

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall
September 9, 2019

Vice President Green called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were Vice President Carmen Green, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, 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.

Vice President Green announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Vice President Green announced that President Lavender-Norris and Mrs. Bookman would not be in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the August 26, 2019 meeting minutes; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to add modify presentation to discussion item 1) Scott Nelson – Congresswoman Houlihan; 5) Developers/Engineering; Mr. Folk seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Presentations

1. Scott Nelson – Representative for Congresswoman Houlahan
Mr. Nelson was not in attendance during the presentations.

2. Coatesville Area Public Library (CAPL) – Penny Williams and Nakea Morris

The Coatesville Library is our Community Center designed to serve residents of the Coatesville area and promote a sense of belonging. Classes, workshops, community events, story times and other programs for children are offered. An newsletter will be emailed once a month.

The CAPL provides, information, programming, and current technology to the residents of the Coatesville Area that promote literacy, build community and enrich lives. The interior of the building will be refurbished and are currently waiting for three grants. There will be a new sign on the building. Thank you to the City for your continuous contribution to the CAPL.

3. Natural Lands Trust – Ash Park Master Plan

Ms. Clancy announced the Ash Park advisory committee will be meeting on Tuesday September 17, 2019 from 7 pm to 9 pm. The pool feasibility study is looking at what is need for functionality. One of the requirements on the grant is to have residents involved. There will be a child pool, the requirements are different than the one currently there.

One of the funders of Palmer Park was Disney. The park was selected as one of their premier parks. Disney was here on the 30th taping a video of the park.

4. National League of Cities – Timothy Evans and Valerie Scott Cooper

Mr. Evans announced National League of cities is a way to advance your community and leadership. Think of the opportunities from networking. There are savings and solutions for cities such as: Community Health (\$27 million and savings on retail prescriptions since 2009), Public Sector Retirement (Helping local governments provide secure retirement options for Civil Service), Civic Engagement (Connecting residents to decisionmakers on more than 250 topics to get real time feedback), Marketing and Tourism (Creative and professional videos to help attract and retain businesses), Residential Home Protection (Affordable home rep[air woth more than \$90 million in savings to residents), Municipal Financing and Grant Funding (Access to more than 9,000 grants from federal, state and foundation sources to help fund projects in the community. The National League of Cities offers a lot of opportunities.

Ms. Scott explained that Norristown was a struggling member for three years. The networking is a key, a wealth of knowledge has been gained and they have been a tremendous value to the borough.

5. Engineer/Developers – Cedarville Engineering, MECO Constriction, TN Ward and Pennoni Associates

Mr. Simpson stated there has been problems with the project manager and the City. The City wants results. There have been many nice days and no work is being done. How does the City know when work is being done for the City or the DePetris project? Ms. Barkasi explained she has spoken to Mr. Ebert from MECO Construction and have a process in place to document what work is being done when and where. Mr. Ebert explained that due to issues with PECO there are certain phases that can not be worked on. Mr. Turner explained that there has been a lack of information from PECO regarding the electrical issues. Mrs. Barkasi explained that PennDOT approves what stages can be worked on and when. Council explained that it is very discouraging seeing equipment just sitting there and no work being done. They asked for better communication, documented progress and if need be, crews working six days a week. Council does not want the project delayed. Mrs. Barkasi stated her firm is putting pressure on PECO daily to get the wiring and transformer work completed so the construction can proceed.

6. Legend Properties - DePetris

Mr. DePetris announced the attorney sent a very detailed timeline for the project to the City. Council asked for a copy of the timeline to review. The construction cannot proceed at this time. Mr. Trio explained the construction is going to be held to the current deadlines. The first phase in Coatesville's Gateway Redevelopment project is to be completed in March.

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

There were no citizens' comments on regular action items only.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider DVIT to authorize their banking agent, PayFlex Systems USA, Inc., to withdrawal or deposit funds directly from our payroll account

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve DVIT to authorize their banking agent, PayFlex Systems USA, Inc., to withdrawal or deposit funds directly from our payroll account; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion close action items; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion Item

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Conducted meetings and settlement discussions to resolve certain litigation matters
- Worked on Right to Know request response that exceeded 7,000 pages of documentation
- Worked on certain pending land development issues.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Trio announced:

- First and Lincoln Highway Intersection Project
 - Revised HOP plan to address utility conflicts for PECO
 - Ongoing construction/excavation contracts
- 3rd Avenue Streetscapes
 - Roadway portion of project completed
- Exiting Train Station Exterior Improvements
 - Waiting on scheduling from HBO and scope of work
- Pennsylvania American Water
 - Paving of 1st Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to take place on or before September 15th
- PECO
 - Work suspended gas line work. American Asphalt is repairing and paving 3rd Avenue RDA lot for temporary parking for redevelopment area and downtown business use

- Private Developers
 - DEPG
 - site work is continuing work being staged around PECO underground utility delays
 - Arooga's interior work has been filed with the City for permits
 - Solution to PECO vault removal and buried wire system has been developed and will take approximately 6 weeks to implement
- Code Enforcement
 - King Lovett is implementing the quality of life issues and citing violations.
- Catalyst
 - Bypass Billboard is constructed and working
 - 1st payment due in September
- Grand Prix
 - 11 days and counting to race day
 - Fundraising efforts have been accelerated
 - Continue to actively solicit vendors, participants and volunteers for race day

Assistant City Manager Report

Mr. Logan announced:

- Enet is working on the web design
- Historical Commission
 - Helping with drop down pages for the website
 - Working with Charles to recognize and identify buildings in Historic District
- Natural Lands Trust
 - Ash Park Advisory Committee is to inform residents of the feasibility study
- Public Works continues to work on the streets and alleys
- Codes – King Lovett is a great asset
- Symposium with 2nd Century Alliance and Mark Milanese on September 25, 2019
- Opportunity Zone – federally funded program
- Special Events
 - Last Sounds of Summer was a great turn out
 - Thank Mondre Boggs for professional courteous way of business
 - September 14th is movie night at Gateway Park. The movie is “The Incredibles 2”

Finance Director Report

Mr. Troutman announced:

- July and August have been closed
- All bank statements have been reconciled

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

Scott Nelson

Mr. Nelson stated he is from the 6th District Congresswoman Houlahan Office. They are doing an outreach to boroughs, towns, cities to offer resources and help with grants. Congresswoman Houlahan is an advocate for Coatesville.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items; Mr. Folk seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Going back to Mr. DePetris and his letter, I am a little confused. When he was here in August, he said most of the stuff will reach the timelines lie sidewalks, yada, yada, yada and now we get this letter basically saying we're shut down, we can't do anything, we'll get back to you when we get a revised schedule. So as far as I'm concerned, he's under the gun to get everything done by October 15th. His letter now says, he can't work on the South Side because of PennDOT not letting him. Has PennDOT put restrictions on there that he can't work there. Mr. Trio stated not on the South Side. Mr. Simpson said that is what his letter says. "DEPG and TN Ward are currently working on competing the South (Bank) Lot and Northside Streetscape of E. Lincoln Highway. TN Ward is revising the scheduled completion date for this work. The completion of the Southside Streetscape work will be revised once PennDOT approvals are obtained. It's basically saying, he can't work on the South side at the bank until they are done everything go n 82. That could not be until spring. I think we need to address the letter, email, snail mail, ASAP because Mr. DePetris is going to work on a different timeline and he's just going to give us a broad statement that he can't begin by this date and we need reasons why and it's not an acceptable reason. I'm sick and tired everyone thinks, it's just Coatesville, we can do whatever we want, and it's like no you can't. You made promises, you made deadlines and your going to keep them.

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for attending the meeting. I took a couple weeks off just to sit back and post. Mr. Logan asked where have I been. I just took a break. This week, I'm going to be back to the new businesses that's in Coatesville and go to the old businesses to let people know what's going on in Coatesville. I'm on Facebook @ Donald Folks and always posting about the new businesses in town. The new business is Arts Building, New garage and new barber shop. I just want to keep people informed. I do love the City. Thank you once for coming out.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming out and spending the evening with us. I want to make sure that you understand as residents, as we as residents, that we are adamant to make sure that things get done, because for so long, things get started, and never get completed, and that's not going to happen on our watch. If we get a little testy sometimes, just bear with us. We want to make a better City to live in, not just for you but us as well. Thank you everyone who supported the Sounds of Summer. It was an awesome time. The music was awesome. It was really a nice time for us here at the City. Thank you staff for a job well done.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Please continue to come as the City grows. Safe travels home to everybody.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mrs. Hunt I appreciate the thoroughness tonight. It is important, our residents hold us accountable. We finished our Sounds of Summer last week. Mr. Logan did a wonderful job. But when you acknowledged the Unity Committee you forget to add Francesca. The Committee did a wonderful job on Unity Day and the Sounds of Summer festival. It was very enjoyable. We had our food vendor, she did a wonderful job. We look forward to next year. You know each year we want to improve and want to do better, I can't wait, we have so many idea. Thank everyone for coming. Keep us in prayer. Pray for the City of Coatesville, pray for your neighbor. Things are moving along and we just want things to progress. God Speed. Thank you and have a wonderful night.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.