



Minutes
City of Coatesville
Via – Virtual Meeting via Zoom and You Tube – COVID 19
Monday, September 14, 2020

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

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

Vice President Green announced an executive session was held on prior to the regular meeting regarding personnel, real estate and legal matters.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the August 24, 2020 meeting minutes; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to delete Action item 1 and move action item 2 to discussion item 4; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens comments on regular action items only.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens hearings on citizens hearings on regular action items only; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider Amendment #1 for the 2017 CDBG- Coatesville Street and Train Station Renovations extension to December 31, 2021

President Lavender Norris made a motion to approve Amendment #1 for the 2017 CDBG – Coatesville Street and Train Station Renovations extension to December 31, 2021; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Logan explained this is a request for an extension on the existing train station, , renovation and improvements. We received a grant from the County, so we go in and do some renovation. We are requesting the extension so that moving forward, we're going to do

the right renovations. HBO came in, and used the existing train station for a movie set. They did make some upgrades, which were wonderful, that left us with a balance on the grant, but we were unable to get in and complete the renovation. So, we need an extension to do so. The extension is to be completed by December 31, 2020.

2. Receive and consider 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)

President Lavender-Norris made a motion to approve the 20201 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO); Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Ms. Graves abstained from the vote.

Mr. Troutman explained this is an annual requirement. It is five pages in your package. The first two pages are a memo, the third, fourth and fifth pages are individual pages for each of the pension plan. The total is 1.468 million, which is about a one and a half percent increase over last year. The increase is based off a percentage of salary. There are three individual pension plans, each one, represents a certain constituency within the city employment. We are obligated to make minimum obligations each year. It is a formula calculation that is spelled out in the documentation. We insert our payroll and a few other aspects, for example, what the police may be contributing as part of their requirements and then the formulas crunch it out based on what the actuaries have determined and that creates our minimum amount that is due for each year of which approximately 400,000, a little higher than that is reimbursed by the Commonwealth. And we'll find that amount out, roughly September of next year.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close regular action items; Ms. Graves seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Items

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes at this time.

2. Open Parks

Mr. Logan explained the parks are open now. we continue to get requests from our residents wanting to have events in the parks. At this time, we have not been accepting special event applications, but some folks just want to have family gatherings in the park. I'm not sure what we want to tell him. In having private events there are controls and monitoring of the safety portion. But who monitors social distancing for special events. If we do approve a park gathering, all of them kind of have to be special events so we can review their safety guidelines to make sure it's in line with the County and state safety guidelines.

There was the FISH Rodeo, which we kind of tabled that last time. Mr. Terry has been having this event annually and he came and he wants to have the event again and we kind of tabled it because the parks were not open for special events. So if we're going to open them, it's either we're going to start accepting applications or we're not, I mean, we just have to make it clear with the guidelines or, or what the expectations are when they have the events. I guess what's the gathering number at this point? The amount of people at an event is on the application.

The application may need language to include COVID, safety guidelines for events. Once a date has been set, we can put something on the website, informing the residents, you know, the parks are open for events.

Mr. Logan stated he would meet with the Police Chief and Fire Chief to discuss opening the parks. The events usually go to each department for approval before the City Manager signs off.

What about churches? A couple of churches have inquired about having events at the park. Is it going to be open for them as well or just family events? The City always allowed nonprofit organizations, churches to utilize the park, it should be open for everyone.

Council agreed to open the parks for special events with the safety guidelines.

3. Public Roundtable

Mr. Logan stated if you recall, we had a protest in a March for Black Lives Matter after the death of George Floyd. There was close to 500 people that were involved in the March and the March was a very peaceful March. And from that remarks, we had a number of folks, residents, community, individuals, law enforcement, clergy and discussed opportunities to meet together.

In the lines of a community round table, we thought we would bring together not just individuals in the community. I want to talk about, you know, things that are going on, not just black lives matter, not just the police brutality, not just, you know, our kids, but a little bit of everything. You know, we have issues around our youth development and education and we have a community center. We have issues with seniors. This public round table will be designed to have people come to the table. We have a list of priorities right now, given the climate of what's going on, but we know what's going to be at the top of the list, but, but this is the first time that we are opening up the dialogue. This is a great way to do it. And, you know, I just want to thank Ms. Graves for wanting to take the lead on this and help me put this together. Ms. Graves stated, I think it's important for our community to be thoroughly represented. We are a big and diverse community and Council, we represent our wards and we have two at large members that represent our wards, but would love to hear from our community members directly on how they want us to govern a Coatesville that works for them. I think pulling residents closer into governing and not only having them sit at the round table and talk about their vision for a better Coatesville or tension that they have with Coatesville as it is, but then creating legislation out of that to really make us more effective and more responsible, as a council it's going to be pretty important. I think pretty big to continue as we grow as a city to grow in the direction that fits our residents.

Mr. Logan announced the date for the roundtable is September 29, 2020 from 6 pm to 8 pm. It will be outside weather permitting.

4. Fee Schedule

Mr. Logan announced the City recently approved a Resolution for the fee schedule. In the Resolution there were some typo's in the Resolution. This is basically to inform you of the errors in the Resolution. One error was \$.04 and should be \$.40 and then grammatical errors that we needed to clean up. We have the deletions as well, things that we don't even do

anymore. So, we just want to make sure that it's tightened up it's accurate. That is why we have to revise it. The fees are not designed to really increase in the situation to generate revenue, they are designed to be a balance in the department.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he:

- worked on litigation matters involving a right to know request and certain civil actions involving the city. worked on contract issues related to projects within the city primarily related to first Avenue and Lincoln highway.
- worked on real estate matters regarding development within the city, including a proposed RDA sale of a property.
- worked on a right to know request matter independent of litigation matter and that matters currently pending.
- provided general advice and direction to city administration with regard to various matters during that time period.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced:

Business & Community Development

- DEPG resumed construction on both the Diamond Street and E. Lincoln Highway's streetscape. Jim and Steve DePetris along with others including PECO, TN WARD, and Cedarville's Kyle Turner, leading the meeting got things back on track. DEPG is working hard to complete not only the streetscape project, but the Gateway Project is picking up steam with new leasing interest.
- Train Station Action Items
 - Pennoni has completed 100% plans and presented to Amtrak & SEPTA for the Train Station platforms
 - City will receive Amtrak's design approval letter
 - *Construction bids anticipated to open in November (NTP)
 - *Projected physical work to start in February 2021**Amtrak has not reviewed or committed to any of these dates. These are tentative goals to advance the project.*
- September 9th - 2020 Community Revitalization Program Funding Awards:
 - City of Coatesville Train Station Parking Garage. CRP funds would be used for construction of a parking garage within the City's revitalization district. The 450-space parking garage will serve regional rail riders for Amtrak and SEPTA users. SEPTA service is expected to return to the City by 2022 with between 350 to 430 boarding's a day. Note: \$500,000 of CRP funds were awarded to this activity in 2019.
- 30/82 Re-alignment completion is targeted for spring 2021. Delays were due to underground power lines and water issues that surfaced, and due to recent severe storms PECO's service personnel were reallocated to neighborhoods impacted by down trees and flooding.

Community Update/Awareness & Events:

- We are pleased to assist with Voter Registration and Census Awareness in the City of Coatesville. Ms. Chaya Scott is spearheading an effort to give everyone an opportunity to complete the Census and Fonz Newsuan is leading the Coatesville bridge to bridge “Rock the Vote” city-wide initiative! So far, they have over 100 volunteers (including our youth) that will be stationed throughout the city on Saturday, September 19th 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. to provide census and voter registration assistance and information. In keeping with our East End focus, they will have a tent set up on Chestnut Street between Palmer Park and the Community Center. The tent, table, chairs, materials and pens will be provided. Please consider volunteering for a 2-hour time slot beginning @ 10:00 a.m. We suggest 4-5 volunteers per 2-hour time slot. This number includes a person that will help monitor social distancing, wearing of mask, etc. They would like to see each Church, the Mosque and Organizations within the target area represented. Carmen Boyd, W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center, Inc
- Pop Up & Shop - On Saturday, September 12, 2020 the City of Coatesville hosted its first Open Air Market featuring participants from the CREATE Business Start-Up program. These new and emerging entrepreneurs displayed their products and services for interested patrons seeking something new and different. Social distancing and mask were worn during the 6hr event.
- COVID- Testing Schedule 9/14 – 9/20
 - Monday – Government Service Center 601 Westtown Road, West Chester 10 am – 3 pm
 - Tuesday – Lutheran Good Shepard 107 S. 17th Ave, Coatesville 10 am – 3 pm
 - Wednesday – Kennett Fire Company 301 Dalmatian St. Kennett Square 10 am - 3pm
 - Thursday – No sites
 - Friday– Government Service Center 601 Westtown road, West Chester 10 am – 3 pm
- Mr. Turner from Cedarville stated a meeting was held on site with DEPG, Mr. Logan and PECO on August 28th to review the project work. We seem to have a very good path forward. Everybody seemed to understand what their roles were. There was a schedule that was laid out and they are anticipating completion of all the work for diamond street and the South side streetscape improvements by the end of October. Moving on to first and Lincoln, the completion of PECO work was anticipated in June, that ended up getting pushed to late July due to some of the storms that rolled through and some of the storm work that PECO had to do. During that process, Cedarville did inform the contractor and has kept the contractor informed regarding potential start dates. We sent about three letters to them, just kind of keeping them apprised of the situation, when the work was anticipated to be completed, and trying to get revised schedules out of them. The PECO work was finally completed on July 20th or 23rd, 2020, Cedarville met with PECO on July 27th out at the site to confirm that all lines were energized. We also confirmed that some additional conflicts along the South side, along dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard for 1st Avenue were also being addressed, those items have since been addressed. On July 30th Cedarville did inform the contractor that all known utility conflicts had been resolved and work could resume. Cedarville is working with city administration to get the contract back out on the site. Additionally, we have followed up with

PennDOT regarding striping the lines, due to some of the ongoing issues that we've been having, just trying to some lines painted back out there. We are working to confirm it, but it's a little bit slow working with PennDOT. Moving on to the Lincoln Highway streetscape. I am not sure how familiar anybody is with the Lincoln highway streetscape project; however, this will be the continuation of the streetscape improvements from the end of the DEPG's work limits, down to somewhere between 3rd and 4th Avenue. Cedarville held a project field view with PennDOT on September 2nd, Mr. Logan was in attendance to that based on that we have a follow up meeting tomorrow to review some of the final scoping, and get that finalized and get PennDOT's final sign off on the environmental scoping documentation. Hopefully, I will be able to present Council with a proposal for this work by the next city council meeting. The construction for this work could begin as soon as spring 2021. Finally, the last, the infrastructure type improvements that are going on in the city, such as Palmer Park phases, two and three, Cedarville has been working with Natural Lands Trust, in the City to implement the conceptual plans that Natural Lands has provided. We are currently at a 30% design phase, and we have a meeting scheduled later this week to review that those plans with naturally ends in the city.

3. Finance Director

Mr. Troutman explained his report will be at the next meeting.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

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

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Folks congratulated Mr. Logan again for being our new city manager. Do us proud, young man. We'll see what happens with this city and you. I think this is going to be really good to the residents. Thank you again for listening and letting us do our job. It was a long week, long weekend, a lot going on in the city. We are rising, slowly, slowly, slowly, but surely, we all are. Pray for us, pray for City as a whole. Protect yourselves, it's tough right now, but we can overcome. Have a good night. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody that came and watched on YouTube. Mr. Logan, I again voice congratulations to you. I want to thank you for your transparency for wanting to bring the residents and the staff together, Council, so that we can listen to the residents overall about everything and see what their desires are and, and how we can help to move those items forward. I just want to say thanks to everybody in city hall for all your hard work. Let's all keep Linda in prayer. Linda, I hope that you feel better with each day. Everybody, have a good night.

Ms. Graves thanked everyone at home that's listening, that's watching us on YouTube and on our council, Facebook, thank you all for participating and commenting along. I just want to say, you know, thank you all for being so willing to come out and participate in our pop up and continue to support our small and local businesses that we have here. I was very thankful for the businesses for participating and very serious about wanting those businesses to be at the forefront of our revitalization. I have a lot of constituents coming to me and asking me about cleanups, about wanting

to do cleanups. And I just want to let everybody know that our downtown manager, Charles Green, has supplies for cleanups, including vests, push brooms and gloves, and is willing to rent those out to anyone who wants to have cleanups or partner with anyone that wants to help clean. So, feel free to reach out to him for that, or reach out to Mr. Logan, who knows how to reach out to him. Thank you so much, our Councilwoman Al Amin and Mr. Logan for willing to work on the round table project with me and with us and really continuing to bring our constituents and for co governing. This is a great initiative for our city. I want to continue to extend prayers, to the family of Jason Jones and Diallo Green, and Ricardo in Lancaster, and continue to pray for the spirit of justice on Rich and Tyler. Thank you, guys. Have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for joining us tonight via zoom or on Facebook or YouTube. Thank you for just hanging out with us. I want to also thank Mr. Logan for his leadership and his willingness to take on the tasks that he has taken on and doing it with such grace and such being so eloquent in the way that you represent the city. It means a lot. I just want to say thank you to all of our council persons. It's a pleasure working with all of you, gaining knowledge from each other, we're not always going to sit at the table and agree on everything, but I love the aspect of being able to not agree, but come to an agreement saying to each other and gaining things from each other. I want to thank our staff for the wonderful job that you do on a daily basis. I to want to continue to just ask God to continue to strengthen our council president as she has gone through a lot over these last few months and we continue to pray for you. And I know, I believe God, and I've been praying for you. So, I just, I'm just thankful that you're even enduring this whole night by sitting in the meeting, it just says so much of your character and the love that you have for the position that you hold. So, thank you so much. Carmen, you did a good job tonight. Thank you for our vice president. So, I'm just grateful to be a part of such a great body of people. And I love what we do collectively. We're nothing as an individual, but collectively we can climb mountains for this city. So again, I'm just grateful and I'm thankful and thankful to our residents. I look forward to moving the city forward along with you and the great things that we can do together. Thank you everyone. Please have a good night.

Mr. Simpson congratulated Mr. Logan. Congratulations, I know we've spoken since you have been appointed but, I wanted to publicly congratulate you and thank you for stepping into the position. Thank you. But I'm going to be honest with you. I've been on this council for 17 years, two thirds of the way through my 17th year. Alright, I have to tell you, I'm not very happy about some of our council members and you know, everybody wants to preach full transparency. You know, we as council members oversee the entire city staff, every department, every department from codes to public works to police and this, but in full transparency, when we have one city council member who wants to put on their Facebook posts, I'm going to read it. Police exist to kill black people, hashtag abolish the police. That's not leading, that's not leading. That's creating, a very staggered, you know, I don't even know how to describe what it's creating and we need to, as a council say, we oversee everything. Why would you pick out one department? You have a responsibility, you're accountable for that department. And for you to say police exist to kill black people, abolish the police. That is so, so unprofessional. And I'm just, I've been stewing about this ever since I saw this Facebook page. And I'm telling you, I'm here to say that we have the best police department in all of Chester County. And I'm going to tell you, we got the best one in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There's not one other small town like us that has the police officers that has the workload that our police department does. And you think if you want to abolish the police, we had three shootings last week. It was just brought up. So, we abolished the police. and what happens, you think that's going to stop for us. It's very irresponsible to sit there and make those comments about a department that you oversee and I am sick and tired of it. It's got to stop, you can't continue to sit there and say, we need

full transparency and then make those comments like you do on Facebook. I'm telling you, I'm proud to represent the city. I'm proud to represent our police department and I'll be there till the end. You're not getting rid of me. I got three more years ago and I'm going to do everything I can to fight you for you saying those comments about our police department.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for tuning in tonight and supporting the city and watching the meeting.

Vice President Green stated I hope that the residents, if any questions that they may have, that they submit them, so that they can get answers and be satisfied on whatever their situation may be. I just want to thank Mr. Logan, I think you're doing a fine job as our city manager, and I'm just very, very pleased with the way that you present yourself and the things that you brought to council tonight, and even the challenges that you gave us. We are rising and we are moving forward and I'm just so grateful. I'm grateful to the chief because when the incident first occurred, when we had the protest regarding George Floyd and they had a meeting at New Life in Christ, I spoke with the Chief after that meeting and, he expressed willingness and wanting to sit down and have a round table kind of thing with the residents. So, I really appreciate you Chief, for wanting to participate in that. I just want to say that in spite of everything, when it comes to obeying the law and doing the things to stay out of trouble and our police officers responding to stuff, we have a lot of great things that are shared on a daily basis of good things that our police department is doing. We've not always had a great department like we have now under the leadership of Chief Laufer and his willingness to sit down and to be transparent with the residents, to look at situations, and I'm not saying that everything is perfect, but I do want to commend him for the willingness to sit down and talk. Each and every time that I've contacted the chief regarding an issue that a resident might've had during an arrest or during a citation, the chief has always taken the time and the willingness to contact that person and have a discussion with them, to give them more information and to inform them and handle it, whatever the situation might be. So, I'm excited about this round table, and I'll tell you if there's anything that I could do to get off on Tuesday, the 29th to be there. I will be there, but right, as of now, I'm not sure if I'll be able to participate. I'm just grateful for where we are in this day in time. You know, I just ask that the residents, the people that are watching tonight, that we continue to rise our city up, that we continue to pray one for another, that we pray against this gun violence that we pray against this thing that's in our community. You know, we, we've had a lot of lives lost here. A lot of young men who have been gunned down in our community. And I just think that that's an issue that needs to be addressed, that we need to figure out what has to be done. You know, we have all these monuments all over the city where, you know, you'll see, , bears and balloons and stuff that we're putting up to recognize and acknowledge and memorialize where someone was shot. You know, one of the things that I would like to propose to council for us, it's just a consideration, that we make a Memorial in the city and put the Memorial in one of our parks. But I think that most importantly, that our hope that one of the things that comes out during this round table is that we discussed the gun violence in our city, that we discuss the things that are happening, you know, in spite of everything that's going on nationally, it's a travesty and it's, it's a shame, and we need forum in our police departments throughout the United States, that people are accountable for their actions and, you know, laws are created to protect people, but at the same time, I got to look at what's in my face right here. You know, I got to deal with what's in my community right here. And what's in my community right now is gun violence. And I just think that that's an issue that we need to look at, we need to address it. You know, we need to call it whatever it is. We need to figure out what we need to do as a community, because we are rising, we have developers coming in. We have businesses coming in. We've got the great news about our train station becoming active, a brand-new train station, and, you

know, contrary to whatever information was out there, we are on a construction schedule and they promised us that, and they they're keeping their word. So, things are moving, you know, but we have some issues that we need to address. And, you know, I tell you when I look at everything and I hear different comments, lawlessness in Coatesville is not an option. Not having a police department is not an option for me, you know, sitting down and communicating, having round tables and talking to our police and talking to our chief, you know, those are alternatives. Those are things that would keep relations good with the community. Because again, like I said earlier, our police have done some great things. They interact with our youth, we're posting all the time, different things. Our police department has been honored by the DA's office and by the State groups for the good things that they've done. So, I just want to make sure that we all are aware and that we keep that in the forefront of our mind that we're not this, you know, I don't want to put our department out there in a bad light because you can't be responsible for how somebody receives your information, you know, and everybody doesn't receive the information the right way. So, you can't be responsible for how they received it. And then something happens, you know? So, I just think that we need to be mindful. I know that there's been plenty of times where I've reacted, overreacted or reacted without getting the information. I would like to think that I've learned from that now and I try to make sure that I get the full picture before I make any decision. So again, I just want to encourage our residents and encourage all of us to continue on, to pray for our city and pray against this violence that we are experiencing right now. And, I just want to thank everyone for coming out and council, staff, it's a pleasure working with all of you. So, thank you very much.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.