committee will work with Mr. Pawlowski.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans stated the Finance Clerk is unable to access the records for the Solid Waste at this time. Mr. Marcarelli stated the Dallas Program will provide access to look at the files and update them. Mr. Evans inquired about a resident who was here at a previous meeting (Mr. Mammarella). Mrs. Lavender-Norris explained the issue Mr. Mammarella addressed was in Caln Township. Mr. Evans questioned the paving of the streets. Mr. Simpson explained the roads are paved after the completion of the work on the roads. Paving is not done at this time, due to the weather.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky voiced his concerns in the spending in the Sweeps Dept. (ordered a printer), Cintas (medicines, cough drops, etc...), and Delivery of oil within two days (lost early payment discount). Expenses should be cut to the bone.

Ron Suber

Mr. Suber asked the Chief if Police Officers write tickets, why do we need a parking meter guy? He complained the calibers in the meters are incorrect and when the time expires, people are receiving tickets. The ticket guy should not have authority to represent other parking tickets in court. Mr. Suber stated the City needs to make a budget before they go bankrupt.

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider reappointment to the Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees. Tyrone Harley to the Redevelopment Authority for the term 2015-2019; Donald Folks to the Civil Service Commission for the term 2015-2018; Linda Lavender-Norris to the Planning Commission

for the term 2015-2018 and Diane Brownfield to the Historical Commission for the term 2015-2017.

President Lavender-Norris asked to be excluded from reappointment to the Planning Commission so she can commit the time to her responsibilities as Council President.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the reappointment of Tyrone Harley to the Redevelopment Authority for the term 2015-2019; Donald Folks to the Civil Service Commission for the term 2015-2018; Linda Lavender-Norris to the Planning Commission for the term 2015-2018 and Diane Brownfield to the Historical Commission for the term 2015-2017; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Receive and consider appointment of Paul Trizonis to the Historical Commission for the term 2013-2015; Henry Assetto to the Historical Commission for the term 2014-2016; Denny Panik to the Historical Commission for the term 2015-2017; and Martin Brice to the Police Pension Commission 2015-2016.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to appoint Paul Trizonis to the Historical Commission for the term 2013-2015; Henry Assetto to the Historical Commission for the term 2014-2016; Denny Panik to the Historical Commission for the term 2015-2017; and Martin Brice to the Police Pension Commission 2015-2016; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Receive and consider an Ordinance amending Zoning Ordinance relative to the Fair Housing Act amendments by: 1) Redefined group home and providing definitions for reasonable accommodation and reasonable modification; 2) Confirming that a group home is permissible in every residential zoning district in the City; 3) Providing for notice to the public that complies with reasonable accommodation requirements; and 4) Removing inconsistent provisions from the existing Ordinance.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance amending Zoning Ordinance relative to the Fair Housing Act amendments by: 1) Redefined group home and providing definitions for reasonable accommodation and reasonable modification; 2) Confirming that a group home is permissible in every residential zoning district in the City; 3) Providing for notice to the public that complies with reasonable accommodation requirements; and 4) Removing inconsistent provisions from the existing Ordinance; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Receive and consider proposal for Solid Waste billing and payment processing

Mr. Simpson asked if the system will be added on the current financial software. Vice President Lawson asked if property owners will be able to pay their bills online. Mr. O'Rourke explained he will work with Mr. Marcarelli to talk with local banks to investigate the possibility of residents paying online. Mr. Hamrick agreed with Mr. Simpson on going door to door in order to ensure information is correct on the solid waste bills. President Lavender stated the City should have more information and is frustrated with the action or lack thereof from Berkheimer. Vice President Lawson questioned the cost of the contract and the quote process. Mr. Marcarelli explained the cost for the contract was thru COSTARS which is a PA cooperative purchasing program. There is no reason for the bid or proposal process.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve Dallas Data Systems for Solid Waste billing and payment processing; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. President Lavender-Norris was the dissenting vote.

5. Discuss authorizing Acting City Manager as check signer

Mr. Simpson made a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign checks; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-4. Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Hunt, Vice President Lawson and President Lavender-Norris were the dissenting votes.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes announced the Resolution for the Arcelor Mittal lot add-on for Brandywine Properties was approved by City Council and forwarded to the landowner. The Zoning Ordinance Amendments regarding Fair Housing Act issues has been revised to address the comments of County Planning Commission. He assisted the Finance Director with the 2015 TAN with PNC Bank.

City Manager's Report

Mr. O'Rourke announced he will be holding weekly regular staff meetings. He will provide Council with an update on the departments.

Discussion Item

1. Discuss Council Appointment to fill vacancy in 4th Ward

Mr. O'Rourke explained that he provided Council with an application for the vacancy. A press release will be sent out for anyone interested in the vacancy. The application asks anyone interested in the appointment submit a letter stating their reasons for being interested in the appointment and explaining why they think themselves a good choice for the position. Council also asked that candidates submit a resume showing their education, experience, employment history, skills and abilities. Interviews will be held in a public meeting on February 2, 2015 and one of the applicants will be elected after the interviews.

2. Discuss commencing recruitment process for new City Manager

Mr. O'Rourke announced he is currently working on a timeline for the application and interview process for selecting a permanent City Manager. Applicants will be subject to a review by a committee of other municipal managers, Coatesville officials and citizens, Council asked for the interviews to be opened to the public.

3. Discuss review of 2015 Budget

Vice President Lawson announced a budget workshop will be held on January 21, 2015 @ 7pm.

4. Discuss address numbers on back of properties

Vice President Lawson questioned the process for citing a person who does not have numbers on the back of their home. She asked if the numbers on the back of the house help for safety. Chief Laufer explained most municipalities follow the same procedure. Mr. Molina explained a violation notice is sent out, if the violation is not resolved within the timeframe allotted a citation will be sent. The person is not given a citation right away. They are provided a chance to rectify the violation.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Hamrick thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It has been an educational meeting. He liked the comments from the audience.

Mrs. Jones stated this meeting has been too much sugar for a dime. She wasn't sure everything was going to go as smoothly, gave it a 90%. She quoted "As long as we have memories, yesterday remains. As long as we have hope, tomorrow waits. As long as we have friendships, today is beautiful".

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It has been a good meeting. She is looking forward to 2015.

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Vice President Lawson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She announced a Community Service Project will be held at Asp Park, Coatesville Library and City Gate on Martin Luther King Jr. Day starting at 9:30 at CASH. She thanked the landlords for all they have done and their due diligence.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She assured all the residents who have come to the podium that their comments and concerns will be addressed. She thanked everyone for their continued support.

Adjournment

Mrs. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.