

City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall
Monday, January 27, 2020



Council Present Council President Linda Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Mrs. Marie Lawson, Mr. Edward Simpson

Council Absent: Donald Folks

Staff Present Michael Trio, City Manager; James Logan, Assistant City Manager; Anthony Verwey, Solicitor; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Chief; Richard Troutman, Finance Director; and Ruthann Mowday, recording secretary

President Lavender-Norris called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. She announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening January 27, 2020 to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters.

Approved Minutes

There were no minutes at this time to be approved.

Approval of Accounts Payables

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

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Vice President Green made a motion to add Appointment to Council prior to the discussion items and Action item 3) appointment to Zoning Hearing Board Officer

Vice President Green nominated Mrs. Marie Lawson as Council at Large until the Special Election in April; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

The Honorable Judge Gregory Hines swore in Marie Lawson as Council at Large while President Lavender-Norris held the Bible.

Presentations

1. Coatesville Historical Commission -Jeff Deacon

Mr. Deacon explained the Historical Commission was created to protect portions of the City of Coatesville which recall the architectural and cultural heritage of our City and State; to awaken in our people an interest in our historic past; and to promote the general welfare, education and culture of our city. The history of Coatesville is our responsibility to maintain, restore, and protect generations to come.

The Historical Commission is populated and staffed by volunteers from Coatesville City and the greater Coatesville Area. Some Historical Commission members have professional training in areas of history and architecture while others bring a passion about our shared past and a love of history and preservation.

The Commission has found opportunities to partner with a variety of local and regional institutions, organizations, developers and area business owners. The mandate for the commission is preserving the story of over 300 years of settlements.

The Commission is therefore charged with the responsibility of developing and continuing an effective program of landmark recognition and preservations. The Commission shall have the power of review and recommendation in any case involving the demolition of a landmark structure or alteration that would be in such manner as to change its initial character. The Commission shall have the opportunity to study and review all plans and proposals involving the reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition and razing of properly designated landmark as herein provide. The Commission is just one are of the city government and relies on involvement of other parts of the Civic to fulfill its mandate.

2. Parks and Recreation Commission

Mr. Bookman announced the Parks and Recreation Commission is celebrating Black History Month with book readings from African American authors, poets, leaders and artist favorites. Come, enjoy a pancake breakfast and bond over books read aloud by some of our community, residents from their favorite African American Children's books. The event is Saturday, February 15, 202 from 10 am to 12 pm, Coatesville City Hall. All kids between the ages of 6-17 are welcome.

A new edition will be added to the basketball courts in Patton Park. The original backboard was shattered on assembly and a new one is being sent out. Mr. Bookman asked for better lighting at Patton Park.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

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

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider payment No. 8 to MECO Contractors for the amount of \$8,798.40 from funds received for the Chester County CRP Funds
Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve payment No 8 to MECO Contractors for the amount of \$8,798.40 from funds received from the Chester County CRP Funds; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
2. Receive and consider Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Writ for Special Election of a City Council Member at Large
Vice President Green made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the Issuance of a Writ for Special Election of a City Council Member at Large; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
3. Receive and consider Zoning Hearing Board Officer

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the City Manager, Michael Trio to be the Zoning Officer; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to close action items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items at this time.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- Reviewed and advised the City on certain real estate matters
- Advised on issues related to Special Election
- Addressed certain land development matters on behalf of the City
- Prepared an Ordinance Amendment
- Addressed enforcement Issues

2. City Manager

Mr. Trio announced:

- Catalyst Amphitheatre engineering plans in progress
- Community Center – appraisal has been received for property in an as is where is condition
- 1st and Lincoln
 - Area winterized and performed stabilization along excavations on 1st Avenue. Monitoring Traffic control
- Train Station
 - HBO additional filming proposed on Feb 14-16, 2020
 - Train Station starts date is last ¼ of 2020
 - Working with real estate and engineering personnel
- PECO
 - Working with Senators Office for expediting Comcast and Verizon issues to finish in springtime
- Planning Commission
 - Discussing new 2 project in the next meeting.
- Zoning Hearing Board
 - Meeting on Bud and Blooms continued to Feb 25th.
- Kiosks are in next to the flower shop at 300 East Lincoln Highway

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Logan announced:

- The 1st VPP meeting was facilitated by 2nd Century Alliance & the City of Coatesville
- Martin Luther King Day clean up service – over 30 volunteers – Coatesville PD also conducted a Day of service in the city enlisting officers and community residents.
- Community Center building appraised

- Ash Park feasibility Planning Gropu continues master Plan Progress
- Workforce Development and Incubator Program meeting scheduled for Jan 28th
- Create Series: Business Skills for Success meeting schedule for January 28th.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

Mr. Simpson made a motion to close citizens hearings; on non-agenda items; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Council Comments

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Have a safe trip home. There are no sporting events this evening, so there is no hurry. Thank you.

Mrs. Lawson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It is fantastic to be back up here with most of my former colleagues. I feel like I didn't miss a beat. It's been nice to serve on the Civil Service Commission and Ash Park Advisory Board. O knew as soon as I got into them, it would be a matter of time. Thigs happened for a reason and I'm very appreciative for those who voted and their confidence in me this time around. I look forward to working with the City again. Thank you

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming out and sharing with us. I would like to welcome Mrs. Lawson back to City Council. You were such a great asset when you were here. I look forward to working with you in the future. Yesterday, out Country really suffered a major tragedy. The loss of nine precious lives. I ask that we continue to pray for the family of Kobe Bryant and the families of the others in the helicopter crash. I know how we feel, I feel and I can only imagine what those families are going through. I ask that we collectively pray for them. I know back in 1986, I suffered a major loss. I had my brother, his wife and child killed in a car accident as they were on their way here from South Carolina. I can feel some of the impact of what it does. Just yesterday and even today is just a very sad time in our country, so just continue to pray for them. Also, I want to invite you if you're not busy, it's been a real burden on me looking and reading that so many children are missing, being kidnapped and abducted. So, I put together a task force. We had a meeting right before Christmas and will have another meeting this Thursday at 6:00 pm here in the Council Room. If anyone is available, we would like you to come out and to see what we could do, I do not know really where to start, it's just something I want to do and see what we can do and try to combat some of the stuff going on right here in our Community. If you are available, it is on 1 hour @ 6:00 pm on Thursday. Would love for you to come. It is exciting to hear about the things going on in the City and continuing to go on. So just continue to pray for Council as we move things forward.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for coming out an being a part of the Council meeting. I look forward to the City to move forward and accomplish the things we have been working on for a long time. Safe travels home.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. I love to see the Liberian nation here, although they didn't speak. You are welcome here as always. There are a lot of new faces here. The MLK day was such a wonderful day, it was so wonderful that there were so many people, organizations and groups of people participating and coming together to community clean. They did a replica march of the Selma March from gateway Park to 4th Avenue. There was about 100

people who participated man, women and children. There were so many people who came out to the CYWA and donated their time and painted. They did things in the agency. The local church provided a beautiful soul food lunch, it wasn't a lunch it was a buffet. There were so many people that were excited to work in the community. I wish we could do that every day, picking up trash, painting, cleaning, just doing whatever we could do. Dr King has a wonderful legacy and wonderful tribute that we do for him as a day of services. Thank everyone who came out, checked on their neighbor, being nice to their neighbor, whatever the case may be, it was a wonderful time. I am excited too about the good things that are going on in the City. Very excited about being on the 2020 schedule for the Train Station Like I keep saying over and over and over again. O excited about discussion on building our own Fire Station. I'm excited about all kinds of stuff, its about improving the quality of life for our residents. Some things we can do, and some things we can't do. But for all the things that we can impact and do, trust me this group of seven will make sure we try. We partnered with 2nd Century Alliance, grateful for Main Street Manager, Charles and so grateful for Urias, the Community Organizer. You guys and the things that you do and the things you bring into the City. We had a wonderful thing today honoring our first local business in the Community. Joe Colon, Automotive Detailing Company. Its just wonderful his business is so nice and clean and he's been here for a year. He seems to be doing very well according to what he said. I feel bad because I didn't even know his business was here since I work the opposite way and by the time I get to the City, heels closed. I appreciate them and I appreciate your forming the program. The wonderful plaque you presented to him, his family and coworkers was wonderful. You know we have to support our business's we have to give them, its one thing we try to get them to come here, open up here, but we need to patronize them and we need to acknowledge them. I thank you for that program, Charles, and I urge you to continue acknowledging other new businesses in the City and the old businesses. Thought it was a wonderful thing. Thank everyone for coming out and we appreciate you all very much.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for coming out this evening. Thank you to the Historic Commission for the presentation and the work you do here. I echo Vice President Green on her sentiments regarding the ceremony for Mr. Colon. It is a pleasure and honor to just acknowledge and show our appreciation to the businesses who have decided to stick with us. Also, a little side note, today is John Pawlowski's birthday. The gentleman who was at the VPP meeting and responsible for the Gazebo's over at the Riverwalk. Happy Birthday, Mr. Pawlowski! I had the pleasure of going to the White House to represent the City of Coatesville. It was for a discussion on transforming local communities. Very well attended. Mayors from all across the Country. I talked to quite a few of them, engaged with a few of them. A couple of them were asking, one gentleman was from Pittsburgh and he said he had his eye on what the City of Coatesville is doing and wanted to know how we were making things happen. My. First response to him was, collectively, it's not any individual, its not only the local governments, it's the residents, it's the retailers, its everyone involved. That's how we get it done. He appreciated hearing that and said that might be their problem. It could be because if your trying to tug the boat by yourself, its not going to happen, but if you have quite a few people helping, trust it will move forward and that's where we're going by the Grace of God. But it was a wonderful time. I had the opportunity to meet Ben Carson, Kelly Ann Conway and our President. God knows I don't agree with a lot of what they say or do. However, I totally 100% respect their positions and the mere fact, I was there representing the City, it caused me to stand still and respect it mores. It was a pleasure and there are people watching us, we don't know it, however it is happening. Our City is just moving forward in so many ways. Its

an exciting time. I anticipate every day, what's next because it isn't happening all at once. Its steps, its increments, each one is building and its exciting to wake up and say what's going to happen today, what are we doing today, how are we moving forward? Things as big as out Train Station and then something as minute as us being out on MLK Day cleaning up. It was so much fun. It was cold. It was definitely cold. However, I had a pole saw in my hand and I was cutting down trees and bushes. I loved it to the extent I told my husband I want a pole saw for Valentine's Day. So, look out I'm coming back with it. I'm going to be busy. There were a few people there that asked if we could do a cleanup sporadically around the City on a monthly basis. Our Community is all that. We just have to come out and be a part. I wish you all a wonderful evening. Marie, Welcome Back. God Bless You all. Be safe on the road and will look forward to seeing you next time.

Adjournment

Mr. Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.