



City of Coatesville
Reorganizational Meeting – COVID 19-2020 – via ZOOM and YOU TUBE
Monday, January 4, 2021

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt,, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, 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

Election of City Council President

Ms. Al Amin nominated Mr. Folks for Council President. Mr. Folks declined the nominations.

Mr. Logan asked for any other nominations.

Mrs. Hunt nominated Linda Lavender-Norris. Nomination passed 5-2. Council Person Graves and Ms. Al Amin were the dissenting votes.

Ms. Lavender-Norris thanked everyone for the votes. I appreciate you trusting me got another year to keep us together and keep us moving forward. Thank you. Mrs. Hunt stated I don't know if we're supposed to be talking here or not. I just feel that you have done a magnificent job and in respect to Ms. Al Amin, I respect what she said but I also differ in that, I just don't believe that the positions of President or Vice President where we play musical chairs. I believe that if we have someone that is doing a good job, fulfilling the position, helping to move the City forward, then let that person do what they've been doing. That's just my take on it. Congratulations and I look forward to working with you this year.

Ms. Al Amin thanked Mrs. Hunt and appreciate her comment, but also feels that because we are elected by the people. I'm not going to say that another Council member could not do just as good of a job, I was just saying that you, yourself have been Council President, so I think if others want it and Mr. Folks declined and I respect that. I'm just saying I think that the opportunity should be afforded to everybody and you yourself. I believe in between Linda's terms sitting as President, you yourself was President. Mrs. Hunt stated I was President after her first year you're exactly right, and I'm not trying to get into a rebuttal. I'm just saying you have your views on it and I have mine and just because we were elected by the people to serve on council, it doesn't mean that we have to take the seat of President or Vice President and it doesn't mean that we can't do that. I just simply want to stay where we are now. I just feel that with everything that's going on in the City, the positive things that are going on in the City, we have positive council as a whole. We have a positive person in that position and that's why I'm just willing to vote for her again. It was a nomination, it's up to us as the council, we see each other working within the council, within the realm of Council. It's up to us to have the confidence in one another, to see them in the position and right now that's where my confidence is and that's all I mean by it so again, I respect what you say we just look at it a little different.

Election of City Council Vice President

Mr. Logan asked for nominations of Vice President.

Council Person Graves nominated Khadijah Al Amin as Vice President.

Mrs. Hunt nominated Carmen Green as Vice President.

Mr. Logan pulled Council for Khadijah Al Amin as Vice President. Nomination failed 2-5. President Lavender-Norris, Mrs. Hunt, Ms. Green, Mr. Folks and Mr. Simpson were the dissenting votes.

Mr. Logan pulled Council for Carmen Green as Vice President. Nomination passed 5-2. Ms. Al Amin and Council Person Graves were the dissenting votes.

Vice President Green thanked the Council for their votes. I will always continue to serve and be the best I can in that position. President Lavender-Norris thanked Councilwoman Green because during her time this past year with her sickness, and was not able to attend or participate in meetings, you were right there on the spot. I want you to know how much I appreciate it and I want our Council to know how hard and diligently you've worked. You have truly been involved in helping to move the City forward. I appreciate and thank you for that. Vice President Green stated it has been her pleasure and honor to assist the President.

Resolution No. 2021-01 – City Council Meeting Dates

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-01, City Council Meeting Dates for 2021; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Resolution No. 2021-02 – Designating Emergency Response Service

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02, designating Emergency Response Service providers for the City of Coatesville; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Adopt Robert Rules of Order for the Year 2021

Council Person Graves made a motion to adopt of Roberts Rules of Order for 2021; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

President Lavender-Norris announced the City has the Annual Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Logan introduced Mr. Charles "Chip" Huston as the new Assistant City Manager. Mr. Huston thanked Mr. Logan for having the faith in him, to hire him as the new Assistant City Manager. I've spent many, many years in Coatesville, in the Coatesville Community. I look forward to being able to continue Coatesville's emergence into the Community as a top City. Thank you for bringing me on board. I appreciate it.

Comments – City Council President

President Lavender-Norris thanked her colleagues for entrusting me again, and to my colleagues that did not vote in support of me, thank you also for just being a member of council and wanting to do what's best for the City. That's what we are all here for. This position is an honorary position. It's a lot of work with it and I signed up for it, so I'm here to fulfill my commitment to our community. I know we'll get and do better because we deserve better and we want better. So moving forward to our residents, to our staff, together we can have our City rise and be the beacon

of lights. This is a New Year, we can start fresh and just keep it moving, staying positive and focus on ahead and not behind. Thank you again.

Comments – City Council Vice President

Vice President Green thanked everyone. I appreciate each and every one who supported me. I thank you all for the vote of confidence. I love the City of Coatesville. I'm so committed to moving the City forward, the countless hours, the meetings, whatever it takes to make it happen. I tell you I have so many things that are going on that are positive. When I look and see, or attend Train Station Meetings and we are now being put out to bid. My heart is glad because it has been 18-20 years, been a long time. There have been meeting discussion, and meetings and discussion and arguments and discussion back and forth, so I am thankful and grateful for where we stand right now. The position that we are in with a great group of Council members, but we also have a great group of administrative people. Mr. Logan you are doing a phenomenal job, you made the announcement last week regarding your workforce development efforts. I so appreciate you looking out to bring jobs to our residents, not only bringing employers who are willing to hire our residents but sitting down and discussing with them to even provide transportation. Your efforts are just so tremendous all the time, you are just working all the time, thank you very much. Chief Laufer, the appreciation award that you gave out to us all, it made me tear up, I felt that you made me feel appreciated and valued. What we do is not a paid position, we do this because we are committed to our community, we love our community and we want to see our City move forward. I thank you and I appreciate you for all that you do. Mr. Huston, I was so excited when I heard that you were the choice for our new Assistant City Manager, you and your family have been committed to this area and I'm just grateful you are bringing your skill set and you are bringing your energies to the City of Coatesville to assist our superstar manager. I appreciate everyone it's going to take an effort from everyone. It's going to take us partnering with organizations, is going to take us partnering with businesses and partnering with the County in partnering with so many different people to collaborate to make this thing happen. Thank you again for the vote of confidence

Comments – City Council Members

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for all that you're doing to help move the City forward coming to our awesome staff, are awesome City manager who is doing things that I've never seen it happen before through that office as long as I've been on Council. I'm just grateful for all that you're doing. My colleagues, I thank you, for working together so that we can move the City forward and it's just an honor to be apart and to be one of the seven, it is so much better when we work together I want to congratulate again our President and our Vice President and your positions as well. Thank you again for the service that you have given to the council, as well as to the City you have done a magnificent and superb job. I just want to back up real quick on one statement that was made I just don't like leaving things just left said not addressed if they need to be in. The statement that I had taken the Presidency in between Linda's term and that is correct after the first term I was voted in as President. I did it between that time which really means much more to me, during that time was a hard time in my personal life with the illness of my husband and I wasn't able to fulfill that position and I knew that I wasn't. It was with the help of Linda Lavender-Norris and Mr. Hoe Hamrick, that would go to things to represent me, and for that I was so grateful. It made me realize that with the members of council that we had, that Linda in my opinion was the best person for the job to fulfill it so for me and I speak personally it's not just to be President because we were voted in but by the City or because we sit on council but the City ability to fulfill the office and that's what I see in that how I make my assumptions my decisions and my vote. I voted you, but it was up to the council to put you in, I voted for you, I nominated you, I should say but it was up to us to vote you in and I'm

so grateful for all the colleagues that could see what I see union I just look forward to great things coming continuously coming from the both of you so I'm look forwarding to 2021 working with you in just putting the program of the City forward in first again thank you everyone please have a good night and a blessed year

Ms. Al Amin thanked Mr. Logan for all that he's done for the City, since you have become the City manager you have done a phenomenal job and I want to thank you for that. Mr. Houston I'd like you thank you. I look forward to working with you in continuing to move the City forward. So, welcome, welcome, welcome, to your new position. Chief Laufer, I would like to thank you for the distinguish honor that you bestowed upon all of council that was so nice of you to recognize all of us for making a difference. You do your part in making it difference and I just look forward to continuing to move the City forward. Thank you

Council Person Graves thanked everyone for browsing this meeting and giving the opportunity to reorganize council as Council sees fit. I would just like to thank all of the administration and of course James Logan and welcome our Assistant City Manager Mr. Chip Houston. I would like to say to everyone that may be watching on youtube and of course in the zoom meetings. Happy New Year. 2020 was a rough year for I think everyone for whole bunch of reasons. I look forward to continuing in 2021 to bring forward to bringing advocacy around the needs of every day people. I think if last year showed is nothing is at the systems that are so heavily relying on or not as strong as they may seem. I'm just hoping to continue as a council person to agitate and advocate for all the things that we need. I am so grateful to be here with you to continue to making our City a City that our wonderful residents deserve. Thank you so much

Mr. Folks stated you don't take a car to a garage when it's running well. I want to thank Jackie Al Amin for nominating me for President. I declined because we're moving, we're going straight, this Council right now is really coming together so why disrupt something when you know you're not going to make it different my times coming everybody else is coming yet but that right now this City needs what we have in place. Once again, Jackie, thank you but Mrs. Lavender-Norris, you're doing a heck of a job, and Carmen thank you. Covid stuff has me locked up, locked down but I'm going to get back out to the community to the stores, to the new homeowners, to the new entrepreneurs, and start posting for them. That's what I want to do. I called the Chief up and cried too but if you didn't that means you aren't got no feelings. Mr. Chip, I worked with you before on the houses, we got some work to do you know that, I know we're going up on the hill, workout straighten that out and that's what we got to do. We all got to come together, because we're all good at something. Right now, my focus is on the residents of Coatesville so that's where I want to be and that's where I'm going to be until I say so. Chief you the best, Mr. Logan you know I got your back even when your backs not there, you're a good guy. Tony, man thank you for supplying us with the legal for the City. I mean you're right there. we ask you for something, you do it like that you don't hesitate, so I'm proud of you too and to the rest of you guys you can have a beer on me and goodnight.

Mr. Simpson congratulated Madam President and Madam Vice President, we got a new year ahead of us and I'd also like to welcome to the City, the Assistant City Manager Mr. Houston. My name is Ed Simpson, don't know if we've ever met before probably not, but no problem no time. I was just the same way as Vice President Green when your name was presented to us we were like okay, let's get it, and let's do it. Welcome to the City and hopefully we can move this town a little you know inch by inch. You have to do it one brick at a time. We are looking forward to it. Mr. Logan, thank you for your year, thank you for everything that you've done, thank you for the budget

process which was one of the least painful in my 18 years. This year is 18 years on Council. I appreciate everything that you've done. Mr. Verwey, I appreciate everything you've done. All the council members I appreciate all the things that we've done. Although, we don't always agree on everything, one thing we can agree on is that we can agree to disagree. In this business if you hold grudges you take things personal you're not going to last very long. Chief Laufer, thank you very much for the job that you do. You know the job that your men are out there doing. We appreciate it. Chief Alderman, thank you for your service to the City and your men doing what they do as first responders you know we all sometimes we all take for granted the work that you know everybody does and we think of there not doing their job but they're doing this there not doing that but deep down I mean there all there are trying in there all making an effort in that you know that's all we could know in today's times that all we can ask for now if we can get everybody to just put their hands out there and hold hands and sing Kumbaya. It's golden, we have to get going on but we got it Happy new year and thank you to everyone

Mr. Logan stated, again thank all of you and everyone here for all your support, all the well wishes and thank you. It is been a tremendous year, 2020, with everything happening. A lot of transitions as well with the City. Mr. Verwey, thank you for all of your help. I think Anthony and I actually started the same time almost so I predate you and you know your mentoring in even my 20 or 30 calls today I appreciate that you have taken at least half of them. Chief Laufer. Your guys have been a tremendous support, thank you again for everything that you do on a day to day, some of the things that people don't see behind the scenes that all you do along with the people that you manage. I see if you on the on the line tonight. We all support and the service the Fire Department provides the City of Coatesville. We just hope in 2021, all of our departments will come together. You know, one of the things that I like to say is that we pride ourselves on a bottom up approach meaning council members in staff are at the bottom and we continue to push our efforts upward and our residents are at the top where they should be. In 2021, were going to have a lot of exciting things happening in I'm just excited that I'll be working with this Council to make it happen and that's all I have to say

President Lavender-Norris thanked both our Chiefs, the City solicitor, you have been amazing. Tony, thank you because you keep this on track, you did tell us what we wanted to hear or things we don't want to hear, you keep things on track and I appreciate that. Sometimes we think things should be done one way because that's the way that they were done, that's the way it should be done, thank you for correcting us and putting us on the right path. Thank you for this, we appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Houston, welcome again and the sure is work ahead of us. I know all of our residents, thank you for watching, thank you for tuning in and hanging out with us and our next meeting is the 11th. Please tune in then and everyone have a Happy New Year God bless you, Stay safe, wear your mask, social distance as much as possible because still seriously infection so be careful be safe and wear your mask. Thank you and God Bless.

Adjournment

Mr. Folks made a motion to adjourn the meeting Vice President Green seconded the motion. motion passed 7-0.

This meeting was conducted remotely and live-streamed over the internet on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1u3VUIQr4r0xII0xv1HmvA> and Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82338837567?pwd=RIVMSGJLQVVPTWpQREY3V1pBcmEvZz09> Meeting ID: 823 3883 7567 Passcode: 909100 or call 301-715-8592. The general public may offer comment, during the meeting

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Approved January 11, 2021