

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday August 13, 2012

Salute to the Flag

Call to Order

Vice President Hamrick called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were Vice President Joseph Hamrick, Msrs., Jarrell Brazzle, David Collins, Mrs. C. Villa Hunt and Mrs. Ingrid Jones. Staff members present included City Manager Kirby Hudson, City Solicitor John Carnes, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Acting Fire Chief James Lentz, Sergeant James Audette, and Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday.

Vice President Hamrick announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, July 9, 2012 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Vice President Hamrick announced President Simpson and Mr. LoPrinzi would not be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the July 25, 2012 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the accounts payable dated August 8, 2012; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Mr. Collins made a motion to add a Proclamation for James Lopp and a Proclamation for Luda Pearl Baker (100th Birthday); Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to add regular action item 9.8; James Bell as Acting Police Chief until a permanent is hired; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to add regular action item 9.9; Letter to confirm the focus and improve quality of work life for City personnel; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Presentations

1. 2011 Financial Statements – Pam Baker, Barbacane Thornton

Ms. Baker announced this is the second year for financial statements due to the integral part of the process done by the independent auditor. The process helped to get the finances back on track. The Redevelopment Authority's audit is not included in the report. She announced the DCED audit will be submitted early. This is the best it has been submitted in three years. The revenues for 2011 were \$7.6 Million and the expenditures were \$9.3 million. After the other financing sources (transfers in and out) the City was positive \$526,688 at the end of the year. The Solid Waste fund just about broke even. Mr. Brazzle asked if the trash was added to the tax bill would it help the City collect more of the solid waste revenue. Ms. Baker replied, yes, it would be a god idea to collect the two together. Ms. Baker explained the assets for the Pension Trust fund is \$11.6 million. Mr. Brazzle thanked Mr. Marcarelli for a job well done.

2. Long Range Master Plan of Gateway Park – James Zeigler, Graystone Society
Mr. Zeigler introduced Ms. Davidson to speak on the behalf of the Graystone Society. Ms. Davison announced Coatesville is the only community that has the large Historic District. The Huston Building located on First Avenue is a National Landmark. Mrs. Davidson announced Graystone Society is willing to pay for the long range plan at Gateway Park for the City. They are also willing to help go through the review process for Harmony Street and the electronic sign. It is a small step in helping the City to move forward.

3. Art Partners – Lindsay Brinton, Art Partners Studio
Ms. Brinton thanked Mr. Hudson for hanging the young artist work in City Hall. Art Partners Studio believes that art and art-making play a vital role in our lives and community. And, that everyone should have the chance to express themselves creatively. The artwork show what the artist due for the City. A visit to the City’s Riverwalk provided middle school photography students with a wonderful opportunity to capture the beauty of the City’s summer landscape. Ms. Carol Bellucci, photographer, stated the artwork is a hope to inspire new ways of looking at the community. Ms. Brinton and Ms. Belluci thanked the artists for their work.

4. Brandywine Creek Greenway Program, Sheila Fleming
Ms. Fleming explained that each community has a vision of what the greenway means. The Greenway spans 24 municipalities along the Brandywine of publicly and privately owned land. Several municipal parks located near the Brandywine can easily function as “green nodes” along the Greenway corridor, one being the Coatesville Riverwalk. The Brandywine Creek Greenway will be better protected from development pressures, degraded landscapes can be restored and greenway’s unique recreational and tourism potential can be realized. Mr. Molina announced the Planning Commission is in support of the concept and the program. Council asked for the letter of support to be placed on the next agenda as an action item.

Vice President Hamrick asked Mr. Owen Hills to come forward and address Council with his issues.

Mr. Hills explained that his sister passed away due to complications with surgery. The emt’s were called to come to the house before she passed away. Mr. Hills said his mother called him to come to the house to be with her and his sister before she passed. Mr. Hill explained that when he arrived at the house, the police were there. The Police Officer would not let him into see his sister or to be with his mother at her time of need. The Police refused even as his mother asked for her son to come in. His cousin asked to come in and was pushed aside by the Officer. This caused a verbal altercation with the Officer. The Officer was insensitive to the situation. They were told the officer filed a complaint against them. Mr. Collins apologized to the family for their loss and the situation in which they had to endure. Council will look into the situation. Vice President Hamrick stated Council would look into the matter. Sergeant Audette stated he would look into the matter and provide Council with the information. Mrs. Hunt stated that they have the support of Council. Council will follow this through with the City Manager and the Officer in Charge.

Citizens’ Hearings – Regular Action Items Only

There were no citizens comments on regular action items only.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens’ hearings on regular action items only; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Brazzle was not present for the vote.

Citizens' Hearings – Non-Agenda Items Only

Monica – Resident

She asked for help with parking near 368 South 1st Avenue. Her car has been hit three times. It is not safe to park in front of her house. There are no safety signs for Children. Mrs. Hunt asked for a speed strip and safety signs to be posted. Sergeant Audette explained that signs can be placed in the area. Mr. Barnes suggested having the light on First Avenue to be turned back on.

Tanya Woods – Resident

Ms. Woods stated the home next store has been empty for the last 2-3 months. The home is infested. She was told by Codes that they are trying to get a hold of the owner. Mr. Molina stated that citations have been issued and are awaiting court. Mr. Brazzle asked Mr. Molina to move forward with the warrant since the citations have not been effective. Vice President Hamrick asked staff to check to see if the taxes are paid up to date. Ms. Woods stated that if the street sweeper does not come the residents are still ticketed for parking. Mr. Brazzle explained that the street is still posted as no parking during certain times and will be enforced.

Chris Strunk – Former Employee

Mr. Strunk explained that he retired in May. He inquired about the additional payouts. The pension checks have started but they have not received the allotments such as sick and vacation. When an employee leaves they are usually paid the allotments in their last check. Mr. Marcarelli explained the agreement states the allotments can be paid by December 31, 2012. Mrs. Hunt explained the City has a time frame to work. The Retirees have already received 2 parts of the buyout.

Vanessa Jones – Resident

Her uncle lives at 239 Lumber Street and there is trash, carpet, futons, etc... She called Public Works and Mr. Wilkinson took everything away and now there is trash all over the place again. There is a gas smell coming from the trash. Acting Chief Lentz asked to meet her the next day to look at the problem. Mrs. Hunt asked to have signs posted. Mr. Collins asked for letters to be sent to the residents regarding where the trash should be placed. Vice President Hamrick announced that Ms. Hess has been sending out pictures of the problem to Council.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to closed citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Special Events

1. A Banner Permit Application has been submitted from the Healthy Beginnings Health Fair from August 12, 2012 until August 17, 2012 at Gateway Park.
Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a banner permit from the Healthy Beginnings Health Fair from August 12, 2012 until August 17, 2012 at Gateway Park; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Mrs. Jones was the dissenting vote.
2. A special event application has been submitted by the Coatesville Hispanic SOA Church for a conference and seminars to be held at Gateway Park from September 4, 2012 until September 21, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a special event from the Coatesville Hispanic SOA Church for a conference and seminars to be held at Gateway Park from September 4, 2012 until September 21, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion Items

1. Discuss Commercial Rental Licenses
Mr. Brazzle asked for the item of discussion to be tabled until the next meeting.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider letter supporting IAMMYBROTHERSKEEPER
Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the letter supporting IAMMYBROTHERSKEEPER; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Receive and consider Second Reading and adoption 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
Mr. Collins asked if the Ordinance could be changed to come into effect when the City received the grant. Mr. Carnes explained the City cannot change the Ordinance. It will be in effect in 30 days but will not need to be enforced at that time.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve second reading and adoption 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 passed 4-1. Mrs. Hunt was the dissenting vote.

3. Receive and consider Second Reading and Adoption 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 108.1M (2) to provide that the fees will be pursuant to a fee schedule adopted by Resolution of City Council.
Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve second reading and adoption 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 108.1M (2) to provide that the fees will be pursuant to a fee schedule adopted by Resolution of City Council; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Receive and consider a Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania establishing the fees for permits for road openings and for engineering/consultant reviews and inspection fees related thereto.
Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania establishing the fees for permits for road openings and for engineering/consultant reviews and inspection fees related thereto; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Receive and consider Second Reading and Adoption an Ordinance reflecting the City Council's authorization that the City Manager under Section 2-402 need not reside within the City within one (1) year of appointment but must reside at a distance from the City determined by the City Council in an exercise of the City Council's discretion.

Mrs. Jones asked what the required distance is. Mr. Brazzle replied whatever the Council agrees upon.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve second reading and adoption an Ordinance reflecting the City Council's authorization that the City Manager under Section 2-402 need not reside within the City within one (1) year of appointment but must reside at a distance from the City determined by the City Council in an exercise of the City Council's discretion; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Mrs. Jones was the dissenting vote.

6. Receive and consider Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania establishing the fees for a Truss Emblem as required by City Code Chapter 115-8.1 at a fee established and placed in the fee section of the City Code at Section 108-1.T (14) requiring payment in the amount of \$15.00 per emblem.

Mr. Brazzle asked what is Truss. Acting Chief Lentz explained it is a placard that marks the property for the safety of the firefighter when they are fighting a fire.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania establishing the fees for a Truss Emblem as required by City Code Chapter 115-8.1 at a fee established and placed in the fee section of the City Code at Section 108-1.T (14) requiring payment in the amount of \$15.00 per emblem; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Receive and consider Darrel Williams appointment to the Board of Housing Appeals for the term 2011-2013 and Reserve Trust Fund Commission for the term 2012-2014.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve Darrel Williams's appointment to the Board of Housing Appeals for the term 2011-2013 and Reserve Trust Fund Commission for the term 2012-2014; Mr. Collin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

8. Receive and consider James Bell as Temporary Police Chief

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to appoint James Bell as Temporary Police Chief until a permanent Police Chief is hired; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9. Receive and consider letter improving the quality of work life for City personnel.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve a letter supporting a better work environment for City personnel; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Solicitors Report

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

City Manager's Report

Mr. Hudson announced an event called the Vision Café at the School on August 14, 2012. All of the City Department Heads will be attending the meeting. This is for the betterment of the City showing better customer service and becoming more involved in City events.

Council Comments

Mr. Collins thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He congratulated Ms. Dixon on receiving her letter of support. He feels that Council is moving in a positive direction at a quicker pace.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She sent a special thanks to Ms. Dixon. A mother's love is nurturing. She stated Keep up the good work.

Mr. Brazzle thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He announced a scooter was stolen at the soup kitchen and Officer Ollis retrieved the scooter and returned it to the owner in a quick timeframe.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting and sharing the time with us. We are moving forward to the positive in the City. She announced Officer Ollis has the support of the community. Mrs. Hunt thanked staff for all their hard work.

Vice President Hamrick thanked Ms. Baker for speaking positive regarding the Finance Department. There has not been a positive comment on the Department in a long time. He stated Council is overwhelmed with the generous offer from Graystone. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Submitted by:
Kirby Hudson
City Manager