

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320
October 8, 2018

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:40 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 Verwey, 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.

Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2018

Vice President Green made a motion to approve September 24, 2018 meeting minutes with edits; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables minus the items requiring a purchase order; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Mrs. Green made a motion to add action item 7) Receive and consider Clark settlement: Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to table action item 4) Receive and consider West End Fire Company Lease; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

1. District Attorney Tom Hogan

Chester County District Attorney, Tom Hogan, presented our Police Department with a commendation for their work with 'Project Playground,' an effort to reduce violent crime and keep the children of Coatesville safe.

Chief Laufer thanked the members of our community that continue to provide useful information and support our efforts.

2. Proclamation for DeLois Yvonne Young Newton

President Lavender-Norris read the Proclamation for DeLois Yvonne Young Newton. She presented the Proclamation to Mrs. Newton's family.

3. Tower Health

Tower Health is a strong, regional, integrated healthcare provider/payer system that offers leading-edge, compassionate healthcare and wellness services to a population of 2.5 million people. There have been 250 hires for their new location at the Brandywine Hospital.

Together, our six hospitals and other entities provide a full range of medical care — from prevention, screenings and education; to the latest clinical services and surgeries available; to rehabilitation. We also offer wellness programs and public health services that ensure our communities are the healthiest they can be. Our caring, highly trained physicians and staff are committed to patient safety and patient satisfaction.

At Tower Health, we have a rich history of providing high-quality, cost-effective care in the communities we serve. As the healthcare industry continues to change, one thing remains steadfast: Tower Health's commitment to Advancing Health, Transforming Lives.

Mr. Hunt asked to come back in a few months to provide an update.

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

Joe Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky asked about the ability for the RDA to pay the loan back and stated when money is paid back it should go directly back into the Reserve Trust Fund Account.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans seconded the comments from Mr. Leofsky. What is shown on the books? All properties should be appraised and any monies withdrawn from the Trust should be shown on the balance sheet.

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

1. Receive and consider first reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1327-2009, Authorizing and Approving a Seven Million Dollar (\$7,000,000.00) Loan Agreement and Promissory Note Between the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Coatesville, to Authorize the capitalization of one million nine hundred – sixty-two thousand, two hundred thirty-four dollars (\$1,962,234.00) accrued interest, forgiveness of certain accrued interest, elimination of further interest payments and setting forth terms of repayment; and authorizing and approving a promissory note between the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Coatesville.

Vice President Green made a motion to approve first reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1327-2009, Authorizing and Approving a Seven Million Dollar (\$7,000,000.00) Loan Agreement and Promissory Note Between the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Coatesville, to Authorize the capitalization of one million nine hundred – sixty-two thousand, two hundred thirty-four dollars (\$1,962,234.00) accrued interest, forgiveness of certain accrued interest, elimination of further interest payments and setting forth terms of repayment; and authorizing and approving a promissory note between the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Coatesville; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Receive and consider Resolution revising the Council Meeting date from November 12, 2018 (holiday) to November 13, 2018.

MS. Al Amin made a motion to approve a Resolution revising the City Council Meeting date from November 12, 2108 (holiday) to November 13, 2018: Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider SPCA Contract

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to table the SPCA Contract; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Receive and accept the Civil Service listing

Council asked Mr. Verwey for verification of the Civil Service.

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the Civil Service listing for the Police Department; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3. Vice President Green, Mrs. Bookman and Ms. Al Amin were the dissenting votes.

5. Receive and consider Sebastian and Sons for the 1st floor duct cleaning

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve Sebastian and Sons for the first floor (Police Department) duct cleaning; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to close action items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Item

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

2. Public Works – Jack Hammer/Compressor.

Mr. Trio explained he is meeting with Public Works to discuss the department's compressor needs. Mr. Folks and Mr. Simpson will be meeting with PW Dept. also. Vice President Green suggested reaching out to the COG members to see if there is a compressor we can borrow from another municipality.

3. Ribbon cutting for City Hall

Mr. Trio announced the ribbon cutting for City Hall will be in December. Vice President Green stated she would like to have a great event for the opening.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Finalized the draft RDA refinancing Ordinance which is presented for its first reading tonight
- Advised on resolution of contracting issues
- Brought two litigation matters to close
- Drafted language to address pending Right to Know requests
- Number of right-of way agreements for the 4th Avenue project recorded
- Consulted on personnel matters
- Provided guidance on policy and meeting questions.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Trio announced the:

- The Pawlowski Gazebo dedication is scheduled for October 11, 2018 at 5pm.

- Palmer Park construction continues – additional work identified for electrical service proposal from Veterans Construction
- 3rd Avenue Streetscapes begins in two weeks.
- Train Station – Vice President Green inquired about having a ramp put in for riders who are disabled. A resident complained as he had a problem getting up the steps. Ms. Huntzinger advised Council to have the person contact Amtrak.

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

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa voiced her concerns regarding protecting the taxpayers from Council regarding nepotism and cronyism. Vice President Green asked what she meant. Ms. Scamuffa said Council plays favorites to friends and family. Favoritism with the Maranatha property.

Charles Jaramillo

Mr. Jaramillo stated he was a victim of fraud. He voiced his concerns on the treatment from Council and staff regarding the condemnation of his buildings. He has filed RTK's and has been denied.

Joe Gallagher

Mr. Gallagher explained he owned Bogies and was closed down (condemned) and received no notification. He has suffered a loss of income. He provided the Police Chief with an affidavit.

David Long

Mr. Long stated he invested over \$75,000 in his business in the City and came back from vacation and the building was condemned) the business would still be open. He asked who authorized the condemnation.

Joseph Leofsky

Mr. Leofsky voiced his concerns on the condemnation of the building and explained the codes that have been violated. It is not legal. He read the statute for condemning a property.

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans quoted various sections of Pa State regulation, Sunshine Act and City codes and took a position that city council has violated these regulations and was unlawful in condemnation procedures.

Douglas Depte

Mr. Depte stated he is a real estate developer specializing in buying homes. He voiced his concerns on how he was told he had too many projects going on and received stop orders. He has since stopped developing in the City but would like to come back and invest.

Ed Seggerra

Mr. Seggerra commended the District Attorney and the Police Department for their award. He voiced his concerns on the condemnation of a building and asked for judicial review. He asked for immediate change in the City Government.

Peter DeMaeo

Mr. DeMaeo announced he is planning a holiday caroling event on December 19, 2018 beginning at 1:45 pm. He asked everyone to come out and join.

Doug Lambert

Mr. Lambert voiced his concerns on the condemnation of the building and asked to move. It has caused a hardship.

Mrs. Bookman provided an outline of the timeframe regarding the condemnation of the buildings on East Lincoln Highway. She read the full statutes of the Pa State regulation and City Codes in full from the quoted sections from the council comments for the Council members, staff and the audience.

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

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Simpson had no comment.

Mr. Folks had no comment.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good night and thanks for coming.

Ms. Al Amin wished everyone a good night and safe travels home.

Mrs. Bookman thanked everyone for coming and apologized. I am not going to apologize for adhering to the Charter, the law that governs our City. I am not going to apologize that the rules are not abided by all. I do want to encourage developers and people to come in and do things by the book. I encourage that, and I applaud your efforts but what I will not do is, I will not compromise my integrity for anybody. If that's what it is supposed to be like on Council, than this ain't the place for me. Thank everyone, wish all a good night. God Bless.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Councilwoman Bookman for providing the information because everything is just coming as one sided, as though it is personal and it's not personal. We do not operate outside, we do have a City Manager and we are following what the Charter says. Again, I really appreciate your comments.

President Lavender-Norris thanked those who remained. I can't entertain the nonsense. This whole fiasco that just happened, what good came out of it, and how is it moving our City forward. The majority that walked out that door, they may very well be taxpayers, but the majority of them don't live her. We remain and then when they put their video up on YouTube, they'll say this is how Coatesville acts. But is it how we act, or is it how they came in and perform and accuse us of being the nonsense. Like, I had enough of it. I am totally done, through with the nonsense. We have an entire City to run here, not just our personal households. We are accountable for what goes on here. If there is something wrong, they will be lined up at the podium, telling us how wrong we are and telling us what we need to do. But are they standing up to say this is wrong, this is how I can help. If I'm wrong I'll step away and admit it up front first and foremost. I don't have a problem with acknowledging when I'm wrong. I can learn from that, grow and do better the next time. I am so

over the nonsense. It doesn't help us, it stifles us. Anybody that wants to come into the City and do business, you are more than welcome. We want you to come in and just know we as Council support the development. We want development and will stand behind you the entire time and work with you. Mr. Depte I have had conversations with you. So just know moving forward, if you have an issue, don't just go to anyone, come right to City Hall and talk to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager. I'm sure there is some type of confusion in the line of communication. I'm sure there is. However, if you take the time to come in and have a conversation, you'll see the the difference. We are not here to block you, we're here to influence and help you move forward. I thank you all. God Bless you all and be safe on your ride home.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 and to enter into an executive session: Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Ms. Al Amin was not present for the vote.