

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 23, 2015

Call to Order

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Marie Lawson, Mrs. Carmen Green, Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones, and Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt. Staff members present included City Manager Michael Trio, City Solicitor John Carnes, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Police Chief John Laufer and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held on November 23, 2015 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Lavender-Norris announced Mr. Simpson and Mr. Hamrick would not be in attendance this evening.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the November 9, 2015 meeting minutes; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

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

Presentation

There were no presentations at this time.

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

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans offered his support and asked Council to use their best judgement for the City of Coatesville. He suggested the withdrawal from the trust fund.

Ron Suber

Mr. Suber had no comment at this time.

Khadijah AlAmin

Ms. AlAmin stated Council has a difficult decision before them regarding the budget. The elderly cannot afford a tax increase. She suggested a withdrawal from the trust fund.

Mrs. Green made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion Item

There were no discussion items at this time.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider first reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 104-1 (L)(3) “Solid Waste Fees” providing for an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for Private Hauler dumpster service in the City of Coatesville to identify that such fee is charged per Tax Parcel serviced by Private Trash Hauling service and “per dumpster”
Mrs. Green made a motion to approve first reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 104-1 (L)(3) “Solid Waste Fees” providing for an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for Private Hauler dumpster service in the City of Coatesville to identify that such fee is charged per Tax Parcel serviced by Private Trash Hauling service and “per dumpster”; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Mrs. Jones was the dissenting vote.
2. Receive and consider first reading and Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1.I. (1) fees for collection of solid waste per week for per parcel to add a new subsection I.I (a) allowing for a \$5.00 reduction in the yearly cost of same when the entire bill for solid waste is paid at the time for the first installment payment
Mrs. Green made a motion to approve first reading and Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1.I. (1) fees for collection of solid waste per week for per parcel to add a new subsection I.I (a) allowing for a \$5.00 reduction in the yearly cost of same when the entire bill for solid waste is paid at the time for the first installment payment; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Mrs. Jones was the dissenting vote.
3. Receive and consider engagement letter from Barbacane, Thornton and Company, LLP for independent audit of fiscal year
Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve Barbacane, Thornton and Company, LLP for independent audit of fiscal year; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Receive and consider 2015 budget transfer from Rainy Day Fund
Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the 2015 budget transfer from Rainy Day Fund; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Receive and consider payment of GO Bond \$270,000
Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the GO Bond payment of \$270,000; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Receive and consider Resolution to exonerate taxes for the Senior Center.
Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve a Resolution to exonerate taxes for the Coatesville Area Senior Center; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
7. Receive and consider Greening Coatesville: A Proposal to assist the City of Coatesville with a Parks and Recreation needs assessment
Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve Greening Coatesville: A Proposal to assist the City of Coatesville with a Parks and Recreation needs assessment; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
8. Receive and consider adoption of the 2016 Preliminary Budget
Mr. Marcarelli provided four possibilities for the 2016 preliminary budget.
 - 1) 6.172 millage increase and no withdrawal from the Trust Fund
 - 2) 4.693 millage increase and \$360,000 withdrawal from the Trust Fund

- 3) 3.104 millage increase and \$750,000 withdrawal from the Trust Fund
- 4) 0 millage increase and withdrawal \$1,508,805 from the Trust Fund

Mr. Trio explained the approval is for the preliminary budget only and changes can be made prior to the adoption of the budget at the December 14, 2015 meeting. The public hearing will be held on December 7, 2015.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adopt the 2016 preliminary budget; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9. Receive and consider Special City Council meeting on December 7, 2015 for the 2016 budget
Vice President Lawson made a motion for a special City Council meeting on December 7, 2015 for the Public Hearing on the 2016 Preliminary budget; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
10. Receive and consider free parking along Lincoln Highway for the Holiday the last three weeks of December
Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve free parking along Lincoln Highway for the holiday the last three weeks of December; Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes announced Family Dollar Store delivered their paperwork today.

Two Ordinances were prepared for City Council (1 Commercial trash registration fees and 2 discount for trash fees if paid in full).

Attended a trial regarding the claims of tax exemption by Huston Properties, Inc. relative to the Class A Office building.

Attended a meeting with DePetris and the County regarding grant applications and prepared an escrow agreement for DEPG.

The City Solicitor has 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 he has been working with DEPG regarding the parking garage grant.

Conference calls have been held on the City of Coatesville Train Station. He is working toward the first construction shovels to hit Third Avenue and Fleetwood Street.

The staff has marked improvement. Issues have been addressed with Codes and they are working on them. He has addressed issues regarding the new sked loader. All public works employees have been trained on the skid loader.

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

Ron Suber

Mr. Suber questioned Council about a certain officer and asked if the officer passed the Civil Service test. President Lavender-Norris explained all Police Officers must take the Civil Service test. He questioned the Police towing for no parking (West End Tavern customers) at the Polish Club.

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone thanked Council and stated they have a tough few weeks ahead of them. He stated “If you get services, you should be paying for the services”. There is a lot of uncollected trash and tax fees.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans read his vision for the City of Coatesville.

Mrs. Green made a motion to close citizens’ hearings on non-agenda items only; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mrs. Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She is grateful for everyone who came out. Thank you for everything, and I believe and stand firm that the City is going to make a marvelous change. She envisioned the City as Mr. Evans read his vision. Thankful for staff and Council. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Kindly be good to each other and respect each other and you will have a better Holiday. She quoted “If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves.” By Thomas A. Edison

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting and sharing your thoughts. She acknowledged staff for their hard work on the budget and thanked fellow council. A special thanks to Linda, Marie and Carmen for adopt-a-wreath. Grateful for the energy that you have put into the City, The City will look beautiful for Christmas. She announced the Tree-lighting ceremony (12/4/15) and the Christmas parade (12/5/15). Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice President Lawson thanked very one for attending the meeting. The Adopt-a-wreath was a success. Everyone worked together to make the City beautiful this holiday season. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There are hard conversation to be had during the budget season. Whatever the decision is, it affects each resident and each Council member. We are not trying for placing a hardship on anyone. We will do for the City what we feel is best in our ability. She is excited about the wreaths that are going up. No one will be told where the wreath is that they decorated. You must drive through the City to find your wreath. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

Vice President Lawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.