

Agenda
City of Coatesville
Via – Virtual Meeting via Zoom and You Tube – COVID 19
Monday, July 13, 2020



Council Present: President Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Ms. Nydea Graves, Mr. Donald Folks and Mr. Edward Simpson.

Council Absent:

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

President Lavender- Norris announced an executive session was held prior to the regular meeting regarding personnel, real estate and legal matters.

Approved Minutes

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the June 25, 2020 meeting minutes; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

Ms. Al Amin asked a quick question, so when I was reading through the minutes, and you know it has different things, it'll say who made the motion and who second it and what the vote is but not all of the conversations that took place in between a vote. Is there a reason Mr. Trio that the minutes don't reflect the conversation? Though they generally reflect the general conversations, they should have all the relevant information.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Green seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-2. Ms. Al Amin and Ms. Graves were the dissenting votes.

Ms. Al Amin questioned the SPCA billing. Is the City recouping the fees from the pet owner when the animal is returned to them? If not, the City should look into an Ordinance to recover the fees.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Vice President Green made a motion to postpone action item 2) promotion of Part Time Officer Kevin E. Marvill to full time; Ms. Graves seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3. Mrs. Hunt, Mr. Folks and Mr. Simpson were the dissenting votes.

Vice President Green explained the reason for deleting the item from the agenda. She asked to have a review of the Police Department and how many officers the City can afford. Chief explained that Detective Campbell retired after 21 years of service within the Department. He asked to have the item put it on the agenda to backfill the position, which keeps the City in compliance contractually and with the Cops Grant. The Police Department is obligated to

maintain current staffing levels for the life of the grant. Vice President Green asked for the information to review. Budget time is coming up, and there will be serious talks about the budget, not just the Police but every budget at City Hall. We do not want to add someone prematurely to the Department, and we can't afford it because that's where we are. There should be discussion and information regarding the compliance requirements that should be provided to the Council. Council would like to set up a meeting with the Chief to go over the budget and the amount of police officers and what is required to keep in compliance. After the meeting, the item can be placed back on the agenda.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

President Lavender-Norris announced there were no questions. Ms. Al Amin asked how residents could ask questions on regular action items or non-agenda items. Some folks do not understand how to do it. Mr. Trio explained the policy/practice is we receive a request for information from a citizen, constituent, or stakeholder, and we would present it to Council at this time. If they make their questions known before the meeting so they can get an answer in real-time or Council will answer as soon as possible. Mr. Verwey explained that the way the statute is written to allow for these remote meetings was that public comment could be made via email or via written correspondence to the City received before the part of the meeting itself. The correspondence could be read when the president refers to Mr. Trio if they are in his possession. Mr. Trio would read those comments/questions to Council as though they were present to make those comments on the agenda items or afterward regarding matters of general interest. Then counseled out the opportunity during council comment to respond if they so desire to or respond offline or Mr. Trio could respond thereafter any message that is received after the meeting. I would say by midnight was sent during the meeting. It would have to be responded to offline if it's not made available before the public comment periods. So if the agenda is posted early enough online, they would be able to see the agenda to make comments prior to the meeting. agenda items.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider First Reading an Ordinance 1536-2020 amending Chapter 108, Fees of the General Laws if the City of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with language permitting the setting of fees by Resolution.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve First Reading an Ordinance 1536-2020 amending Chapter 108, Fees of the General Laws if the City of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with language permitting the setting of fees by Resolution; Vice President Green seconded the motion. The Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Verwey explained the Ordinance is to provide an update system for our fee schedule. There are issues with the consistency and the location of various fees in the Ordinance; this consolidates the fees into one amendment which will be adopted into the actual code. They will be updated to cover the current conditions for various things like codes, land developments, various permits, rentals licenses, peddling, plumbing, heating, electrical, any public works fees. The fees are currently set by an Ordinance which requires two

readings. This Ordinance authorizes the City to now set those fees by Resolution. The fees will be published and available online so citizens or whoever's coming in to do work can simply go on the website hit a link button and have all the fees right in front of them.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close action items; Vice President Green seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Items

1. Meeting Minutes

Ms. Al Amin asked if there is a lot of discussion on an item; the minutes should reflect there was discussion even if condensed. I don't think the meeting minutes should reflect no comments or no discussion at all. If there's a full-fledged discussion that the meeting minutes should reflect that there was a full-fledged discussion. It's not somebody deciding what's relevant and not relevant but if there's a whole discussion on a particular subject. It should be reflected in the meetings that there was a conversation on the matter not just who made the motion and who seconded then what the vote was, you know as far as passing or failing. If you go back to review past minutes and look for discussion on an item and there is no reflection that there was even a discussion on a particular subject. Either minutes should be completely verbatim or summarized. A brief summary or reflection of the discussion would be acceptable. Ms. Al Amin asked Mr. Trio to have a summary of discussion from the last meeting added to the minutes from additions, deletions and modifications. Mr. Trio stated the corrections would be made and submitted for approval at the next meeting.

2. Equality Protocol

Vice President Green stated the current Proclamation could be amended just a little bit. The Proclamation signed by all of us. The statement in the Proclamation whereas of the City of Coatesville does apply a standard practice in fair treatment towards every individual regardless of democratic or demographic characteristics or background, that part should be a little bit clearer. It should be a little bit clearer inclusive of disabilities, race, national origin, religion, sexual preference. Ms. Graves asked if there is any way within our code to make that include like medical treatment to that, you can't be discriminated in the City of Coatesville for medical treatment, you can't discriminate against disabled folks but also in it's criminal like our doctors that are within our city. They can't discriminate because of any of those things like gender or sexual orientation, discriminate against you no medical treatment since our Supreme Court doesn't reflect that. President Lavender-Norris explained that is beyond us as Council. Vice President Green asked for Mr. Verwey to please clarify it a little bit more less that whereas and just a little bit more inclusive of disabilities, race, national origin, sexual preference, gender, religion.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- worked on some tax issues with director of finance
- worked on some ordinance provisions

- worked on an address some personnel issues
- worked on real estate matters on behalf of the city

2. City Manager

Mr. Trio announced;

- City Emergency Proclamations expired June 23, 2020
- Five-year plan completed and transmitted to City Council
- As of today, Chesco GIS Map, 133 cases confirmed with 1 recorded death confirmed by Health Department
- Continue to follow up to date PPE Mask – State of PA Directives
- Next Council meeting will be August 10, 2020 at 7:30 via YouTube feed
- Police Department – no major incidents reported
- Fire Department – 1 accident and 15 fire calls.
- First and Lincoln Highway
 - Continuation of the construction work by MECO continues to be delayed/impacted by PECO outages and other repairs.
- Gateway Project
 - Next site meeting – July 23, 2020
 - Designs have been submitted to Cedarville for the elevation and curb impact. Additional safety barrier and bollards included
- Train Station
 - PennDOT still working on projection for 4th quarter bidding
- Parking Garage
 - Working with design engineer – Pennoni to address high level operations and Maintenance Plan for post construction
- VPP Grant
 - Grant award 25k from Chester County Planning Commission to develop an update to the City Zoning Ordinance
 - Review of Ordinance sections by solicitor and staff underway/ Schedule of meetings and steering committee. TBD
- Zoning Hearing Board
 - Meeting held on
 - 711 & 723 Merchant – awaiting decision and order form Solicitor
 - 220 East Chestnut – Objected due t parking impact. Written decision to be provided
 - 658 East Chestnut - continued
- Public Works
 - Assigned tree/landscaping maintenance on Stirling Avenue and Hope Avenue expected to be underway

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening.

- We will follow guidelines under the GREEN Status
- Residents should remain vigilant in practicing social distancing, wearing masks.

- The City of Coatesville is one of the communities that has a very high rate because of our diversity here.
- We have to take care of one another for those of you who are still around wearing masks. I know it may be an inconvenience for you, but thinking of your loved ones that your going home to, think about them and not make it so much about you.
- I suffer from breathing disorders and i wear a mask. I scares me sometimes but i have to do it becasue it keeps me safe and hopefully it keeps other safe.
- Recent Protest: The City has had several protest and a recent march in recognition of BLM, police reform, and community change. We are pleased that demonstrators and resident protestors have conducted peaceful rallies in the spirit of community unity.
- We encourage these rallies, we think it's important for people to speak out and what that does is it just tells us how the spirit really exists. For those of you who are out there five days, six days, seven days a week, we encourage you, we encourage you to be peaceful and and we want you all to know that we keep our eyes on you by way of our police department and some of our residents who are just out there watching it making sure that you are safe as well, so thank you.
- Covid 19, many of you know that one of our testing locations is Gordon Elementary. The hours have been extended but the days decreased. right now they're looking at Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 5:30. The schedule is subject to change week-to- week right now.
- CASD: Dr. Rick Dunlap shared with me that the district is still developing a plan around the COVID pandemic. He notes that every day presents a new set of guidelines and requirements whether it is from the PDE, the CDC, and Chester County Health Department. More information will be shared with the public on July 28 at their next Board meeting. According to Dr. Dunlap, the district is taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety with social distancing rules, cleaning, screening, and reporting of/for/on COVID-19.
- I have invited Dr. Rick Dunlap and the new Superintendent Mr. Tomas Hanna to attend our August 10 council meeting for brief introductions.
- Gordon Elementary, the auxiliary school district is also continuing with their lunch program.
- Dr. Dunlap stated Coatesville Area School District is still developing a plan around the pandemic, working through the guidelines and requirements, every precaution to ensure health and safety.
- Business and Community Development
 - Completed week three of our partnership Start-up business training with Kutztown University.
 - Kutztown University will lead the program over the next six weeks. Our attendance is over 30 participants.
 - On July 8th, met with Representative Chrissy Houlahan, her staff and four local Coatesville entrepreneurs to discuss business opportunities in Coatesville and the Representatives role as she leads the Small Business Committee.

4. Finance Director

Mr. Troutman announced that the grace period is being honored until July 31, 2020, for all taxes and licenses. The penalty phase is still being waived and will note effective until August or later.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens hearings on non-agenda items only at this time.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone that decided to join us tonight on Zoom. I want to echo Mr. Logan regarding Covid because there were 133 cases on Friday, and today we are at 144 cases. I hope everybody still practices the safe practice of social distancing and wearing the mask. I just hope we can continue to move forward, and I'd like just to say everybody have a great night.

Ms. Graves thanked everyone for attending the meeting on YouTube. I like Mr. Logan said there are a lot of rallies and marches happening in Coatesville. One this weekend that I attended was very nice, and I try to attend the one on First Avenue whenever I can. I commend both of those marches and both forms of protest. I'm very excited to see people rising up and making their voices heard across the city. Also, I just want to speak a little bit about the business meetings that I attended. They were very nice, and I'm super excited to have these local businesses here in Coatesville. Some of them I already shopped like myself for her hair oil, and it ends up being really great. I'm so excited to be centered around local businesses, and I can't wait to see all the local businesses pop up in Coatesville. That's all. Thank you. Continue to be in community with each other and continue to prioritize each other's safety by adhering to the COVID rules.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for spending the evening with us. I, as well echo Mr. Logan by encouraging us to stay safe and make sure that we do practice our safe distancing and try our best to keep ourselves and our families safe and those we're in contact with. I do. I'm going to thank our staff. I sometimes know the questions, and the things that we say you know are hard, but I do appreciate you and the things that you do so much. I would love to see us get some help in Public Works, and I do acknowledge the fact that they work hard in their own short staff. You all know how I am when I see the city looking a mess. I want to again, on behalf of my women's ministry, Women's Destiny, announce to the community watching on YouTube, right here on the sidewalk this Thursday, we'll be giving out hot meals. Last month we served 250 people, and we will serve 300 this month. We will be having our clothing giveaway on Saturday, and I'm telling you some of the things that people have their new clothes, beautiful slightly used clothes, household items you will have bags non-perishable foods as well. There will be a voter registration table set up at both of these affairs to help people register to vote or an address change. You can resubmit your information. Instead of when you come to the polls, and you change your address, you didn't do it the proper way, and you're turned away, and rather than go to where you should go, you get disgusted and go home. We just want to make sure that everybody has their things in place. Linda, thank you so much for sharing your good news. I

pray to God as he continues to Bless you. I acknowledge, Mr. Folks, who had a fire on his equipment and I thank God no one was hurt. We have a lot to be thankful for. God bless you and goodnight to everyone, and please just continue to love and care for one another in our community. Thank you.

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for attending. I love being with family. Remember to keep safe, wear your masks, stay 6 feet away, quarantine if you have just to be safe. You heard what my colleague, Mrs. Hunt said, I lost my business last Wednesday, so that means there's no more of my business, but God is good. Yes, absolutely remember to pray and look out for your neighbor and wear your mask. I'll be out there

Mr. Simpson stated the reason he put this photograph up here is that you'll see that these Jets are flying upside down just like this country and this Commonwealth are right now. I said this is unprecedented times, and I'm not happy with what's going on. I'm going to be totally honest with you, tonight we voted not to fund a police officer, if we want to cut funds from our police, our Police Department, we do it with outside services, we do with police vehicles, we do it with all the ancillary items that go along with our Police Department, but when we defund as they say that's the buzzword nowadays. We on boots on the ground, and we're asking for trouble. I'm very, very disappointed that we did that tonight, and you know hopefully we can turn things around, do the right thing, and put boots on the ground. When it comes time at the end of the year when we go to get our budget together, well, then we cut the services. We don't need to get new police vehicles every three years or four years like we've been doing or for however long, we used to go 10 to 12 years without new vehicles, so we cut back on that. We don't need to defund the boots on the ground that's sending a bad message to this community. You know what we'll get it turned around. I want to thank everybody for coming. See you next time

Vice President Green thanked everyone for listening. I have a couple of things to say. I hear what you say, Mr. Simpson, but i never mentioned the terminology defund our police, which never came out of my conversation, and I never said that. This is to delete the action item until the next meeting. I wanted some information. So you know, I understand that the temperament who said the buzz or whatever is going around, but that was not my conversation, and you know you got pretty heated about it and not so we're not linking that to what I was saying, however, I think that these types of decisions are big decisions that we as a council have to determine. We are going into negotiations with our fire department. I would just like to have a better handle on whatever our police department looks like, how many officers that we can have and should have, we've not done that since 2003, and I think that we need to reevaluate that again. I didn't say anything about defunding. I think that terminology is probably the worse and the wrong terminology because of believing people interpret what you say when you'd say defund. This clarifies that terminology never came out of my mouth, we have had many, many complaints about the fireworks. I understand that the State has made it legal to sell fireworks in Pennsylvania. The State made it legal to sell them. It does not mean that we don't enforce our ordinance or modify our ordinance that we have one books. Our Police Department has to promote our ordinance or go by or our ordinance. The State said that it's legal to ban them but we have to determine where what type. What types of fireworks can you use in neighborhoods. We had an incidence on July 4th, scaring people. Just because they're legal doesn't mean that we can use them in neighborhoods. We are too congested in our neighborhoods. I would like to

concur to revisit our firework ordinance and put things in place this for us, even the timeframe, you know they were still going up at one o'clock in the morning. we are going to be having people's properties catch on fire and things of that nature. Mr. Folks, I prayed for you and I'm praying for your business. I was not on Facebook but I think my husband told me. So, I pray for you and pray for your business and am grateful that you're safe. I would like to revisit our zoning ordinance regarding the fences in the city and things of that nature. I also don't want us to forget that if we can do some homework on that like so that we can clarify that language and fix it you know the language. In the midst of COVID, as far as I'm aware of, Mr. Logan maybe you can chime in, we are still on the schedule for a train station, and things are looking great. I'm just really, really excited about that again. To reiterate what everyone has said about being safe and taking precautions. I do encourage our residents to go to Gordon even though they've cut down the days but go and get tested. I'm saying that because I have not been tested myself, but I'm making a point of trying to go there this week on Thursday. I know Ms. Al Amin said that the test is not that bad. I want as many people as possible while the test is free to go and get the test. It's better to know. I said if it's free, it's for me. I want to thank the staff for all the work that they've done. Mr. Logan, I thank you for your great grant writing skills. I really appreciate your work ethic and being on top of stuff. I appreciate you being in City Hall on Saturday and on Sunday working to help us to be able to move our city forward. I truly appreciate it, because in a job of this magnitude, a 40-hour workweek is not going to cut it. I just thank you for your commitment to us and into the City of Coatesville. That's it for me, but just understand residents. I am not to defund our Police Department. We need our police department even. We are looking to have a better understanding and have counsel get a better hold of where we are. We are getting ready to go into budget times, and I understand that other cuts can be made, but at the same time, that is the biggest line item on our budget. I just want to look at it and if we have to be in compliance. I'm you know, I always trust the Chief's judgment, and I never second guess him. This is not about that; this is about having a handle on what's going on because the bottom line is, Council, we are responsible. We are still waiting on our Third Class City Code books to come in. I just want us to take on and stand up in the role that we have as Council and just do the right things. Thank you for being with us tonight, and I'm I do appreciate you.

President Lavender-Norris just wanted to reiterate with regard to the vote regarding the Police Officer going from part-time to full-time. The vote actually for me, I voted to delete the item because we need to have discussion. It's apparent that discussion was necessary because there was so much discussion during the request for it to be whether it should be deleted or not, so I voted to delete it to give us an opportunity to discuss. There's a lot of moving parts that have to be addressed, and we need to make a responsible decision and just to make a decision on the fly isn't responsible. We have been going through you know with the whole COVID and you know trying to get our city redeveloped with the protests and the marches and the side conversations. I just know that when the enemy comes in like a flood, God sets up a standard and our city will not be overtaken by the negativity or by the distractions. We are not coming down; we're coming up; we're going forward, and for anybody that doubts it stand back and watch. For those who believe in us, step up, link arms with us, and let's get the job done. We are seven council members elected to represent our entire city. There is absolutely no way anyone of us can stand and point the finger and say it's one or the other's fault. We either sink as one or we swim as one. This is our city! We say we want the best for it. All we have to do is our best and nothing else can be asked of us. As long as we are putting forth our best effort, we will be all right. Thank

you to everybody that came in on the zoom and YouTube and hopefully you have a clearer understanding of what we're doing because we're trying to have a clearer understanding. Please, by all means stay safe if like Mr. Logan was saying the mask is totally uncomfortable, I can barely breathe in it. However, I'm considering my own personal health and the person that I have to walk by in a doctor's office or a grocery store. Just be mindful of others when you put other people ahead of yourself; your elevational will come. God bless you, stay safe, and have a blessed evening, and again thanks for coming.

Adjournment

Ms. Graves made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Simpson stated God Bless America and God Bless Coatesville.