

AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
December 9, 2013

CITY OF COATESVILLE

COATESVILLE CITY HALL

Executive Session

5:30 p.m.

Salute to the Flag

PUBLIC HEARING

President Collins opened the floor for the public hearing for the 2014 Preliminary Budget at 7:45 pm.

Jeff Leofski

Mr. Leofski asked about the projected expenditures and if there were any significant cuts to the budget. President Collins explained Council reviewed every section of the budget. Mr. Marcarelli explained the budget process.

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone questioned the significant increase in the budget. President Collins explained Council will be setting objectives for the City Manager and administration to follow.

Paul Dodson

Mr. Dodson asked President Collins what the City plans on doing when they need money again. President Collins explained that Council is working on goals and objectives for the City Manager and administration for their budget. The department will be held accountable for their budgets.

Mr. Hudson explained that taxes have not been increased in 9 years. Mr. Simpson explained cuts have been made over the years. The cuts have an effect on the services.

Matt Chiodi

Mr. Chiodi inquired about the union Contracts and asked why they are untouchable. Mr. Marcarelli explained Union Collectible Bargaining Agreements are legal documents. Chief Laufer explained the Police Department has experienced cuts in the past. The department once held 35 fulltime Police Officers and now has 25.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans commended the Police Chief on his use of new technology. There are more services offered to become more efficient.

Diane Brownfield

Ms. Brownfield asked if Council discussed any other ideas before increasing the taxes. President Collins and Mrs. Hunt explained that Council discussed several options. The City took entire amount from trust fund last year and Council discussed taking a portion out of trust and also raising taxes.

President Collins explained if the City did not also tap into the trust fund the increase for taxes could have been 19 mills. Mr. Simpson stated to be careful what you wish for. The people voted people into Council in the past and it moved the City backwards. Mrs. Hunt stated that we are trying to do what we can to level out what we can for the City. We are open to new ideas.

Mrs. Sabo stated she lives on a fixed income. It seems like the residents are paying more and receiving less. She will have to sell her house if the taxes and fees continue to be raised.

Mr. LoPrinzi made a motion to close the public hearing on the 2014 Preliminary Budget at 8:30 pm; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Call to Order

President Collins called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President David Collins, Vice President Joseph Hamrick, Mssrs, Jarrell Brazzle, Jeffrey LoPrinzi, Edward Simpson and Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt and Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones. Staff members present included City Manager Kirby Hudson, City Solicitor John Carnes, Public Works Director Donald Wilkinson, Director of Planning and Codes Enforcement Damalier Molina, Police Chief John Laufer, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Acting Fire Chief James Lentz, and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Collins announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, November 25, 2013 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the November 25, 2013 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the accounts payable; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Vice President Hamrick made a motion to add action item 10; Early retirement Corporal Cooper; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Brazzle was the dissenting vote.

Presentations (5 Minutes)

There were no presentations at this time.

Citizens' Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (5 Minutes)

Paul Dodson – Property Owner

Mr. Dodson questioned that \$4 state fee. Council informed Mr. Dodson this was not a agenda item.

David DeSimone – Property Owner

Mr. DeSimone inquired about the increase of the trash fee and the current contract. He provided suggestions on long term contracts with trash contractors.

Joseph Leofsky – Property Owner

Mr. Leofsky inquired if the best way to increase revenue was to increase taxes. He suggested having business owners working together to make the City business friendly.

Mr. Hudson asked for volunteers on the Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees. There are many vacancies. There are some Boards, Commission, and Committees that the volunteers do not have to be residents of the City.

Marie Hess – Property Owner

Ms. Hess inquired about the trash bills in the new developments. The newer developments have not received bills for their trash. She inquired about recycling fees. The City should not be paying fees for recycling. Mr. Carnes stated that he will look into the Reading case where the contractor was charging for recycling.

Council asked staff to review the billing for the new developments and the trash billings. They asked for staff to work with Eagle Disposal to review their records on their pickups.

Diane Brownfield – Property Owner

Ms. Brownfield questioned the amount of the Tax Anticipation Note. She asked for the SWEEPS Officer to cite for recycling and trash and asked about the problem with the cats. Mr. Hudson explained Forgotten Cats.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Citizens' Hearings – Non-Agenda Items Only (5 Minutes)

James Cooper – Property Owner

Mr. Cooper questioned the citation process. He was unaware of the 1st citation before the 3rd was written from the Codes Department. He asked for a change in the process.

Crystal Thomas – Property Owner

Ms. Thomas inquired about the 2nd floor means of egress. Mr. Molina explained they are working on other options. Ms. Thomas inquired about her trash bill on a condemned building. She has not received the trash bills on her other buildings, she will pay the bills but would like the penalty removed.

Paul Dodson – Property Owner

Mr. Dodson inquired about the fire escrow in interest bearing accounts. The City forms state the money is posted in a interest bearing account. Mr. Carnes stated the verbage should be changed. Mr. Dobson voiced his concerns on the license fee. Mr. Hudson explained a meeting will be scheduled to discuss this issue after the holiday.

David DeSimone – Property Owner

Mr. DeSimone voiced his concerns on the control of the trash fees. He voiced his concerns on the zoning fees and how they are not business friendly. Mr. DeSimone suggested pulling landlords together and doing mini block clean ups.

Joseph Leofsky – Property Owner

Mr. Leofsky asked if the City has the highest taxes in the County. Mr. Simpson explained the statistics of the County. Mr. Leofsky voiced his concerns on the fees from the Codes Department. President Collins explained that a meeting was held to discuss these issues another meeting will be held on after the holiday to further discuss the issues.

Paul Evans – Property Owner

Mr. Evans voiced his concerns on the fees in the Codes Department. The license fees were passed in January was illegal and the Ordinance should be rescinded. Mr. Evans asked for a suggestion box to be placed outside of the Codes Department.

Marie Hess – Property Owner

Ms. Hess thanked the Police, Fire and Public Works Department for all their hard work and assistance at all the events for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider an Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City Government herein set forth, for the year 2014.

Mr. Marcarelli explained the changes in the line items for the Codes Department to cover the software items. There was no change in the overall budget amount, just amendments to various line items.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve an Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City Government herein set forth, for the year 2014; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Receive and consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 203 (Taxation) of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the Tax Rate for General Revenue and debt purposes for the year 2014.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 203 (Taxation) of the City of Coatesville, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the Tax Rate for General Revenue and debt purposes for the year 2014; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider an Ordinance providing for salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City of Coatesville

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to pass an Ordinance providing for salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City of Coatesville; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Receive and consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 1.I/(1) Fees in the City of Coatesville to address increases of Solid Waste Fees for Residential Use from \$295.00 per year to \$320.00 per year or \$80.00 per quarter.

Council discussed the billing to the various developments. Staff has been asked to look into the past and present billing to verify if the new developments have received solid waste bills for the present and past years. There are many that need to be clarified before any movement can be taken.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to table an Ordinance amending Chapter 1.I/(1) Fees in the City of Coatesville to address increases of Solid Waste Fees for Residential Use from \$295.00 per year to \$320.00 per year or \$80.00 per quarter; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion tabled 7-0.

5. Receive and consider engagement letter from Barbacane, Thornton & Company, LLP for the Fiscal year 2013

Mr. LoPrinzi made a motion to approve an engagement letter from Barbacane, Thornton & Company, LLP for the Fiscal year 2013; Mr. Brazzle seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2. Vice President Hamrick and Mr. Brazzle were the dissenting votes.

6. Receive and consider 2014 Tax Anticipation Note authorizing and awarding Resolution.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Resolution awarding the 2014 Tax Anticipation Note; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Receive and consider Second Reading Coatesville Storm Water Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Erosion Ordinance

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve second reading a Coatesville Storm Water Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Erosion Ordinance; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

8. Receive and consider Resolution in accordance with Chapter 194 Section 906 of the Storm Water Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, City Council set a fee for an appeal under said Ordinance 1419-2013 at \$750.00.

Mr. LoPrinzi made a motion to approve a Resolution in accordance with Chapter 194 Section 906 of the Storm Water Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, City Council set a fee for an appeal under said Ordinance 1419-2013 at \$750.00; Vice President Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

9. Receive and consider City Manager to execute contract with Constellation Electric as the electricity provider.

Mrs. Jones asked if this was the only company. Mr. Hudson explained the choice was made by the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities.

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to approve the City Manager to execute contract with Constellation Electric as the electricity provider; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

10. Receive and consider early Retirement for Corporal Cooper

Mr. LoPrinzi made a motion to approve the early retirement agreement for Corporal Cooper; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Brazzle was the dissenting vote.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes announced he has been working with the Finance Director on the Ordinances relating to the approved budget, salaries.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Hudson provided an update on the Train Station.

Bob Keegey

Mr. Keegey stated he had a fantastic experience working with the Codes Department and staff. He is planning on opening a business up in Coatesville.

Ted Skadas

Mr. Skidas announced that he had a friend that they originally had not received trash bills. They have since been contacted and were billed \$1,400.

Discussion Items (5 Minutes)

There were no discussion items at this time.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She stated that she hopes that we can and are making the City a better place. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mr. Simpson thanked Mr. LoPrinzi for serving on Council. He thanked Mr. Brazzle for serving on Council and commended him on how he has matured in the last four years beyond belief. Mr. Brazzle will be missed.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She stated that 2013 has beheld us with the true nature of bad luck; hopefully 2014 will be a more kindlier, gentler year. She stated Peace and Blessing and good riddance to bad rubbish.

Vice President Hamrick stated that it is great to be back. He was out for medical reasons. It is great to work for the City. He thanked Mr. LoPrinzi and Mr. Brazzle for serving on Council.

Mr. LoPrinzi thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that being on Council has been eye opening for him. It has been a wonderful and challenging job. He thanked everyone for letting him serve.

Mr. Brazzle thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their support. It has been hard being young and being in Government. He was asked why he did not run again and he stated that he has lost passion, lost fire. He asked Ms. Hess to not become discouraged and stay strong. He thanked administration. He takes his hat off to Mr. Hudson for his work. He thanked Chief Laufer for coming on board. He thanked Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Molina, Mr. Marcarelli, Chief Lentz and Ms. Mowday for their work.

Mr. Collins thanked Mr. LoPrinzi and Mr. Brazzle for their service on Council. It was a pleasure working with you. The public has no idea what goes on behind the table. He looks forward with all new members working together. We are here for the city and not ourselves. He announced that Council has offered free parking on the Central Business District for the Month of December.

Adjournment

Mr. Brazzle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm; Mr. LoPrinzi seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Kirby Hudson
City Manager