

MINUTES
CITY OF COATESVILLE
Regular Meeting
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, Pa 19320
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall
January 28, 2019

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Mr. Donald Folks, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, and Ms. Khadijah Al-Amin. Staff members present included: City Manager, Michael Trio, Assistant City Manager, James Logan, Police Chief, John Laufer, Finance Department, Amanda Gattuso, Peter Barsz and Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Lavender-Norris announced Mrs. Bookman and Mr. Simpson would not be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the January 14, 2019 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

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

Presentations

1. 2nd Century Alliance – Sonia Huntzinger

Ms. Huntzinger announced the strategic action plan for the 2nd Century Alliance. The five goals are 1.) Create a vibrant commercial corridor; 2.) Inspire investor confidence and build a business-friendly atmosphere; 3.) Build strong, stable residential neighborhoods; 4.) Improve the overall quality of life, and 5.) Communicate the city's positive attributes and competitive advantages.

Update on accomplishments beyond work of outlined five year action plan:

- In 2018, Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance filed for Article of Incorporation as an independent, not for profit organization dedicated to fostering community and economic development in the City of Coatesville.
- Coatesville Growing Greater Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, in November 2018, hired Urius Cole as Coatesville Community Coordinator.
- Neighborhood Partnership Program for Revitalization, we were successful in the application to the Pa Department of Community and Economic Development for funds to add another position, a downtown manager. Vice President Green explained the city's position regarding a Main Street Manager
- Vision Partnership Program, building a collaborative partnership between the City, South Coatesville and Valley Township which will allow all three municipalities to work together to create an economic development and business traction strategy.
- Historic Train Station, worked to secure funds to address the deferred maintenance on the exterior of the existing train station building.

- LERTA worked with City to shepherd the LERTA program through the municipal adoption process and through acceptance by the Coatesville Area School District. Next step to move legislation through the County.
- New Train Station Development, worked with the Redevelopment Authority and City to obtain easement agreements for the 4th Avenue Streetscapes.
- Opportunity Zone, introduced in Federal Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2017, the new incentive program for Capital Gains Tax relief in exchange for low to moderate income communities.
- Parking Strategy, initiating development of a Master Parking Plan.
- Coatesville Community Connector, initiated with Chester County Department of Community Development to have a single, full time, point of contact social service navigator place in the Coatesville Library.
- www.2ndcenturyalliance.org developed an interactive map for the website that highlights opportunity sites, projects in process, and community assets.
- Development Projects, continue to work with individual developers and investors, supporting, endorsing and assisting projects in numerous and various ways.
- Redevelopment Authority, work closely with the Authority in marketing and promotion of their properties.

Mr. Cole explained how his goal is to get people back to Coatesville.

2. Friends of Patton Park - Jon Kasitz

Mr. Kasitz announced the Friends of Patton Park are working on:

- Master Plan for the Park
- Solid Plan for future projects
- Event Calendar
 - o February – neighborhood survey distributed
 - o April – Park clean up
 - o Temporary Basketball Court
 - o Fall Fest – Movie night, games, food
 - o Movie nights throughout summer separate from the Fall Fest
- Hoping to get more volunteers

Council suggested a link on the City website for events at Patton Park

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

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

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider West End Lease

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the West End Lease; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Receive and consider Palmer Park Phase One payment recommendation No. 5

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the Palmer Park Phase One payment No. 5; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Receive and consider approval to offer conditional offer of employment to the Five (5) officers from the part-time eligibility list

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the offer of conditional employment for 5 part-time police officers; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

President Lavender-Norris explained the appointment of part-time patrol officers, the Civil Service Commission had provided us with the certified list of applicants who have successfully completed the oral and written exams for appointment. The Third Class City Code requires that the Chief of Police nominate a candidate from among the three highest ranked applicants on the eligibility list. These appointments are for the position of part-time Patrol Officer within the Coatesville Police Department. Any candidate who is eligible for veterans' preference under the Third Class City Code, appearing on the list of three candidates must be selected. Candidates appointed tonight by council will be conditionally appointed subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological evaluation. The list of candidates for consideration by Council are ranked by score as follows: Eric D. Himmel, Kevin P. Myers, Brian M. Gale, Timothy M. Kemmerle and Laniece V. Edmonson. From this list, Chief Laufer has nominated all five (5) names for conditional appointment as a part-time Patrol Officers in the City Police Department.

Mr. Folks moved that Eric D. Himmel, Kevin P. Myers, Brian M. Gale, Timothy M. Kemmerle and Laniece V. Edmonson be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officers in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination. Vice President Green seconded the motion. The motion carries and Eric D. Himmel, Kevin P. Myers, Brian M. Gale, Timothy M. Kemmerle and Laniece V. Edmonson are appointed as Patrol Officers on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam

Discussion Item

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

2. Parking Kiosk

Mr. Trio announced the parking kiosk is now operating at the Olivet Parking Lot. The fees are \$3 for 12 hours, \$6 for 24 hours and \$30 per month. Notices are being placed on vehicles notifying commuters of the changes. The City is providing a grace period and will not be ticketing.

3. LERTA (Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance)

The City wished to maintain the 10% over a ten year period. The City solicitor will look into whether the City has different percentage/per year from the School and the County. County has not yet approved the LERTA.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Considered and addressed pending litigation issues
- Addressed code enforcement issues.
- Worked on real estate matters.
- Worked on contracting issues
- Addressed issues related to the City's LERTA
- Provided guidance on various legal issues.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Trio announced he:

- Catalyst Outdoor – 1st Billboard will be up in May next to the bypass. Currently redesigning the amphitheater
- Code Enforcement – RFP for UCC Permit review consulting firm issued.
- Codes Department – reviewing applications for Codes Enforcement officer.

- District Court will be installing additional outdoor cameras.
- Redevelopment Authority – Victory Sports has withdrawn their proposal for the Flats and moved their project out of state.
- DEPG received liquor license and development for Aroogas is underway.

Assistant City Manager Report

Mr. Logan announced he:

- Working with Eagle Disposal on the Trash removal
- The city now has a log regarding missed trash pick up
- Worked with Ms. Al Amin and Eagle Disposal
- Three trucks were out 1/19, 1/221 and 1/22 collecting all trash throughout City.
- New Bulk pick up dates
- Eagle helping to get information out.

Mr. Logan thanked Ms. Al Amin for her assistance.

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

Robert Newlin

Mr. Newlin questioned the process of renaming Harmony Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. He stated he received no notice of the change and there is a substantial cost when changing the street name of business such a checks, bill heads, registrations, advertising, vendors, etc...)

Terrel Bryant

Mr. Bryant asked what the city is doing with public transportation. Patriotism is dying in Coatesville. Veterans parade no longer in Coatesville. The City needs to make connections with those who reach out to help the City.

Darlene Jennings

Ms. Jennings stated she is a rider on Amtrak. There was a notice on her car regarding the parking at the City's Train Station. People are not happy with the cost of the parking at the lot. Most commuters are on the train already when City Hall is open and will not be able to get the monthly pass. The process of the notification to the passengers should have been better.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Special Events

1. Movement Community Development Block Party on August 3, 2019, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. It has been requested to close Lincoln Highway between 2nd and 3rd Avenue.

Council acknowledged the special event application was approved by all the departments required.

Council Comments

Mr. Folks stated there are two words we use before we die, hello and goodbye.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. I wanted to address Mr. Newlin and I personally apologize to the way it was done, just like you were surprised when it was done, we were surprised. I am the Council member who initially brought up that we needed to name after Dr. Martin Luther King. It was not supposed to be done haphazardly like it was done. All of the procedures that we spoke about and requested to be done an then at the time of the street changing that we have a formal dedication for the City and none of that was done. We are now, I believe in the process of trying to rectify things. I am

saying that cautiously because I am not in on it. I am told that's what we are doing. So I personally apologize to you. I run a business in the City as well, and I know what you are talking about and all the changes that you have to make. Again, I do apologize and hope that we can get thru this as well as the parking issue. I'm not sure as to why we constantly have to be faced when things should be done right. I'm just asking that we start being more careful and conscious of the decisions we make before they become a hardship for our residents. Thank you for coming and hopefully we get things moving in the right direction.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Newlin, I too would like to apologize. It's very important that the residents and businesses should have been notified. I too like Mrs. Hunt didn't know, I went to pick my sister up at the Senior Center, and the street sign was changed. I have to apologize for the fact that the City did not handle things in the best manner. Residents should have been notified, and business owners should have been notified because you said there were things that need to be put in place like your website, your checks and your credit cards. I apologize for that. As far as the parking, I apologize for that to. You heard me say I thought we agreed on two dollars. Sorry for the way things were handled. The announcement was not made on the train like the Council President said it was supposed to be. I apologize the City does not follow through and follow up in the matter they should. Thank you for coming out, and you all have safe travels home.

Vice President Green explained Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is going to be known as Harmony Street too. Is that right, for a period of time or something like that? You should have gotten a personal letter. Every business owner and resident on the block should have received a letter. But as far as the changes and stuff that are taking place it could be a dual name for a while if I'm not mistaken. Mr. Trio explained the name has been changed. Vice President Green said it's unfortunate that we did not take the opportunity to notify everyone ahead of the change. I was shocked it changed so quickly. To the folks with the parking issue, the parking does not really take effect until February 25, 2019. So the notices on the vehicles are just notifying that this change is coming. Why Amtrak did not do the seat drop I do not know why. The parking will not be effective until February 25, 2019, so the notices are just notifying you change is coming. Parking lot safer. I understand anytime you have change, change is hard. You know it is difficult and uncomfortable sometimes. Maybe we can revisit the parking amount. I know we don't have a store or a coffee shop or anything there, but I think the parking lot is going to be a better deal for the people riding the train. Especially if you get home at night. I just now you go about the change like I said change is different and we just have to figure it out and understand that there is a process. We have to be actively engaged in making sure everyone is made aware. It's not changed until February 25, 2019. Again, I thank everyone for coming out and I appreciate every one. I appreciate the Chief, I called him Monday just for the hard work and dedication. You know we had a huge bust in conjunction with the task force, huge opioid drug bust. I mean most of you know about my thing about opioids in our community. I came to you (Chief) a couple of years ago about how I was concerned and the way they are infiltrating our community. I thank you for all your hard work and commitment Chief for trying to remove them. We are always going to have drugs. Thank you 77 arrests, that's a lot. We are just a little bit safer. These opioids are ruining our community, and everyone here has felt and know someone affected. Be safe and have a good night.

President Lavender-Norris echoed her colleagues. Ms. Jennings there is a placard that is available 24 hours a day in the Police Department. 30 days for \$1.00 a day. So that is available to you. Parking where the vehicles have been parking was always illegal parking. I am informing you that is and always has been illegal parking. So when the Police Officers were driving by and not ticketing them, they were being kind. I too echo Vice President Green's comments to the Chief regarding the situation that occurred. It's fortunate and unfortunate at the same time. I can tell you that out of all the people that were charged, I probably know 97% of them, they are neighbors, they have gone to school with friends or myself what have you. So I know them all, and that's unfortunate, but the fortunate part is the drug bust

situation. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. We are not doing everything right the way it should be the way it is expected to be however we're doing what we can. We know we have room to grow. We know we have made mistakes and we also know we can do better. It's not that we don't want to, it's just that we have not to this point, but trust and believe we're working on it. Mr. Newlin, you have heard the I'm sorry's, the apologies and all that good stuff you know the sentiment. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please reach out and let us know, we will do our due diligence to help you rectify the situation. To all of you who came out and stayed, God bless you and thank you for coming out. Have a blessed night and be safe on your ride home.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.