



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Organizational Meeting  
Monday January 3, 2022

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Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilman Donald Folks, Councilman Edward Simpson

Council Absent:

Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Robert Johnson, Solicitor; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Richard Troutman, Finance Director, Recording Secretary Ruthann Mowday

Mr. Logan called the meeting to order and announced Ms. Allen and Ms. Al Amin were sworn in by the Honorable Gregory Hines prior to the meeting.

**Swearing in of Council Members by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines**

The Honorable Judge Hines swore in Mrs. Green as her husband and grandson held the bible.

The Honorable Judge Hines swore in Mr. Folks as his wife and grandson held the bible.

Mr. Folks introduced everyone to his grandson Michael. He works for Amtrak. He just made foreman for Amtrak, right? So, he's going to try to get on the building up the building for our city. So right now, he's working in Lancaster, but pray that he comes to Coatesville.

**Election of City Council President**

Mrs. Hunt nominated Linda Lavender Norris for President; Mr. Folks seconded the nomination. Nomination passed 6-0.

**Election of City Council Vice President**

Mr. Simpson nominated C. Villa Hunt for Vice President. Mrs. Hunt thanked Mr. Simpson but respectfully declined.

Mrs. Hunt nominated Carmen Green for Vice President; President Lavender Norris seconded the nomination. Nomination passed 6-0.

**Resolution No. 2022-01 – City Council Meeting Dates**

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-01 – City Council Meeting Dates; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

President Lavender Norris announced the meetings are still the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

**Resolution No. 2022-02 – Designating Emergency Response Service**

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-Designating Emergency Response Services; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion was rescinded by Mr. Folks and Mrs. Hunt

Vice President Green made a motion to table motion to approve Resolution 2022-Designating Emergency Response Services until the January 10, 2022 Council Meeting; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Simpson asked if the emergency response is for the Fire Company and the EMS. If Tower Health is leaving the area, why should we approve them to provide any sort of emergency services in the City? Their parent company has decided to leave us high and drive without any sort of medical facilities in the area, closing two of them in Southern Chester County and Coatesville. I'm not in favor of approving them to provide services, they are just using us now because they can make a profit off of it. They are providing services. I'm not comfortable with them doing that. We have every other Fire service in the area right. We have our Washington Hose Company, Valley, Modena, we have all these ambulance services to provide for the City. I just don't think Tower Health should be permitted. Vice President Green stated that we have all those other ambulance services in there. The Washies, who are under investigations or whatever it is that they're doing. I'm not really satisfied with them providing a service for our residents and the quality of the service that they provide for our residents so I'm not really comfortable with that. Tower Health is based out of the Hospital. Mr. Simpson stated so they are even farther away than Westwood. I just don't think that we should have them as on our main responder. If they want to be a backup, but I just don't think that we should have them. Vice President Green asked if there is something that prohibits us from changing that if the opportunity provides itself, if they are unable to provide the service that we could change that. Mr. Logan stated he would find out but the Resolution encompasses all of the emergency services including Towers. Mr. Simpson asked did they get put Tower onto the list to begin with because we didn't approve them last year. They just kind of slowly worked their way in there. Here's what was going on Washington Hose Company was doing transfers for Tower Health, making more money doing those transfers from hospital to hospital than what they were making running ambulance calls in the City of Coatesville. That left other ambulance services to pick up the slack, Tower Health started coming in then only when they realized they could make money. The whole EMS thing needs looked into and what's going on with our Fire. Vice President Green stated I agree and that's why I was asking if there was anything prohibiting us from making adjustments because I'm not comfortable with having Washies as our emergency response and we get to pick who we want to provide the EMS services for the city. Mr. Simpson stated his feelings are you're still Tower Health, you left why should we give you the opportunity to come back in and make money just providing where are they going to take these patients, still if they're part of the EMS and they have the ambulance services where are they going to take the patient to, Chester County, Paoli are the closest. They left us. They saw an opportunity to buy hospitals in Philadelphia we were part of the package and we found out that Jennersville and Brandywine weren't as profitable as the other ones, so they cut us loose. I'm upset about this because and I and I'm upset about this because there is nowhere close to go. But what I'm saying is, we get to decide who is the EMS provider in the City. I'm okay with everybody but Tower Health. Vice President Green stated she is okay with everybody but the Washies. I'm just, I'm really not, I'm just not okay with them at all. Mr. Simpson stated I couldn't agree with you more

### **Adopt Robert Rules of Order for the Year 2022**

Vice President Green made a motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order for the year 2022; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 17, 2022; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Comments – City Council President**

President Lavender Norris wished everyone a Happy New Year. I acknowledge our New Year's Eve fireworks celebrations. They were awesome. One of Coatesville's own, Mr. Jones provided the display. I just want him to understand how much I appreciated and enjoyed the fireworks display. On another note, I want to acknowledge COVID, that is now running through pretty much everywhere. I have a huge concern regarding it and I would like the council to begin to consider for the City a mask mandate. I'm not asking you to make a decision tonight. I'm just asking you to consider it and maybe we can put it on the agenda for our next meeting. This is not to try to run or control anyone's life. It's just to try to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our employees here in City Hall have to interact with the general public and to ask someone if their Vaccinated is borderline HIPPA law. In order to ensure their safety those that are coming into the building safely, I would like for us to consider the mask mandate City wide while it already in effect here at City Hall. Again, I want to thank you. I want to thank God for another opportunity and just trust him to lead us through this year as he did last year. We're moving forward, we're growing and it's a pleasure to look forward to thank you.

**Comments – City Council Vice President**

Vice President Green stated I am very grateful and thankful for my co-council and their support of me serving as vice president, trust and believe that I don't take that position lightly. I try to commit myself to the things in the business of the city at all times, but I'm just grateful. There is so much going on in the city. And I'm just thankful as the vice president. We will continue to be blessed this year, as we have been last year and I have all the faith in trust in our staff, our city manager, our police chief, even our solicitor for all the work that lies ahead for us in 2022, who still is rising. There's a lot going on. And I'm just grateful to be here this year in the city. At this time in this position as a city council person, I want to acknowledge and, and welcome Charrisse, Charrisse got sworn earlier, but she is our newest council member. She will be representing the city at large, and I'm just excited for her because I know that as Judge Hines, as we took that oath, that she will serve the city with fidelity. And I know that she even went as far as when she was elected, she went and she took the election 101 course, that they, the county offered. And no one, I hadn't even had a chance. I was going to ask her about it, but I had not even had a chance to ask her. And she was already registered and attended. So that in itself showed me that she is committed and dedicated to learning what is to be an elected official in our State of Pennsylvania. So, thank you everyone. I thank my grandson for holding the Bible way low. I had to bend way down, but I'm just so grateful and thankful he wanted to come. So, and I'm glad that he's here. Him and my husband. Bless, thank you all.

**Comments – City Council Members**

Mr. Simpson welcomed Ms. Allen, congratulations looking forward to working with you the next two years. I only have two years left and I'm done. 20 years, but congratulations and sincerely look forward to working with everybody. I'd like to welcome my colleagues back for another year. So, you know for Christmas I was thinking we could get that Rock um and Soc um robots for Chambers. Happy New Year, welcome back everybody. I'd like to welcome the public back for

another year. Mr. Logan, staff, everyone, welcome Happy New Year and we're looking forward to everybody. Rich got me all excited tonight when he said that he was going to do a presentation and I guarantee you he'll never say that again. Happy New Year and I look forward to another good year.

Mr. Folks stated Mr. Simpson was going off downstairs when he saw Rich, he was going to shut this place down. Happy New Year to the staff. Congratulations, President and Vice President and Ms. Allen on your first meeting. My grandson, he catches the train, he goes and works in Lancaster and come home. He got a good job I'm proud of him. Thank you, Happy New Year and have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt stated President and Vice President, I just I really just want to say that I don't take this office lightly. I take it with fidelity and I really do appreciate it. I nominate you because of the work that you do, the ethics that you have, and how you hold the counter together. I appreciate that because that's what we need. We have to go beyond. Thank you so much, to our staff, we appreciate you and everything you do here. I just look forward to a great year. As our Council President said we have to again take this COVID serious. I had my booster shot today and I'm proud to say it so far, I feel fine. I hope I stay this way. Not like getting those first shots and knocking me off my feet. I'm just grateful to be a part of this great council. God, thank you for standing in as we make the transitions I'm just grateful for it. Thank you everyone have a good night.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone. I'm excited to see what I can do for the City. I'm glad to be a part of helping to move the City forward. I look forward to getting to know everyone. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin stated I just want to thank everybody that attended. I'm not in attendance because I am a little COVID paranoid, so I was sworn in in a judge's office and my granddaughter held the Quran for me. I just look forward to a New Year and continuing to move this city forward and I appreciate everybody's hard work and Happy New Year to everybody. Thank you.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Folks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.