

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320
September 24, 2018

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:52 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Messrs., Donald Folks, Edward Simpson, Mrs. Deborah Bookman, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt and Ms. Khadijah Al Amin. Staff members present included, City Manager Michael Trio, Assistant City Manager James Logan, City Solicitor Anthony Verway, Police Chief John Laufer, Finance Department Amanda Gattuso and Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday.

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

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Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2018

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the September 10, 2018 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Vice President Green abstained from the vote.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables except the check for KZ Automotive; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to add discussion item 2) reschedule Pawlowski gazebo dedication day and delete action item 6) RDA Promissory note; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

1. Greater Coatesville Girl Scout Troop

Ms. Raven Ruff, Girl Scout troop 468 announced a project to City Council. The project is to freshen up the 15 pots located on East Lincoln Highway. The group will be cleaning out the existing pots. The project will supply them with the silver award for Girl Scouts.

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

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky asked why action item 6 was deleted from the agenda. He questioned if the properties sell in the RDA does the monies go to the City of Coatesville against their debt. He voiced his concerns on the money taken out of the trust and how it will be paid back.

Ed Segerra

Mr. Segerra comments were not related to action items. He explained he will speak during the non-agenda items.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Regular Action Items

0. Receive and consider Amended 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension
Vice President Green made a motion to approve the amended Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension: Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
1. Receive and consider 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension
Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension in the amount of \$201,564; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Receive and consider 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Firemen's Pension Fund
Vice President Green made a motion to approve the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Firemen's Pension Fund in the amount of \$162,712; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Receive and consider 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund
Vice President Green made a motion to approve the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$1,072,540; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Receive and consider S&S Cleaners agreement for City Hall, Police Department and District Court
Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve S&S Cleaner's agreement for City Hall, Police Department and District Court; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-4. President Lavender-Norris, Vice President Green, Mrs. Bookman and Ms. Al Amin were the dissenting votes.
5. Receive and consider award for the 3rd Avenue Lincoln Highway ReDesign Project to James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving Inc. at \$174,976.40
Ms. Al Amin made a motion to award the 3rd Avenue Lincoln Highway ReDesign Project to James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving Inc. at \$174,976.40; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2. Ms. Al Amin and Mrs. Bookman were the dissenting votes.
6. Receive and consider sale of Redevelopment Authority properties located at 204-206 East Lincoln Highway and 207 Harmony Street to Mark Lane LLC, and the sale of the Redevelopment Authority properties located at 117-125 East Chestnut Street to Mark Lane, LLC
Vice President Green made a motion to approve the sale of Redevelopment Authority properties located at 204-206 East Lincoln Highway and 207 Harmony Street to Mark Lane

LLC, and the sale of the Redevelopment Authority properties located at 117-125 East Chestnut Street to Mark Lane, LLC; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to close action items; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Item

1. Meeting Minutes

President Green asked to listen to the tape from the last meeting.

2. Reschedule John Pawlowski Gazebo Dedication

Due to the rain, the dedication was cancelled and needed to be rescheduled. Council agrees on October 11, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Worked with the RDA Solicitor on the proposed refinancing the RDA Debt
- Reviewed the contract/lease with the District Court
- Reviewed pending Right to Know laws requests
- Spoke with DEPG attorneys regarding easements, improvements and security
- Monitoring labor issues
- Reviewed pending litigation matters involving the city and strategies moving forward.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Trio announced:

- Mr. Pawlowski dedication was scheduled for September 23, but due to rain has been rescheduled.
- West End Fire Company Lease expired asking for three year extension
- North 3rd Avenue walk thru with Marino and Michael Baker identified and confirmed for final punch out repairs
- County Court punch list sent to Solicitor
- Thank all staff, Council, volunteers for a wonderful event on Saturday at the Grand Prix

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

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa voiced her concerns on regarding public comments and the 1st Amendment. She inquired about the condemned building in the 200 Block of East Lincoln Highway.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans provide Council with a handwritten statement and copy of Facebook page. He voiced his concerns regarding the code on conflict of interest and forfeiture of office.

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky voiced his concerns on the condemnation of the building located in the 200 Block of East Lincoln Highway and why some where given 48 hours to vacate but some were allowed to stay.

Indira Sammy

Ms. Sammy asked everyone to put away all the negativity and come together as a community. There is good work going on in the City.

Edwin Seggera

Mr. Seggera stated the Grand Prix was a great. He voiced his concerns regarding a member of City Council.

Charles Jaramillo

Mr. Jaramillo voiced his concerns on the condemnation of the building located in the 200 Block of East Lincoln Highway. He is currently in litigation about the building.

Mrs. Bookman made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items only; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Special Events

Laurie Shannon Bailey announced the National Juvenile Justice Week. The League of Women's voters in partnership with the Coatesville Area Juvenile Alliance, built Fitness, the City of Coatesville Police Department, South Coatesville Police Department and the Youth Aid Panel (Calm Township) are holding a Community and Law Enforcement Collaborative event. The event is Sunday, September 30, 2018 starting at 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

Council Comments

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Grand Prix was awesome this weekend. Mike, I think you all did a wonderful job with the Grand Prix this weekend. It was very nice. Laurie I really look forward to your event this weekend.

Mrs. Bookman thanked everyone for attending the m meeting. The Grand Prix was a great event, it was the first time I was able to attend the whole thing and was very pleased and happy with the turnout. Did a great job. Laurie looking forward to event on Sunday. There's so much I want to say right now. I'm nine months into being a councilperson and I thoroughly enjoy being a councilperson. I work very hard. One thing I will say, is what my father always says "believe none of what you hear and only half of what you see." If you come to the podium and you want to engage with counsel your ideas and concerns, I would really appreciate, is there's two sides to every story. It's hard for me to sit here and have to find the words to be able to say to respond without crossing the line. One thing I will say, I do believe the city will rise again, the development is coming. I believe in our city. What I will not do, I will not allow the rules to apply for some and not apply to others. There's a lot of faces out here I've never seen before and a lot I do know. The rules for one landlord have to apply to all landlords. We are not trying to pick and choose who we do make certain things and who doesn't. I'm glad that Jaramillo brought up the Chetty building he's correct and it has been a long time coming. It has been an eyesore. The City has limited resources and Coatesville didn't get this way overnight and is not going to be fixed overnight. A lot of the issues that people have, that I even have, didn't happen with this current council, it was councils before us. I didn't take 30 million out of the trust fund but what I will do is make sure that we are good stewards over that money and make sure everyone is held accountable, including even council for everything that takes place in the city. When you're going to come to the podium at least be honest, don't come with one side of the story and try to discredit council for something that is wrong. I do know when you're in the role

of leadership and people are criticizing that means you're doing a good job, because you're not going to be able to please everybody all the time, but as long as you stay above reproach and you do what you know is best. I do what is best for me because I'm a resident first always regardless of what side of the table I'm on. Thank you all for coming out and I'm going to continue doing what I am doing and I invite any of you if you have a question just reach out. There are two side to every story not just one. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for coming to the Council meeting. I too am new to council. I was sworn in May 29 of this year. I know myself, I work very hard and take my role as council very serious. I do my due diligence to make sure we are managing taxpayer money appropriately and ask questions when I feel that is necessary. I know that I'm doing, what I said I would do, and stand for what's best for the residents and be their voice. Thank everyone for coming safe travels home

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thank you for bringing your concerns and things to us that we may not be aware of. I thank Mr. Trio and his committee for the Grand Prix. It was a great experience for the city. There are a few things to work on before the next one but it was a good job and I thank you for the all the hard work that you do. I try to do my best to do what I know is right and what's best for the citizens, and that is why I'm here to represent you. Many you know where I'm at and if you have concerns or anything I can do for you please don't hesitate to reach out to me. We all represent a ward in the city so you can contact anyone of us no matter what ward you're in and if it's not the right ward we will direct you to the correct councilperson. But, one thing I am happy about is we're learning how to work together as a seven person council rather than seven individuals. I look forward to continuing to work with you as long as my term. Thank you, good night

Mr. Folks stated "never judge a book by its cover". Thursday we had a pre grand prixview party. I had to work that day on a bus trip, I drive for Hershey Mills and the called me before I went to work and asked me to wear my Eagle shirt uniform, and from there I came to this function. I approached the table and I asked the woman if this was appropriate to come in because I saw everyone dressed. She stated you can come in but you probably have the best dressed at the party a lot of people love Eagles. But, a man (I guess he had a lot of money) came up to me and he said Mr. Folks I know your councilperson everyone is dressed why are you in Eagle shirt. I went and told him I just got off work and my job called me because the young man that killed his parents in Westchester, I used to drive for them and they called me to and asked me to wear my uniform because they were Eagles fans. I didn't want to go that function but I wanted to hear Ed speak but some people looked at me and said you're a councilperson so why are you wearing it. When I told that fellow why, he said I apologize, because you just don't know why someone is wearing something. "Don't judge a book by its cover." Thank you I will do my best serve you. Do I like my job on council, No, but I do like the citizens of Coatesville. I do not like politics.

Mr. Simpson asked just for clarification Mr. Verwey if you could confer that when somebody comes up as a resident or person of the Commonwealth of PA that they have the right to speak. Mr. Verwey responded that's incorrect, you have to be a resident of the municipality or taxpayer. Mr. Simpson asked Mr. Verwey to send him a copy of that because he was always told as long as they are the resident of the Commonwealth of PA they may speak. Mr. Fairway stated whoever

told you that it is incorrect and he would be glad to show you where to it is in the Sunshine Act. Mr. Simpson stated Ms. Scamuffa had a question why no one responds to anybody's questions, and I think the main reason, is it's there three minutes for the citizens to speak, so we allow everyone to speak for their three minutes. Now do I think that it's fair that there's no way to ask us any questions no I don't but it's been that way for years. I guess it would be among us to find a way. Sometimes we answer and sometimes we don't. It's unfortunate but the main purpose of that is the citizens have the right for their three minutes to speak and we don't have the right to interrupt. I thank everyone that helped out on Saturday particularly the Police Department, Chief Laufer, thank you for an outstanding job from you and all your man, Mr. Johnson from public works department outstanding job on the set up in the cleanup. We appreciate the work that you did. Thank the volunteers from around the community that helped literally came out and helped the traffic control, unfortunately, some of our volunteers were there but the majority of our career firefighters had to stay at the stations in case there were calls to respond to. So we counted on a lot of surrounding and municipalities who came out and helped. Thank anyone who was involved. Mr. Evans did a tremendous job of raising close to \$4,000 for the sound system. Thank Crosby and Mr. Trio for the countless hours they put in. We'll be meeting next week to begin for the next year. Thank you and have a good night.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for staying out. The Grand Prix was wonderful event, it was event that was for entire community. Some weren't able to enjoy as much as others however it was available to all. A gentleman came to the podium and said the Linda Lavender-Norris accosted him and he's the very same gentleman when I saw him at the Grand Prix, the same Linda Lavender-Norris said hello, and if that is accosting him then so be it, but that's my statement to the gentleman that was at the podium. At no given time did I accost or threaten him from my opinion and I was the one he was speaking about, he can't get it from anybody more confident or knowing then of the one he was speaking of and that was me. I too, as it was said among council, I am here for the good of the city not Linda Lavender-Norris, I'm here for the good of the city. It's no cakewalk being on counsel it's time-consuming and extremely, extremely hard work to be able to juggle city business, personal business and work all at one time and do your best at all three. It requires a lot of prayer so in that I ask you to keep me in prayer because I am definitely a work in progress and I'm doing all I can to stay in the Lords will, and follow the path he set before me. I know Grace and Mercy got my back so I'm not concerned about that. God bless you and I'll see you next meeting.

Adjournment

Vice President Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 and go into executive session; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Mrs. Bookman and Ms. Al Amin were not present for the vote.