

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
545 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320
February 12, 2018

Call to Order

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Messrs., Edward Simpson, Mrs. Deborah Bookman, Mrs. Kathy Hopton, and Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt. Staff members present included City Manager Michael Trio, City Solicitor John Carnes, Police Chief John Laufer, Codes Department Scott Mulderig, Finance Department Amanda Gattuso and Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an executive Session was held earlier this evening February 12, 2018 and February 5, 2018 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the January 22, 2018 meeting minutes with edits; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Appointment of a councilperson to temporarily fill the position vacated by Marie Lawson

Council tabled the appointment of the council person to temporarily fill the position vacated by Marie Lawson until a special meeting is held.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Green made a motion to approve accounts payables excluding 50/50 and Kenneth Hopton checks; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the Kenneth Hopton check; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1. Mrs. Hopton abstained from the vote.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Vice President Green made a motion to add to Regular action item 3) a Resolution for the CDBG grant and add Action Item 8) Vision Partnership Grant; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Presentations

1. Officer Joseph Bogan swearing in

Chief Laufer announced Officer Bogan has served the City well as a part-time officer and we are fortunate to appoint him full-time due to the COPS grant.

Officer Joseph Bogan was sworn in as a Full-time Police Officer as his mom held the Bible by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines.

2. Opiate Crisis - Sonia Huntzinger and Lula Defersha

Ms. Huntzinger introduced Lula Defersha. Ms. Defersha announced Coatesville presents Free community Naloxone training. Free dose of Naloxone for the first 25 attendees provided. By Pro-Act. Good Fellowship has partnered with Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services to reduce the incidence of accidental overdoses. The event is Wednesday, February 21, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Brandywine Center.

3. Letters of Recognition

Council awarded Marie Lawson and Joseph Hamrick with a Certificate of Appreciation. In recognition of the time and effort put into the City of Coatesville.

4. Victory Sports – Michael Riddick

Mr. Riddick explained the Victory Sport Complex is a public venue with the emphasis on multipurpose, multi-functional indoor/outdoor sport and athletics environment, live events (community based and ticketed events), corporate meetings and events, flat show/conferences. The approach includes a focus on energy efficiency, sustainability, technology, business partnerships, customer service and the customer experience.

The multi-functional venue proposes; 4 regulation sized soccer fields, ten collegiate sized basketball courts, one championship basketball court, cheer/gymnastics/dance practice area, 50 yd. turf training area, world class fitness and training facilities, spacious group and specialized fitness rooms, community meeting room/space, and Olympic style weight lifting area for elite athlete training, welcoming and communal lounge area, catering to individuals, teams and families alike.

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

Dave Terry

Mr. Terry asked for an additional day April 30, 2018 added to the F.I.S.H Rodeo for the VA Output Program calling Healing Waters. Council asked Mr. Terry to submit an application with the added date.

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa questioned the withdrawals from the Trust Fund.

Dave DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone questioned the biennial inspections. He does not support them. All homes should be included (homeowners) not just landlords.

Joseph Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky questioned biennial inspections. He stated it is not legal and is discriminatory.

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

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a Resolution to apply to Chester County for a Municipal Grant for Improvements to Palmer Park. Matching funds are already provided for, due to funding from the American Water Foundation Charitable Grant and ArcelorMittal.

Vice President Green made a motion to approve a Resolution to apply to Chester County for a Municipal Grant for Improvements to Palmer Park. Matching funds are already provided for, due to funding from the American Water Foundation Charitable Grant and ArcelorMittal; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Receive and consider 1st Reading an Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, enacted pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Law (LERTA), authorizing tax exemptions from property tax for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial or other business property in the City's "MU" Mixed Use Development Overlay; defining eligible LERTA areas and eligible properties; setting a maximum exemption amount and an exemption schedule; and providing a procedure for securing an exemption and rescinding Ordinance No. 1306-2008

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance of the City of Coatesville, enacted pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Law (LERTA), authorizing tax exemptions from property tax for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial or other business property in the City's "MU" Mixed Use Development Overlay; defining eligible LERTA areas and eligible properties; setting a maximum exemption amount and an exemption schedule; and providing a procedure for securing an exemption and rescinding Ordinance No. 1306-2008; Mrs. Hopton seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Receive and consider confirmation of authorization of City Manager and other City Officials to approve 2017 CDBG – Coatesville Street and Train Station Renovations (Contract amount up to \$370,000.00 for services 2018-2019) and Resolution.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve authorization of the City Manager and other City Officials to approve 2017 CDBG – Coatesville Street and Train Station Renovations (Contract amount up to \$370,000.00 for services 2018-2019) and Resolution; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Receive and consider request by DEPG to amend the Mixed Use District to provide additional signage

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to accept a petition by DEPG to review amending the Mixed Use District to provide additional signage; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Vice President Green made a motion to appoint Deb Bookman as primary and Carmen Green as secondary members to the Western Chester County Council of Governments; President Lavender-Norris seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

6. Receive and consider adoption of Civil Service part time eligibility list for the Police Department

President Lavender-Norris announced the appointment of part-time patrol officers, the Civil Service Commission has 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 four 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 first list of four candidates for consideration by Council are ranked by score as follows: 1. Paul C. Frie (vet)* 2. Matthew M. Diemeio (vet) 3. Brian J. Douglas and 4. Stephen J. Mengini. From this list, Chief Laufer has nominated Paul C. Frie for conditional appointment as a part-time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department.

Mrs. Hunt moved that Paul C. Frie be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officer 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 Paul C. Frie is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 6-0.

Mr. Simpson moved that Matthew M. Diemedio be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officer 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 Matthew M. Diemedio is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 6-0.

Mrs. Hunt moved that Brian J. Douglas be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officer 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 Brian J. Douglas is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 6-0.

Mrs. Hunt moved that Stephen J. Mengini be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. The motion carries and Stephen J. Mengini is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 6-0.

7. Receive and consider approval to offer conditional offers of employment to the first four (4) officers from the part time eligibility list
Approved with action item 6.

8. Receive and consider Vision Partnership Program grant
Vice President Green made a motion to proceed with the Vision Partnership Program (VPP) Grant; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to add action item 9) Appoint UCC Board of Appeals Members; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Citizens's comments on action item 9)

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans stated he is glad it is up for discussion.

9. Receive and consider appointment of UCC Appeals Board members
Mrs. Bookman made a motion to appoint Chris Macolini to the UCC Boards of Appeals for the term 2016-2020 and Joseph Hamrick to the UCC Board of Appeals for the term 2015-2019; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close action items; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Discussion Item

1. Biennial Inspections
Vice President Green explained she would like to speak to Mr. DeSimone regarding the biennial inspections. Mr. Mulderig explained the Codes Department has not been done the inspections.
2. Liaisons for Departments and Commissions
Mrs. Hunt - Finance Department
Mr. Simpson – Public Works and Police
Vice President Green – Fire and Planning Commission
Mrs. Bookman – Finance and Administration
Mrs. Hopton – Codes Department
President Lavender-Norris will oversee all departments
3. Tax and Trash Bills
Vice President Green announced a letter was included with the taxes. It should have been sent out beforehand. When making a change a notice should be sent out to the residents.

4. Trust Fund - Investing of Funds and tax base sharing

Mrs. Bookman stated she has been looking over the past years minutes and looking how the Trust Fund has dwindled. Is looking into ways on how to replenish the Fund. The City should explore Tax Base Sharing. There is an urgency, urgency, the Trust Fund is going down. Mr. Simpson asked for something in case law that say we can take the money out. Mr. Carnes said he would pull that together and summarize the information.

5. City Hall Contractors certified payroll

Vice President Green questioned the information provided and asked for clarification.

6. WCCCOG

Mrs. Bookman stated she is excited to be part of the WCCCOG. She reminded Council members of their required FEMA training. There is onlie training or hands on training for newly elected officials.

7. Agreements/Contracts and City Engineering

Mrs. Bookman asked for a better understanding on contracts and is there a threshold of amount charged. Mr. Trio explained that some items are covered by escrows or grants. There are some Townships who put their engineering on retainers.

8. City Engineering Company

Discussed in previous discussion item.

Mrs. Bookman suggested looking into updating the City's website and format.

Solicitors Report

John Carnes announced:

- City Hall Renovations – Project is moving forward
- Saha – worked with Cedarville Engineering and subdivision plans have been signed by West Caln Township and Valley Township
- LERTA – First reading approved and public hearing will be advertised for next meeting
- 4th Avenue Project – worked with Pennoni Associates engineers to develop Right of Way Agreements and Temporary Construction Easements for 14 properties on 4th Avenue
- DEPG – Petition for Zoning Ordinance Amendment to add additional signage in Multi-Use District
- Assisted with various miscellaneous matters involving litigation and enforcement and has assisted the City in its interpretation of codes, rules and regulations and various personnel matters.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Trio announced:

- A onetime notification/reminder follow up post card is being developed for trash fee/real estate bill
- Meeting with AFSCME on their contracts
- City Hall renovation project – local labor employment verifications have been submitted
- RDA is currently working on future land development possibilities
- 83 building permits including 50 rental permits issued
- DEPG land development application under review
- LERTA proposed for the Mixed Use Development Area
- Governor Wolf announced that a transportation investment in the City of Coatesville is a key step in making the Coatesville Gateway Redevelopment revitalization project a reality.
- Funding provided by Chester County via CRp Program has been increase to 1.7 million to fully fund all the improvements for Route 82 and Lincoln Highway
- CDBG programming contract has been provide by CCDC to authorize \$370,000 allocation through County Commissioners. Submitting ASDA grant to help cover cost of front end loader
- Inspection done on Public Works building

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

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa read a section of the Code 2-405 regarding Relationship to Council. She feels boundaries are being crossed.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky inquired about the legality of appointing members to a board without being advertised. He asked the definition of irrevocable. He asked for a copy of the Legal report from Mr. Carnes regarding the withdrawals from the trust.

Tanya Wood

Ms. Wood stated no letters were sent to homeowners regarding the Solid Waste Fee being added to the Real Estate Bill. This changes annual escrow amounts. Vice President Green apologized and stated a post card will be going out to residents.

Joseph Gallagher

Mr. Gallagher voiced his concerns regarding the stop order placed on adjoining property and he was allowed to open up his business. He stated he heard derogatory comment regarding his land lord. President lavender-Norris explained she could not discuss due to a legal matter.

Hadiya Jones-Powell

Mrs. Jones-Powell announced a stop order was placed on her business prior to opening. When will I be able to open business? President Lavender-Norris explained she could not discuss due to a legal matter.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans read criminal codes section 4113 Misapplication of entrusted property and property of government and financial institutions. He asked if there has been fraud in withdrawing from the Trust Fund.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Special Events

1. F.I.S.H Rodeo at Gateway Park on beginning April 28, 2018 and ending April 29, 2018
2. Latino Soccer League at Ash Park on Sunday beginning January 2018 to December 30, 2018

Council Comments

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Hopton thanked everyone for attending the meeting. See you in two weeks.

Mrs. Bookman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them a good night.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Be Safe, Good Night and God Bless!

Adjournment

Mrs. Bookman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 pm; Mrs. Hopton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.