

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320  
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall  
November 25, 2019

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, Mrs. Deborah Bookman, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Donald Folks and Mr. Edward Simpson. Staff members present included: Assistant City Manager, James Logan, Police Chief, John Laufer, Finance Director, Richard Troutman, City Solicitor, Anthony Verwey and recording secretary Ruthann Mowday.

An Executive Session was held earlier this evening November 25, 2019 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Lavender-Norris announced Mr. Trio would not be in attendance due to illness.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes and November 18, 2019 budget workshop minutes; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Mrs. Bookman was not present for the vote.

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

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

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to add presentation 3) Parks and Recreation Commission and 4) Liberian Community; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**Presentations**

1. Introduction of new Part-time Police Officers

Chief Laufer introduced Part-time officers Felicia Delli Gatti and Edward Kebbukus.

2. Census team for Chester County

Joy Dvornicich the

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Decennial census by the numbers.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> time using internet for self-response
  - 13,114 (population as of 2018) 0.3% growth since 2010
  - 4 census tracts
  - 3,894 (predicted not to self-respond – 29.7%)
  - \$2,093 (per count)
  - \$8,150,142 (potential lost federal funds)
- 2020 Census

- 10 simple questions
  - Schedule
    - Campaign runs from August 2019- August 2020
    - Total count due August 2020
3. Parks and Recreation Commission – James Bookman  
Mr. Bookman sked for a budget in the amount of \$1,150.00 for the Santa House, Winter Wonderland. The monies will assist with all the decorations. President Lavender-Norris suggested the Grand Prix provide the funding. Mr. Bookman provided an update on Patton Park. There needs to be a better line of communication regarding the basketball court set up.
4. Liberian Community  
Mr. Wilson announced the Liberian Community is looking for a building to use as their Community Resource Center. He asked the City to help identify a building for their use.

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

There were no citizens hearings on regular action items only.

**Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider 2020 Preliminary Budget  
Mr. Verwey read the Chart on the City Code §2-604 E Council review: on or before 30 days prior to the end of the fiscal year, the Council shall complete its review of the proposed budget, make such adjustments as it deems necessary and adopt a preliminary budget.
- Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the 2020 preliminary Budget; Mr. Folk seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Vice President Green was the dissenting vote.
- Council scheduled a budget workshop on Monday December 2, 2019 to discuss revisions to the preliminary budget.
2. Receive and consider Accounting Policy and Procedure Manual  
Mr. Troutman explained the Manual has not been updated in years and is required as one of the auditor findings to update the policies and procedures manual.
- Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the Accounting Policy and Procedure Manual; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Receive and consider rescinding Resolution No. 2019-14 approved on May 13, 2019 - requesting a Greenways, Trail and Recreation Program grant of \$195,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the revitalization of Palmer Park  
Mr. Logan explained DCNR asked to rescind the Resolution 2019-14 as the amount approved is incorrect.

Vice President Green made a motion to rescind Resolution No. 2019-14 approved on May 13, 2019 - requesting a Greenways, Trail and Recreation Program grant of \$195,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the revitalization of Palmer Park; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Receive and consider Resolution No. 2019-20 requesting a Greenways, Trail and Recreation Program grant of \$100,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the revitalization of Palmer Park

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve a Resolution No. 2019-20 requesting a Greenways, Trail and Recreation Program grant of \$100,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the revitalization of Palmer Park; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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

### **Discussion Item**

1. Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Bookman at the last meeting the Movement event was approved with the recommendation of police presence. She asked if this is consistent and have there been other events where the fees were charged. After review, there has not been a fee charged for Police presence in over a year. The application process needs to be consistent. The person handling the process should be knowledgeable when accepting the permit.

2. Doris A. Robinson-Spann Dedication

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone that took a part in the event on November 23, 2019 for Doris Spann-Robinson. The dedication at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Chestnut was over the top. 150 to 200 people attended. Thank you, Mr. Logan for help with set up and clean up. We need to rededicate Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. There needs to be a dedication ceremony.

### **Solicitors Report**

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Reviewed and advised the City on certain real estate documents.
- Addressed questions related to possible ordinance amendments.
- Addressed certain land development issues on behalf of the City.
- Addressed certain personnel issues.

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

Due to City Manager absence, there was no report.

### **Assistant City Manager Report**

Mr. Logan announced:

- The work on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Route 30 & 82 realignment continues

- The paving has been completed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
- Public Health Accelerator Conference
- Unity Day Planning Group has been meeting for the 2020 event
- The Ash Park Advisory Group has been meeting monthly
- Parks and recreation Commission have met to plan events for December
- The Coatesville Train Station to meet on the planning of the new station

### **Finance Director Report**

There was no Finance Director report at this time.

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

#### Richard May

Mr. May stated he has spoken to Derrick Morgan about the performing arts center on the Flats. Mr. May would like to explore using the building at 112 East Lincoln Highway as a temporary performing arts building.

#### Laurie Shannon-Bailey

Mrs. Shannon-Bailey congratulated Mrs. Bookman on her win as Prothonotary. She presented a check to Chief Laufer for Shop with a cop. Since Shop with a Cop received enough money for their event. The check will be used for mentoring program with Coatesville Juvenile Alliance.

Mrs. Bookman made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Vice President Green 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. I appreciate you all. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and see you after the Holiday.

Mr. Folks stated it is good to be back. It really is good to be back. I believe this Council is working hard to move forward with the City. I'm excited my first day back, well it was Saturday. I helped feed people on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Fleetwood Street from the food truck from HBO, who was giving ack to the community and the event Mrs. Hunt put together, Oh Man, Coatesville shined! It was really good. It was really good. The big event coming up is "Shop with a Cop." I've been going for 15-16 years. That's my baby. The Chief and the cops put on a really good event for our children who can't afford a baby doll or a pair of socks. The event is December 14<sup>th</sup>. Everything is going on that day to. If you could come out on the 15<sup>th</sup> and help out. Be a volunteer or chaperone, come see me. This is my baby too. We meet at Olivet Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Chestnut Street to have breakfast and then head to Walmart, full on cops. To feed on that, one time we had a kid, that all he wanted to do is buy some food because he didn't have none at home and he was hungry. He was able to use the \$100 for food and was given another \$100 for Christmas gifts. So, that's the kind of people we get at this. It's a great day, Super Day. Pray for our

City, keep our City in your prayer because we need prayer, pray for this team, pray for the Police Department, you see we just got two more and keep us safe. That's what I like about the City. My brothers over there, somethings going to happen so, keep coming. Thank you, have a good night and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. I thank you for spending your evening with us once again. It's good to see you here. I would like to echo many of the words my colleague spoke. We area good City! We area good Council and I am proud to be a part of it. Thank you, Ms. Al Amin for your help on Saturday. She came down to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue after helping at the event and helped to make sure everyone was served. I just want to thank you. Good evening. Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. I look forward to seeing you again.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for continuing to come out and for all the support you give the City. Thank you, gentlemen for coming out. I am going to keep your venture in prayer. I certainly hope we can work together to make this happen. I think this is a wonderful idea you want to do. Mr. Folks, I want to welcome you back, all healed and hip is all better and your back to a=walking normal. Congratulations to everyone on their success at the election this year. We need to continue to work together to move the City forward. Hope everyone has a great holiday and safe travels home.

Mrs. Bookman thanking everyone for coming out and staying with us. I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and will do it again on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Vice President Green wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Liberian gentlemen we appreciate your willingness and coming out to our meetings. I hope that you will be able to find a building and you will be able to do something with your organization and community service. It is good to see you Reverend Acey. I was so encouraged this afternoon, we received an email form Pastor Dan Wagner. He sent an email out to the City saying that he was encouraging us and thanking us for our leadership and that thye prayed for the City and also prayed for the leadership of the City. It was really encouraging because I am a faith-based woman. I know prayers are need and prayers are welcome. I appreciate those who support us, support is support. Our city has gone through a lot and I see a transformation. I see a lot of change in the City of Coatesville. You know when you are o the right path, things are looking good, the enemy can come in and I just want to keep our City in prayer. We have a young man who is missing, pray for his family. Mrs. Hunt has been speaking about an organization that she is going to start up because of the number of young children missing that you hear about. There is a problem whether it is human trafficking or whatever the reasons. We need to be mindful to lift up our young people and parents. I thank Chaya for coming. I'm glad to see you out today. I thought you were coming to the podium for something but it's good to see you. Like I said, there's a lot going on in Coatesville. I know it excites me every day when I ride down 30 and get to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and then get to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and see all the changes. I see that things are coming and you hear about the amount of people that are excited about Coatesville and they live outside of Coatesville. People are loosening up about driving through Coatesville and I'm encouraged by that. Thank you everyone. Thank you, staff. You know, Richard, I can be difficult at times but I just want to get a better understanding of this. Just want to thank everyone for the job and service they do, Chief, Ruthann, Mr. Logan and Mr. Verwey. Have a good holiday and be safe.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for coming out. I echo my colleagues' sentiments. I pray you are safe on your way home and find your homes the way you left them. God Bless and Happy Thanks giving.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Folks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55pm; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.