

Minutes
Coatesville City Council Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2010

Regular Session

Council President Edward Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council Members present were Council President Edward Simpson, Council Vice President Karl Marking, Messrs., Jarrell Brazzle, Martin Eggleston, Joseph Hamrick, Ingrid W. Jones, and Karen Jorgenson. Staff members present included City Solicitor John Carnes, Interim City Manager Kirby Hudson, Director of Urban Planning and Codes Enforcement Damalier Molina, Director of Public Works Donald Wilkinson, Director of Finance Stacy Bjorhus, Fire Chief Kevin Johnson, Police Chief Julius Canale, and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

Mr. Simpson announced that Council met in Executive Session earlier on January 11, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing City Council, Personnel and Labor.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Eggleston made the motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2009, December 23, 2009 with corrections, and January 4, 2010; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Payables

Mr. Simpson announced the Accounts payable section is new to the agenda. The City Council will receive the payable list bi-weekly for approval of the payables. The utilities have been approved to be paid prior to approval at the meetings. If the utility is late, the City will not receive a discount.

Mr. Hamrick made the motion to approve the accounts payable listing dated January 8, 2010; Mr. Eggleston seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Mr. Marking made the motion to add Regular Action Item # 4, to Review the legitimacy of the manner in which the meeting was called and executed for the December 23 Special Council Session to ensure it was executed in accordance with the Sunshine law and the City charter; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Jorgenson made a motion to add Regular Action Item #5, directing Mr. Molina for a list of revised charges (fines) on Ordinance 1317-2009 regarding abandoned properties ; Mr. Marking seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Marking made the motion to add Regular Action Item #6, Receive and consider for adoption a resolution to allow the Chester County District Attorney's office, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to immediately conduct a Forensic Audit of the City of Coatesville's finance and realty transactions for the purpose determining evidence of obstruction of justice, misdirection of funds, willful negligence, and actions of criminal intent by the city's administration and/or council; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Marking made the motion to table Regular Action Item # 2 until the next meeting, Mr. Eggleston seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Proclamation

1. Proclamation – Martin Luther King Day
Mr. Marking read the proclamation as written.

Citizens' Hearings – Regular Action Items

Rev. Kurt Schenk

Rev. Schenk asked Council to ask staff regarding the advertisement of the December 23, 2009 meeting. Mr. Schenk stated it would be fantastic for the City to approve a Forensic Audit.

Mr. Marking made a motion to close citizens' hearings on Regular Action Items; Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to appoint Assistant Chief Robert Pacana as Deputy Chief for the City of Coatesville

Mr. Eggleston made the motion to appoint Assistant Chief Robert Pacana as Deputy Chief for the City of Coatesville; Mrs. Jorgenson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Judge Grover Koon swore in Assistant Chief Robert Pacana as Deputy Chief for the City of Coatesville while Daniel Paulikinas held the Bible.

2. Receive and consider a Resolution to approve the Sale of the City's Obsolete Vehicles

Mr. Hamrick made a motion for a Resolution approving the sale of City's Obsolete Vehicles; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider for the City Solicitor to Review the legitimacy of the manner in which the meeting was called and executed for the December 23, 2009 Special Council Session to ensure it was executed in accordance with the Sunshine law and the City Charter.

Mrs. Jorgenson clarified the Solicitor is validating the legality of the meeting not the agreement.

Mr. Marking made the motion to approve the City Solicitor to Review the legitimacy of the manner in which the meeting was called and executed for the December 23, 2009 Special Council Session to ensure it was executed in accordance with the Sunshine law and the City Charter; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Receive and consider a motion directing Mr. Molina for a list of revised charges (fines) on Ordinance 1317-2009 regarding abandoned properties

Mr. Eggleston asked Mr. Molina to provide Council with a decent range of fees for a municipality this size.

Mr. Eggleston made a motion directing Mr. Molina for a list of revised charges (fines) on Ordinance 1317-2009 regarding abandoned properties; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Receive and consider for adoption a resolution to allow the Chester County District Attorney's office, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to immediately conduct a Forensic Audit of the City of Coatesville's finance and realty transactions for the purpose determining evidence of obstruction of justice, misdirection of funds, willful negligence, and actions of criminal intent by the city's administration and/or council

Mrs. Jorgenson asked who pays for the Forensic Audit. Mr. Marking explained there is no cost to the City. Mrs. Jorgenson asked how long the audit would take. Mr. Marking replied 3 – 6 months.

Mr. Eggleston motioned to adopt a resolution to allow the Chester County District Attorney's office, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to immediately conduct a Forensic Audit of the City of Coatesville's finance and realty transactions for the purpose determining evidence of obstruction of justice, misdirection of funds, willful negligence, and actions of criminal intent by the city's administration and/or council; Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Items for Discussion

Mr. Simpson explained the new Council would like to see items discussed in public before voting on the issues. There has been no transparency. Items previously were discussed privately among certain council members. If the item is not an executive session matter, it will be discussed openly during the public meeting

1. 2010 Census Overview by Shawn P. Brede from U.S. Census

Mr. Hudson explained he spoke with Richard Sumter, from the U.S. Census Bureau to discuss how to develop strategies so that all of the residents of Coatesville can be counted in the 2010 census. The 2000 census had poor results, only 54% of the residents were counted. The under counting of the residents resulted in Coatesville losing out on millions of Federal Dollars over the past ten years that could have been used to renovate schools, provide free breakfast and lunches for deserving students, services for the City's senior citizens, and highway construction (resulting in jobs) on roads running through the City. The Federal Government provides services for over 30 Federal Programs based on census population counts. Mr. Hudson suggested Mr. Sumter and his team attend the January 25, 2010 meeting to discuss Census Recruitment Information and the Census Calendar to track current and future activities.

2. Discussion regarding the Coatesville Employee Handbook

City Council requested a copy of the old employee handbook to compare data and the changes before discussion can occur.

3. Discussion regarding transfer reserve Trust Fund from First National Bank to Cornerstone Advisors Asset Management Inc.

Ms. Bjorhus provided City Council with an overview of Cornerstone advisors. Mrs. Jorgenson asked how the fees are guaranteed. Ms. Bjorhus stated Cornerstone relies on Third Class City rules. Mr. Simpson inquired if the Trust Fund Committee has discussed the transfer of funds. Mr. Eggleston stated the Trust Fund met with Cornerstone Advisors and agreed to the transfer of the funds. The Board met with several entities prior to the approval

of Cornerstone. Mr. Simpson asked Ms. Bjorhus to set up a presentation from Cornerstone for the next Council meeting.

4. Discussion regarding dates for the 2010 Budget Workshop

Mr. Simpson explained due to time constraints the budget cannot be reopened. City Council will hold public meetings to discuss amendments to the 2010 budget. Mr. Marking explained due to the window of time constraints, Council will not have time for due diligence. The dates for the budget workshop for the year 2011 will be posted on the website.

5. Discussion regarding the purchase of a Pumper Truck for the City of Coatesville

Mr. Hamrick suggested forming a temporary committee to discuss the purchase of a new Fire Truck. The Committee should consist of Chief Johnson, volunteer firefighter, council member and a citizen at large. Chief Johnson explained the process over the years with the current vehicles. It is cost prohibitive to keep running the truck. Mr. Eggleston inquired about the cost. Mr. Simpson announced this is the first Council heard of the urgency for the new truck.

Interim City Manager's Report

1. Mr. Hudson announced he met with two developers to discuss the possible purchase and development of three different buildings within the City's Central Business District (CBD). The Milanese Property (originally YMCA), 204-206 East Lincoln Highway (Records Building) and the property located at 103-105 East Diamond Street. All initiatives have an educational and personal development foundation geared towards self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life strategy. The JonesCo and the Spirit Entertainment Group, Inc have a million dollars to invest in Coatesville. A meeting has been scheduled with Mr. Milanese and the two developers.
2. Mr. Hudson announced approximately 3 months ago the City submitted an application for funding (Community Development Block Grant) to the Chester County Department of Community Development for Demolition Funding for Fleetwood and Oak Street. The City will soon place for bids its plans for the removal of all unsafe structures.
3. Mr. Hudson announced the City has received a letter from the Federal Transit Administration informing that the FTA has completed its review of the categorical exclusion request for the Coatesville Train Station Rehabilitation Project. In short, the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) for the City of Coatesville has been approved, the City may now incur costs towards the renovation of the Coatesville Train Station, and the suspension of payment has been lifted.
4. Mr. Hudson announced Friday, January 15, 2010, he and Mr. Barry are scheduled to meet with the Senior Staff of the Chester County Department of Community Development to discuss the environmental review and scope of work for the Fleetwood Street Grant...(\$250,000).
5. Mr. Hudson announced there will be a Pre-Construction meeting regarding the River Walk, Phase I – Part A scheduled for This Friday, January 15, 2010, 10:00 AM, City Hall. James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving has been awarded this project. The limits of work for Phase I – Part A are from Lincoln Highway North to the Municipal border between the City of Coatesville and Valley Township. Phase I – Part B will begin where Phase I – Part A leaves off and will continue North to Glencrest Road. Phase I – Part B is currently out to bid. The Bids will be opened next Monday, January 18th, 2010.

6. Mr. Hudson announced Friday, January 15, 2010 at 11:00 AM, City Hall, a second Pre-Construction meeting has been scheduled for the Diamond Street Parking Lot and Lumber Street Storm Sewer Project. This project has been awarded to Bulldog Construction. The scope of work includes the construction of a parking lot at the parcel adjacent to the Coatesville Flower Shop. The lot be improved and a parking meter box will be installed. The Lumber Street Storm Sewer Project includes the installation of 200 feet of storm pipe along the 800 block of Lumber Street.

Citizens' Hearings – Non-Agenda Items

Richard Czop

Mr. Czop thanked Council for the chance to be the City's engineer in the year 2009. The company looks forward to working with the City in the future.

Ben Bruton

Mr. Bruton thanked Council for an interesting evening. There is a lot of hope for what is yet to come, looking forward to the future. Mr. Bruton expressed concern about a car parked in front of the car wash with no plates.

Linda Lavender

Ms. Lavender congratulated the new council members and welcomed back the other council members. Ms. Lavender inquired about the status of the Walgreens. Mr. Hudson stated the development is on hold due to the economy. Ms. Lavender asked if Cornerstone Advisors would be relocation in the City. Ms. Lavender questioned the 1099 position in finance.

Rev. Kurt Schenk

Rev. Schenk strongly urged Council to reopen the budget. Mr. Schenk expressed concern over the appointment of the City solicitor and the release of the City Manager during the reorganization meeting. Mr. Schenk expressed his concerns regarding the hiring of the Siana firm.

Mr. Brazzle made the motion to close citizens hearing on non-agenda items; Mr. Eggleston seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Comments

Mr. Brazzle had no comment at this time.

Mr. Eggleston expressed appreciation to Mr. Bruton for his outlook on the future of Coatesville. Mr. Eggleston announced this Council will move the City forward. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening. The communication within Council and the resident will help to move the City forward.

Mr. Marking announced January is a busy month for staff. This is an exciting time to be on Council. The City is moving forward. Mr. Marking thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending. The current Council will continue to go by the book and keep the people informed.

Mr. Hamrick thanked everyone for attending. The Council needs to hear from all sides, both negative and positive to help the City move forward. Mr. Hamrick asked for participation in the committees.

Mrs. Jorgenson explained communication needs to be the landmark on Council.

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This Council will represent the residents of the City of Coatesville. Council will be transparent about everything. There will be open discussion in every meeting. The citizens will be informed about everything. There is a long rough road ahead. Council will return the City to the luster is once had.

Adjournment

Mr. Eggleston made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm.; Mr. Marking seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby Hudson
Interim City Manager