

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320  
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall  
August 26, 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 Al Amin, Mrs. Deborah Bookman, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Mr. Donald Folks and Mr. Edward Simpson. Staff members present included: City Manager, Michael Trio, Assistant City Manager, James Logan, Police Chief, John Laufer, Finance Department, Richard Troutman 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:**

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the August 12, 2019 meeting minutes; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda**

There were no additions, deletions or modifications to the agenda at this time.

**Presentations**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Highway – April Barkasi and Kyle Turner, Cedarville Engineering  
Mr. Turner provided a status update on the project. Council inquired about a schedule of the work from MECO. They asked Ms. Barkasi to contact MECO and make sure the work is being done as scheduled on their timeline.

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

Laurie Shannon-Bailey

Ms. Shannon-Bailey stated it is great that the City partners with the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The more we talk about it, the more we educate.

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

### Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider Marie Lawson to the Civil Service Commission for term 2019 – 2022; Fran Scamuffa to the Civil Service Commission for term 2019 – 2022; and Fran Scamuffa to the Vacant Property Commission for the term 2018-2021

Mr. Simpson made a motion to appoint Marie Lawson to the Civil Service Commission for the term 2019-2022; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to appoint Fran Scamuffa to the Vacant Property Committee for the term 2018-2021; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Receive and consider request from Domestic Violence Center of Chester County to decorate downtown in purple ribbons as done annually for the month of October

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the request from the Domestic Violence Center to decorate downtown in purple ribbons as done annually for the month of October; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider authorizing the Solicitor to attend and appeal on behalf of the City the Assessment Appeals submitted on properties over \$200,000.

Vice President Green made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to attend and appeal on behalf of the City of Coatesville the assessment appeals submitted on properties over \$200,000; 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 the meeting minutes.

2. Community Center – Voting

The location for voting needs to be moved from the Community Center. Voter services needs to be notified. In May, the voters used 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church. Follow statutory regulations.

3. LERTA

The City LERTA will remain at 10 year and not change to the School District 5 year.

### Solicitors Report

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Continued work to resolve certain litigation matters
- Worked on Right to Know request matter

- Advised on certain zoning issues.

### **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Trio announced;

- Land development is ongoing
- Arooga's franchise "box out" interior work has been filed with the City for permit reviews.
- King Lovett has been issuing a lot of Quality of Life citations
- Catalyst has completed the route 82 and 30 bypass Digital Billboard
- Train Station – pre-bid meeting on the façade and minor improvements – bids due the September 23, 2019

### **Assistant City Manager Report**

There was no Assistant City Manager report at this time.

### **Finance Director Report**

There was no Finance Report at this time. The report will be only once a month. Audit report was provided at the last meeting.

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

#### Michael Russo

Mr. Russo announced he is a contractor who bid on Patton Park. He explained that he dug out curbs for Newlin Homes. Council explained the property where Newlin Homes is, is in South Coatesville and he should talk to the Council at their meeting.

#### Laurie Shannon-Bailey

Ms. Shannon bailey asked for a letter of support for the Coatesville Area Juvenile Alliance. The program helps to positively motivate youth offenders, mental health and substance abuse counseling and legal counsel for the families (a lot of offenders do not know their rights.)

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

### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thank you, Marie and Fran for their volunteerism on the Civil Service Commission and Vacant Property Committee.

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked Mrs. Hunt for his mom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday cake. His mom turned 90 on Sunday, it was a very special day to have my mother still here

with me. I'm ready to start a program, my future granddaughter, had to do some community service. She was pregnant so nobody would take her and she called me. I said I would see what I can do and I talked to the judge and he said they didn't have nothing for her. So, I called my church and got her in there and I thought man, how many other people are out there that can't do real physical work but can go in and file or something like that. My Program is going to be called "Kiki's Second Chance." I'm going to be working with the court system and the church to help people out. I figure as long as I'm here, I might as well make a legacy for my time while I was on the board. The Lord gave me this so I can be a platform. Pray for me that this will work and I can get more places/churches to allow certain people to sweep or come around and clean their property or just going to the churches to help clean up. So, I want to talk to the other judge. I believe in this town and I want to see it prosper. We can give our kids a second chance instead of going to jail. Thank you for coming out.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming out and spending the evening with us as we work together and for each other to keep our city beautiful. There was a quote by Maya Angelou, "You will forget what people said and you will forget what people do, but you will never forget how you made them feel." And I say that as a whole on counsel, we have to be mindful of how we treat each other, it could make or break any of us at any time. I would like to encourage us to be more intuitive of what we do and say to each other because it projects and it projects out to the public, and we always want to stand as a unit. I remember what my grandmother used to say "When you point one finger, four fingers come back to you."

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Marie and Fran, thank you both for stepping up to the boards. They were both positions that need to be filled, so thank you for volunteering your time. Miss Bailey, thank you for what you're doing with the juveniles in the community and that too is a very well needed program. Safe travels home.

Mrs. Bookman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thank you for your service in time and spending your time with us this evening. Safe travels.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Marie, it is so good seeing you today. Thank you and Fran for taking key positions that needed to be filled. The lady who does the Lancaster paper, we've been having some really, really good summer series every other Friday. This Friday is our final one. They are very amazing. God has blessed us with good weather. We have a really good turnout; the crowds are just a nice crowd and no incidents. Everyone is out bringing their chairs and having a good time. For those who have been there, Fran, you have almost been to everyone. We've been blessed and the next one, the final one is next Friday. Laurie, you know how I feel about your organization. It's just so well needed and I'm always glad when you come to the podium. I don't think any of us think twice about partnering with an organization like yours, especially if Sgt. Ollis is in it. Your organization, and Amanda, in the Domestic Violence Group is something that is very, very dear to a lot of people, they just need that support. Thank you, Charles, for always coming out, sitting here and observing. I know you're going to do wonders for the

Downtown. Thank you for taking the time out and coming to our meetings. Thank everyone for coming and have a safe trip home.

President Lavender-Norris stated I'd like to take time to memorialize where we've been and where we are in our accomplishments since 2015:

- Established partnerships with Tower Health, Brandywine Health, natural Lands and 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Alliance
- Did not raise taxes
- Established Unity Day, Sounds of Summer, and the Grand Prix
- Have entailed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Streetscapes
- Worked on Route 30 and 82 alignment
- Legend Properties
  - Arooga's coming in
  - The old bank is slated for a restaurant
  - The corner lot is slated for retail mixed us
- Established LERTA
- Patton Park, Palmer Park improvements, Ash Park is moving into its advisory stage
- Established Instant ticketing for quality of life and blight remediation
- Hired Assistant City Manager, New Solicitor, new Codes Supervisor, New Finance Director
- City Hall Renovations
- Partnered to restore SEPTA Rail Service
- VPP grant for Economic Development Study
- Midway Arts building
- Chertok's warehouse renovated for up to 10 apartments
- Obtained Urban City Grants
- Amended Opportunity Zone designation
  - Catalyst rt 30 billboard
  - State Representative Dan Williams
  - Coatesville District Court
- Also, we have 3 revenue generating relationships and soon to be 4 with the Amphitheatre with Catalyst

Fate may have brought us to this point but faith is going to bring us through. Our City is no longer hidden under a cloud of negativity like a candle under a bushel. We're in the process of rebranding and we've been running this race with the understanding that it isn't given to the swift but to those who endure. The City of Coatesville is a winner. God Bless you. I look forward to seeing you at the next council meeting

## Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.