

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting

1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, Pa 19320

Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall

June 10, 2019

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Ms. Khadijah AlAmin, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt and Mr. Donald Folks. Staff members present included: City Manager, Michael Trio, Assistant City Manager, James Logan, Police Chief, John Laufer, Finance Department, 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:

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the June 3, 2019 meeting minutes; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to add action item 4) Multi Modal Transportation Fund Grant; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to add action item 5) DEPG extension agreement; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Presentations

1. Swear in Officer William Carter

The Honorable Judge Gregory Hines swore in Officer William Carter as Chief Laufer held the bible.

2. David Terry Recognition

President Lavender-Norris presented David Terry with a Certificate of Recognition for the Fathers Involved Shedding Hope (F.I.S.H) program.

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 Civil Service list

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the Civil Service part time eligibility list for the Police Department; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Receive and consider conditional offers of employment for part time officers

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. Edward Kebbekus* 2. Tyler Famous 3. Alexander J. Reed and 4. Alejandro Ortiz. From this list, Chief Laufer has nominated Edward Kebbekus for conditional appointment as a part-time Patrol Officer in the City Police Department.

Vice President Green moved that Edward Kebbekus 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. Folks seconded the motion. The motion carries and Edward Kebbekus is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 5-0.

Vice President Green moved that Tyler Famous 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; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. The motion carries and Tyler Famous is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 5-0.

Vice President Green moved that Alexander J. Reed 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; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. The motion carries and Alexander J. Reed is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 5-0.

MS. Al Amin moved that Alejandro Ortiz 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 Alejandro Ortiz is appointed as a Patrol Officer on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam 5-0.

3. Receive and consider payment No. 2 for the Route 30 and 82 redesign in the amount of \$24,142.00 for MECO Constructors

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the payment No. 2 for the Route 30 and Route 82 redesign in the amount of \$24,142.00 for MECO Construction; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Receive and consider Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Cooperation Agreement

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Cooperation Agreement; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Receive and consider DEPG extension

Vice President Green made a motion to table the DEPG extension until the next meeting; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion tabled 5-0.

Discussion Item

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes

Solicitors Report

Mr. Verwey announced he”

- Worked on code enforcement and litigation matters
- Addressed development issues
- Addressed contract issues

City Manager’s Report

Mr. Trio announced;

- 1st Avenue and Lincoln Highway status
 - Publishing the real schedule on the website
 - MECO Contractors are currently working on the site
 - No road blocks and are able to continue
- Zoning Hearing Board
 - New application filed for 91 South 12th Avenue subdivision
- Parking Concepts
 - Planning Commission working on a parking strategy

Assistant City Manager Report

Mr. Logan announced;

- July 6, 2019, Unity Day, Music Festival, Fireworks, Food rucks and vendors
- Coatesville is coming back bigger, better and faster

Finance Director Report

Mr. Troutman announced Jessica Arthur, the staff accountant started on July 6, 2019.

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

Kenneth Bond

Mr. Bon questioned the hanging of the banners. He heard there was controversy on the hanging and that the City vehicle was not in service to assist in the hanging of the banners.

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

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Our City is moving forward. We do see a light at the end of the tunnel. Keep us in your prayer. Help the City be the best it can be. Thank you and have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. We are doing our best to make the City the best it can be. It's sad that when great things go on, there is always someone who tries to dampen it. I just want to make sure, even as Council that we talk positive that we do things that build up as opposed to always knocking us down. We have enough neighboring communities that do that. When there is something good, there has to be some controversy as suggested with hanging the banners. I'm just looking forward to us being better, we know better, we can be better, then we can make the City better. I would like to thank the staff, administration and the Chief.

Ms. AlAmin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. I hope you continue to come and be a part of our City. Safe travels to everyone.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Chief can we look into maybe getting a couple of parking spaces for the Senior Center during the day. There are a few elderly women who have trouble walking so far. Not sure what we can do, but need additional parking for specific hours, maybe just 4 spots, instead of making them walk around. The Senior Center has been having some really good programs. Last week, had the pleasure of meeting one of the first women who worked during World War II. When men went to war and women had to work. We are all familiar with Rosie the Riveter, I mean no ill will, but when you see Rosie, you do not see the first black women involved. Mrs. Wilson was one of the first from here, lived here. She was one of the first black women to work at the Navy Yard and she made the rivets that made up the walls of ships. Her daughter who lives here, she came up to me and said when we were growing up, we didn't know how important she was, we didn't realize her accomplishments, we just took it for granted, but it's a

huge accomplishment for what she did because in the film of watching what they went thru. They went thru a lot. She's alive and she's here in Coatesville. We have a lot of gems in this area. It's a shame that the VFW Post 287 came with a wonderful idea to honor our veterans and hear negativity. I think they did an outstanding job and when the idea got out to the community, it really took off. They were looking to do 75 banners initially and has taken off to greater than that. To hear such negativity regarding it, to me, it doesn't matter whether the truck broke down, it doesn't matter whether they went every other pole, I just didn't understand those issues, they came up with the idea, they came to us, we partnered with them and we insisted because it's our residents, I don't understand, that it's a sin and a shame. I just don't understand, because one organization and not my organization came up with the idea than its controversial and problematic. There were a few issues with some of the banners, but when you do something in such bulk like that, you make mistakes, I think it's a wonderful thing and an honor. Great people hanging on the streets of Coatesville and not allot of people we don't know, people who live in our city, who have lived in the City, a lot who are still living and being honored. We did talk about Unity Day and how important it is, we also have the Grand Prix coming up, and we have the Sounds of Summer every other Friday starting after Unity Day. We are headed into a full event season for our residents. I love when we have community day and everyone comes together. It's a wonderful thing. Thank you all for coming out and hope to see you in a couple weeks.

President Lavender Norris thanked everyone for coming out. I want to speak on the banners. Those banners have brought about such a sense of pride in our community. They like Mrs. Green said, there were mistakes with banners, in spite of the mistakes, the people that sponsored the banners with the mistakes, were so pleased with the banners, even with their misspelt names and what have you. Their so proud of the service of their family member. The very picture alone brought about the sense of pride. No matter what the negatives are surrounding it, it can't take away from that. It doesn't even come into comparison of the way the family members feel. I personally have three family members banner up there and I would not change it or trade it for the world. One of them is no longer with us, but two of them are. My Uncle came to me anticipating for them being hung. He asked, when they are being hung, I'm looking for mine. I'm talking like a month ahead of when they were supposed to be hung up. When I told him they were coming up, he was in Coatesville at 7 am waiting to see the banners, not just his but all of them. So the negative that surrounded, meant absolutely nothing, nothing to the extent, for next year, they are accepting applications now. They anticipating having more banners to extend to the cross streets. We are excited about it and we are not going to please everybody all the time and we are okay with that, as long as we can please that ones that want to be pleased, we are in good standing. I respect and thank you for your service Mr. Bond. I would have loved to have filled out an application banner for you that would have been my pleasure, because I know you served, however, I didn't have the opportunity, maybe you'll be up next time. The banners aren't limited to the City, they can go to South Coatesville, they can go to Valley Township, they can go t Caln Township, they can go anywhere, and anybody wants them. You can actually purchase a banner and take it home. It does not have to be hung, that's your pleasure, not just ours but anybody's pleasure, to do what they choose with the banners. I spoke to

the young lady at the VFW and asked her about it, can you purchase for personal and she said absolutely, but the applications won't be processed until next year. Aren't you on Borough Council for South Coatesville? I would suggest you get with Ms. Whitfield who has done the banners and maybe extend out to South Coatesville. I think it would be wonderful. I look forward to seeing them everywhere. When I went to a basketball game this year, a high school game, I saw banners hung. When I saw these banners I thought, Oh my God, are these what we're going to have? We have twice the size of the ones I saw. I'm like not only do we have them, we have bigger and better ones. I know a lot of people that are pictured on the banners, so it's a wonderful, wonderful thing and it isn't exclusive. You are welcome to it any and every one. I also want to say that the dedication of the banners was at 1st Avenue on Saturday and it was a wonderful event, wasn't a lot of people in attendance, but enough people and the ones that were there, again, showed their sense of pride and gratitude for the servicemen of our Country. Wonderful Event! They had a clambake afterwards, I don't know how it turned out, I didn't get a chance to go, but from what I heard that was a good event also. We are not excluding anyone. There are more and more events going forward in the City than we had before. I suggest you come in and hang out and be a part of it. You did the right thing to ask your questions, because you'll never get an answer without asking, but you certainly did the right thing. Once I get done talking and we close we can have a deeper discussion about it. With that being said, I appreciate you staff and my colleagues, thank you and you are a pleasure to work with, and to you all out there, thank you for coming out. Please be safe and run between the raindrops. God Bless and have a wonderful evening.

Adjournment

Vice President Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.