

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday June 25, 2012**

Salute to the Flag

Open Public Hearing

7:30 p.m.

1. CDBG Grant for Harmony Street Parking Improvements and Gateway Electronic Sign Project

Mr. Barry explained the City of Coatesville is preparing a CDBG Grant Application for Harmony Street Parking Improvements and Gateway Electronic Sign project. This project consists of the installation of 48 angles parking stalls on Harmony St. thereby making Harmony St. one way between First and Third Avenue and the installation of an electronic welcome sign at First and Lincoln Highway. The project includes traffic control/signage, lighting improvements, parking meter box, striping, curbing, landscaping, driveway aprons, and handicap ramps along Harmony St. between First and Third Avenue and an electronic welcome sign at First and Lincoln Highway. This project will service the Central Business District and the proposed location of the new Lincoln University at Coatesville. Mr. Barry announced the City has received support letters from Lincoln University, House of Representatives and the Senate of Pennsylvania. The improvement cost estimates are \$200,722.50.

Citizens Comments for Public Hearing

Judy Skolnick – Business Owner

Ms. Skolnick stated she is for more parking and very much for Lincoln University, but is against turning Harmony Street one way. Turning Harmony Street one way would narrow the block. What would happen if there was an emergency? Emergency vehicles may not be able to get through. Delivery trucks could hinder traffic if the street becomes one way. . The City has not taken the time to see the effect on traffic. There are various other options for parking than making Harmony Street one way.

Close Public Hearing

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to close the Public Hearing; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Call to Order Vice President Hamrick called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were Vice President Joseph Hamrick, Mssrs., Jarrell Brazzle, David Collins, Jeff LoPrinzi, Mrs. C. Villa Hunt and Mrs. Ingrid Jones. Staff members present included Acting City Kirby Hudson, City Solicitor John Carnes, Director of Public Works Donald Wilkinson, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Acting Fire Chief James Lentz, Lieutenant James Audette, and Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday.

Vice President Hamrick announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, June 25, 2012 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Vice President Hamrick announced President Simpson would not be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the June 11, 2012 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the accounts payable listing dated June 20, 2012; Mr. LoPrinzi 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. Proclamation – Mike Zuratt

Vice President Hamrick read the proclamation for Mike Zuratt for his positive impact on the community.

2. Proclamation – Walt Anderson

Vice President Hamrick announced the proclamation was presented to Mr. Anderson on June 23, 2012.

Citizens’ Hearings – Regular Action Items Only

Judy Skolnick – Business Owner

Ms. Skolnick asked for Council to think about making Harmony Street one-way. She asked them to think about the things that cannot be undone. There are various other options for parking than making Harmony Street one way. She asked for Council to think twice before taking action on regular action item 9.2. Making Harmony Street will not make the parking any better. She stated she is all for other projects but does not approve of changing to one way street.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to close citizens’ hearings on regular action items only; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Citizens’ Hearings – Non-Agenda Items Only

Marie Hess – Resident

Ms. Hess announced the programs from the Parks and Recreation Commission. The previous programs were Earth Day (April 21), Brandywine Cleanup April 25; Kite Day May 5; Bike Festival June 23 and coming up is the Blueberry Festival July 21 and Back to School Cleanup on August 18, 2012

Carmen Greenidge - Resident

Ms. Greenidge voiced her concerns on about trash pick-up, amount of trash and trash cans.. People just throw trash out in bags and do not use cans. She voiced her concerns on activity in her area. Mr. Wilkinson explained the Trash Ordinance and the trash contract. Council asked for the item to be placed on items of discussion at the next meeting.

Jeannette Hurdle - Resident

Mrs. Hurdle voiced her concerns regarding the inspections and flushing of the fire hydrants. Chief Lentz explained the PAWC is responsible for the fire hydrants and has been actively taking care of any fire hydrants with malfunctions. Jeff from PAWC explained the fire hydrants are checked semiannually and the pipes are flushed annually.

Armit Lal – Property Owner

Mr. Lal voiced his concerns regarding the Codes Department and the need for flexibility. He asked for the Vacant Property Ordinance to provide more time for the property owner to get the work that is required to be completed. He asked for more police.

Cynthia Jones - Resident

Mrs. Jones inquired about a special event permit submitted for a block party on 8th Avenue the 4th of July. The event will have a moon bounce. Mr. Jones explained the street to be closed is between Diamond Alley and Chestnut Street. Council explained the item has been placed on the agenda for their approval after the citizens hearings.

Chris Strunk – Former Employee

Mr. Strunk announced he was a former Police Officer that just retired in May. Mr. Strunk voiced his concerns regarding the payout that was promised to the retirees. Mr. Hudson explained that he is working to have majority of the pay to the retirees.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to close citizens' hearings non-agenda action items only; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Special Events

1. A special event application has been submitted by the First Seventh Adventist Church for a Health Fair for the City of Coatesville and vicinity at Gateway Park on August 12, 2012.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the special event application submitted by the First Seventh Adventist Church for a Health Fair for the City of Coatesville and vicinity at Gateway Park on August 12, 2012 after a time has been received for the event; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

2. A special event application has been submitted by the Coates Street residents for a block party on July7, 2012 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The request is to close the street from 627 Coates Street to 642 Coates Street.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a special event application submitted by the Coates Street resident for a block party on July7, 2012 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm closing the street from 627 Coates Street to 642 Coates Street; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3. A special event application has been submitted by Rodriguez Jones for a picnic event for the kids with a moon bounce on July 4, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The request is to close the street at 24 North 8th Avenue.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a special event application submitted by Rodriguez Jones for a picnic event for the kids with a moon bounce on July 4, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm closing the street at 24 North 8th Avenue; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Discussion Items

1. Discuss application for a 2012 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Chief Lentz explained the application will be in the form of a request for funding upgrades to the training room at the Washington Hose Company. In addition it will include funds for upwards of \$60,000 in Nationally certified fire and rescue training. The training will include the fire Inspector training required for all career firefighters.

The fee for the grant write will be \$2,500.00. The Bureau of Fire is proposing to share the cost of the grant writer with the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association. The City will pay up to \$1,500.00 towards the effort. The money is in the budget.

If awarded, the Bureau of Fire (City and volunteers) would be responsible for a 5% match of the funds awarded. It is the intent to absorb the match with funds from both the City's Fire Department budget and monies from the volunteer portion of the Bureau.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to add regular action item 10; receive and consider 2012 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 218 of the City Code governing parking to delete a portion of Chapter 218-22.A to remove the two-hour parking limit on the north side of Lincoln Highway West between the Brandywine Railroad to the Western property line of property identified as the G.O. Carlson Tract and to amend Section 218-19 governing prohibitions of parking at certain times so as to prohibit parking from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am at this same location (and permit free parking at this location from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm)

The City has recently opened its River Walk located on the west of the Brandywine Creek and requiring the need of free parking in the adjacent area on the north side of Lincoln Highway during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. but which should be restricted against parking from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.; and

Chapter 218-22 of the City Code previously regulated this portion of the North side of Lincoln Highway and restricted it to two (2) hour parking and this restriction needs to be removed and the aforementioned provisions put in place under Section 218-19 of the City Code

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 218 of the City Code governing parking to delete a portion of Chapter 218-22.A to remove the two-hour parking limit on the north side of Lincoln Highway West between the Brandywine Railroad to the Western property line of property identified as the G.O. Carlson Tract and to amend Section 218-19 governing prohibitions of parking at certain times so as to prohibit parking from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am at this same location (and permit free parking at this location from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm); Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance amending Section 218 entitled Vehicles and Traffic of the City of Coatesville's code, Section 218.46 "Schedule of one-way streets) to amend same to add Harmony Street as a one way street East Bound from First Avenue to Third Avenue

The City of Coatesville always has a need for additional parking and has recently been advised that Lincoln University has proposed a new facility in the City which will require additional parking which can be provided if Harmony Street is made one-way; and

The City is aware, that even without the likely development proposed by Lincoln University, other downtown business growth will create the need for more parking on Harmony Street between First and Third Avenues; and in order to alleviate this parking problem and to benefit the traffic patterns of the City, it is believed that additional parking can be provided on Harmony Street if the portion from First Avenue to Third Avenue is made one-way going East - the predominant direction of traffic on this street providing both a benefit to traffic flow and additional parking for the downtown area.

Approved with corrections July 9, 2012

Mr. Collins asked the Fire and Police Department if they saw any problem with changing Harmony Street to one way. Lieutenant Audette and Chief Lentz stated that they did not see a problem. Mr. Barry explained the parking issue will increase with more development. The project will bring in \$1,500 to \$11,000 monthly. Mr. Hudson explained the parking will help with Lincoln University when they start classes in January 2013. Mr. LoPrinzi suggested applying for a grant for a parking garage. Mr. Brazzle explained that Harmony Street is one way after Third Avenue. Mrs. Hunt explained that the City needs parking. We have been waiting for something to come in and now we can't accommodate it. Mr. Hamrick explained that business could be affected by the one way street. Mr. Collins explained the one major problem in Coatesville is parking.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance amending Section 218 entitled Vehicles and Traffic of the City of Coatesville's code, Section 218.46 "Schedule of one-way streets) to amend same to add Harmony Street as a one way street East Bound from First Avenue to Third Avenue; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-3. Mrs. Jones, Vice President Hamrick and Mr. LoPrinzi were the dissenting votes.

Mr. Brazzle asked for the item to be placed on the next agenda.

3. Receive and consider a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, supporting the filing of a grant application to Chester County Department of Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for Harmony Street Improvements and Gateway Electronic Sign Project

The City of Coatesville always has a need for additional parking and has recently been advised that Lincoln University has proposed a new facility in the City which will require additional parking which can be provided if Harmony Street is made one-way; and

The City is aware, that even without the likely development proposed by Lincoln University, other downtown business growth will create the need for more parking on Harmony Street between First and Third Avenues; and in order to alleviate this parking problem and to benefit the traffic patterns of the City, it is believed that additional parking can be provided on Harmony Street if the portion from First Avenue to Third Avenue is made one-way going East - the predominant direction of traffic on this street providing both a benefit to traffic flow and additional parking for the downtown area

Mr. Brazzle asked of the Resolution could still be approved if the previous Ordinance regarding Harmony Street failed. Mr. Collins asked for the sign to be two sided at Gateway Park. Mr. LoPrinzi asked if the grant could be changed to omit Harmony Street. Mr. Barry replied yes.

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, supporting the filing of a grant application to Chester County Department of Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for Harmony Street Improvements and Gateway Electronic Sign Project; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Mrs. Jones was the dissenting vote.

4. Receive and consider amended letter of agreement, John Marcarelli, Finance Director.
Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve an amended letter of agreement for John Marcarelli, finance as Finance Director; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
5. Receive and consider a Resolution for signatures for the City of Coatesville Bank Accounts

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a Resolution for signatures for the City of Coatesville bank accounts; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

6. Receive and consider engagement letter from Barbacane, Thornton & Company, LLP for auditing services for the year ended December 31, 2011

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the engagement letter from Barbacane, Thornton & Company, LLO for auditing services for the year ended December 31, 2011; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

7. Receive and consider Resolution for the hiring of Part-Time Police Officers

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve a Resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, regarding civil service changes for part-time Police Officers;

8. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 193 Governing “Streets and Sidewalks” and in particular, Article I thereof governing “Openings and Excavations” to provide a detailed procedure to assure that road surfaces are restored according to specific requirements and subject to fees adopted by Resolution and also amending that portion of the fee Ordinance at Section 108-1.M (2) to provide that the fees will be pursuant to a fee schedule adopted by Resolution of City Council

The City has reviewed its current Ordinance and needs to update the Ordinance in accordance with suggestions of the City Engineer to better provide a consistent procedure for regulating openings and excavations in the City Streets to avoid “patchwork repairs” and reduction in the quality of the City Street System.

Mr. Collins asked what would determine the paving. Mr. Wilkinson replied the Ordinance.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 193 Governing “Streets and Sidewalks” and in particular, Article I thereof governing “Openings and Excavations” to provide a detailed procedure to assure that road surfaces are restored according to specific requirements and subject to fees adopted by Resolution and also amending that portion of the fee Ordinance at Section 108-1.M (2) to provide that the fees will be pursuant to a fee schedule adopted by Resolution of City Council; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

9. Receive and consider waiving permit and inspection fees in exchange for full paving of Charles Street, West 6th Avenue and Madison Street opposed to patching

PAWC contacted the City to enter into a partnership where PAWC will pave Charles Street, West 6th Avenue and Madison Street if the City agrees to waive all permit and inspection fees.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to waive permit and inspection fees in exchange for full paving of Charles Street, West 6th Avenue and Madison Street opposed to patching; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

10. Receive and consider 2012 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the filing of the 2012 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Collins made a motion to close regular action items; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes asked if there were any questions on his report. There were no questions.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Hudson announced Chief Canale has been granted an extension request for the COPS grant. Celebrate Coatesville members has forwarded an invitation to the VIP tent to all of the Council members. Mr. Hudson explained a agreement has been formatted for the use of Ash Park Pool during the times not being used by the Brandywine YMCA.

Council Comments

Mr. Brazzle thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Mr. Brazzle explained that citizens have contacted him regarding children 12 and under having to wear life jackets at the pool. The lifeguards have also complained about the life jackets. Mr. Hudson explained the YMCA is being cautious. If something bad were to happen the City and YMCA could be held liable. Mr. Brazzle thanked Ms. Hess, Officer Ollis and staff for all their good work. He explained that we as Council don't make the best decisions; we tend to hear a small group of people and allow them to make decisions for us. The need is not always for right now, but we need to think about the future. If we plan to have a City as we want it to be we need to start welcoming ideas. There is no money coming in to build things. The College is coming into the City and we are making it hard for people who want to come in. Council needs to vote for the people and not themselves.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She stated that we need to stop, we have been waiting for something to come into the City and now we can't accommodate them. The Assistant City Manager has made a plan to increase revenue \$9,000 to \$11,000 per month and we shoot it down. The parking on Harmony will contribute to make things better. It will not solve the problem but we need to start somewhere. Council should consider the people who put us into the position. We hope to see bigger and better things for the City.

Mr. Collins thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He explained that change will move forward whether we are on board or not. There is opportunity for Council to do well as a group, but a quorum is required. The problem is there is no central vision. We need to get a central vision.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked everyone to come again.

Vice President Hamrick announced the Health Fair held at the Towers had a lot of vendors. Officer Ollis was present. He announced that Council received a letter from the Department of Justice regarding the good work of Officer Ollis. There were two houses completed by Habitat for Humanity. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Submitted by:
Kirby Hudson
Acting City Manager