

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday July 25, 2012

Call to Order

President Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Simpson, 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 Manager Kirby Hudson, City Solicitor John Carnes, Director of Public Works Donald Wilkinson, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Craig Patton Member of Fire Department, Sergeant James Audette, Director of Codes Enforcement Damalier Molina and Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Simpson announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, July 29, 2012 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve the July 9, 2012 meeting minutes; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

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

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to delete regular action item 9.3; Receive and consider Joseph Carroll as Interim Chief of Public Safety; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3. President Simpson, Vice President Hamrick and Mrs. Jones were the dissenting votes.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to add regular action item 9.3; Receive and consider Norcini Settlement; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to add presentation 4.2; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

1. Minister's Alliance
Reverend Harris, President of the Ministers Alliance announced he was there to show support for Kirby Hudson as City Manager. There have been three City Managers relieved since 2008. Kirby Hudson has acted as City Manager in all three instances. He has shown his capability in handling the position of City Manager.
2. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
William Lambert, President NAACP, stated there is a vision to ensure society where all have equal rights. He is here to show support for Kirby Hudson as City Manager. Mr. Lambert presented Council with a breakdown of the general prison statistics and prison demographics on Chester County, PA.

Citizens' Hearings – Regular Action Items Only

Paul Johnson – Resident

Mr. Johnson explained that he has sat where each person sits and helped to write the Charter. Mr. Johnson stated that Kirby Hudson came in as the Assistant City Manager and has come to work for the betterment of Coatesville. He has created a place in his heart to improve the City. He is in support of Kirby Hudson for the City Manager.

Regina Horton Lewis – Property Owner

Mrs. Lewis explained she has worked in or around the City for 17 years and has seen many City Managers come and go. The searches have not been effective in finding a City Manager. The City Manager residency has not been a good system. Mr. Hudson has served as the interim City Manager as has been persistent in obtaining entities to come within the City. Mrs. Lewis stated she is in support of Kirby Hudson as City Manager.

Sharon Comfort - Resident

Ms. Comfort stated she is in support of Allen Smith as City Manager. He is very well educated and has obtained a lot of money through grants for the City. Allen is a man of integrity. Mr. Smith submitted a proposal to the City in February of 2011 for the City Manager position.

Allen Smith – Non Resident

Mr. Smith announced he had submitted an application for City Manager a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Simpson asked if it was received. Mr. Hudson replied yes, it was forwarded to the Human Resources Department.

Patsy Ray – Resident

Ms. Ray announced she is in support of Kirby Hudson as City Manager. She explained that Kirby was here on snow days even when people who lived in Coatesville could not make it in. Ms. Ray explained the status's of Mr. Pilotti when he was Assistant City Manager. She stated it would be a injustice to Mr. Hudson as it was to Mr. Pilotti if he is not appointed City Manager. The City needs a man who will come up the road to work.

Darrell Williams – Resident

Mr. Williams explained that he has been here for a while. He explained that he has read comments in the paper regarding Mr. Carroll and his dislike for Coatesville. The City needs trust, if there is no trust, there is nothing. He asked to hear more from his wards Council Person, Mrs. Jones. He stated Mr. Hudson deserves the opportunity to become City Manager. We have someone who is here fighting for the City and is still here after everyone else has come and gone.

Mildred Dixon – Resident

Ms. Dixon stated she is support of Mr. Smith and Mr. Hudson. This is about Justice that needs to be taken here. In order to heal we need to get real. Mr. Hudson has been back and forth. She looks forward to any decision made by Council.

Khadijah Al Amin – Resident

Ms. Al Amin addressed Council regarding the residency requirements. She believes the City Manager should live in the City. If the City Manager lived in the City, they would care a little more. The City Manager should pay the 2.5 local tax like all the residents.

Jeff Martin – Resident

Mr. Martin stated “say no to Joe”.

Linda Lavender – Resident

Ms. Lavender stated she know both Mr. Smith and Mr. Hudson. She stated “If it’s not broke, don’t fix it”. The residency issue prohibits the City from the best option. Mr. Hudson deserves the opportunity. He has done it for a long time. If Mr. Hudson is made City Manager, then make Mr. Smith, Assistant City Manager. She asked to let Mr. Hudson prove to those who have doubted.

Lewis Hannah – Business Owner

Mr. Hannah announced he believes Mr. Hudson is best qualified for the position of City Manager. He has been here for an extended time and has worked for the betterment of the City. We do not need to hire outside, we do not have time. We need to make hard decisions, be united in the decision and let’s move forward.

Rev Baxter – Resident

Reverend Baxter stated the City should change the Charter regarding City Manager residency. We need to have someone in the job who knows what they’re doing. The City should support the only qualified and available candidate. He showed his support for Mr. Hudson as City Manager.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to close citizens’ hearings on regular action items only; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Citizens’ Hearings – Non-Agenda Items Only

Rev Patsy Ray – Resident

Ms. Ray inquired about the money that was presented to the fire victims from the Elite Motorcycle Club. She asked when they were getting their money. Mr. Hudson explained the County would not accept the money and neither would a sub agency. Mr. LoPrinzi said the check was sent to the City. Mr. Hudson explained the City has the check and it would be better to give the check back to the motorcycle club for them to distribute to the victims.

Elwood Dixon – Resident

Mr. Dixon explained there is such thing in the charter as past practice. Mr. Carnes explained there is no item in charter s past practice. The Council is following the proper procedure for hiring the City Manager and changing the residency requirements. Mr. Dixon explained her was against Mr. Hudson when he first came to the City. He asked for Council to give Mr. Hudson a shot at the job, he deserves a chance.

Darrell Williams – Resident

Mr. Williams announced the Police Department handled a situation properly and helped to alleviate a situation that could have been worse. Mr. Williams explained the City got rid of the animal control and there are dogs off leashes and cats everywhere.

Regina Horton Lewis – Property Owner

Mrs. Lewis stated that public safety is a complex situation. Mr. Carroll would bring insight to the table. The question is would he be respected by the officers. Is there the respect of the residents? No one knows all that you know. Personnel matters are confidential as they should be.

Patti Brown – Resident

Ms. Brown stated she is a survivor of gun violence. She asked the City to hire more Police and for the City to have more gun buybacks. She read a ltter from Congress man Lawrence and a letter from President Obama.

Ronnie Suber – Resident

Mr. Suber explained that when Joe Carroll was District Attorney, he let the fire guy get away on probation. You don't pay dues where you don't get anything. The Police Department has a lot of good officer but there are some bad officers. There is still racism taking place. The City is in trouble.

Jeff Martin – Resident

Mr. Martin stated there needs to be trust in law enforcement. They should not be here just for a paycheck and training camp. He asked where do you get help when they are policing themselves.

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

Special Events

1. A special event permit application was submitted for a picnic on September 1, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. It has been requested to close 24 North 8th Avenue.
Mr. Collins made a motion to approve a special event permit application submitted for a picnic on September 1, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm closing 24 North 8th Avenue; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2. A special event application has been submitted from Maple Avenue Parents Activity Club for a Block Party on August 25, 2012 from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. It has been requested to close Maple Avenue.
Mr. Brazzle asked if we should continue to close the streets for events. It seems that every meeting there is requests for street closings. There are parks to be utilized.

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve a special event application submitted from Maple Avenue Parents Activity Club for a Block Party on August 25, 2012 from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm closing Maple Avenue; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. A special event permit has been submitted from the West Haven Church Youth Group to hold a street meeting/choir singing at the Gazebo on September 9, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve a special event permit from the West Haven Church Youth Group to hold a street meeting/choir singing at the Gazebo on September 9, 2012 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. A special event permit has been submitted from the Coatesville Parks and Recreation Commission and Community Policing Committee for a Parade for Peace from Palmer Park to Abdala Park and then Festival at Abdala Park on September 1, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. It has been requested for Police and Fire Department to have rolling stops for the parade.
Mr. LoPrinzi made a motion to approve a special event permit submitted from the Coatesville Parks and Recreation Commission and Community Policing Committee for a Parade for Peace from Palmer Park to Abdala Park and then Festival at Abdala Park on September 1, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm requesting for Police and Fire Department to have rolling stops for the parade; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items at this time.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance to remove the “City of Coatesville residency requirement for the position of City Manager”

Mr. Brazzle explained that no City Manager should have to live in the City. The City should not request to have the City Manager move into the City. What happens if the person moves to the City and it does not work out? Mrs. Jones explained the City should follow the rules and regulations for the City Manager. The City Manager should live in Chester County. Mr. Collins said if the City Manager lives within a commutable distance it should be accepted. We are looking for accountability. President Simpson said the former City Manager was required to live in the City. Mr. Collins stated the residency requirement was in the former Managers contract.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance to remove the “City of Coatesville residency requirement for the position of City Manager”; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2. President Simpson and Mrs. Jones were the dissenting votes.

2. Receive and consider Kirby Hudson for Coatesville City Manager

Vice President Hamrick explained when the last President stepped down he was appointed President. He stated that when they hired the former City Manager, we lost an opportunity with Mr. Hudson. Mr. Brazzle explained he has not always seen eye to eye with Mr. Hudson but he has always been honest with him. Mr. Hudson did not change his feelings to please him. He does not allow Council to walk all over him. President Simpson explained that Mr. Hudson has been a very good interim City Manager.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve Kirby Hudson for Coatesville City Manager; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2. President Simpson and Mrs. Jones were the dissenting votes.

Mr. Collins made a motion to add to the agenda to remove Edward Simpson as Council President; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-4. President Simpson, Vice President Hamrick, Mr. LoPrinzi and Mrs. Jones were the dissenting votes.

3. Receive and consider Norcini settlement

Mr. Carnes explained the settlement agreement with Mr. Norcini and his salvage yard. Vice President Hamrick stated it was a pleasure to work with Mr. Collins on the settlement for Mr. Norcini. Mr. Norcini wants to be a good neighbor. Mr. Paul Johnson who lives on the street explained that Mr. Norcini is a good neighbor.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the Norcini Settlement; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes announced the City received a check for \$10,000 from Comcast. He is working to complete Millview.

City Manager Report

Mr. Hudson announced the City received a check for \$10,000 from Comcast for new equipment for the community channel. The City will be receiving an additional \$19,000 from the franchise agreement. He thanked everyone for their support. He is moved and touched by all who believe in him.

Council Comments

Mr. Brazzle thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He inquired about the \$10,000 from Walgreen's for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hudson asked for a proposal from the Parks and Rec Commission for use of the money. Mr. Brazzle announced that he is happy that Mr. Hudson is getting a chance as City Manager. He gets a headache before each meeting. This should not be this hard. The previous Council inspired him to be on Council. The only way to do the job is to truly love your City. He asked everyone to give Council respect. He announced Marie Hess will be running for Council.

Mr. LoPrinzi thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He wishes everyone would come out for all the meetings and not only attend a meeting if something big is going to happen.

Vice President Hamrick stated it has been an exciting evening. There are people in support and people not in support. The City has hired someone who can move the City forward.

Mrs. Hunt

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She stated "we do not always agree, we can disagree but we do not have to be disagreeable. The City is rising up. We know what we need, and we do not need to pay millions to engineers. There are some decisions that are not popular. We vote from the heart. Mrs. Hunt thanked Mr. Carroll and encouraged to continue his support for the City of Coatesville. She thanked Mr. Hudson for all that he has done. He is the right person for the job. She was impressed by Mr. Smith's resume. We explained that we need to stop discrediting each other, and work together.

Mr. Collins

Mr. Collins stated this is a very interesting process. He congratulated Mr. Hudson and is sure he will do well. Mr. Collins explained he will be watching him with a magnifying glass as he has in the past. In being in politics you are asked to compromise, he will not compromise his Christian values. This is nothing against anyone on Council, and it was nothing against President Simpson, but we need a strong leader. We need to hold ourselves accountable. He announced Mr. Hudson was totally and completely exonerated from the negative issue being circulated regarding Mr. Hudson and the RDA.

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Jones stated she is a firm believer in the law. She follow the law, if she disagrees, you can ask to change the law. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

President Simpson

President Simpson congratulated Mr. Hudson. He explained that he believes the City Manager should be a resident of the City.

Adjournment

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm and move into executive session; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Submitted by:

Kirby Hudson

City Manager