

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 8, 2016

Call to Order

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Lawson, Msrs, Edward Simpson, Joseph Hamrick, Mrs. Carmen Green, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, and Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones. Staff members present included City Manager Michael Trio, City Solicitor John Carnes, Fire Chief Garry Alderman, Police Chief John Laufer and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held on February 8, 2016 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Green made a motion to approve the February 1, 2016 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Vice President Lawson abstained from the vote.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to add regular action item 4) Special Counsel for infrastructure improvements; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Jones made a motion to move items of discussion after regular action items only; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

1. Recognition of Officer Carmen Mollicella and Officer Jared Davis

President Lavender-Norris announced during the snow storm a couple of Officers went above and beyond the call of duty to help a resident Mother who ran out of formula. The officers stepped up and purchased the formula and delivered it to the home. The City wants to state we commend, appreciate, recognize and praise these Gentlemen. The certificates of recognition were presented to Officer Carmen Mollichella and Officer Jared Davis for their heroic, noble and courageous acts.

2. Art Partners Studio and Gina Ciralli of the Philadelphia Art Museum

Ms. Ciralli from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, gave a presentation on the "Inside Out" project. The City will receive nine framed replicas and accompanying labels, placed within a short walking or bike-riding distance from each other. Participating communities will work with the museum to select installation sites and obtain proper permissions as well as market the project through their local media. The project will facilitate interactions with art and add to the beauty and vitality of the community. The museum will offer a weekend of free general admission for all residents of Coatesville halfway through the exhibition.

Mr. Trio explained a map will be put together to layout some locations and make sure it is walkable from one to the other.

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

Dave DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone announced he is one of the City's big supporters. He asked what the new Codes fees will be. Mr. Trio explained the fees will be available for the public to review tomorrow. Mr. DeSimone asked for transparency.

Indira Perlyasamy

Ms. Perlyasamy explained we should all be on the same side. She questioned the fees and the RFP process.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky inquired if there is a circumstance to sit down with the CHA and discuss. There have been no discussions with the CHA. President Lavender-Norris explained the talks involve everyone. Mr. Leofsky asked if the new plan will be easier to pay online.

Paul Dodson

Mr. Dodson questioned previous meetings with the CHA and the City of Coatesville regarding Section 108-1. He asked three questions 1) What is official reason for the changes; 2) Why are fees being adjusted; and 3) what are the proposed changes?

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa suggested imposing a renter's tax as another way to make money.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans explained in 2013 there was no time to discuss changes in the fees prior to first reading. The CHA later had workshops to discuss fees. He asked for transparency.

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

Mr. Trio explained the information will be available to the public in the morning if the First Reading has been approved. Mr. Hamrick asked for the information to be posted on the website by 10 am.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider reappointment to the Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees. Darrell Williams to the Reserve Trust Fund for the term 2016-2017.
Vice President Lawson made a motion to reappoint Darrell Williams to the Reserve Trust Fund Commission for the term 2016-2017; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1 "fees" to revise the fees for Code Enforcement and inspection work in the City and certain building and related permits and inspection fees and to adopt replacement fees including: the deletion and replacement of 108-1C.(1)(a) and C.(2)(A) and (B) (Building construction other than new construction and additions and all new construction and additions); 108-1 V. (1),(2),(3),(4) and (6) Housing standards removing all language and replacement of same and replacement of all fees for residential construction, commercial construction, electrical permits, mechanical and fuel gas permits, plumbing permits, non-permitted construction activity and miscellaneous activities (such as demolition, construction trailer, certificate of occupancy ETC) and all related building and inspection fees as per schedule "A" subject to further revision by Resolution of City Council

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve first reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1 “fees” to revise the fees for Code Enforcement and inspection work in the City and certain building and related permits and inspection fees and to adopt replacement fees including: the deletion and replacement of 108-1C.(1)(a) and C.(2)(A) and (B) (Building construction other than new construction and additions and all new construction and additions); 108-1 V. (1),(2),(3),(4) and (6) Housing standards removing all language and replacement of same and replacement of all fees for residential construction, commercial construction, electrical permits, mechanical and fuel gas permits, plumbing permits, non-permitted construction activity and miscellaneous activities (such as demolition, construction trailer, certificate of occupancy ETC) and all related building and inspection fees as per schedule “A” subject to further revision by Resolution of City Council; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider a Resolution authorizing the City’s sale/trade of vehicles and other equipment identified herein by means of Municibid or trade-in pursuant to costars purchase for new vehicles, or by public bid or auction consistent with the requirements of the Third Class City Code.

Mrs. Green made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the City’s sale/trade of vehicles and other equipment identified herein by means of Municibid or trade-in pursuant to costars purchase for new vehicles, or by public bid or auction consistent with the requirements of the Third Class City Code; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Receive and consider Lamb McErlane Special Counsel for Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Simpson made a motion to appoint Lamb McErlane as Special Counsel for Infrastructure Improvements; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Item

1. Discuss certificate of recognition

Vice President Lawson suggested letters of recognition for people coming together as a community and taking pride in our City.

2. Discuss update for the Adopt-A-Park program

Vice President Lawson explained she would like to have the program rollout by the next meeting. She has a letter for legal counsel to review.

3. Discussion of members for the unity day committee

Vice President Lawson explained the discussions need to start regarding the Unity Day, she asked who would like to be on the committee. All members of council would like to be interactive in the setting up events for Unity Day.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Carnes explained he has worked to prepare a draft fee Ordinance to revamp the fees for work which is being done by the Codes Department.

He has worked with DEPG to advance revitalization plans to assist the City in other aspects of the development including a Multi-Modal application for highway improvements on Lincoln Highway and Fleetwood Street.

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. Trio announced Mr. Marcarelli is working on paying bills online.

He has and will continue to work with DEPG regarding the Gateway Project.

Last Council meeting a presentation was done by Jen Granger of PennDot, continue to work on the Third Avenue Streetscapes, Train Station and Educational Center.

A proposal has been submitted for the relocation of the District Courts to City Hall.

Worked on Codes Department Outsourcing.

The vehicles approved by Resolution at the last meeting will be on Municibid by the end of the week. This is the first time the City has used Municibid.

Meeting are conducted weekly with Cedarville on activity with the City of Coatesville.

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

Darrell Williams.

Mr. Williams announced he likes the direction Council is going, Council is going to be fair to everyone. He voiced his concerns regarding the snow storm and peoples availability to get out. President Lavender-Norris explained the Police were trying to help whoever they could. A Resident suggested coordinating with Churches and other resident to help those in need during a storm.

Indira Perlyasamy

Ms. Perlyasamy stated residents, property owners and landlords need to work together. There are new things coming to Coatesville. The City needs a banner showing that changes are here.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky has no comment at this time.

Monet Nixon

Ms. Nixon asked if land near her home between 10th and 11th can be made a parking lot, when a school event is held there is no parking for the homeowners. Council explained the property in question is owned by Amtrak but the City will look into it.

Paul Dodson

Mr. Dodson warned Council when dealing with legal special counsel. Two attorneys may charge for speaking to one another on the case. He asked when Council looks into the Codes fees, they keep Sanchez in mind.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans provided a brief overview of the Sanchez case. He encouraged to make things streamlined and look how the fees are charged.

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone asked Council to look into entities that do not pay for Solid Waste removal. There are non-profits who need to pay that are not in the tax base.

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

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Hamrick thanked everyone who spoke and attended the meeting. He thanked the Officers for their recognition. This is a reflection on the Chief and his leadership. He thanked Art Partners and the museum for what they are bringing to the City.

Mrs. Green thanked everyone for attending, their comments are heard. On February 16, 2016, the CREATE Program will be back in Coatesville at the Coatesville Library. There is a small fee when you start the program.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It is always appreciated. She thanked the young Officers for their work under the Super Chief. She quoted an African Proverb "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked the Officers for their great job. She thanked staff for all that they do. Be safe!

Vice President Lawson thanked Public Works, Police Department and the Fire Department for all their work during the blizzard. There will be a Community Forum with a light dinner held by Coatesville Parks, Recreation and Open Space Action Plan at the Scott Middle School Gymnasium on February 18, 2016. The forum will help to set priorities and coordinate efforts to improve the City's parks, recreation facilities, programs and more.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. God Bless, be safe and have a good night.

Adjournment

Mrs. Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.