

MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 10, 2015

**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, Council Vice President Marie Lawson, Mssr, Joseph Hamrick, Edward Simpson, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Mrs. Carmen Green, and Mrs. Ingrid W. Jones. Staff members present included City Manager Michael Trio, Finance Director John Marcarelli, City Solicitor John Carnes, and Police Chief John Laufer and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

President Lavender-Norris announced an Executive Session was held on August 3, 2015 and earlier this evening August 10, 2015 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve the August 10, 2015 meeting minutes; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**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. Green made a motion to move appointment of City Manager to the first action item; Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0

Vice President Lawson made a motion to add action item #60 Accept Energy savings RFQ; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Presentation**

1. Dayvon and Riya Patel, members of Coatesville Youth Initiative Service Corps Program

As part of the Coatesville Youth Initiative Summer Service Corps internship at the Brandywine Health Foundation, Dayvon Bladen and Riya Patel, worked diligently with Renee Fairconeture to take the first step in developing a master plan of the parks and playgrounds in the City of Coatesville with a youth oriented approach.

The rating system is from 1 to 10. 1 being very bad and 10 being very good. The rating system is based on the condition of the park, the cleanliness, the feel (safety), and community involvement of the park. In no way does the rating reflect the City, the community or the surrounding area of the park. The ratings are simply their opinion.

- a. Chester Ash Memorial Park – Rated 6, some pros were” new play area is well maintained, interactive activities and inspirational quotes on walkway, some cons were: deteriorated wood mulch borders around play area, scattered picnic benches and no recycle bins.
- b. Friendship Park – Rated 1, some pros were: sturdy fencing, has potential, manageably small. Some of the cons were: Overgrown, no play area, and no seating.

- c. Paul Palmer Park – Rated 8. Some pros were; Variety of play equipment, Gazebo, sense of safety and kid friendly. Some cons were; pool is closed, could be better maintained and dirty flooring material.
- d. Swing Park – Rated 2. Some pros were: Basketball court, lots of open space and small neighborhood park. Some cons were: basketball pavement is uneven, only one swing, and not many lights.
- e. Valley View – Rated 10. Some pros were: Beautiful, scenic, and well maintained. Some cons were: secluded and lack of signage,

2. Pam Baker, Barbacane, Thornton, to present the 2014 audited financial statements

The financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Solid Waste Fund and Business type activities of the City of Coatesville, as of December 31, 2014, and the changes of the financial position and, where applicable cash flows thereof the year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The City is heavily dependent on local tax revenues, which include real estate taxes, earned income taxes, local service taxes, real estate transfer taxes, business privilege taxes, mechanical device taxes, and franchise fees. Local taxes and franchise fees compromised 73% (percent) of the governmental revenues in fiscal 2014.

The Reserve Trust fund balance as of December 31, 2014 was \$5,794,869. The net position at the end of the year for Solid Waste was \$267,602. The Pension Plan fiduciary net positions as percentages of the of the total pension liability for the non-uniformed pension fund is 96.26%; Police Pension Fund 79.16%; and the Firefighter Pension Fund is 65.90%.

There is a 50% decrease in their findings and recommendations. The items of the findings that are no longer applicable due to completion are as follows: City adopted an investment policy for its pension trust funds; implemented the process of requiring employees to change passwords quarterly; implemented the practice of having all department heads salaries authorized by City Council and recorded in City Council minutes and is used when any changes are made for an employee, e.g. hiring, pay rate changes, and terminations; employee change of status reports updated to include Finance Director as a required signed along with the Department Head, Human Resources and the City Manager; System where the Finance Department, in collaboration with the Human Resources Department, tracks and approves all time off requests by the Department Heads

3. DeAnne Butcher - Playground Proposal

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's initiative provides healthy environments and improves the quality of life in underserved communities. The AKA 1908 Playground Project will ensure children have a safe and inviting place to play. The AKA Sorority's Acts of Green Program, they will promote environmental sustainability by encouraging recycling litter prevention and waste management through green efforts in local communities. The 1908 Playground project consists of: 1) Build a Planter; 2) Butterflies need playgrounds, Too; 3) Sponge Painting Simple Steps; 4) Paint/Decorate Trash Cans and 5) Erect an AKA 1908 Playground Memorial sign for the playground (optional).

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

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans applauded City Council for appointing a new City Manager this evening.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### Discussion Item

1. Discuss Yard signs

Vice President Lawson announced the Yard of the Week Initiative. The yard signs will be in this week. A sign will be placed in a yard within the Council person ward of their choosing.

2. Discuss Vaccine Clinic

The SPCA of Chester County on Sunday, August 30, 2015 from 10 am to 2 pm at City Hall will have a Free Vaccine Clinic. The first 300 animals will receive: free rabies and distemper (dogs) or FVRCP (cats). Available to all resident of Chester and Delaware Counties.

3. Discuss Trash/Recycling

All trash and recycling will be picked up in the same location. No trash cans other than the City of Coatesville issued cans will be picked up.

### Regular Action Items

0. Receive and consider appointment of Michael Trion as City Manager

Mr. Simpson made a motion of Michael Trio as City Manager per the terms of the contract and salary of \$110,000 and card allowance; Mr. Hamrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Mrs. Jones abstained from the vote. Mr. Carnes explained her abstention due to lack of information.

Mr. Trio was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines holding the bible.

Mr. Trio thanked City Council for placing their trust in him. He is looking forward to working in the City.

1. Receive and consider Charles Pinchback for the Parks and recreation Advisory Board for the term 2014-2017 and Charles Thoman to the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate for the term 2015-2017

Mr. Simpson made a motion to table the appointments until the next meeting; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion tabled 7-0.

President Lavender-Norris announced no one will be appointed to a Board and Commission if they are not in attendance.

2. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1 "Fees" Subsection U. (9) for use of the Community Center to require minimum charge of \$200.00 for four hours of use (at \$50.00 per hour), \$75.00 for each additional hour of use, \$150 dollar security deposit, and a \$25 set up/clean up fee; additionally, a new section (1.1) is added imposing a penalty of \$25.00 for failure to pay in advance for any recreational use fee.

Mrs. Green made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance amending Chapter 108-1 "Fees" Subsection U. (9) for use of the Community Center to require minimum charge of \$200.00 for four hours of use (at \$50.00 per hour), \$75.00 for each additional hour of use, \$150 dollar refundable security deposit, and a \$25 application fee; additionally, a new section (1.1) is Vice President Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0

3. Receive and consider award summaries from City Council  
Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve award summaries for Certificate of Recognition, Certificate of Excellence and Proclamations from City Council; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Receive and consider Yerkes to review and inspect commercial plans and projects pending permanent replacement or outsource.  
Vice President Lawson made a motion to approve Yerkes Associates to review commercial plans and projects for an interim period of 90 days; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
5. Receive and consider receipt of RFP for Energy Savings  
Vice President Lawson made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Energy Savings RFQ and move the appointment of the firm at the next meeting; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **Solicitors Report**

The City Solicitor 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 thanked everyone. He looks forward to working in the City.

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

##### John Robinson

Mr. Robinson announced The American Civil Liberties Union ACLU will be holding a meeting on “Know your rights” on August 27, 2015 sponsored by the concerned citizens. Mr. Robinson voiced his concerns regarding the Police Department and his grandson.

##### David DeSimone

Mr. DeSimone welcomed Mr. Trio. He thanked the Police Department and Public Works for their contributions to the beautification of the City. Mr. DeSimone suggested starting a beautification committee.

*Mrs. Hunt excused herself from the meeting at 9:20 pm.*

##### Paul Evans

Mr. Evans voiced his concerns regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment and the Police Department. He asked the City Council and Chief Laufer for cameras in the West End.

##### Rev. Emerson Cottrell

Rev. Cottrell asked for permission to host a block party. President Lavender-Norris asked Rev. Cottrell to consider having the event in a Park. The City will not approve street closing unless a City sponsored event.

##### Lisa Tomaski

Ms. Tomaski asked for a waiver of trash fees for 2008-2014 for a property she just purchased. The Finance Department directed her to City Council.

Cheryl Taggart

Ms. Taggart voiced her concerns regarding an event with the Police Department. She would like to file a complaint. Council asked Ms. Taggart to speak with the City Manager and the Chief of Police.

Mrs. Jones made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Mrs. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Hamrick asked staff to reiterate to applicants for special events, the streets will not be closed. He welcomed Mr. Trio to the City and stated "be on time, every time"

Mrs. Green welcomed Mr. Trio. She is excited about the new City Manager and cannot wait to move forward. There have been great events happening in the City. The residents/property owners have expressed interest in starting a Beautification Committee.

Mrs. Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting, it is good to have you here. She thanked Mr. Trio for his efforts. She thanked all the presenters and their interest in what they talk about. She quoted "What's done in the dark, come out in the light, and every secret thing will be revealed."

Mr. Simpson welcomed Mr. Trio. He is excited to have him here. Mr. Trio has a wealth of experience in land development and land planning. This is a good time to be a part of the City.

Vice President Lawson welcomed Mr. Trio to the City. I hope you love it as much as we do. She thanked Mrs. Hunter for her assistance with the movie night. She thanked Sgt. Ollis, the Coatesville Youth Initiative events are proof. We have come a long way. She thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Scott for the work they have done in cleaning up the City, Parks and City Hall.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She welcomed Mr. Trio to the City and stated the "Best is yet to Come." She thanked Council and staff for the due diligence. It is appreciated. She stated "We are who we're waiting for." It is proven by the events going on in the City. The clean ups are being done voluntarily. People are noticing people are grateful and its catching. At various events, she has received positive comments about the City. The City is beginning to shine again.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm; Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.