

**MINUTES
CITY OF COATESVILLE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 – 5:00 PM.
1 CITY HALL PLACE, COATESVILLE PA 19320
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COATESVILLE CITY HALL**

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members present were President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Mr. Donald Folks, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, and Ms. Khadijah Al-Amin. Staff members present included: City Manager, Michael Trio, Assistant City Manager, James Logan, Police Chief, John Laufer, and Finance Director Richard Troutman.

Swearing in of Elected Officials

The Honorable Judge Gregory Hines swore in Linda Lavender-Norris as her husband held the bible.

The Honorable Judge Gregory Hines swore in C. Arvilla Hunt as her family members held the bible.

The Honorable Judge Gregory Hines swore in Edward Simpson as Mrs. Green held the bible.

Acknowledge resignation of Deborah Bookman

Mr. Trio announced Mrs. Bookman resigned as City Council at large via email dated December 24, 2020 to be effective December 31, 2020 due to her election of Prothonotary.

Election of City Council President

Ms. Al Amin nominated Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt for Council President. Mrs. Hunt respectfully declined as she believes the Council has moved forward the last two years with the current leadership. She thanked Ms. Al Amin for the nomination.

Mrs. Hunt nominated Mrs. Linda Lavender- Norris for Council President; Mrs. Green seconded the nomination. Nomination passed 5-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

Election of City Council Vice President

Mrs. Hunt nominated Mrs. Green as Council Vice President; Mr. Folks seconded the nomination. Nomination passed 6-0.

Resolution No. 2020-01 – City Council Meeting Dates

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-01, City Council Meeting Dates for the year 2020; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Resolution No. 2020-02 – Designating Emergency Response Service

Council question the format of the Resolution and asked for clarification of the changes.

Vice President Green made a motion to table Resolution No. 2020-02, Designation Emergency Response Services; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion tabled 6-0.

Adopt Robert Rules of Order for the Year 2020

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adopt the Roberts Rules of Order for the year 2020; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

1.2 Minutes

Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

President Lavender-Norris read the Proclamation commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Comments – City Council President

President Lavender-Norris stated she could not say it better than the Dr. King. The Proclamation does it for me. I will say, I will do the best to lead as I follow Christ. I'm not here for personal gain, reputation to form of fashion. It's about the Community for me. Any questions comments or concerns, feel free to approach me and I will do everything I can to answer. If I don't know the answer, I will go and find the answer. Thankyou to my colleagues for nominating and voting for me to be President. It's been a honor to be in the past and look forward to the future. I will move forward in what we've been doing and by the Grace of God will have a job well done.

Comments – City Council Vice President

Vice President Green stated she appreciated all her colleagues for their faith and trust. I will always serve with fidelity and integrity. Mrs. Hunt I thank you for you comment and your faith you have in the City. Coatesville is rising and there's a lot going on and we're doing a lot, a lot of irons in the fire. I feel so blessed by each and everyone of you and the role that everyone plays. It tells the President and Vice President don't make Council, it's you guys, we all work together, we all have the same common denominator and that common denominator is what's best for the City. I do thank you all to everyone in the audience. Whatever it takes, whatever I can do, if you have any questions. I spend more time, sometimes my husband hollers at me that I spend more time on the City than my own person business. Anything I can do, any questions, I can try to be there as much as I can. I'll try to be a n open book; my email is available. I got in trouble for giving out my phone number out on stuff. You don't want to do that because you get calls all hours of the night and day. I am available as a servant of the City, because we are all servants of the City for Coatesville. This is not a paid job. This is something we commit ourselves for ourselves, our families and generations to come. I thank each and everyone of you for the confidence.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for coming out. I hope we can continue to move the City forward. I think there is a lot of good things that are going to happen for Coatesville and I look forward to being a part of them.

Comments – City Council Members

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for coming out. I hope we can continue to move the City forward. I think there is a lot of good things that are going to happen for Coatesville and I look forward to being a part of them. I just want to wish everyone safe travels home. Thank you for coming out.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming out to witness the swearing in and the reorganization. As I stated earlier, I feel that when it comes to filing a position and we are moving in the right direction, there is no need for change. Mrs. Lavender-Norris and Mrs. Green, I appreciate all the work that you do tirelessly and never fail to gather information and share it with Council. There is never any doubt of what is going on and the way you make yourselves available as a President and Vice President should do. I just appreciate that and I look forward to spring so we can see the revitalization in downtown. Thank you all for coming out. Thank you to my family, my children for coming out. We have some refreshment for when this is done.

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for coming out. I can remember when Dr. Martin Luther King made that speech. I was a little kid and it was so powerful then and it is so powerful now, that we still struggle to hold hands in this great nation. Pray for this nation, not just for the City but the world as a whole. Wars are starting to spark up and a lot of people are going to die. We need to come together and pray. We need to come together and go to the polls. If we can stand in line to get chicken, we can stand in line to make a vote.

If you want change, be at the polls, because the Country is in trouble. If the Country's in trouble, the City's in trouble. God Bless you.

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for coming out. I started out on this campaign 16 years ago. When I first ran, I said it would be the four years because of the eminent domain thing. I said I would help to get that over with and we did that. I ran again, again and again. Two years ago, I said I'm done, I'm not going to do this anymore. I've been on this City Council for 12, 13 years and I didn't see anything positive happening the entire time I was on. It's been within the last two years that we really noticed a change in this City. I want to thank everyone that has vee connected to it. President and Vice President congratulations. I want to reach out to our staff, to each and every one of them because everyone if directly responsible for what is going on. I want to reach out to 2nd Century Alliance and stakeholders. We wouldn't be here if it wasn't a community effort to turn this City around. We thank everyone. I would be remised if I didn't thank Marie Lawson back there for here time on Council because she was part of making the transition and change. I'm here for four more years. I say this every time. It's gonna be my last year but at the last of these years I'm done. So, we have four years to get things done and make the City a destination point. Thank you for coming out and Happy New Year.

Staff Comments

Mr. Trio thanked Council for a great end of a decade. There are a lot of complicated and fruitful things that have come out in the last few years. Thankful to be a part of it. The City's moving forward and rising. I think we are living up to our mantra right now. Mr. Simpson commented on the partners and stakeholder in the City. 2nd Century Alliance, Charles, Sonny, the folks working on the commission, there are a lot of folks doing work for the City. Thank you and I look forward to the next decade.

Chief Laufer announced January is his 8th Anniversary with the City. He is excited to start the 8th year as he was the first. I am excited to start 2020 and just happy to be a part of the City. Thank you.

Mr. Logan stated it is wonderful to serve Council and the Community. I think you all now my heart is with the City of Coatesville. I look forward to 2020.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Folks seconded the motion passed 6-0.