

City Council Minutes
September 10, 2012
Approved with edits September 24, 2012

Minutes
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday September 10, 2012

Call to Order

Vice President Hamrick called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were Vice President Joseph Hamrick, Mssrs., David Collins, Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones, 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.

Vice President Hamrick announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, September 10, 2012, to discuss personnel and legal matters.

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

Nomination and appointment of City Council President

Vice President Hamrick announced Mr. Simpson resigned as Council President at the August 27, 2012 meeting. He opened the floor for nominations. Mrs. Jones explained the Vice President should move into the seat of the President. Vice President Hamrick explained that he is currently on a lot of committees and does not wish to be the President at this time.

Mrs. Hunt made the nomination to appoint David Collins as City Council President; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve the August 27, 2012 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-2. Mrs. Jones and Mr. Brazzle abstained from the vote due to their absence at the meeting.

Approval of Accounts Payable

President Collins questioned the Solid Waste Interfund transfer. He inquired about the purchase of the guns for the Police Department. Sergeant Audette explained the guns were purchased for the hiring of the part time officers. President Collins questioned the gym membership. Sergeant Audette explained the police are reimbursed for their gym membership as per the union contract. Mr. Brazzle stated the unions are hurting the City financially.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve accounts payable dated September 5, 2012; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Vice President Hamrick added presentation 1.5; Proclamation for Reverend Acey

Presentations

1. Swear in Ceremony – Kirby Hudson

Gary Hudson held the bible as Kirby Hudson was sworn in as City Manager by the Honorable Judge Grover Koon. Vice President Hamrick announced Mr. Hudson will be

receiving an award from the Opportunities Industrialization Center for the “Difference of One Award”. Mr. Hudson provided the multi-purpose room to the Center during their displacement from their GED classroom earlier this year.

Council adjourned to executive session at 8:10 pm and reconvened the public meeting at 8:25 pm.

2. Recognition of Diamond London by Marie Hess, Parks and Recreation Commission
Ms. Hess recognized Ms. Diamond London for her generosity and commitment to the Quality of Life for the City of Coatesville.
3. City’s Access Channel – Alray Johnson
Mr. Johnson announced he has made a presentation to every Council regarding the Public Access Channel. Mr. Johnson explained the Access Channel can provide a lot of information to the public. He provided Council with a video of the City of Coatesville and its landmarks. Council asked for Staff to meet with Mr. Johnson regarding the City’s access channel and how we may be able to post videos of events on the site.
4. SWEEPS Program Update – Donald Wilkinson
Mr. Wilkinson announced the SWEEP Officer has been able to commit more time to the enforcement in the past month. The proposed Quality of Life Ordinance will enable the City to move quickly to establish trash related issues. Currently, under the existing Ordinance it takes several weeks to favorably process a violation/citation and reach the point when the City has the right to remove the issue and be compensated.
5. COOP – Codes Officer Orientation Program – Damalier Molina
Mr. Molina announced the COOP is for the community residents and individuals seeking a better understanding of the adopted property maintenance code in addition to the UCC, but open to any interested party. The training provides an introduction to the major provisions of the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). The IPMC also provides requirements for continued use and maintenance of plumbing, mechanical electrical and fire protection systems in existing residential nonresidential structures.
6. Proclamation – Rev Louis Acey.
Vice President Hamrick read a summary of the information for the Proclamation.

Citizens’ Hearings – Regular Action Items Only

Mildred Dixon – Resident

Ms. Dixon announced the negativity makes the news. She believes in Council. Coatesville is really going to change. IAMMYBROTHERSKEEPER would like to venture with the City of Coatesville.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to close citizens’ hearings on regular action items only; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Citizens’ Hearings – Non-Agenda Items Only

Mildred Dixon – Resident

Ms. Dixon explained she has been asked to speak for those who do not have a voice. She spoke to Ms. Hanna who was laid off on the 6th and replaced by Ms. Scott on the 7th. Mr. Hudson explained this is a personnel matter and they are aware of the reasons.

Jeannette Hurdle – Resident

Ms. Hurdle asked for the curb to be painted at Coates Street and Blackhorse Hill Road. She explained Coates Street is a hazard for children going to school. The bus traffic is bad and people are driving to fast down the streets. Council asked Mr. Wilkinson to contact the school regarding the buses and have the curb painted.

Alphonso Williams - Resident

Mr. Williams stated in April he came before Council regarding tickets on Chestnut Street. He thought the tickets had been rescinded. The other residents were except for his. Council asked if he took his ticket to the Police Department. Mr. Williams stated he had not. Council stated that the tickets were to be taken to the Police Department to be taken care of, if the procedure was not followed than the ticket would have gone to citation.

A Edmunds – Resident

Mr. Edmunds explained that he lives on 8th Avenue and there are no signs. The cars fly up and down the road. He asked for speed limit signs. The school zone is not identified. Mr. Wilkinson explained the City plows the street but it is owned by PennDot and the City cannot post a sign. Council asked staff to contact the state about the speed and the school district about posting lights at Scott School.

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

Mrs. Jones excused herself from the meeting at 9:30 pm due to sickness.

Special Events

1. A special event application was submitted from Tabernacle Baptist Church for a Fund Raiser on September 29, 2012 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. The request is for the approval to stand at the street corners and ask for donations to ship books to West Africa.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the special event application from the Tabernacle Baptist Church for a Fund Raiser on September 29, 2012 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm and standing at the street corners and ask for donations to ship books to West Africa; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion Items

1. Discuss Street Closures for Special Events

Mr. Brazzle explained that some organizations will say that they closed the street why can't I. Mrs. Hunt stated that everyone should be treated equal. President Collins announced it could be a problem if one can use it and not the other. Mr. Brazzle suggested having a certain amount of vouchers per year for closures. President Collins suggested raising the rate for the street closures. The funds should be tracked and allotted back to the departments for staff time for the events.

2. Discuss annual renewal fee and installation fee for handicap signs

Sergeant Audette explained there are currently no fees for handicap signs in Coatesville. There are 219 signs posted in the City. The fee would not be for the renewal of the sign but the initial installation. The current process has an annual renewal process, if the

renewal is not submitted the signs are removed. Once the renewal has been resubmitted the sign will be put back up. The fee will help for the costs of the signs, posts and people will be more likely to renew their signs on time.

Mrs. Hunt asked Sergeant Audette about the guns purchased by the Police Department. Sergeant Audette explained the guns were purchased for the hiring of the part time officers. The old guns would be used for the part timers and the new guns were given to the detectives. Interim Chief Bell explained he approved the process for the guns.

3. Discuss draft Nuisance Ordinance

Mr. Carnes explained the City has drafted a Nuisance Ordinance. The Ordinance as written needs minor changes. There are certain sections that would not pertain to the needs of Coatesville. He asked staff to review the Ordinance and would like to meet with the staff members to fine tune it.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance authorizing the withdrawal and use of principal of a City Reserve Trust Fund in an amount up to two million two hundred forty-seven thousand and eight hundred and fifty-two dollars for emergency needs.

Mr. Brazzle explained that he does not like the idea but the City is in a dire situation. The withdrawal of the trust fund is something that needs to be done. He announced that before he gets off Council he wants money put back in the trust. He asked to hold the employees in high standard and if we can reuse it than reuse it. He stated the City Council should be loyal to one another. We need to save enough money. Mrs. Hunt explained that if the City did not have the trust fund we would not be in the situation we are in. The fund started out at 39 million and is down to 11 million. Mr. Brazzle stated the trust fund has been dipped into every year. The biggest fight regarding savings is the unions. Mrs. Hunt stated the worst thing the City ever did was the buyouts. Mr. Brazzle explained that information has always been provided to Council at the last minute. Mrs. Hunt explained that when the Council is helping to manage issues and discussing issues they are accused of micromanaging. They say we can't micromanage, but it's been mismanaged for so long. This Council is going to take control of this City and we are going to come out of this mess. President Collins asked why the amount is more than the last meeting. Mr. Marcarelli explained that another settlement has been added to the amount. The City will be reimbursed for a portion of the settlement. The City is required to pay the TAN, the GO Bond, Police Buyouts, the MMO's payroll and everyday general expenses. The costs of the administration could predict are in line with the budget however, the legal fees, lawsuit settlements, interfund transfers and police buyout funds for an early retirement packet have out the city in a budgetary hole. President Collins stated we need to get the revenues ahead of the expenses. We need to work smarter. Mrs. Hunt stated that Mr. Marcarelli is doing a good job. He is bringing issues to Council that they did not know. He inherited the issues. President Collins asked to see how we are going to manage the money taken out of the trust. President Collins and Mr. Brazzle asked for the reimbursement of the settlement to be placed back into the reserve trust. Mr. Brazzle asked how many payrolls the City can make before there is no money. Mr. Marcarelli stated two to three with the cash at hand. Mr. Brazzle stated the City is in trouble.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance authorizing the withdrawal and use of principal of a City Reserve Trust Fund in an amount up to two million two hundred forty-seven thousand and eight hundred and fifty-two dollars for emergency needs; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-2. President Collins and Mrs. Hunt were the dissenting votes.

2. Receive and consider First Reading and Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the 2012 adopted annual budget and appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purpose of the City government as therein set forth, for the year 2012.

Council stated due to the motion failing for the withdrawal, the budget amendment could not be approved at this time.

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to table First Reading and Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the 2012 adopted annual budget and appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purpose of the City government as therein set forth, for the year 2012; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Receive and consider permanent Police Chief

Mrs. Hunt asked how the City was going to pay the new Police Chief. Mr. Brazzle stated the Police Chief position has been budgeted. Mrs. Hunt explained the interim Chief is making \$15,000 less at this time. We should make sure that we will have the money to pay a new chief than only verify three payments at this time. Vice President Hamrick explained that he feels confident in Mr. Hudson's decisions. Both candidates came highly recommended by the search committee. Major Laufer is very capable of running any police department.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to appoint Major Jack Laufer as the Police Chief for the City of Coatesville; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1-0. Motion failed due to lack of majority of Council. Mrs. Hunt was the dissenting vote.

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 the 9/11 ceremony being held at Gateway Park.

Council Comments

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a good night.

Mr. Brazzle wished everyone a good night.

Vice President Hamrick had no comment at this time.

President Collins wished everyone a good evening.

Adjournment

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 pm; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion.
Motion passed 4-0.

Submitted by:
Kirby Hudson
City Manager