

MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 8, 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, September 8, 2014, to discuss personnel and legal matters

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mrs. Lavender-Norris made a motion to approve the August 25, 2014 meeting minutes with corrections by Mrs. Jones; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

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

**Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda**

Vice President Collins made a motion to add Regular action item 1) Proclamation on Equality and Human Rights; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Vice President Collins made a motion to move discussion item 10.1) Public Employee Retirement Commission -Notice of 2014 Distress Determination for municipal pension to regular action item 2; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Presentations**

There were no presentations at this time.

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

There were no citizens' hearings on regular action items only.

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

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

Marguerite Norton

Ms. Norton thanked Chief Laufer, Mr. Wilkinson, Ms. Hess, Mrs. Lavender-Norris and President Hamrick for addressing the matters she brought before Council in August. She asked about the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings and when she will be contacted.

John Pawlowski

Mr. Pawlowski provided an update on the Riverwalk Gazebo project. He met with the City Engineer, City Manager, Mrs. Hunt and Mr. Hamrick on the Riverwalk where they discussed the location for the

gazebos and the City's requirements. He stated the Police Chief and Lieutenant approved of the area. It can be seen on the cameras. He still needs Codes Department approvals.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky asked Council to vote to not take the money put of the Reserve Trust fund and asked what states an emergency. President Hamrick explained the money was included in the 2014 budget. Vice President Collins explained the wording for "emergency" in the Ordinance. Mrs. Hunt explained the money was originally budget in the 2014 budget and then additional monies was approved for Revitalization efforts in Downtown (all funds were not expended). The reason for the money taken out of the trust was to help the citizens and save them from having their taxes raised.

Bryan Clark

Mr. Clark announced a new tenant moved in next door. He wanted to make sure the Codes Department was aware. He asked if the tree on a property on Merchant Street can be addressed before someone gets hurt. He asked for the price for a replacement trash can. His trash can was damaged.

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 Proclamation on Equality and Human Rights

President Hamrick read the Proclamation.

Ms. Hess made a motion to approve a Proclamation on Equality and Human Rights; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Receive and consider Public Employee Retirement Commission -Notice of 2014 Distress Determination for municipal pension

Mr. Marcarelli explained Act 205 of 1984 requires the Public Employee Retirement Commission to make biennial distress determinations for all municipalities. The results of the City of Coatesville 2014 distress determination score is 1.

Vice President Collins made a motion to approve the Public Employee Retirement Commission - Notice of 2014 Distress Determination for municipal pension and elect the amortization contribution reduction; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Solicitors Report**

Mr. Carnes announced the City has received the formal submission – Major Subdivision/Land Development Application for a Family Dollar Store at 400 East Lincoln Highway. The City Planning Commission will be reviewing the project on September 10, 2014.

He announced the City is pending formalization on the AFSCME negotiations, the City will be amending its City Pension Plan and finalizing the Third Class City Pension Plan.

**City Manager's Report**

Mr. Hudson announced Brandywine Health Foundation will be hosting a Cash Alumni Reuniting Coatesville kids. The event will be on Saturday October 25, 2014 from 5-9pm.

He announced Chester County public-private partnership will be hosting a Vista 2025 effort focused on creating an economic development strategy that will guide economic growth over the next ten years. The event will be pm Tuesday October 7, 2014.

#### **Discussion Item**

There were no discussion items at this time.

#### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

#### **Council Comments**

Mrs. Lavender-Norris read a letter she provided to City Council and staff responding to an email from Mr. Wilkinson. Per his email she explained there is a much bigger disconnect between Mr. Wilkinson regarding the work that should be taking place regarding the appearance and maintenance of our community. She explained she did not come to Council with a personal but a communal agenda, her comments are never made to attack anyone but to inform and enlighten everyone whether it's a problem or a job well done. She thanked staff and Council. She stated that at any time she witnesses a City employee doing work and she feels is worthy of praise, it will be with great pleasure and delight to do so.

Ms. Hess announced it was nice to hear the auditor say at the last meeting the finances have been moving in the right place. She stated she did not vote to take the money out of the trust fund and she did not add the withdrawal back on the agenda. She understand that no one wants there taxes raised but Council may not have a choice. If we continue to take money from the trust fund, it will be gone in four years. She announced she along with Sergeant Ollis and Mr. Zuratt put the flags up along Lincoln Highway for Labor Day. She announced she went to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and cleaned up the weeds and the sidewalk. She did not realize the problem was as bad as it was. She asked Mr. Molina to look into the issues on the adjoining property. The property and home are in disarray and need to be addressed.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She stated that we will continue to do what we do for the best of the City. She wished everyone a good night.

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He explained he has not voted for taking money out of the Reserve Trust Fund for years. Every year Council has asked for a plan on how the City can move forward without touching the trust fund. No plan has been provided to put money back in the trust fund. He will continue to vote no. It is not Council's job to direct staff in day to day operations. He announced a comment was made that City Council needs to focus on trying to get more money into the City. Mr. Simpson explained it is staff's responsibility to find opportunities to revitalize the City and to move forward financially, and bring the plans before Council.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She quoted "Believe in the power of the individual to make a difference in this world."

Vice President Collins announced the Career Expo has been changed from September 27, 2014 to October 22, 2014 from 12 – 4 pm. The committee has come up with the name Coatesville ACTION (A Change Through Ideas, Opportunities, and Network). Coatesville Action is comprised of County officials, City Council and the business industry. At this point, there are 50 vendors who have agreed to participate with viable jobs from Coatesville and surrounding areas. For more information or registration forms go to [coatesvilleaction.wix.com](http://coatesvilleaction.wix.com).

President Hamrick announced the 9/11 ceremony to be held at the Lukens Executive Office Building on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Highway. The ceremony will begin at 8:30 am.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm; Mrs. Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Submitted by:

Kirby Hudson

City Manager