



City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA 19320
Council Chambers, Coatesville City Hall
Monday, February 24, 2020

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

Vice President Green called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. She announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters.

Vice President Green announced President Lavender-Norris, Mr. Folks and Mr. Simpson would not be in attendance.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the February 10, 2020 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0

Approval of Accounts Payables

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1. Ms. Al-Amin was the dissenting vote.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

There were no addition, deletions or modifications at this time.

Presentations

1. Robert Marshall – New Life in Christ

Mr. Marshall presented Council with a request to hold a Father's Day weekend 5k walk/run through Coatesville on Saturday June 20, 2020 from 8 am to 11am. It is for adults and children with emphasis on family engagement. Registration will be online and onsite of the 5k.

The route begins at Scott 6th Grade Center and stay on Olive Street to 12th Avenue and turn left towards business 30, turn left on Business route 30 and follow to 1st Avenue, make turn around and come back down business route 20 to Scott and finish there.

Sponsorships will be solicited to cover costs of the event and payment of all race day necessities. Participants will include individuals and schools. The invitation will be

extended to the local schools for student involvement in the community and family engagement.

Mr. Marshall submitted a special event application with a check for the application fee.

2. Kathy Dale – Fair Districts Pa

Ms. Dale explained that Pennsylvania has some of the most gerrymandered districts in the County. In 2018 the PA Supreme Court said our congressional districts were unconstitutionally gerrymandered and ordered the map redrawn. All the maps will be redrawn in 2021 through the same processes that allow political leaders to choose their voters and control outcomes. Fair Districts Pa supports reforms to create an independent citizens commission to redraw our district lines. States that have put citizen commissions in place have seen improvements in representation, competitiveness and voter trust.

There are currently two House Bills (HB 22 and HB23). HB 22 will define how to draw state legislative districts. It requires a constitutional amendment. HB 23 will create an independent citizens commission to draw federal congressional districts. It does not require a constitutional amendment.

She asked Council to pass a Resolution in support of a citizen's commission for legislative and congressional redistricting.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

Naydea Graves

Ms. Graves asked Council to approve the Resolution supporting the legislative and congressional redistricting. She asked Council to put the power into the people not the politicians.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens gearing on regular action items only; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider AFSCME Contract for 2018-2022

Ms. Hunt made a motion to approve the AFSCME Contract for 2018-2022; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

2. Receive and consider Ordinance No. 1530-2020 providing for salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1530-2020 providing for salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City; Mrs. Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance No. 1531-2020 amending Chapter 218 – Vehicle and Traffic

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve first reading an Ordinance No. 1531-2020 amending Chapter 218 – Vehicle and Traffic; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Receive and consider Resolution No. 2020-05 in support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-05 in support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mrs. Hunt read the Resolution.

5. Receive and consider Police Department promotions – Officer Carmen Mollichella promotion to Corporal effective March 1, 2020 and Part time Officer Samuel Snyder to Fulltime Officer effective March 1, 2020

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the Police Department promotions – Officer Carmen Mollichella promotion to Corporal effective March 1, 2020 and Part time Officer Samuel Snyder to Fulltime Officer effective March 1, 2020; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Chief Laufer explained there is an opening for the promotion and hiring due to the retirement of Corporal Shannon Miller.

6. Receive and consider appoint Jo Detelus or Fran Scamuffa to the Civil Service Commission for the term of 2019-2022 and Jo Detelus to the Parks and Recreation for the term 2020-2023

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to appoint Jo Detelus to the Civil Service Commission. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to appoint Fran Scamuffa to the Civil Service Commission for the term 2019-2022; Mrs. Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1. Vice President Green was the dissenting vote.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close action items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion Items

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he;

- Reviewed and advised the city on certain real estate and leasing matters
- Worked on pending litigation related to a Right to Know appeal
- Addressed certain land development matters on behalf of the City.
- Considered and addressed issues related liens held by the City.

2. City Manager

Mr. Trio announced:

- TIIIF Grant Streetscape Project
 - City working with Coleen Terry – Econ Partners to coordinate \$1.2 million dollar grant funding for the streetscaping project from 1st Avenue east to the 4th Avenue intersection to link the redevelopment area and business district to the train station improvements
 - The train station engineer will provide design service and streamline the coordination of construction building.
- Conducted meeting with Edward Murray, Principal of Boenning and Scattergood – Bond Financing alternative for public buildings and city projects for the next 5-year period.
- PennDOT – Route 82 box beam initiative – replacing beam on Route 82 – working jointly with Valley Township
- AFSCME negotiations completed – approved this evening.
- Zoning Hearing Board application for Buds and Blossoms has been withdrawn
- Parking Kiosks have been installed and are active at 251 East Lincoln and 3rd and Lincoln parking lots.
- Joint clean-up - South Coatesville proposed Joint participation in “National Clean Up Day” on April 25, 2020.
- Train Station
 - Current start date is last quarter of 2020. Work could be underway in 2020. A three-year timeline has been presented by PennDOT
 - Next project coordination and update meeting is March 9, 2020.
- Private Development
 - 190 W Lincoln – Proudfoot Capital/H2O Connected, LLC
 - Sidewalk work continuing
 - Demolition permits issued and interior demolition is progressing
 - Land development planning underway
- Planning Commission – Merchant Street Mosque land development plan will be submitted to Council on March 9, 2020.
- Grand Prix
 - 5th Anniversary Celebration
 - September 19, 2020

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Logan announced:

- The City of Coatesville partnered with Representative Chrissy Houlihan’s Office and the U.S. Census Bureau for a job fair. Eight potential applicants were accepted
- NFC Outdoor Fitness Center (OFC) campaign continues to build momentum. After meeting and grant submission, Bob and Jennifer McNeil have donated monies towards the OFC. Greg Vietri and Malvern Savings Bank have also pledged donation to the OFC.
- Black History Breakfast and Book Reading held on February 15, 2020, was a huge success

- The City of Coatesville, Brandywine Health Foundation, 2nd Century Alliance and the Western Chester County Chamber were all invited to discuss bringing back the Farmers Market to Coatesville.
- The City continues to work with Brandywine Health and Natural Lands Trust on the Greening Coatesville Initiative.
- Fresh to You: Recently met with the Program Director, Roberta Cosentino, Max Kulp and Sergeant Ollis to explore alternate parking and distribution locations for the Fresh too You truck.
- Friday, February 21st members of City staff, Councilwoman Linda Lavender-Norris, and our economic development partners met with the County Commissioners to provide an update and overview of the City's economic and community revitalization process.
- Create Series: Business Skills for Success will launch on March 17th and sessions will be held at City Hall.
- OZ Roundtable: In partnership with 2nd Century Alliance and White House staff, the City of Coatesville hosted Coatesville's 2020 Qualified Opportunity Zone Roundtable on February 11, 2020. The roundtable was the first 2020 QZ event designed to discuss best practices and create assurances that redevelopment resulting from QOZ projects will create community benefits in a collaborative, accessible environment with residents, developers and other stakeholders involved. A special visit from White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Executive Director Scott Turner led the discussion and highlighting federal agency contact and available resources to the City of Coatesville.

4. Finance Director

Mr. Troutman announced:

- Just a reminder, the Town Hall meeting where Portnoff Law Associates will be here to discuss their process is on March 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm.
- Over 500 letters were sent out for delinquent solid waste
- Department is preparing for the audit
- Rental license is due March 31st
- The RFP for financing bid will be open Friday at 1 pm.
- Vice President Green asked for the Town Hall meeting to be advertised on the website, Facebook, and Daily Local News

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

Felicia Spann

Ms. Spann voiced her concerns regarding the property adjoining hers. There are too many people, living there, bugs, fighting, vagrants. It is like a group home. Mr. Trio stated he would talk to Mr. Lovett about the property.

Kennedy Queh

Mr. Queh questioned the 2.5% earned income tax in the City of Coatesville and all other townships are 1%. Why are we charged to live in the City of Coatesville?

John Robinson

Mr. Robinson asked about the Community Center. He is interested in doing programs to get the talents of the community.

Montez Jones

Mr. Jones asked about the Community Center. He is extremely interested in the property and work with unifying our community. The agreement with the City states the property should be given to a non-profit.

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa thanked the members who voted for her to be appointed on the Civil Service Commission.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens' comments on non-agenda items only; Mrs. Lawson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Special Events

1. Coatesville Diamond Divas Drill Team – Community Market Place on May 23, 2020 at Ash Park from 9am to 5pm. A waiver of fees has been requested.
Vice President Green explained that the City does not waive fees for special events. Mr. Smith, member of the audience, offered to pay the fees for the permit. Council advised Ms. Allen that food vendors are required to have a permit from the County.
2. Nioka Key – Birthday Party on June 27, 2020 at Ash Park from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.
Council agreed with staff and permit was not approved due to all requirements have not been met.

Council Comments

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. I am very, very happy that it appears more and more individuals show up for the Council meeting. This pleases me very much because the only way for you to know what's going on, is to show up and attend and see what questions are asked, what votes are taken and how your particular representative is representing you. I'm very happy to see larger groups and very happy for all of those that are coming to do activities in the City. It makes me very happy and I want to wish everyone safe travels home and hopefully together we can continue to keep growing Coatesville.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming out and hanging with us for a while. It is good to see all the interaction with those that are interested in doing things in the City as well as supporting the things that are going on in and around the City. I am happy to see all the interest again being generated in the community center. I guess I can say, I pray that things will happen in the positive. Still understand, there is a process in things that have to be taken, but I'm sure our management here and the City will be more than happy to help you all with the things that need to be done. Everything does not just happen because you come and talk to Council to get it done. You better believe, we listen to what your saying, we listen to your questions that you ask, review the presentations you bring before us and we do our best to make wise decisions to things that are beneficial and helpful. I want to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission for the great black

history program. I think they have been awesome, but we need to get more involved with our children. We had all this going on and only had 15 children. There was so much going on and had so much food. Again, we thank you for coming out and look forward to working with our citizens.

Mr. Lawson thanked everyone for coming out. We had our first clean up in two years. We picked up 10 bags of trash, a crib, a bed, a carpet and a couch. This was only on two streets. I have another cleanup scheduled for march 14th and we are going to the West End starting at South Church Street over to as far as we can, with the people we have and the time allotted. That's how I started and that's how I'm going to keep it going. Mr. Marshall, I'm excited about the 5k. It is awesome. It brings so much to the City. People love coming out for the 5k's. The 5k events always have good turnout and you guys will as well. I want to thank everyone for coming out and I look forward to seeing you al next time.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. It is wonderful when you look out an see so many people in the audience. Just a couple of things, I'm confused about the Community Center. Do we have to get rid of it? We don't have to get rid of it, because the Community Center has always been the 9th Avenue Community Center forever. I would like to see along with Mr. Johnny Robinson, multiple people being able to use that building. I would like to see his boys' program there. I would like to see people being able to rent out the building for Thanksgiving meals or rent for parties and events being held there. I don't want to see it for one particular group. We are working with Lands Trust who is willing to come back in after they did Palmer Park. They want to come back in. We didn't give upon the Community Center. My biggest concern is when we got the community center when that building was turned over to the city. It was in very bad shape, very bad shape with utilities, very bad shape with the building itself, the floors were caving in, we put in the elevator and a whole bunch of stuff. The building needs a lot of work now, but I would like to see that remain in the community that way anyone in the community like your diamond divas could practice there. That it is not tied to one organization and that it is a community building and anyone can use it. Prior to it falling apart or remediation needing to be done, because it is not really fallen apart, prior to that you could go in and have an event for six hours and it will cost you like \$150 if that, was it 200 with \$50 back if you cleaned up after the event. How many places can you go for that. We need some things like that. I would love to see. There are so many people that are interested in that building. I'm like wow, do we to have to sell it, is there an expiration date on this because I don't want to sell it, I don't want to get rid of it. I want to keep it the same way that it is. I don't mean sell but transferring it over. I would like to keep it in the same way that it is for anyone and everyone. The community center needs to be open to everyone in regards to race, color, religion, anybody should be able to use that building. That's what I would like to continue to see used there. Maybe I was a little confused on that but we have so many different people inquiring about it. I would just love to see the ninth Avenue community center back up and running. See the beautiful mural on the outside of the wall that represents our community. The building has some remediation that needs done but prior to that we were still renting it out. Right now, we don't actively have a recreation department who used it before. But anyone could have used the building, but now we have the remediation that needs done. Now we want to put the money into the building and get it fixed up the proper way, so that we can fully utilize it. It just closed last election day. It takes money, it's just like if we turn the building over to anyone today. Do you have the money to start tomorrow? It takes money. It takes time, Lands Trust is working on that they're going they're going Park to Park. When they got done Palmer Park, they

went to Ash Park but they have also come back and said they were interested in the community center. The building was just closed down before election day because of mold or something. That's something that were working on. But the other thing is, I wanted to let speak to the young man in the back about the tax situation. I just want to address that real quick. You can come up at the end of the meeting and we can have a one on one. But I just wanted to address that here in the City of Coatesville we pay 2.5% in earned income tax and it is just one of those unfortunate things that we have to the amount of people we have here, the demographic ,who's paying taxes with the amount of people paying taxes, but unfortunately ours have to be higher, but at the same time, we don't charge any of the other taxes, so that you pay your taxes are higher if you live here. So if you work in Caln, which I do my earned income taxes is here but I still pay Caln \$75 a year for occupational privilege tax. For me to work there, see what I mean, we don't charge a residence that so that \$75 or \$72 that probably represents 1% in the earned income tax. So you may live in Coatesville and pay 2.5%, you may work in Caln or live in Caln and only pay 1% but you're also paying an occupational privilege tax. If you work there and that's another 1% and is unfortunate. Right now with the demographic that we have in the City, and what we are collecting in taxes, that we have to change in order to survive. The city doesn't manufacture anything. The city doesn't make anything. Our revenue is strictly from taxes, so it balances itself out. When you look at occupational privilege tax and a couple of nuisance taxes that they have probably the same thing. It is just that these smaller municipalities can only charge you a certain amount. If they could charge more, they probably would but they can't. We can talk about a little bit more but I just wanted to address that because this is about the third time someone has come in. I just think people do need to get an explanation on that. I know that if we don't have to charge it, we would not, but the city has to survive, we have the police department, fire department. We have not raised any taxes, we have tried to maintain it both with property tax and earned income tax. We have not raised the earned income tax since 2009 and property taxes since 2015. Again, thank everyone for coming out. I really appreciate seeing all the faces and it's an encouragement that everyone comes out want to hear. It's exciting, there are some exciting things going on in Coatesville Mr. Logan our Assistant City Manager just hosted a wonderful meeting with 2nd Century Alliance. We had Washington here, all the departments heads came here they didn't send their aides, they sent department heads to Coatesville. It is important to them and what's going on here. I'm excited that we have him, I'm excited about our staff period. So, there is a lot going on, there's a lot to be happy, there's a lot to be excited about. Thank you all for coming out and have a wonderful evening.

Mrs. Hunt stated that she just wanted to say one more thing before we leave. Of all the things were trying as a community, as a Council, that we are doing to beautify our city. We have a beautiful 9th Avenue Park that was revitalized within one week it was vandalized, with the splash pad redone within two weeks someone threw glass down in the hole and it threw out the whole brain in the system. So, you know where are trying, we are putting forth every effort. I went down there to the splash pad one night and they had cars pulled up on the splash pad, washing their cars. So, you see on this end, we are taking steps to improve. It is our community and we need to take it and own it and do our best. If you see someone vandalizing something, I'm not asking you to confront people because this is a different world but call over to City Hall, let someone know that this is going on. Just so you know were working, we are trying.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.