

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 11, 2016

Call to Order

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Marie Lawson, Msrs, Edward Simpson, Joseph Hamrick, Mrs. Carmen Green, and Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones. Staff members present included City Manager Michael Trio, City Solicitor John Carnes, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Fire Chief Garry Alderman, Police Chief John Laufer and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held on January 11, 2016 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the December 14, 2015, December 17, 2015 and January 4, 2016 meeting minutes with corrections on January 4, 2016 minutes (changing election vote for Vice President from 5-1 to 6-1); Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Jones explained she misvoted on the election for President at the last meeting due to the chitter chatter.

Presentations

Garry Alderman was sworn in as the Fire Chief as his wife held the bible by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines.

President Lavender-Norris announced Mrs. Hunt would not be in attendance due to an emergency.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the accounts payable minus check number 56819; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

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

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

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone congratulated Garry Alderman to his appointment of Fire Chief. He offered support to Chief Laufer. He suggested going after delinquent trash and taxes.

Vice President Lawson made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Discussion Item

Vice President Lawson made a motion to delete public works director position off of the agenda (personnel issue); Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

1. “Adopt-A-Park” Program

Vice President Lawson suggested re-enacting the Adopt-A-Park Program. She asked staff to work with Mr. Carnes to make sure there are not any liabilities. The program was previously

developed and asked for a list of the previous parties and what park they adopted. She announced the City has more volunteer groups coming in to the City.

2. Discuss Administration increases

Mr. Trio explained the percentage increases for all the employees by contracts or approved by City Council.

3. Discuss receipts and disbursements for Coatesville Celebration in 2014 and 2015

Mr. Marcarelli provide Council with a breakdown of the expenses and revenues that were received by the City for the event. President Lavender-Norris explained they will have to ask Mrs. Hunt for information of what came in 2015. Vice President Lawson explained there will be a Carnival in 2016 with no cost to the City in 2016. The City can resell the Centennial shirts with the winning logo on them. The year was not put on the shirts in 2015.

4. Discuss delinquent years for collection of Solid Waste fees

Mr. Marcarelli provided a balance by year summary. Portnoff has reviewed property transfers and gleaned those that transferred beyond the statute of limitations. He asked for a review and determination as to how far back the City wants to pursue delinquent solid waste fees. Property owners will receive a notice advising them of their balance due. Attached to the notice will be a schedule off legal fees that Portnoff will potential assess against the property, if the property owner fails to respond to the notice. The recipients of the notice will be given a thirty day grace period to make payment arrangements. Property owners with large balances are permitted to enter into payment agreements. After the grace period, Portnoff Law Associates will proceed with legal action on the unresolved accounts. Council agreed from 2009 to present for the delinquencies. Council asked for the press release and information to be fine-tuned.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider reappointment to the Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees. Jack Burkholder to the Redevelopment Authority for the term 2016-2020; Stephen Cane to the Planning Commission for the term 2016-2018; Jeffrey Deacon to the Historical Commission for the term 2016-2018; John Ross to the Historical Commission for the term 2016-2018; Paul Trizonis to the Historical Commission for the term 2016-2018 and Darrell Williams to the Reserve Trust Fund for the term 2016-2017.

Mrs. Green made a motion to approve the reappointments to the Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees. Jack Burkholder to the Redevelopment Authority for the term 2016-2020; Stephen Cane to the Planning Commission for the term 2016-2018; Jeffrey Deacon to the Historical Commission for the term 2016-2018; John Ross to the Historical Commission for the term 2016-2018; Paul Trizonis to the Historical Commission for the term 2016-2018; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Williams was not present to be reappointed the Reserve Trust Fund Commission.

RDA Vice Chairman Burkholder promised the RDA will be exciting this year. Several developers are interested in the Flats, DEPG hope to be on ground the Fall of 2016, Streetcapas, Train Station. He thanked council for their confidence.

Mr. Ross thanked the City for their assistance on the Centennial. He invited everyone to an exhibit at Gordon. There will be incredible historical stories coming out of it.

2. Receive and consider Police Chief contract

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to approve extending the Police Chief contract for Chief Laufer for three years; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Chief Laufer expressed his gratitude for him and the Police Department. The department is moving in the right direction. Excited about the things coming in 2016.

3. Receive and consider Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Proclamation

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Martin Luther King Day Proclamation; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Receive and consider bank depositories

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the bank depositories; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Receive and consider appointment of members to the Western Chester County Council of Governments

Mr. Simpson made a motion to appoint Joseph Hamrick as the City's representative to the Western Chester County Council of Governments; President Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Hamrick made a motion to appoint Edward Simpson as the City's alternate representative to the Western Chester County Council of Governments; President Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Solicitors Report

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

City Manager's Report

Mr. Trio announced the City is working under the 2016 adopted budget. The City and the RDA are working with Mr. DePetris on their development process. PennDot will be presenting an update at the next City Council meeting. Mr. Trio and Council President Lavender-Norris have been assisting CAPP with the hiring of an Economic Project Coordinator. The Planning Commission is active but inactive. A new District Court initiative is to add another floor to the City Hall building. In the process of re-evaluating Codes Department and fees. St. Cecelia's has withdrawn their Zoning Application.

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

David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone congratulated Chief Laufer on his 3 year contract. The City is on the right track for delinquent fees. Private Haulers have city totes on their property.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans congratulated the President and Vice President for being reelected and the Police Chief 3 year contract. He requested to review all third party schedules for the Codes Department. He would like to fly banners over Lincoln Highway "Coatesville, Open for Business".

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky glad there is no changes on the board. He questioned a multi-unit that failed due to third floor egress. Council asked Mr. Leofsky to meet with Mr. Trio. Mr. Leofsky stated Portnoff needs to get moving.

Indira Penyasary

Ms. Penyasary suggested a meeting with the Senator in another effort to revitalize the City. There are some businesses who have difficulty in developing. The citizens need to work together.

Mrs. Green made a motion to close citizens' hearings on no-agenda items only; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Hamrick thanked the Chief for all his work and letting us renew his contract. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Green thanked the resident who were reappointed to the Boards and Commissions. She thanked all the residents and landlords. She is glad renewed the Police Chief contract and appointed the Fire Chief, look forward to working with you. I hope we can be as one accord and work together.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She thanked the Chief, Super Chief, for all his work. She quoted Mahatma Gandhi: "In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place."

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Vice President Lawson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There are changes being made in the City and a lot of work to do. It was nice to hear from the RDA. Congratulated the Chief and said how glad she is to have him here another three years. There has been a difference in the City with the Community Policing. She welcomed Chief Alderman. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, there will be different community volunteer events such as painting inside the Community Center.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting and echoed her colleagues. She thanked staff and shared her appreciation for the work they do. Looking forward to a grand 2016. The City needs people to partner with us to get these initiatives started. This is our City and we want to make it viable! Look forward to the new year.

Adjournment

Mr. Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.