

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
March 23, 2015

Call to Order

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:58 pm 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, Bill Shaw, 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, Public Works Director Donald Wilkinson, and Police Chief John Laufer and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening March 23, 2015, to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to approve the March 9, 2015 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

President Lawson made a motion to add Resolution 2015-11. There was no second. Motion failed to add item to the agenda.

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to add action item 10) Settlement Agreement; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

1. Coatesville Centennial – Frances Sheehan

Ms. Sheehan announced a variety of events that will be happening throughout the year for the City of Coatesville Centennial. The kick-off for the Coatesville Centennial yearlong celebration announce the winner of the logo contest will be April 27, 2015 at 10 am. The event will be held at the Coatesville Train Station Fleetwood and Third Avenues. There will be elected officials in attendance.

The Calendar of events will be April 25, YMCA Healthy Kids Day; April 27, Press Conference Coatesville Train Station; May 7, Hutchinson Founders Day; June 27, James Adams School Alumni Association Reunion, Hutchinson Church; July 11, City of Coatesville Community Unity Explosion; July 25, Brandywine Center Block Party; August 6, Chester County Parks and Recreation Department "Village Tour" in Coatesville starts at Lukens Executive Building; August 21, Book Bag Giveaway Event, Scott Middle School; TBD YMCA Community Days, Ash Park; October 17, Heritage Day, December 5, Coatesville Christmas Parade and Festive 5K; Church/Gospel Choir Concert Date to be determined.

2. New Life in Christ Fellowship – Jackie Carter

Ms. Carter asked Council for an Adopt Ash Park for a day of renovations and clean up. The New Life in Christ Pastor Williams wants to do this for his 25th Pastorial Anniversary. There will be a barbecue at the same time. The date is May 17, 2015 with a rain date of May 31, 2015. There is no expense to the City.

Council unanimously approved the Adopt Ash Park for a Day event

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

Darrell Williams

Mr. Williams questioned action item #2 and the increase of taxes. He suggested making Department Heads exempt on the salaries and wages. President Lavender-Norris explained there is no intention on an increase in taxes.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans asked Council to bring the budget into balance as discussed in previous meeting.

Mrs. Jones made a motion to close citizens' hearing on regular action items only; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Item

There were no discussion items at this time.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider an Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City Government as herein set forth, for the year 2015

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve an Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City Government as herein set forth, for the year 2015 with provision if Full-time to Part-time Resolution is not adopted will amend budget; Mr. Shaw seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3. Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Hunt and Mr. Hamrick were the dissenting votes.

2. Receive and consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 203 (Taxation) of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the Tax rate for general purposes for the year 2015

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 203 (Taxation) of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the tax rate for general purposes for the year 2015; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider providing for salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City of Coatesville.

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve an Ordinance for salaries and wages for personnel and employed by the City of Coatesville; Mr. Shaw seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Hunt was the dissenting vote.

4. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 47 of the City of Coatesville's Code governing "Procurement and Purchasing" to comply with recent amendments by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry raising the dollar threshold for public bidding from \$18,500.00 to \$19,400.00 raising the amounts permitted to be contracted by solicitation of oral bids from \$6,000.00 to \$10,500.00 and maintaining the amount that can be taken from petty cash at \$50.00 and permitting a maximum expenditure of up to \$10,500.00 if authorized by the City Manager and supplying a cost of living adjustment with respect to the public bid threshold amount.

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 47 of the City of Coatesville's Code governing "Procurement and Purchasing" to comply with recent amendments by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry raising the dollar threshold for public bidding from \$18,500.00 to \$19,400.00 raising the amounts permitted to be contracted by solicitation of oral bids from \$6,000.00 to \$10,500.00 and maintaining the amount that can be taken from petty cash at \$50.00 and permitting a maximum expenditure of up to \$10,500.00 if authorized by the City Manager and supplying a cost of living adjustment with respect to the public bid threshold amount; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Receive and consider Second Reading and Adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1. Fees in the City of Coatesville Code to remove inconsistent duplicate fees

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve second reading and adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1. Fees in the City of Coatesville Code to remove inconsistent duplicate fees; Mr. Shaw seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Receive and consider Second Reading and Adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 169-7 Behaviors in City Parks by adding a new subsection N. Smoking ban in all City Parks including all tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and chewing tobacco) as well as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes and all alternatives

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve second reading and adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 169-7 Behaviors in City Parks by adding a new subsection N. Smoking ban in all City Parks including all tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and chewing tobacco) as well as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes and all alternatives; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Jones was the dissenting vote.

7. Receive and consider proposal from Cedarville for Parking study in the Downtown Revitalization District

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the proposal from Cedarville Engineering for the Parking Study in the Downtown Revitalization District and the city match of \$5,000; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

8. Receive and consider adoption of Civil Service Part Time Eligibility List

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adopt the Civil Service Part Time Eligibility List; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

9. Receive and consider approval to offer conditional offers of employment to the first eight officers.

President Lavender-Norris said turning now to the appointment of part-time patrol officers, the Civil Service Commission has provided us with the certified list of applicants who have

successfully completed the oral and written exams for appointment. The Third Class City Code requires that the Chief of Police nominate a candidate from among the three highest ranked applicants on the eligibility list. These appointments are for the position of part-time Patrol Officer within the Coatesville Police Department. Any candidate who is eligible for veterans' preference under the Third Class City Code, appearing on the list of three candidates must be selected. Candidates appointed tonight by council will be conditionally appointed subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological evaluation.

The first three candidates are Tyler D. Reece; Edward Batykefer; and Maureen E. Rae. Chief Laufer has nominated Tyler D. Reece for conditional part time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department.

Mr. Simpson made a motion that Tyler D. Reece be appointed as Part-time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Simpson made a motion that Edward Batykefer be appointed as Part-time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Vice President Lawson made a motion that Maureen E. Rae be appointed as Part-time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Vice President Lawson made a motion that Roosevelt Turner, Samulae A. Snyder, Kevin J. Leary, Geoffrey T. Burkhart and William A. Carter be appointed as Part-time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

10. Receive and consider approval of settlement agreement of \$25,000 with former employee.

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve a settlement agreement of \$25,000 with a former employee; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Simpson was the dissenting vote.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes responded to a suggested bond for public improvements and requested an update on the Family Dollar Store Project.

Mr. Carnes assisted in getting the revised Easement Agreement to the RDA which has been approved and executed and will be executed by the City and filed timely fashion in support of the City's efforts in obtaining a PECO grant.

Mr. Carnes revised the contract for the Conti property to include further protections against erosion and protection of the Brandywine Creek; and advertised for this year's project.

City Manager's Report

Mr. O'Rourke handed out department reports for Codes, Public Works and Sweeps. The City has received nine applicants at this time for the City Managers position.

Mr. O'Rourke said he called the promotion consultants firm again for the special events and has not received a call back. He is going to begin calling other firms. He asked Council to provide him with any firms they may know of.

Mr. O'Rourke received a letter from the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board for a NISI Board of Clarification for a Codes Department Union position. The City can move forward after 20 days (as of March 18, 2015) for objections from the boards. The papers have been posted as requested.

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

Alphonso Williams

Mr. Williams questioned the status of the report from the previous meetings. Mr. O'Rourke apologized and said he would get the report to Mr. Williams.

Darrell Williams

Mr. Williams questioned the status of development on the Train Station. President Lavender-Norris provided a brief synopsis. Mr. Williams voiced his concerns on a tree problem. He is not happy Mr. Hudson was forced out.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans inquired about the withdrawal on \$1.5 million last year if there was a \$900,000 surplus at the end of the year. He voiced his concerns regarding the City Hall roof being an emergency and the Codes issues involved.

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone congratulated Council on working together through dialogue and making hard decisions. There are groups here in the City to help. Mr. DeSimone stated he has some concerns on the Dollar Store Development.

Spartacus Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated Council is doing a wonderful job. He is waiting to hear good news from outsiders of the City. Change is good for us all.

Paul A. Dodson

Mr. Dodson voiced his concerns regarding a permit and the Codes Department.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Special Events

1. Receive and consider a banner permit submitted by the Brandywine Health Foundation for temporary banners along Lincoln Highway from May 1, 2015 to June 8, 2015 for the Strawberry Festival
Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve a banner permit submitted by the Brandywine Health Foundation for temporary banners along Lincoln Highway from May 1, 2015 to June 8, 2015 for the Strawberry Festival; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Receive and consider a special event permit submitted by Quadrina March for a Block Party/Birthday Party on April 25, 2015 from 12 am to 7 pm at 244 New Street.

Vice President made a motion to approve a special event permit submitted by Quadrina March for a Block Party/Birthday Party on April 25, 2015 from 12 am to 7 pm at 244 New Street; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion failed 0-7.

3. Receive and consider a special event permit from Steve Marinolo for a wedding March 27, 2015 from 12 pm and 4 pm. A request has been made for parking on Colina Lane

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve a special event permit from Steve Marinolo for a wedding March 27, 2015 to park on Colina Lane from 12 pm and 4 pm; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion failed 0-7.

4. Receive and consider a special event permit from Sharlene Llanos for a Block Party/Birthday Party on May 9, 2015 from 1 pm to 5 pm. It has been requested to close the West Diamond Street.

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve a special event permit from Sharlene Llanos for a Block Party/Birthday Party on May 9, 2015 from 1 pm to 5 pm closing West Diamond Street; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion failed 0-7.

Council asked for street closures to be added as discussion items at the next meeting.

Council Comments

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She quoted “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Council has been working together since the beginning of the year on the budget and the betterment of the City. He thanked Mr. Shaw for his help with the budget since he was new to Council this year.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There are hard decisions Council has to make, anyone should make a decision from their heart. A decision is not always popular with everyone. We may disagree, but in the end, we agree to move the City forward.

Mr. Hamrick thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that he voted no on the budget due to the withdrawal from the trust for the roof. Mr. Hamrick announced that he and Mr. Simpson attended the Train Station Meeting. It is amazing the ridership of Amtrak. The City is currently the third on the list for the Train Station. The RDA has approved the plans. The City is at the mercy of Penn Dot. Penn Dot is providing the funds for the development.

Mr. Shaw thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It is good to see so many people in attendance. He stated we are the foundation to build a positive relationship, which will lead to development and future coming together. He said no one is happy about the budget, there are people’s jobs being cut. There’s a withdrawal from the trust fund. We’re not happy about a lot of things with the budget. We did not get everything we wanted. We are unanimous that we want to move forward in a new direction.

President Lavender-Norris explained the proposed cuts won’t just affect individuals and families it will affect everyone in the City. She would rather see 4 or 5 families affected, than see 12,995 families affected. It is not easy, not soft, and not okay. If we want different, we have to work different, we have to work together. We do what we have to do. We have hit hard times a long time ago. Think for the betterment of everybody. The betterment of our community is 1st and foremost.

Vice President Lawson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. On March 7th, she and Sergeant Ollis met with a college student from Southern Chester County and worked on the broken windows theory. They covered graffiti on 1st Avenue. She announced Sergeant Ollis was honored on March 21st with a brick from the Coatesville Library. Sergeant Ollis is considered a “Brick in our Community.” On April 2nd, there will be a meeting at City Hall with the business’s and property owners at 7:00 pm on how we can help them. We are asking for volunteers to help improve the buildings. The City will re-introduce the color palette that was approved by City Council.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm; Mr. Shaw seconded the motion; Motion passed 7-0.