

Minutes
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday August 27, 2012

Call to Order

President Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Edward Simpson, Vice President Joseph Hamrick, Mssrs., David Collins, and Mrs. C. Villa Hunt. Staff members present included City Manager Kirby Hudson, City Solicitor John Carnes, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Public Works Director Donald Wilkinson, Director of Planning and Codes Enforcement Damalier Molina, Acting Fire Chief James Lentz, Acting Police Chief James Bell, and Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Simpson announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, August 27, 2012 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Simpson announced Mr. Brazzle, Mr. LoPrinzi and Mrs. Jones would not be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve the August 13, 2012 meeting minutes; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mr. Marcarelli asked for the payable to be approved but to pull a check regarding a tuition reimbursement until the validity is checked for the reimbursement.

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the accounts payable dated August 23, 2012; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Swear in Ceremony – Interim Chief James Bell
Tonya Thames Taylor held the Bible as James Bell was sworn in as Interim Police Chief by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines.
2. Historical Commission – Tonya Thames-Taylor
Ms. Thames Taylor read the Code regarding the duties of the Historical Commission. She explained the Cityhood the property called Fleming Strode house on the demolition list. Mr. Jeffrey Deacon reviewed the past regarding the historical background of the Strode House. Dr. Taylor explained the Historical Commission would like to make the house a visitor's center. She asked for help in stopping the demolition and sheriff sale of the house. The Historic Commission is working on an event for the 300th Anniversary of Coatesville in 2014. The motto for the Historical Commission is "Where Time and History Connect".

Citizens' Hearings – Regular Action Items Only

There were no citizens' comments on regular action items only at this time.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Citizens' Hearings – Non-Agenda Items Only

Patti Brown – Non-resident

Ms. Brown asked for a water fountain to be placed in the reception area. The only one available is behind the locked doors.

Tonya Wood – Resident

Ms. Wood asked the status of issue discussed at the last meeting regarding 208-210 Charles Street. Mr. Molina replied that his department is working on the enforcement.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non agenda items only; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Special Events

1. A special event application was submitted from the Graystone Society for the "September 11, 2012 Memorial Ceremony" from 7:30 am to 11:30 am at Gateway Park. A request has been made to close Harmony Street, West of South 1st Avenue). It is anticipated 250 plus people will be in attendance.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve a special event application from the Graystone Society for the "September 11, 2012 Memorial Ceremony" from 7:30 am to 11:30 am at Gateway Park. A request has been made to close Harmony Street, West of South 1st Avenue); Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

2. A special event application was submitted from the Ebenezer Full Gospel Baptist Church for "Take it to the Streets" on October 26, 2012 from 9:00 pm to 12:00 am . A request has been submitted to close 7th Avenue and City Gate Street.

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve a special event application from the Ebenezer Full Gospel Baptist Church for "Take it to the Streets" on October 26, 2012 from 9:00 pm to 12:00 am; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3. A special event application was submitted from the Coatesville Community Children's Mass Choir for a festival at the Ash Park Pavilion on September 29, 2012 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve a special event application from the Coatesville Community Children's Mass Choir for a festival at the Ash Park Pavilion on September 29, 2012 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

4. A special event application was submitted from Rodriguez for a picnic on September 3, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. A request has been made for the street closing at 24 North 8th Avenue.

Council asked staff to put street closures for special events to items of discussion at the next meeting.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve a special event permit from Rodriquez for a picnic on September 3, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion Items

1. Discuss Commercial Rental Licenses

Acting Chief Lentz explained the Commercial Rental License fee has not been maintained for a period of time. He would like to start to enforce the fee or remove it from the Charter. The enforcement of the fees will help to update the files on the Commercial properties in the City. It will give a better concept of the status of the buildings. Council asked staff to check the fees in the surrounding municipalities.

2. Discuss 2012-2013 Fire Company and Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program

Acting Chief Lentz explained the grant requires no matching fund, no grant writer and no application fee. It is the intention to apply for the funding to purchase some needed equipment to support the City's fire fighters that has no cost to the City. The grant eligibility is for \$15,000 per year up to four years.

3. Discuss 2012 Budget Amendments

Mr. Marcarelli explained the preliminary review of the budget shows the need for a Reserve Trust Fund transfer of \$1,972,852. There are a combination of revenue and expense accounts in the 2012 budget which are headed for a significant shortfall if the Reserve Trust Fund is not made. The previous City Manager did not factor in the salaries for the retiring officers in the 2012 budget. The salaries were not factored in for the first five months of the year. Additionally, the amounts for the buyouts for early retirement were not calculated in the 2012 budget either. The legal fees have also gone well beyond the budget.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider letter supporting the Brandywine Creek Greenway Program

Mr. Collins asked if there is part of the Creek that does not belong to the City. Mr. Simpson replied yes. Mr. Hudson explained the Creek near the A. Duie Pyle site is owned by Valley Township. Mr. Simpson stated the Brandywine Conservancy has also spoken to the surrounding municipalities.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve a letter supporting the Brandywine Creek Greenway Program; Mr. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Receive and consider employment agreement between the City of Coatesville and Kirby Hudson, City Manager

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve an employment agreement between the City of Coatesville and Kirby Hudson, City Manager; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Receive and consider annual contribution of \$11,000 to the Coatesville Area Public Library

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the annual contribution of \$11,000 to the Coatesville Area Public Library; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes asked if there were any questions on his report. There were no questions at this time. Mr. Carnes explained he is working with staff on the Noise Ordinance.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Hudson provided Council with an overview of the Police Chief Search Committee. The media has been involved, seeing how the candidates were reviewed, how cuts were made and the actual interviews. City Hall has lost the confidence of the citizens. The goal is to have a better relationship with the media. The final four had interviews on Thursday and the final two met with Council. Mr. Hudson announced he will be holding interviews with the final two and provide Council with his recommendation. The Council, Staff and Public will be happy with their new Chief.

Council Comments

Mr. Collins thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He congratulated Chief Bell as interim and told him he is doing an outstanding job. Being on Council is not as easy as people think. It is often disheartening to hear what comes out of the news media. The Council and staff are dedicated to moving the City forward.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She acknowledged Interim Chief Bell and stated he is the right man for the job at this time. It is tough sitting here on Council and making tough decisions. Council keeps the citizens in mind at all times. She asked the citizens to give Council time to get things together and straighten out issues to move the City forward.

Vice President Hamrick stated he was sad to see the comments from the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) regarding the article on no vote of confidence for Council and Chief Bell. The Council voted Mr. Bell in and the Council has confidence in Mr. Bell. He does not care what the FOP or the District Attorney say. Council would never jeopardize the safety of its citizens. He stated he stands by his decision.

Council President thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He announced due to medical issues he will be resigning as Council President, but not as a Council Member and taking some time off. He felt it is not in the best interest of the citizens for him to be Council President while he is taking the time off.

Adjournment

Mr. Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Submitted by:
Kirby Hudson
City Manager