

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall
September 23, 2019

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, 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, City Solicitor, Anthony Verwey 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 Ms. Al Amin and Mrs. Bookman would not be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the September 9, 2019 meeting minutes; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1. President Lavender-Norris abstained due to her absence from the meeting.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

There were no additions. Deletions or modifications at this time.

Presentations

1. District Attorney Hogan

District Attorney Hogan explained “Operation Silent Night,” is an anti-crime initiative that has brought an unprecedented level of calm to Coatesville for the past two years. Operation Silent Night takes coordination between the city police, Chester County Detectives and the Chester County District Attorney’s office and it is tough on criminals. It can also be a costly program for the additional manpower and overtime.

Operation Silent Night targets drug dealers, gun crimes, and other violent offenders. The operation uses rolling search warrants, enhanced police patrols, grand jury proceedings, targeted arrests and coordinated prosecutions to maintain pressure on criminals. Operation Silent Night is designed to prevent and reduce violent crime, as well as gather intelligence about ongoing criminal activities.

District Attorney Hogan praised the improvements of the community relations under the leadership of Coatesville Police Chief Jack Laufer and his officers who engage with young adults

and “ticket” them for doing something good, by rewarding them with a gift card or other award for their actions to improve the community. He described what the city police do on the streets every day as a model for other police departments.

Operation Silent Night, originally created in 2012, is a comprehensive law enforcement operation that combines the resources of the Coatesville Police Department, the Chester County Detectives and other law enforcement agencies. District Attorney Hogan, urged the police and city council to continue the program next year with the new DA and continue to reduce violent crimes.

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

There were no citizens comments at this time.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Non-Uniformed Pension
Vice President made a motion to approve the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Non-Uniformed Pension; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Receive and consider 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Firemen’s Pension Fund
Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Firemen’s Pension Fund’ Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Receive and consider 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police Pension Fund
Vice President Green made a motion to approve the 2020 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Receive and consider approval to offer conditional offers of employment to the last three members from the part time eligibility list for the Police Department
Vice President Green made a motion to approve the offer of conditional employment for 3 part-time police officers; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

President Lavender-Norris explained the appointment of part-time patrol officers, the Civil Service Commission had 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 three 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 list of candidates for consideration by Council are ranked by score as follows: Felicia A DelliGati, Asim O.John and Maura R. McMahon From this list, Chief Laufer has nominated all three (3) names for conditional appointment as a part-time Patrol Officers in the City Police Department.

Vice President Green moved that Felicia A DelliGati, Asim O.John and Maura R. McMahon be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officers 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 Felicia A DelliGati, Asim O.John and Maura

R. McMahon are appointed as Patrol Officers on a part-time basis, subject to successful completion of a background check, medical and psychological exam

5. Receive and consider 2019 Budget Revisions

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the 2019 Budget Revisions; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Receive and consider amended 2019 Salary Ordinance

Council asked for a copy of the original Ordinance to verify the changes.

Vice President Green made a motion to table amendment of the 2019 Salary Ordinance; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion.

7. Receive and consider Natural Lands Contracted Services Agreement

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the Natural Lands Contracted Services Agreement; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

8. Receive and consider engaging Lamb McErlane to serve as Solicitor for the Civil Service Commission

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve engaging Lamb McErlane to serve as solicitor for the Civil Service for the current case only; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

9. Receive and consider payment for National Fitness Campaign Equipment

Vice President Green made a motion to approve payment for National Fitness Campaign Equipment; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Folks made a motion to close action items; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion Item

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

2. Branding

Mr. Hunt asked for the City to move forward with adding the name Doris A. Spann to 10th and Chestnut Street.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Conducted meetings and settlement discussions to resolve certain litigation matters.
- Worked on a Right to Know request and addressed an appeal on behalf of the City
- Worked on certain pending land development issues
- Worked on a number of collection matters with regard to escrows, inspection fees and rents

- Addressed certain tax issues on behalf of the City
- Provided legal advice to the City's Police Department on enforcement of several Ordinances.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Trio announced;

- Thanked everyone for helping with the Grand Prix
- The Grand Prix had a record-breaking crowd of around 10,000 in attendance throughout the day
- Get ready for the 5th Annual Grand Prix to be held on September 19, 2020
- Meetings will resume with DEPG
- City received the first payment from Catalyst for the billboard
- Predevelopment meeting was held with developers of 190 W Lincoln Highway.

Assistant City Manager Report

Mr. Logan announced:

- Grand Prix was a success
- Community Update meeting will be held on September 26, 2019 at the Brandywine Health Building and is being sponsored by Midway Arts
- The 3rd Opportunity Zone will be held on September 25 at 7:30. The location is 132 East Lincoln Highway – hosted by Mark Milanese

Finance Director Report

There was no Finance Director report at this time.

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

There were no citizens comments at this time.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Folks, for driving the gator all day at the Grand Prix. Thank you, Public Works, for the outstanding job of setting up and cleaning up on Saturday. Thank you, City staff, who helped out along the event. Thank you, Ruthann Mowday, without your organizing the entrants, and all that stuff, passes, supplies and everything like that, we would be totally lost. Thank you, Mr. Logan, for an outstanding job. Thank you, Chief Laufer, for keeping us safe. I save the best for last, thank you, Mr. Trio, for an outstanding ob. No one know the effort that goes into this event. We literally meet every week. Outstanding job putting it all together.

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The last two weeks in Coatesville have been great. There was a car show at the Lukens Building, held by America's Finest Automotive Concepts in the City. It was their 1st Auto show and it was a 100% success. It was large and will be an annual event in the City. Too see all the people come into Coatesville and talk to a lot of the people. People asked if they were coming back next year, can you bring that back next year, how can I be involved in this, how

can I put my car in this? I tell them who to go to. The response we get for the City is really good. From what the City used to be, to what the City is yesterday to today, we're climbing, but it takes awhile and people don't realize. There was some criticism on Saturday about the roads being blocked, but you have one year to make arrangements. People said I can't get across the street and I say I can't get across either. I am just like everyone else to cross the street and I am fine with that, because I know a lot of money is put into the event. People are coming to the event and they are looking at Coatesville. So, this race is more than what we see. I'm very proud to work on that day because that's what it was. It was a job, but I'm doing it for the City, not for me but for the residents. I'm happy, tired but happy. To Mr. Trio and Mr. Simpson, we were the last ones out there. We were picking up signs and we had fun. Vendors ran out of food, the beer garden ran out of beer, so you know there was a lot of people at the event. There were a lot of cars at gateway Park just to show. Thank you, Krapf Buses, for transporting the people back and forth from the parking lots, God has shined sunshine on the City of Coatesville.

Mrs. Hunt stated it's a good time to be in Coatesville. I too want to thank the Grand Prix Committee and Mr. Trio for the great job you do with that each year. It's always good to see the progress. I'm just proud to be a part of the activities taking place in our City now. In regards to the leadership, I believe we have a great leadership in the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, Chief of Police and City Council. I am proud to be colleagues of each of you here. We have some major things happening in the City. You see great development, great relationships with the County and the Commissioners that we never had. We have a great president and Vice President that attend the meetings and make sure to get the information and bring it back to Council to keep them informed of things being done or need to be done in the City. We have a big election, three of us are up for election and things could change, and if it does, my thing is that whoever sits in this seat, that they see the value and continue so we can continue to see the City move forward. Again, I thank you for coming out and have a good night.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. The grand Prix has improved year after year after year. I think their perfecting the event. I think we did very, very well on Saturday. Our entire staff has been doing a wonderful job. I just want to get back to the Chief. I am so proud of our Police Department because not so many years ago, that we were plagued with murder after murder. Our young men were dying in the street's week after week. So many funerals and the sad part is, is that you know the families. I had my own nephew who stopped in the alley to urinate and got caught in crossfire and was murdered. He was only 28 years old and was gunned down and killed. At the time, my husband was a Chaplain for the Police. The Police called him to come as the Chaplain and when he gets there he sees his sister's son laying there in the street dead. It's overwhelming and to have our Police Department now. year after year, we were seeing decline and now we are sitting here, not seeing murders and our crime has been reduced. They call this "Silent Night", but with our Chief and the patrol officers, they just have a way in the City. Sometimes we don't always agree. I, we always get calls from residents. I always say if you not committing a crime, you don't have anything to worry about. You know what I mean. If you're not doing anything wrong, then you don't have to worry about the cops mistreating you. If they are mistreating, just to mistreat then that is something different. I tell you I see a difference in our community. You know people can walk down streets and people can drive through Coatesville. I don't want to hear I can't drive through Coatesville because of rug activity and shootings here and there. It doesn't happen anymore. This is the second time the Police Department has received this award. I just

thank you, Chief Laufer, for your commitment to the City of Coatesville, the commitment to your officers because you show that through your leadership. They aren't going to do it if they don't see it through their leader. I appreciate what you do and I appreciate our community and how you have just embraced it and determined to make it safe. I thank you and just want to acknowledge you for that. Rich, I am excited about you. You say you're a numbers person and so am I. I am just excited that you have done some of the things you have done. It makes things easier for us. You have opened our eyes and moved stuff around to make it easier to understand. Thank everyone for coming out, come again and have a great night.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. I appreciate you all. I think as staff makes admin look good, admin makes Council look good, and together we make the City look good. I appreciate you all and I am grateful to work with you all. When Mr. Hogan was speaking about the reporter at the press conference. It was going well until the reporter said something to the effect of "Are you just saying this for the cameras, what's really going on and are you just arresting people?" I said, wait a minute, we are residents, we live in the City, we wouldn't just allow the Police to just run up on anybody. Rogue arrest and just throw them away like they don't matter. Our residents are as important as our Police Department. We wouldn't go for any wrong doing and we wouldn't allow our resident to mistreat the Police Department. We have remained fair across the board. I think it was Vernon Odom, that asked the question. He was really turning it into a negative and it was an awesome "Operation Silent Night" throughout the City. I appreciate the Chief, your leadership and partnership with Mr. Hogan, to ensure that our City is safe. I thank you for that. It's been an awesome weekend. It's been a busy weekend and that's okay. It used to be quiet and boring and nothing going on. Now things are happening and it's going to keep us busy and as we're busy, you'll see the fruit of our nature. Thank you, God Bless and be safe on the road.

Adjournment

Mr. Folks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.