

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 14, 2014

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 Joseph Hamrick, Vice President David Collins, Mssr, Edward Simpson and Ms. Marie Hess, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones, and Mrs. Linda Lavender-Norris. Staff members present included City Solicitor John Carnes, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Director of Planning and Codes Enforcement Damalier Molina, Public Works Director Donald Wilkinson, Police Chief John Laufer, and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Hamrick announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening, July 14, 2014, 2014 to discuss personnel and legal matters

President Hamrick announced Mr. Hudson would not be in attendance due to illness.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the June 23, 2014 with corrections; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mrs. Lavender-Norris made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Comprehensive Plan Report – Tom Comitta

Mr. Comitta announced the public hearing for the Comprehensive plan will be held on August 25, 2014. The current plan includes the changes made by County Planning Commission and the City Planning Commission. A Resolution will need to be approved adopting the Comprehensive Plan. Vice President Collins thanked Mr. Comitta. He has done an admiral job in keeping all the entities involved and informed of every change. All Council thanked him for his work and dedication to the City. Mr. Comitta explained he has been with the City since 1981 and doesn't plan on going anywhere. He explained the City will need to implement a plan once adopted.

2. Brandywine Creek Greenway

City of Coatesville Project name are: Downtown Revitalization District; Gateway Park Improvements.; West Branch Brandywine Trail, and South First Avenue Improvements. The Greenway checklist was completed by a representative of the municipality during public workshops. The Greenway project will provide ideas and encouragement to municipalities and private landowners dedicated to conserving and restoring the Brandywine Creek watershed in order to build healthier, more sustainable communities and to emphasize the natural and cultural resources of the region. It will not affect private property rights.

The purpose of the Strategic Action Plan is to recommend actions to implement the Concept Plan for the Brandywine Creek Greenway (Concept Plan for the Brandywine Creek Greenway, June 2012; West Branch Addendum, April 2013). It identifies the 24 municipalities, government

agencies, land trusts, and others responsible to lead those actions within a 20+ year work plan.

Part 1, Strategies apply to all Greenway participants and will guide municipalities, Chester County, Delaware County, and the Brandywine Conservancy towards implementing the vision for the Brandywine Creek Greenway. Short, medium, and long-term strategies have been identified to be implemented over a 20+ year timeframe beginning in 2014.

Part 2 consists of 24 “To Do” Packets that are unique to each of the 24 greenway municipalities. The focus of this document is on recreation and alternative transportation priorities and conservation corridors (along creeks and streams) that were identified by municipal representatives as important resources during one of four regional workshops.

Part 3, the Tool Kit, is to be used by municipalities as a basis to explore potentially new approaches to natural and cultural resource conservation. It will help municipalities identify parcels of land that have important natural, cultural, agricultural, and water resources that could be considered by landowners for conservation or alternatively, factored in by municipalities during the land development process. The final section of the Tool Kit provides model natural resource protection ordinances that can be tailored by each municipality and adopted by Board resolution.

Citizens’ Hearings – *Regular Action Items Only* (3 Minutes)

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone voiced his concerns on the wording in the Fee Ordinances. He questioned the process if a tenant refuses the biennial inspection.

Paul Dodson

Mr. Dodson voiced his concerns regarding the trash containers and fees.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky voiced his concerns regarding the Fee Ordinances.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans voiced his concerns regarding the Fee Ordinances.

Ms. Hess made a motion to close citizens’ hearings on regular action items only; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone voiced his concerns regarding the process of electrical inspections. The City should not be required to inspect, the third party inspection would be sufficient.

A. Edmondi

Mr. Edmondi voiced his concerns regarding people setting off fireworks in the City.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans voiced his concerns on hardwiring smoke detectors for the second means of egress. He questioned the process of the UCC Board of appeals. Mr. Carnes and Mr. Molina explained the code requirements for hardwiring and the process of the UCC Board of Appeals.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky questioned Chapter 136.5e. He voiced his concerns on the regulation changes in the Codes Department.

Bryan Clark

Mr. Clark voiced his concerns regarding Codes regulations and certain people.

John Pawlowski

Mr. Pawlowski updated City Council on the Gazebos for the Riverwalk.

Danielle Zurita

Ms. Zurita voiced her concerns about the weeds at First and Lincoln. She asked if she was allowed to clean it up. Council approved the cleanup.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider Second Reading and Adoption Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1.I(1) Fees on the City of Coatesville to address use of containers for collection of ½ cubic yard

President Hamrick asked what people should do with their old containers. Mr. Wilkinson explained they can be recycled. Vice President Collins asked when the containers will be delivered. Mr. Wilkinson stated the trash containers are being delivered throughout the week. The recycling containers may take up to 8 weeks.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve second reading and adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1.I(1) Fees on the City of Coatesville to address use of containers for collection of ½ cubic yard; Ms. Hess seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2. Vice President Collins and Mrs. Jones were the dissenting votes.

2. Receive and consider Second Reading and Adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 108 fees of the Code of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania by establishing or modifying certain rental and related fees.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve second reading and adoption and Ordinance amending Chapter 108 fees of the Code of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania by establishing or modifying certain rental and related fees; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion failed 1-6. President Hamrick, Vice President Collins, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Hunt, Ms. Hess and Mrs. Lavender-Norris were the dissenting votes.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes stated he has worked on various matters involving litigation and assisted the City in its interpretation of codes, rules and regulations.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Carnes provided the Managers report in Mr. Hudson's absence. He announced the City received funding for the Lincoln Highway and 1st Avenue Intersection Improvements for \$700,000 as part of the

2014 Community Revitalization Program. The City was recently awarded contract or Grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the Coatesville BMP Infrastructure Improvements.

Discussion Item

1. Donations and the ability for the City to accept them

Ms. Hess explained it is hard for the City to accept donations and cannot have fundraisers. Ms. Jones explained the City Charter explained it must go thru an appropriation committee. Mr. Carnes explained the process of fundraiser and donations. There is limited means of receiving money.

2. A City Slogan

Ms. Hess suggested a banner project similar to Downingtown. There are two phases. The first phase is to purchase and install full size City Banners, brackets, poles and hardware to mount the banners on street poles. Phase two is the sale of sponsor banners to be placed at the bottom of the City banners.

Ms. Hess explained the City should have a slogan. She suggested "Born out of Steel, Hometown Feel". Mrs. Jones stated the City already has a logo, it is "Coatesville: a city with a future". Vice President Collins liked the idea of a slogan as the Revitalization is taking place.

3. Fireworks in the City (not official fireworks)

Ms. Hess explained this has been the longest 2-3 weeks in the City for fireworks. These are not the little store bought fireworks. They are the full bloom ones. She asked if there is anything the City can do. Chief Laufer explained the State of Pennsylvania is very strict with the laws. The City Ordinance is very stringent. They are illegal to possess. The Police Department will start to enforce more stringently, but must have the City back them up when the people are cited for the offense. Council agreed to back up the Police Department. Chief Laufer asked for a great effort to get the word out.

Special Events

1. A special event application was submitted by Dave Thompson/Paul Evans for a Block Party on July 26, 2014 starting at 9 am to 12 am. It has been requested to close Hope Avenue between Charles Street and Madison Avenue.

Mr. Evans explained the event will be for the people within the block. The food will be donated. Council questioned the street closure and timeframe. There are church services during the day and evening and people park on the streets. They suggested Patton Park from 4pm-9pm. Mr. Evans asked for use of the lot for parking. Mr. Wilkinson stated he would barricade the parking lot near Patton Park for the event.

Mrs. Lavender-Norris made a motion to approve the special event application by Dave Thompson/Paul Evans for a block party on July 26, 2014 from 4 pm to 10pm at Patton Park; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Comments

Ms. Hess thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She asked for the City Managers report to contain follow up information regarding issues brought up in the citizens' comments, such as whether contact was made with the commenter and what action was taken to resolve the issue. She explained that she

requested for the three items to be placed on the agenda as discussion items. She asked fellow council to request more items for discussion.

Mrs. Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked Mr. Evans for his participation on the Coatesville Community Unity Explosion Day. She thanked fellow Council, Administration, Coatesville Police, Coatesville Fire and the Public Works for participating in the event. She explained the tables at Friendship Park are knee level and the seats are on the ground. Mr. Wilkinson replied we can remove them. Mrs. Lavender-Norris suggested replacing them with picnic tables. She asked Mr. Wilkinson to take a look at and repair the benches in front of Walgreens, they are leaning. She wished everyone a good night.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She is bewildered as the only renter on Council, the Fire Department hands out free battery operated smoke detectors. They do not give you a choice between hard wired and battery operated. She quoted "Want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy".

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He explained that due to the Ordinance being voted down for licenses, the landlord will need to pay the \$100 fee. The old fees will remain in effect.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked staff, Fire, Police, Public Works, Community, for their involvement on the Coatesville Community Unity Explosion. The Police Chief was there from beginning to end, solicitor was there, Mr. Marcarelli was there and Mr. Wilkinson was there. The City appreciates and thanks everyone who volunteered, participated and attended the event. She stated when the City get alive, we get attention, let's continue to do promote positivity.

Vice President Collins thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

President Hamrick thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked the Police, Public Works and Fire Department for their participation on the day of the event. He asked everyone to enjoy the rest of the summer.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Ms. Hess was not present for the vote.

Submitted by:
Kirby Hudson
City Manager