

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320  
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall  
December 9, 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, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, Mrs. Deborah Bookman, 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 December 9 2019 to discuss personnel and legal matters.

President Lavender-Norris announced Mrs. Hunt and Mr. Folks would not be in attendance.

### **Public Hearing on 2020 Preliminary Budget**

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the November 25, 2019 and December 2, 2019 budget workshop meeting minutes; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Approval of Accounts Payable**

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

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

Vice President Green made a motion to delete action item 6) Receive and consider amendments to the 2019 Budget and add item 6) receive and consider payment to James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$12,530.67 and Meco Constructors Inc. in the amount of \$53,434.06; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Presentations**

1. Catalyst – Amphitheatre

Mr. Chistakis provide Council with a power point showing the Amphitheatre to be located at 1ts Avenue and Lincoln Highway in the Corner off Gateway Park. The lease for the Amphitheatre was executed in 2017. Catalyst has finalized all court proceeding and the restrictions on the property have been revised. Under the lease agreement, which is a front-loaded rental agreement, the City will receive \$1,500 to 3,000 a month in rent. The overall revenue will be \$1.3 million staggered over 29 years. The engineering plans will be summited for approval in early 2020, with the construction to follow. Catalyst is paying for all costs and the building, supplies, plan reviews and engineering will be paid by their firm, not the City. This is not being payed for by the taxpayers. The goal for completion is prior to the 2020 Fourth of July celebration. Council agreed to move forward and have it built by the celebration.

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

There were no citizens comments on regular action items at this time.

**Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider an Ordinance appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City Government as herein set forth, for the year 2020  
Vice President Green made a motion to approve an Ordinance appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City Government as herein set forth, for the year 2020; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Receive and consider Ordinance amending Chapter 203 (Taxation) establishing the tax rate for General purposes for the year 2020  
Vice President Green made a motion to approve and Ordinance amending Chapter 203 (Taxation) establishing the tax rate for General purposes for the year 2020; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Receive and consider an Ordinance providing for salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City of Coatesville  
Vice President Green made a motion to approve an Ordinance for salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City of Coatesville; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Receive and consider Barbacane, Thornton and Company LLC for the independent audit of 2019 fiscal year  
Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve Barbacane, Thornton and Company LLC for the independent audit of 2019 fiscal year; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Receive and consider Thursday January 2, 2020 Re-Organizational Meeting time  
Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the Thursday January 2, 2020 Re-Organizational Meeting time at 5:00 pm; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Receive and consider payment to James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$12,530.67 and Mecco Constructors Inc. in the amount of \$53,434.06  
Vice President Green made a motion to approve payment to James R. Kenney Excavating and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$12,530.67 and Mecco Constructors Inc. in the amount of \$53,434.06; Mrs. Bookman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
7. Receive and consider Millview Basin Retrofit – 2019 Growing Greener Grant submittal  
Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Millview Basin Retrofit – 2019 Growing Greener Grant submittal; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to close action items; Ms. Al Amin 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:

- Reviewed and advised the City on certain real estate matters
- Addressed questions related to vacant properties
- Addressed certain land development matters on behalf of the City.

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

Mr. Trio announced:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Highway – Asphalt plans closed until Spring
- HBO finished filming yesterday
- Private development for Records Building – awaiting decision from the Liquor Control Board on their license
- Nothing currently in front of the Zoning Hearing Board
- Planning Commission
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on the Mosque
  - DEPG Gateway Park
  - Sonny currently working on a parking plan

### **Assistant City Manager Report**

Mr. Logan announced:

- The website continues to be improved
- Historical Commission is working with the City
- New banners on Lincoln Highway – Raleigh Outdoor décor
- Celebrated Parade
- Parks and Recreation – Winter Wonderland – 1<sup>st</sup> Tree lighting in three years
- Unity Day – three meeting so far – 7/11/20
- Parks and rec working on the Easter Egg Hunt – LK Petry reading
- City Hall Phase 2 – door will be done this eek
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Alliance – Home Ownership Program
- Code Supervisor – King Working with Business and PennDOT
- Eagle – Small Advisory committee to work with better service

### **Finance Director Report**

There was no financial report at this time.

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

James Hills

Mr. Hills voiced his concerns on the billboards at the Amphitheatre being a distraction to drivers. He questioned as to why the prohibited parking signs are mainly posted in the African American Neighborhoods throughout the City.

Richard Hanes

Mr. Hanes presented a check in the amount of \$500 for shop with a cop from the Liberian Community

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Simpson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming out. Have a ice holiday.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for coming out and sharing your thoughts and ideas. I hope you continue to come out. Hope you have a nice holiday and safe travels home.

Mrs. Bookman announced this is officially her last public council meeting where she will be sitting on this side of the table. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents for the past two years and I have learned a lot, I've grown, argued a lot, don't think I've cried. As a Council member, I ran and I wanted to help be a part of the changes coming out in our community. I am very grateful that I have been part of the process for the past two years. On January 2, 2020, I will be serving the residents on a County level and I feel very honored and very humble doing that. I just want to thank you all. I'm not going to be on this side of the table but I will be sitting out there again. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you as I continue coming to the meetings. Coatesville is changing and the best is yet to come. I am just proud to have been a part of that. To my colleagues, I thank you, it has been a very interesting ride. I learned a lot, learned a lot about me and because of it, it has enabled me to move into another position, so thank you. Chief, I thank you for everything. Peter, thank you for all the accounting knowledge. Thank you, Happy New year and Happy Holidays. I'll see you in those seats next year.

Vice President Green thanked Mrs. Bookman and said she would miss her. Thank you for all your service and all you have done. We had a wonderful weekend this weekend. It is so amazing when the City comes out for the parade, the tree lighting and Santa Claus. I just love when we come together. Santa's House is going to be open every Saturday. Mr. Bookman stated not this year, it will not be open again. Vice President Green stated amazing job done on the decorations at the park. So you all can stop by and see it. Mr. Hills, I'm quite sure if you have contacted the Chief yet, to contact the Chief and he can help you regarding the issue. He is the one who would look into that. I thank everyone for coming out. The Liberian gentlemen and ladies, we so appreciate your generosity. You weren't kidding when you said you were going to start being involved in the community. Thank you, actions speak louder than

words and we really do appreciate everything you have done. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. This is our last public meeting of the year. Staff, I appreciate all your hard work and commitment to the city. Thank you so much. Have a good night.

President Lavender Norris thanked everyone for coming out. Merry Christmas and Happy new Year. This will be our last public meeting this year. We appreciate you. We thank you for being a part of the City. I echo my colleagues' comments especially to the Liberian Community for not just being in the community but for being a part of it. We thank you all for that. We appreciate it. Coatesville is moving forward. Our best days are ahead of us. I'm grateful to all who have been a part of it. Thank you, Sonny, you are so appreciated. You have been a wonderful part of us and thank you for all you've done. The Eagles are on so have a Blessed night and be safe getting home. Happy New Year.

**Adjournment**

Vice President Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.