

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
February 10, 2014

Public Hearing – Budget Revision

President Hamrick opened the Public hearing at 7:40 pm.

President Hamrick asked if there were any questions on the budget revision for the public. There were no comments.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:40 pm.

Call to Order

President Hamrick called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Hamrick, Vice President David Collins, Mssr, Edward Simpson and Ms., Marie Hess, Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones and Mrs. Linda Lavender-Norris. 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 Hamrick announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, February 10, 2014 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Hamrick announced Mrs. Hunt would not be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice President Collins made a motion to approve the January 27, 2014 meeting minutes; Ms. Hess seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Community Concerns/Call to Action by Senator Dinniman

Senator Dinniman explained his call for action. It is building a community not just buildings. As the plans for the Coatesville Railroad Station and adjacent areas evolve we do not want to see a repeat of what has happened in the past in Coatesville. Too many times in the City of Coatesville we have seen the County or the State hire engineers or architects who write up the

plans and ultimately hire developers to build the projects without addressing key community concerns.

These developers have continually hired non-city residents and for city residents to stand back and watch others rebuild Coatesville. Thus, one major community concern is the opportunity for city residents to be provided with job training and jobs - both in the construction of facilities and then within the facilities once built. These and other concerns are always pushed down the road and ultimately forgotten.

Remember the Coatesville Railroad Station is just one phase of a larger project involving the Third Street corridor and downtown area from First to Fourth streets and Fleetwood to Harmony streets.

To make sure that the aspirations and needs of the community are fully considered this time, we are calling for a community forum on Thursday, February 27th at Gordon Middle School cafeteria (now Lincoln University's Coatesville Campus) at 7:15pm.

While the County and the State have focused on the construction of buildings, we as civic and religious leaders are committed to making sure that community development goes hand in hand with the physical infrastructure. We are committed to giving the citizens a say and an opportunity to improve their neighborhoods and livelihoods.

2. Riverwalk by John Pawlowski

Mr. Pawlowski presented Council with the idea of placing Gazebos along the Brandywine Creek as part of the Riverwalk. The three gazebos will start near the entrance at Lincoln Highway and extend along the creek toward the bridge. Mr. Pawlowski showed pictures of the weeds blocking the view of the creek before he cleaned the area. The creek plays an important part in development. He asked for Council support in acquiring the gazebos. It will be no cost to the City. He will campaign for donations for the three gazebos.

The Minister's Alliance offered to donate one gazebo and Senator Dinniman announced he would raise money for the second.

Citizens' Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

Mildred Dixon – Resident

Ms. Dixon announced a program through Lincoln University call the Project Development Program. She stated that she agreed with Senator Dinniman and stated his Call of Action is just and overdue.

Joseph Leofsky – Property Owner

Mr. Leofsky asked if the \$250,000 money was set aside for particular items. President Hamrick explained Council is still working on the tight perimeters for the use of the money.

Jonquil Patterson - Resident

Mr. Patterson questioned the withdrawals regarding the Early Intervention Phase III. He asked for the audit expense program and the ending fund balance for 2013. President Hamrick stated that Mr. Patterson could fill out a Right to Know for the information.

Mrs. Jones made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular actions only; Vice President Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Citizens' Hearings – Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

Mardetta Shockley – Resident

Ms. Shockley voiced her concerns on an incident involving the Police Department and a family member. Council stated the Police Chief will look into the matter.

Joseph Leofsky – Homeowner

Mr. Leofsky voiced his opinion on the permit fees, and then handed out an article on another Township lowering their fees.

Mildred Dixon – Resident

Ms. Dixon voiced her concerns regarding Ms. Shockley's complaint. She stated there are people afraid of the Police Department.

Paul Dodson – Home Owner

Mr. Dodson voiced his concerns on citations regarding shoveling sidewalks. He handed out pictures of City sidewalks.

Joquil Patterson – Resident

Mr. Patterson voiced his concerns regarding the Police Department.

Mrs. Jones closed citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Vice President Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the City to investigate and support as community based building initiative to stimulate the local economy as part of revitalization and development of the City.

Mr. Simpson stated that he is concerned that the City is requiring developers to follow stipulation set by the City could prevent businesses from investing in the City. Mrs. Lavender-Norris agreed with Senator Dinniman. The time is now; we want to move the City forward. Vice President Collins stated the enemy of Revitalization is time.

Mrs. Jones made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the City to investigate and support as community based building initiative to stimulate the local economy as part of revitalization and development of the City; Vice President Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

2. 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 as herein set forth, for the year 2014.

Mrs. Jones 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 as herein set forth, for the year 2014; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Simpson was the dissenting vote.

3. Receive and consider an Ordinance declaring the State of Emergency on February 5, 2014

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve an Ordinance declaring the State of Emergency on February 5, 2014; Ms. Hess seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Receive and consider an Ordinance amending Chapter 218 Article VII “Parking on Snow Emergency Routes” to add the emergency management Coordinator and Chief of Police as parties authorized to address such emergencies.

Mr. Hudson explained in the event of his absence an alternate signer should be designated. The Emergency Management Coordinator and Chief of Police are here on Emergency Command. Mrs. Lavender-Norris asked if the City has considered using the Community Center for emergencies. President Hamrick asked for Community Center Usage to be placed as a discussion item on the next meeting agenda.

Mrs. Jones made a motion to approve and Ordinance amending Chapter 218 Article VII “Parking on Snow Emergency Routes” to add the emergency management Coordinator and Chief of Police as parties authorized to address such emergencies; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Receive and consider Request for Proposal for City Solicitor

Mr. Collins asked Council to make a decision on knowledge and information, not just emotion. The process of an RFP is costly. Mr. Simpson explained the City went through the same process last year for a labor attorney. If the City does not put it out there and see what you will get, we will never know what is out there. Mr. Carnes is welcome to submit an RFP. Ms. Hess asked about the additional costs. Mr. Marcarelli explained it is hard to set a figure on staff and council time. The only expense he could see was the ad for the RFP. Mrs. Lavender-Norris explained that Mr. Carnes may be the best for the job. But what’s the matter with seeing who else is out there. President Hamrick explained he wants to go through the proper channels and show transparency. The City did it for labor counsel and should do the same for City Solicitor. The RFP is not intended to be criticism of the current City Solicitor John Carnes.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the RFP with modifications; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2. Mrs. Jones and Mr. Collins were the dissenting votes.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes explained he worked on the emergency ordinance and will have it advertised for second reading for the next meeting.

City Manager’s Report

Mr. Hudson announced the law enforcement day. He acknowledged the Fire Department under Chief Lentz and Police Department under Chief Laufer for their work during the storm. He thanked Mr. Wilkinson and his staff for their hard work and commitment during the storm in keeping up with the streets. He explained the Fire and Codes Department went ward by ward and did assessments.

Discussion Items

Council set up a workshop on February 20, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked Senator Dinniman for coming to the meeting. She quoted “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked Mr. Wilkinson if there is a way to get rid of the snow before the next snow storm.

Ms. Hess thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked Chief Lentz, Chief Laufer and Public Works for their hard work during the storm. She asked to get the snow emergencies out quicker. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Lavender-Norris stated that sometimes we may sound angry, it is not anger, it is passion. She explained that being on Council is accountability and responsibility. She thanked staff for sticking it out and performing your responsibilities. She appreciates your help.

Vice President Collins thanked everyone for coming out. He thanked Chief Laufer and Chief Lents for their work. He asked that we stay focused on important issues and prioritize the important issues. There are major issues to be discussed at the pending meeting.

President Hamrick stated it was pretty humbling to work at the Emergency Command during the storm. The staff worked with the citizens. The EOC is dedicated with helping the citizens. He announced Terry Bruno was reelected as President for the WCCCOG.

Adjournment

Vice President Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 pm; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Submitted by:
Kirby Hudson
City Manager