

MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Council Chambers, 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
July 11, 2016

**Call to Order**

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Msrs. Joseph Hamrick, Edward Simpson, Mrs. Carmen Green, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt and Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones. Staff members present included City Manager Michael Trio, City Solicitor John Carnes, Fire Chief Garry Alderman, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Police Chief John Laufer and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held on July 11, 2016 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Lavender-Norris announced Vice President Lawson would not be in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mrs. Green stated the minutes are missing statements and do not reflect what was discussed in certain areas. Mr. Hamrick asked to keep the tapes of the meetings.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the June 27, 2016 meeting minutes with edits by Mrs. Green in the city manager's report and Mr. Evans comments; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

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

**Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda**

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

**Presentations**

1. Certificate of Recognition – Keira Ollis  
President Lavender-Norris presented Keira Ollis a certificate of Recognition. In recognition of the time and effort you have put into the beautification of our city flower beds and graffiti removal.

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

There were no citizens' comments on regular action items only.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider Solid Waste Refund  
Mr. Marcarelli explained that the report from Portnoff shows 2013 and prior solid waste delinquent payment refunds. The amount of refund calculated is \$138,168.45. Since

Portnoff was advised to cease collections of 2013 and prior, they have continued receiving payments and have been doing one of the following:

1. If the payment is only for 2013 and prior it is being returned to the payer
2. If the payment includes 2013 and prior plus 2014 and or 2015 payments, Portnoff deposits the payment and refunds directly the 2013 and prior portion to the payer.

In order to have Portnoff issue the refunds directly, they have requested to return the \$138,168.45 previously collected remitted to the city and a fee of \$1650 to cover cost of processing and posted for 400+ refund checks. They advised us of may take a couple of weeks to complete all the refunds. This is the recommended course of action as they are in the best position expedite refunds and provide a complete reporting to us. The finance staff will still need to update records to show on customer solid waste accounts that we maintain.

Mrs. Green made a motion to approve the Solid Waste refund for \$136,168.45 fees collected by Portnoff for 2013 and prior years and \$1,650 Portnoff fees; Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Simpson was the dissenting vote.

2. Receive and consider opening investment account for deposit of proceeds of \$3.9 mil bank loan

Mr. Marcarelli announced the city received three proposals for an investment account for deposit of the bank loan proceeds of the \$3,911,000 issue that is scheduled for closing July 14, 2016. The city will need an account open for the temporary investment of these loan proceeds. The account needs to be liquid to allow for the city to draw upon these funds as the construction project processes over the course of the project years 2016 2017. The proposals were received from 1. BB&T; 2. Coatesville Savings Bank; and 3. Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT). Mr. Marcarelli explained that the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust provided the best proposal.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to open an investment account with PLGIT for deposit of the proceeds of \$3.9 million bank loan; Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Receive and consider an Ordinance amending the Code of the City of Coatesville, Chapter 224, entitled "Zoning," as amended, by amending the City of Coatesville zoning map to rezone Chester County Tax Parcel No's. 16-3-3, 16-3-4, and 16-3-5 from C-3 Highway Commercial District to L-1 Light Industry District; amending Section 224-19 entitled "Light Industry (I-1) District," to add a new subsection D(3) to permit an increase in lot coverage by conditional use; and amending section 224-19 to add a new subsection G to permit reduction in off street parking required by conditional

Mr. Michael Gill attended the meeting representing the owners of ACR machine. Mr. Gill explained the company manufactures parts for use in aircraft's and the company' need for expansion. They are requesting to remove the existing C-3 which is not conforming and add L-1 light industry District. Council asked if the adjoining parcel owners are aware of this request. Mr. Gill stated the company was awaiting the approval from the city before discussing with the adjoining parcel owners. Mr. Dale stated the expansion will translate to more jobs.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve first reading an Ordinance amending the Code of the City of Coatesville, Chapter 224, entitled "Zoning" as amended, by amending the City of Coatesville zoning map to rezone Chester County Tax Parcel No's 16-3-3, 16-3-

4, and 16-3-5 from C-3 Highway Commercial District to L-1 Light Industry District; amending Section 224-19 entitled "Light Industry (I-1) District," to add a new subsection D(3) to permit an increase in lot coverage by conditional use; and amending section 224-19 to add a new subsection G to permit reduction in off street parking required by conditional; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Discussion Item**

1. Discuss Fireworks – per City Code

President Lavender-Norris asked for the item to be placed on the agenda after the fireworks over the Fourth of July weekend. The code specifies what is not allowed in the city by detail including sparklers. The code should allow the sparklers. Mrs. Green stated that in 2002 due to fires, sparklers were banned. Council agreed to revisit the code to exclude sparklers.

### **Solicitors Report**

Mr. Carnes announced:

1. Worked with General Counsel and the finance director in preparation for the settlement BB&T on the city loan.
2. Attended planning commission reviewed ACR's machines proposed ordinance converting three lots from the C-3 zoning district into the light industry L-I district in establishing conditional use procedures to address increases in lot coverage, reduction in off street parking and other items. This has been presented by ACR machine, the owner of 1000 East Chestnut St. which needs to expand its business in the affected map change in zoning amendment area.
3. Worked with DEPG regarding his project on Lincoln Highway in the city.
4. Worked on various matters involving litigation and assisted the city in its interpretation of codes, rules and regulations.

### **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Trio announced;

1. A formal report will be provided the second meeting of the month.
2. The splash pad has been activated and the reopening ceremony will be held on Thursday, July 14 at 3 PM on the Riverwalk.

Mrs. Green explained that there should be something communicated at every meeting. Council should decide on whether or not there is report not the city manager. We want to see a city manager report every meeting in the packet. Council would like to be kept up to speed.

Council asked for information on the Grand Prix which will be held on September 24, 2016. They have not been provided with information to distribute to the public. Mr. Trio gave a brief overview of the Grand Prix and stated he would provide information to council.

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

Darrell Williams - 342 Walnut Street

Mr. Williams inquired about the accumulation of trash for pickup after holidays. Mr. Williams voiced his concerns regarding tree branches hanging on the electrical line and transformers in the alleyway behind his home. .

David Terry – 1072 Merchant Street

Mr. Terry asked for permission to do a “Night on the River” campout for kids on August 13, 2016 or August 20, 2016 at the Riverwalk.

Elgin Bailey – 572 Elm Street

Mr. Bailey inquired about a contingency plan for if and when something were to happen. Chief Laufer explained their all types of contingency plans in the City of Coatesville.

Donald Jackson

Mr. Jackson asked if there was a standard SOP in place if a situation happens in the City and will the public be notified. Mr. Jackson suggested having events for the use in the city such as conducting a spelling bee, other type of educational activities before the school year starts.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans talked about the revitalization of the city, importance of public relations, city’s own employees (excessive police force), previous codes higher fees, employee outside rules of conduct.

Ron Suber

Mr. Suber stated he is here to talk about the officers especially Officer Thompson. The city needs to do background on the officers. Mr. Suber suggested a protest. Mr. Suber inquired about the pools not being opened and suggested the City apply for grants.

Arden Hunt

Mrs. Hunt did not meet the requirements to speak.

Doris Clark

Mrs. Clark voiced her concerns with officers. She feels as if she is being harassed. Mrs. Clark inquired about opening a boys and girls club in the city

Mrs. Green made a motion to close citizens’ hearings on non-agenda items only; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion 6-0.

**Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Hamrick thanked everyone for attending the meeting and speaking about their concerns. We are making progress.

Mrs. Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It has been a trying two weeks with everything going in the communities across the United States. It can’t help but affect our own community. Especially with so many issues going on. People feel victimized by the Police. Emotions are running high. People don’t understand, I understand when you come to the podium, I have a son. Being black and being male encountering police, know what it feels like to be victimized. Some people are tense and some don’t understand, worrying how a traffic stop comes out as if it going to be safe or am I going to have a problem. Hope in a diverse community, we can work together and come together. The Chief has an open door policy and will work with you to give you answers and direction. You must go thru the process. In the midst of high emotion, we can find a level or middle ground to come together and begin to see what we can do to make

our community safe for all. Not only black lives matter, all lives matter. She thanked the Chief for his answers and willingness to help the community.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting and piggyback Mrs. Green said. We have had a lot of dialogue and thank God not a lot of monologue. Everyone listens to everybody else and that's healthy. She quoted "Laws our yardstick and its measures well or well enough where those yards are to be measured." By Steven Vincent Benet over John Browns Body.

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. In light of the past two weeks, it has been a horrible time and horrible state for our country. Can't help but believe the people come meeting after meeting after meeting with concerns and complaints about police officers. We can sit behind here and go through our policies. We need to follow to get the policies done. We need to be open-minded enough to realize something is happening that we don't see. I support investigations of officers with all the stuff that keeps coming to the podium. The investigation will show one of two things. It will show a good cop who is protecting our community and our citizens just don't want to follow the law. Or it will show us a back cop who is among us, who does not represent us as a city. We can have a full staff of police officers, and have one bad apple who spoils the outlook of the whole department. I support 100% looking into launching an investigation to make sure we have proper representation and when they are not in front of the chief. An investigation will come up one way or another. Something needs to be done so it does not feel residents comments are not falling on deaf ears. We have a Chief who will meet with you to discuss any problems you may have. I look forward to continue to come to the meetings.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. I can't take I hate, I hate the hate that is permeating its horrible. Don't tell me all lives matter, as long as I see black people lying in the middle of the street. We are not going to solve anything fighting amongst ourselves. We can't afford that. Rep. Frank Burns, of Johnstown, is introducing emergency Legislation for blue lives matter. Blue lives matter, as if no blacks, no hispanics are on the police force. Enough is enough and until we make a decision that we want better, we are not going to get better. We have to do this thing together. Let's just do it. Call the State Rep and tell him to vote No. Chief Laufer has an open door policy. If you have an issue with an Officer, contact the chief. If Detective Thompson or Ingemie or other officers offending you fill out a formal complaint. The Chief will address your complaints and concerns. I have all concerns as every other black motherhouse. This is not the forum for back-and-forth, this is the forum to put issues on the table. Once you put it on the table take it to the next step. We need to try something different. It's just time, this is the City of Coatesville. We as counsel represent it, and you as a resident represent it, whether you want to or not. You will always hear he's from Coatesville, she's Coatesville, all the time, so represent it. If you want them to look at you and say Coatesville's horrible, you know their looking at you thinking you're horrible. If you want them to think you're a better person act like a better person to have no choice but to think so. Enough of the nonsense. If we want better that's do better. Thank you God bless you and have a wonderful night.

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.