



Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, September 11, 2023

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman Villa Hunt, Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green, and Councilman Bookman

Council Absent:
Staff Present James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Richard Troutman, Finance Department; Lieutenant Rodger Ollis, Police Department; Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

President Lavender Norris announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters.

Approve Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the August 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained due to her absence.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Discussion Items

1. Halloween – October 31, 2023 from pm-8pm
Mr. Logan explained the ending time is left blank because we were unsure of the time. [crosstalk]. Council agreed to have trick or treat from 5 pm to 8 pm on Tuesday October 31, 2023

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 comments on regular action items; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider an Ordinance authorizing the City to enter into a bank qualified purchase agreement with Mid Penn Bank for purpose of acquiring on Trackless MT7 for the use of the City pursuant to a COSTAR contract, containing full payment terms, said agreement to require interest payments at rates set forth in the attachments for a five (5) year term for a maximum amount of \$125,000, under §8109 of the LGUDA

Vice President Green made a motion to approve and Ordinance authorizing the City to enter into a bank qualified purchase agreement with Mid Penn Bank for purpose of acquiring on Trackless MT7 for the use of the City pursuant to a COSTAR contract, containing full payment terms, said agreement to require interest payments at rates set forth in the attachments for a five (5) year term for a maximum amount of \$125,000, under §8109 of the LGUDA; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney client privileged report to the council since the council's last meeting. I and my office worked on certain Right-to-Know matters; provided advice regarding a motor vehicle accident; assisted with the drafting of the ordinance that was considered this evening; continue to address and provide guidance for certain planned development matters; and I continue to communicate with outside counsel while handling litigation and opioid matters on behalf of the city.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced I'll start by providing information regarding real estate in our executive meeting and also on our public meeting report. First, I just want to start by recognizing today is September 11th in memory of the events that took place on 9/11. In addition to that, this is the one-year anniversary of Chip Houston's passing. I just want to acknowledge that as well.

On to the additional items on my report. This past weekend, we had an activity in relation--related to our storm. We had some damages that took place throughout the city. We had minor flooding in areas and areas. We had some minor flooding in the areas, but I just wanted the councilmembers and the general public to know that we did have our public works crew out today, actually a few hours yesterday just kind of surveying the area. Thanks to a number of councilmembers that sent photographs to kind of show us some of the areas that were flooded a little more than others. For those residents that are experiencing power outage, you should contact PECO, the customer service line, or PA American Water if you're having issues related to water coming to your residence. There is on our website a directory where you can find these numbers on the www.coatesville.org website. It's listed under directory. Those numbers should be on that dropdown screen. The next item I have, I just want to thank Mrs. Minnie McNeil and the volunteers for coming out to the City Hall on Saturday to help educate the community on emergency preparedness. First aid kits were given out by members and representatives from Penn Medicine and other partners provided several documents and information for our residents here. The last two items are event-related. This weekend many of you know that's-- we celebrated our seventh annual Grand Prix event. Our preparations will begin on Friday after 1:30. The company that provides us with the fencing for this event will come into the city, and they will start lining the City out to prepare for Saturday morning. Parking notices, did go out last week. We have Lieutenant Ollis here that could comment on. If you don't see them, there's a reason why. But they did out and you'll probably see more of them throughout this week. Fencing will be delivered throughout the city, as I mentioned. All cars, Lincoln Highway, 8th, Oak, Percy, City Hall Place, and First Avenue should be removed no later than—Friday night. Lieutenant Ollis

stated Friday or early Saturday morning. we're not going to tow until early Saturday. Friday afternoon into Saturday morning it should be removed. It will be posted on the Police Facebook page. Mr. Logan stated in the event of an emergency, as always, emergency vehicles will be-- or will have access to side sweeps on the main street. And of course, there's something of a serious nature, we'll actually stop the race itself. The event takes place in Coatesville as you all know and the spotlight for the entire weekend. Many partners, collaborators, residents, and sponsors have come together to help Coatesville shine. So the main event is a great way to kind of put our best foot forward and also show our appreciation to all the folks that make Coatesville what it is today. The last item I have is the Sounds of Summer Music Series is back on the 22nd. And we have added two additional dates following that. The first will be October 6th and the second one would be October 13th.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino stated to begin, I'd like to remind Coatesville that if any Spanish speakers or non-English speakers, we are here to help as best we can. We're working to make sure everyone can share their questions and comments. *Me gustaría recordarle a la Ciudad de Coatesville que si alguna persona que hable español u otra persona que no hable inglés necesita ayuda con los asuntos de la Ciudad, estamos aquí para ayudar lo mejor que podamos. Estamos trabajando para garantizar que todos puedan compartir sus preguntas e inquietudes*]. A brief update from our Codes Department. As you know, we've been moving along on several fronts. But just to give you a few numbers in the month of August, we had code enforcement items reported and 11 were abated. Several of those were trash complaints, abandoned vehicle. Those were high grass and [inaudible] continues to be a challenge throughout the city, and some other general maintenance things as well. The issue workers deprived licenses, 42 rental licenses and a vacant premises registration. And then we also had 75 rental inspections throughout the city. So that is-- our biggest hunt/push had been on rental inspections and getting those running, so we are looking forward to those numbers we'll be seeing more in the coming months. We do expect that to happen.

Another update I'd like to give is that as you know we have several projects in the works in the city. But one of the ones that is very close is our road repair project, and I have a few pictures to share with you. If you want to look up the screen, this is our 2023 - oh, here we go - road repair. As you know they started with-- you can go to the next slide. They started with the repair of about 27 ADA ramps. So what happened with the-- these are the new ramps you are looking at in the pictures. So they actually had to cut out those corners and fill in the entire ADA ramp. The reason for that is all of our ramps throughout-- the sidewalk ramps throughout the city are outdated. And whenever you're doing paving, if you're getting to an ADA ramp, you need to redo the ramp. So this will continue to be a cost for the city to incur in any paving project. Just to put that in the back of your mind, when we are doing paving, we will need to update these ramps as well. But we did get a nice chunk of them done on this project, and they look great, so.

And on the next slide, 13th Ave from Reed to Sterling is complete, so it looks-- as I'm sure everybody knows that section on 13th Ave was, just for many, many years, very, very difficult. We also replaced, in the righthand picture, you see that guardrail. That is a new guardrail as well that needed replacing, and we were able to do that as well. Next slide, we also finished 12th and Oak. And that was a fairly small section because actually, PA American Water did most of Oak Street from 10th to 13th. So what you're looking at is

actually the roadway just from Oak up to Spencer Alley which was also in really poor repair. And because the rest of Oak and 12th is being [done?], this was a good opportunity for us to take care of that entire section. It also fixed a major inlet that was a major safety hazard. So unfortunately, I don't have a before picture, but if you can imagine on the righthand picture, in the grassy area to the left, there was a very, very, very outdated inlet that was a safety hazard. Now, it's been replaced [inaudible]. So that was not a big deal for that solution. Next slide, we also were able to do Graham Ave from Coates Street up to Cedar and actually a little bit past Cedar as well. Graham Ave was in a-- some of you know that Graham Ave was in a very, very poor repair, probably one of the worst streets in the city. And we're very happy to see it done, and this will assist with stormwater issues as well in that area, so that's really great. The next slide. We also were able to do a patch repair at East Diamond and 4th Ave. Again, we really tried to pinpoint some of the worst areas, and this was an important patch to get done. And then next slide, there was also a patch on Lumber Street, between 5th and 6th, that was done. And you can see that was significantly larger. And then next slide, this is just the map of the work of this particular project throughout the city. So, you can kind of see how it's ended up being split up. The only one that you don't see pictures of, it's the work on Lemon Street because that is actually starting tomorrow. Lemon Street was actually-- is in such poor repair that it needed a special type of thing called [inaudible], I think it is. I don't know enough about to explain it, but we needed to wait for that to be available to us. So, starting tomorrow, and that will be done between tomorrow and Wednesday. Then there's a 10 to 14-day curing period, and they'll be back to do the final paving of that after that. And at that point, the work will be complete.

Mr. Logan stated if I could just add, Roberta started this project basically as soon as she was hired. When we handed it over to her, we passed along some of the initial work that as you all know started back in [inaudible]. Bridge, Chip, Julius Scott of Public Works, they all worked together putting this plan together. We have proper funding. We have the [bill funding?], that's all part of the whole infrastructure and road repair work. So, I just want to commend all of the individuals that took part in putting this together. Thank you, guys. Thank you, Roberta. Jules, if you're listening, thank you. Ms. Cosentino stated actually, if I could just add one more thing. The one thing that didn't make it to the map is the work that PA American Water was doing on Lincoln Highway. I do have confirmation that that work will be complete in the beginning of October, that they'll do the final paving on that work.

Ms. Al Amin asked about the sidewalk where instead of replacing the concrete, they just put black top on them? Ms. Cosentino replied those will be repaired. Those are just temporary patches on the sidewalk, so that's all part of that work.

4. Police Department

Lieutenant Ollis announced we had 2,297 calls for service at the 911 center. That's a 200 from the previous month. It's part of what we get up to task. The service [orientation?] desk and other informational items. There were 3,297 receptionists handle throughout the month. Highlights for the month. The board and [inaudible] administration is all successful. 13 car seats checked or installed [inaudible] supervising technicians. The chief typically, there's some touched on, but I figured since October is domestic violence awareness month, we responded to 57 domestic disturbances last month, which is average. Four-- I'm sorry, five we got [inaudible] of the county. Upcoming. We have Coffee with the Chief at the Marriott on October 4th, 8:30 AM. We had our first of the season at Brandywine Active Aging on the 9th

of September. We're also preparing for the DEA takeback, mark your calendars this October 28th from 10:00 to 2:00. So it's time to start clearing the medicine cabinets. Some are not needed or expired. This helps keep them out of landfills and our water supply. So, this helps us to make sure they are disposed of properly. The big upcoming event is the Grand Prix. We're already excited about that. I wanted you to know all of the timely display signs are being charged up and ready to be placed in an area that is conducive, effective, and they'll be smiling when they come through. [crosstalk]. We are in the midst of preparing the roads. Mr. Logan mentioned we started to put signs up on Saturday. We had a storm go through, so some of our work is being redone. We plan on clearing the roads on the race route around 10:00 AM Friday through Saturday, so. But then we will not start towing until we deem they're absolutely in the way and then get them removed-- that's helped-- about 5:00 AM on race day. That's always our last resort. We're not going to allow them to be towed. If we have their phone numbers available, we'll call them and tell them we don't want to tow. We have a partnership with Fling's Towing. They're kind enough to provide-- to tow those vehicles to a parking lot in 3rd and Maple. They've always been quite helpful, but we want it to look clear, so they can prepare the fencing for a safe event. President Lavender Norris asked did I hear you say you're having the vehicles towed to the lot? Lieutenant Ollis stated we've done that for several years now. President Lavender Norris stated I didn't know that. That's wonderful. Ms. Allen asked would they still incur their toll fee or nothing? Lieutenant Ollis stated Fling's Towing has been a great partner. Ms. Allen asked when will you be doing-- will you give tickets out on Friday and they can park-- or put the sign up that says no parking. If somebody parks there, would you give them a ticket? Lieutenant Ollis stated they would tell you when you're in violation. [inaudible]. We prefer compliance.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes) – Residents/Tax Payer/Property Owner

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

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mrs. Turner-Green asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11th.

Mr. Bookman said I also just want to say God bless, good night. Thanks, everybody that's watching. We greatly appreciate it.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out, and of course, as Mrs. Turner-Green said, this is 9/11, so I hope none of us will ever forget. It has been - what - 22 years but a lot of people were affected by that, a lot of lives were lost, a lot of travesties even afterward with the firefighters and-- so I hope we never forget that. And I hope everybody has safe travel, so good night.

Ms. Allen stated it's nice to see everyone after being out for the last meeting. Get home safely good night.

Mr. Hunt stated it's nice to see everybody. Peter good to see you, classmate. Sue and-- it's good to see always. As always, I want to thank our staff for the great job you continue to do. My colleagues, always good to be with you. Everybody get home safe and have a good evening. Thank you.

Vice President Green inaudible]. [laughter] No, I'm just kidding. Just we don't have a lot of people but we have faith in you. We appreciate you coming out. And it's for the city, so we appreciate it. But I just [inaudible] your faith into the city. We have line dancing thing going on. [inaudible]. Sue, got it down pat, I just appreciate her and her spirit-- and willingness. [crosstalk]. I'm sorry, but I just had to say it. It's good to see you, Peter, as always. You've done a fabulous job at the library. Our library has been so active. But I just appreciate everyone. You have a good night. We are working [inaudible]. Be careful. There's a new strand of COVID. I forgot my mask today. [crosstalk]. I know quite a few people who have been sick here. And they're saying that the new vaccines will be out in about a week or so. Get vaccinated and your flu shot. And I thank you all and have a great night.

Lieutenant Ollis stated I forgot to mention the steering wheel locks. Our inspiration comes in many forms. Councilwoman Al Amin recommended that we try to help some folks that have Kia's or Hyundai's. Your contacts at no cost to the taxpayers. We're able to secure dozens of these. We've have given out, I think 25 or 26. If you want to share with your board members or constituents. It's required that there be a city resident at this point. The City of Coatesville address. Again, show your ID, your registration, it should match to them and be within the city limits. And [inaudible] for many people but we want to be able to take care of [crosstalk] deter vehicle thefts or attempted thefts that we spoke about two council meetings ago.-- we have 50-plus incidents regarding Hyundai's and Kia's. Let's put the [inaudible] on that, so. They just need to stop by this Police reception area and they will get one at no cost. Vice President Green stated I'm so grateful for our Police Department. But at least our department has all the [inaudible]. The people are having their cars being stolen, and then the Police are providing locks to the residents at no charge to participate. President Lavender Norris said I agree. I thank you as well. Our Police Department has been doing an exemplary job of [inaudible] to the extent that they can be no doubt [inaudible] as an example. And this is an example of community help, and I so appreciate that. The Chief was saying how quickly how many Kia's and Hyundai's were being stolen, to the extent that it was I think a 12-year-old girl, that was one of the ones that took a car. So these things--

President Lavender Norris stated I too just want to say thank you to all of you that have come out this evening. It's a pleasure to have you. I'm just grateful for another day, and that I am thankful that God's will is being done in our community. The change is totally evident. Before, it was a rumor of change, then it went through the whole cycle of, "Yeah, right. I don't know. Short. No, they're not." Now, it's evident. So, we're building. We're growing. And I'm grateful for that. I thank you all my colleagues and staff because together, we're getting it done. I just want to say whether they are aware, "No, we're not," keep Chip's family in prayer. Because an anniversary debut, it kind of opens up old wounds. So, keep his family in prayer. His two daughters are wonderful, his wife, and his family as a whole. But just keep them in prayer. Let's keep him in prayer. Everybody be safe. God bless you all. God bless this evening.

Adjournment

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