



Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – COVID 19-2020 – via ZOOM and YOU TUBE
Monday February 22, 2021

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Mrs. C. Arvilla Hunt, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, Council Person Nydea Graves, Councilman Donald Folks, Councilman Edward Simpson
Council Absent: Councilman Edward Simpson
Staff Present James Logan, City Manager; Anthony Verwey, Solicitor; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Richard Troutman, Finance Director

President Lavender-Norris announced Council held and Executive Session earlier to discuss personal real estate legal matters.

President Lavender-Norris announced Mr. Simpson would not be in attendance this evening.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the February 8, 2021 meeting minutes; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Al Amin asked a question on page 19 and 35 on the officer armor and the point-blank concealable armors. How often are those bought chief? Chief Laufer explained they are for the new officer hires. By contract, we supply them with a complete uniform when they're promoted to full-time which includes the bulletproof vest. The expenses are a part of our capital budget. The difference in price is due to two different vendors. We found better price for the second two. Vice President Green questioned on page 10, the additional fee of \$2,249 in Right to Knows. Are these the same Right to Knows from a couple of months ago that were the large expense of \$5000-7000?

Mr. Verwey explained it is related to that. We had to produce a privilege log, actually the billing for that was discounted by a factor of almost eight or nine down to the amount that was billed because we had spent so much time on it. We're trying to make it reasonably affordable for the City, but we still had to produce a document that was about 30 pages in length there 11 by 16 paper setting forth all the documents that had to be redacted of the 7,000 pages. We had been working on that but we had to go through it again and go through all the documents. But again, we did discount that by nearly a factor of 9 in order to reduce the expense to the City. Now, we're now up to almost \$10,000. There should not be any more costs unless the requester files a challenge to any of the redactions that were outlined. President Lavender-Norris explained the residents need to know and be aware of the cost like this the drips out of our bucket so to speak because the Right to Knows are mounting up in cost. It isn't for the City to have a Right to Know, it's Right to Know requests that are being submitted and we as residents are encouraging the cost. So please be mindful of how you say you want to make sure we're being fiscally responsible. Just keep your eye out on what's going on with regards to the Right to Knows because they are mounting as I was saying the server way. I have a quick question for you. So as far as this particular right to know that we're talking about that is now almost that \$10,000. Ms. Al Amin stated It isn't because any particular resident or any councilmember put in a Right to Know this is this is a matter of that's addressing illegal situation,

right? Mr. Verwey explained this isn't Discovery in the case that's pending in federal court. This is a Right to Know request which is separate and distinct action. This was filed by the owner of a property. Well, technically the attorney for an owner, former owner of a property in the City and it was it's strictly under the Right to Know law. Now a lot of folks use the Right to Know Law to get Discovery instead of going through the courts because it's a little easier and often more cost-effective. I don't know what the motivation was in this case, but they made the request for this. So, all this is born out of the Right to Know Law and not the separate civil litigation.

Mrs. Hunt asked to help her understand why as the City we have to pay for this when it's an individual that's requesting this information. Shouldn't that be a part of their expenses to be able to obtain the information that they need the law. Mr. Verwey explained the law only permits a per page charge of 25 cents and then only if it is subjected to a what's known as what's called a secured redaction. Otherwise, if it's an electronic format is supposed to be producing electronic format. We had to print these out to redact them. So we did initially charged the fee for the copies, but that was not as substantial as the overall legal bills on legal expenses just incurred in responding to and resolving the privilege issues within the documents. Mrs. Hunt stated while looking at legal matters. I'm seeing expenses for legal matters everywhere. If you go back one page and at the bottom, we have \$3,599 for Durant and Campbell and then you flip over to page 10 and we have \$3,995.50 for General legal matters Gawthorp Greenwood. Mr. Verwey explained the Durrant billings are from Labor and Personnel Council. The Gawthorp which is the firm is from provided itemized listing of their bills. The lists are provided in a separate packet.

Mr. Folk asked how many Right to Knows were filed last year.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

Council person Graves made a motion to add discussion item 2) Code Chapter 187 Shopping Cart Ordinance; Action item 3) PennDOT Winter Agreement and 4) Griffin Settlement; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Presentations

1. Trina Solar Presentation – Bradd Forstein, Angie Daoud, and Bryan Ritti

Trina Solar is quite a large organization in the Solar industry and here to give you some color around our Global footprint and our operations. And then while we are a global company that's over 13,000 employees. We still are very much a local developer and project company. We have we've been building projects all around the world. We've actually developed and built and financed over 3 gigawatts of projects which to give you some perspective on the size on what that kind of equates to one gigawatt of power is going to be on about 4,000 Acres. We have developed around the world in various and 38 different countries. With regards to the development of this project, we just want to reassure you that while you're dealing with a global company you've got local representatives, local approvals with a strong backing to be here through ups and downs. We provide all different types of solutions all around the world, you know, not just necessarily just dedicated to solar. We also do storage energy solutions and micro grids. We have our company has Diversified Beyond just simple panels into the racking systems and various other technologies that we own and deploy in various situations. For the situation for Coatesville and the Mount Airy Road property, which we've conditionally been awarded a lease on you know, our intent is to develop a solar project maybe storage at some point, but we don't know yet depending upon what the Pennsylvania Market does over the next year or so we'll have to make that decision.

The preliminary development timeline for the Mount Airy Road Project, which is typically referred to as the landfill although it's based in Valley Township but owned by the City of Coatesville. As many of you know the development process whether it's for real estate solar wind is relatively fluid and there is about a thousand items that go into making the development process. This can shift and we're constantly staying agile and making sure that we work with the landowner and the stakeholders to make sure that the project proceeds. We are very motivated to complete each one of our projects as quickly as possible and what you're seeing here is really an ideal time line, which goes through the basic's phases. As of development including diligence environmental investigation including threatened endangered species, cultural resources Etc. We also will be required to do an interconnection application and we have a number of different options there. But again, trying to move forward through that process as soon as quickly as possible. We of course will be designing the facility and Engineering it as well as permitting. The overall process includes all City, County, State, Federal permits and land use approvals, of course, with Valley Township in conjunction or in partnership with the City of Coatesville. Once we've gotten through that process which is typically about a year and a half we then will construct the system and we have multiple options for this. The process for this project a little unique. Coatesville owns the property but being that it's located in a different municipality, all of these activities that were described will be taking place with Valley Township and not with the City of Coatesville. The City will ultimately get the rental benefit associated with the lease, but won't have to go through the land use approval process. We just ask for your support in the applications that we make. As the landowner you'll have to be signing off on some of those applications as we get into it and get through it. We are intending to lease the entire property but will most likely only construct on part of it and are very preliminary conceptual design for the Coatesville landfill. There are a number of solar arrays. This will require surveying and Engineering before designs are finalized and decided upon.

Discussion Items

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

2. Chapter 187 Shopping Carts

Councilperson Graves read Chapter 187 Shopping Carts of the City Code. Shopping Cart definition: Those pushcarts of the type or types which are commonly provided by grocery stores, markets and other types of stores for the use of the public in transporting commodities in stores, markets and other types of stores and incidentally from the store to a place outside the store. Users to return carts to store premises. Any person who makes any use of any shopping cart, belonging to or furnished by the owner of the store, market or shopping center, for assembling or moving of groceries, foodstuffs and allied products there purchased shall, after such use, promptly return the shopping cart to the property from whence taken. Violations and Penalties: Any other use made of said shopping carts, including the abandonment of the same upon the streets, highways, alleys and other public ways of the City, shall be deemed a public nuisance; and any person found guilty of committing such a nuisance shall, upon conviction thereof in summary proceedings, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than six hundred dollars (\$600.) or to confinement to the City jail for not more than ninety (90) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Council person Graves stated I just wanted to talk about lifting the possibility of fine and imprisonment when it comes to our shopping cart Ordinance and if we feel that it's important for folks to not walk around with shopping cart or should not steal shopping carts. That is one thing but to be held accountable

by fine or imprisonment is generally targeted at people who are unhoused, who use shopping cart to transport their belongings most of the time. We know that homelessness is a systemic problem. In the short-term the issue is that somebody is pushing a shopping cart in the City. You and people, deem it a nuisance but the long-term solution to an issue, like people pushing shopping carts down. The City is really addressing systemic drug use the on housing affordable housing and also trauma and mental health treatment. And so, you know, generally the shopping cart ordinance affects mostly on house folks. Who are probably because they're unhoused in Survival Mode dealing with trauma from being an house and it's also expensive right? The more things are criminalized or hold fine or imprisonment charges the more possibility that people can be in prison, which is an expense and it's the least effective and then the other thing too about the shopping cart ordinance is that it just violates people's civil rights because we are unsure on how people acquire shopping cart quite frankly. If someone doesn't report, you know, one of their shopping carts missing to the police department, we can't identify how a person came into possession of a shopping cart. So that is just something I wanted to talk about.

President Lavender-Norris explained the only time the Police really get involved is according to what's written is when a shopping cart is abandoned. At that point they find the owner of the cart not the person in possession of it. It's not those little carts that you see people pulling around. We're talking literal shopping carts, like in the grocery stores and stuff and then that's the law in the City so we can't be a party to or condone someone breaking the law. We are in the midst of revitalization, and we erase that law off the books, but then we're faced with that problem again. Councilperson Graves stated I guess what I'm saying is that the problem only seems like it's a nuisance that people are stealing shopping carts, but the actual problem is that people need shopping carts to transport their things because they are unhoused. But again, what can we as the City do? President Lavender-Norris explained we have a situation and everybody on Council, everybody on Zoom is aware of this situation down on Lincoln Highway with the people with the shopping carts. We're all aware of that with them being located there. There's three carts, and then the bench with the people on the sitting on the bench, right? It's dangerous for them to be outside in this kind of weather and it looks bad for the City because anybody that's passing by sees that and it looks like a bunch of trash. It may be their belongings and I'm not saying what they have there isn't the very best. What I'm saying is what it looks like. So, we got to be mindful. We got to be careful and we have to stay within our lanes. You know, we can't just go tell them people. Okay, come on, you got to go to the hotel, rooming house or anywhere? We can't make them because they're adults. Yeah, but we can deal with those shopping carts that are sitting there. How do we deal with them? Like how do we deal with them? That's fluid. We're moving along with that daily. But we can't just take things off the books because we're concerned about the homeless. We have to be as concerned about the ones that do have a home as we do about the homeless.

Councilperson Graves stated that we are representatives of our entire City, people who have a home aren't in the same kind of crisis as people who are homeless and I'm not saying that, that doesn't mean that you don't have a crisis. I mean we are literally dealing with a global crisis. I'm not saying that at all. I'm just saying that removing people's belongings or the way that they transport their belongings isn't helpful to the situation. We are just City officials, but we know we do have County officials and state officials that we can Advocate with. We can use trauma-informed practice. We can consider mental health and/or global drug abuse in two situations when we're looking at them because things aren't black and white. They have a ton

of nuance and I think that just the long-term issue isn't that people are outside with the shopping cart is that people are not in a home and while they are in a transitional period though, you don't want make it harder for folks who are already in a crisis by taking away their things or their method to transport thing while they are working on becoming systemically housed not specifically the court but with the homeless and people having hardships and things.

President Lavender-Norris stated to Councilperson Graves that this was brought up before, not specifically the shopping cart but homeless ness and people having hardships. Vice President Green recommended that you and her get together and go speak with the young lady. I think it is. Its called connect points in the library, the Resource Center. Did that come to fruition? And if so, was there anything that we can utilize with regard to that situation?

Vice President Green stated I heard what Councilperson Graves regarding the shopping carts and with the homeless. However, I do know that our Police Department has not cited any one for the shopping cart. I think that if we go through this and we remove ordinance, it's on the book regarding breaking the law that we are opening up a can of worms. We do have a dollar store, we have another store downtown that utilize shopping carts. So, we're giving people the right to take their carts, to walk their groceries home and not return them to the store because see that's the crime. The crime is removing the cart from the grocery store. We're not talking about people who use the carts and laundry baskets that they purchased or someone gives them but we're talking about this ordinance which is addressing the shopping carts. We do have a potential grocery store probably coming to the area from what I understand and we do have a dollar store and the other store downtown that they do have carts. I think that we have to look at the whole picture, that if we take this ordinance off the books, you're giving people the right to go to the Dollar Store remove that cart from the dollar store and take it home with them because they don't want to carry their groceries. I understand but I do know that the Police Department has not issued any citations and the Chief has been here for nine years and he's never done. We do understand and everyone has been so empathetic and sympathetic to the cause of the people that we know that are housed by the public library and there's so many different people who are offering and trying to help them and you know, homelessness is a big issue, but I think that that's a Issue aside from the shopping cart issue. I think that if we take that issue, take the shopping cart ordinance off the books, we are doing a disservice to the stores that have to pay for these carts and we're allowing people, we're now saying you can take that cart home. You won't get a fine if you take work away from that store and you won't get a fine. I just want to say once they take the cart away and abandon it on the walk home, then it's abandoned and it leaves the Public Works and the Police when they do their cleanup situation. It leaves the work on them to go collect them because again, they become unsightly and Public Works has to go and pick them up. Like we're not trying to add more work on to and already heavy workload and that department either we have to be mindful of the cause and effect of our decisions.

Chief Laufer echoed that no one has been cited in over eight years almost nine years that I've been here and also just like to make the comment that our ordinance is based upon Title 18, Pennsylvania Crimes Code Section 67 11, which makes it a summary offense. And, under the crimes code or removal of shopping carts and our ordinance pretty much is verbatim the language that's contained in the crimes code and how to deal with the theft of shopping carts. And that's what our ordinance is based upon. So even if we were to change our ordinance, it still does not change title 18 Pennsylvania crimes code which makes it a crime to remove the

shopping cart punishable by \$300 fine and 90 days in jail. Councilperson Graves thanked the Chief. And so Chief, Is there a way in which we can you know move forward with not continuing to charge folks who are on house with a \$600 fine or 90 days in prison for having the shopping carts as you've been doing for the last nine years then. Chief replied yes, I don't see an instance where we would make a practice or you know a habit or policy of enforcing that with regard to our homeless population here in the City. But taking a shopping cart from a grocery store is a fine. It is still technically a crime. Mr. Folks explained there's a shopping cart across from me in my alley and has been there probably two months now and I said once the snow cleared I'm going to take it back to the grocery outlet now. I'm up here on for probably between fourth and fifth with his shopping cart is is been there and I know somebody brought it from the street up top and put it right there. So I will I'm going to pick that card up once I can get to it because all that snow out there, but I got to take it back to Grocery Outlet because somebody took it from the Grocery aisle and took their groceries and came all the way up to 5th Avenue and left the car and the woods because they didn't want to take it back now. That's a crime.

Mr. Logan stated I just want to make this clear to the public as well. Our Police Department doesn't go around and they don't stop people that have shopping carts and assume that they actually stole that cart, our first priority when it comes to our homeless is trying to get them back into shape. The individuals that everyone is talking about our Police Department on numerous occasions have assisted along with the county. We have placed them in a home that couple was removed from the home for some of the issues as you mentioned, It could have been health related, mental health-related, hygiene related. They have put them in hotels, they are part of the general population like you and I aren't that are staying these hotels and we have been told that sometimes these individuals are either harassing people in the lobby or they're just not welcome there now. I'm not saying that we should turn our backs on me, but I will say that we try everything that we can possibly within the law, to assist some of these individuals. Some individuals just don't want our help, you know, we house them, we feed them and they're back on the street the following day. In terms of the carts, the issue I have with the carts is if we do continue to allow people to take the carts and then we have a population or community full of carts throughout the City. Its not a good look for the City. Our role is to serve our residents, the taxpayers to keep our city clean and preserve the quality of life. I think what we have to do is to strike a balance in this particular case when it comes to our homeless population, but I can assure you our Police Department. As I said at the top of this my comment is that they are not stopping homeless people and fining them as they have a shopping cart, unless they actually are seeing those individuals walking out with the cart from the store. I think that would be a stretch for the Police Department to even see them make that connection and correct me if I'm wrong Chief, you know, sometimes we don't know where these carts come from. Chief replied that is correct. But the way the way the section of the ordinance and the crimes code is written, simple possession is all that is needed. If you possess a shopping cart that has readily identifiable markings from a store the simple possession is the crime understood.

Councilperson Graves stated the Chief has already said that, you know going forward and for the last nine years, he hasn't site cited anybody with a shopping cart. And so that was our sight of any folks who are on house with the shopping cart. Mr. Verwey explained that in order to take this off the books. The City would have to take the in amending ordinance. The City can repeal that section of the City's general laws. The state law will still be enforceable by the Police department, but it could be removed by ordinance. It can be removed by

Ordinance but the City is still accountable to the PA State Law whether it's on our books or not it's still a crime to do so, it would still be subject to the criminal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens comments on regular action items at this time.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens' hearings on regular action items only; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider for first reading and authorization to advertise, an ordinance the City of Coatesville to lease the City's property located at 201 South Mount Airy Road, Valley Township, County of Chester, UPI No. 38-2-30, to Trina Sola US SBU, LLC, for purposes of constructing and operating a solar energy generation facility for a twenty year term, with options for two five year extension, with an annual rental payment of not less than sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars, and payment of rents commencing at the start of construction of the solar facility and continuing annually on the anniversary date thereof for the term of the lease.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve first reading and authorization to advertise, an ordinance the City of Coatesville to lease the City's property located at 201 South Mount Airy Road, Valley Township, County of Chester, UPI No. 38-2-30, to Trina Sola US SBU, LLC, for purposes of constructing and operating a solar energy generation facility for a twenty year term, with options for two five year extension, with an annual rental payment of not less than sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars, and payment of rents commencing at the start of construction of the solar facility and continuing annually on the anniversary date thereof for the term of the lease; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Construction will begin after the due diligence period, and the potential developer will have to conduct testing on the property. It is a former landfill as part of his due diligence. Look at soils Etc. Then there's a period for development. We're going to have to go in and get approvals from Valley Township. I think they're projected start respect or projected finish. He's in 2022. So probably there probably won't be rents being paid any earlier than the end of 2021 or early 2022.

2. Receive and consider a Resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, granting Masjid Ar-Rahmin, Inc., an extension of time in which to commence construction on its property located at 711-723 Merchant Street, City of Coatesville, pursuant to the General Laws of the City of Coatesville, Section 197-16C

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, granting Masjid Ar-Rahmin, Inc., an extension of time in which to commence construction on its property located at 711-723 Merchant Street, City of Coatesville, pursuant to the General Laws of the City of Coatesville, Section 197-16C; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Council person Graves stated I would like to make a comment before we make this vote. I want a preference the vote by saying I will be voting in. This this is just for the Public's record to I will be voting in this action item. I am a member of this Masjid. However, I'm not

financially connected to it. It's ethical for myself and Ms. Al Amin who also attends this Masjid to vote in this action item.

I just want to tell date I'm here on behalf of the mosque this evening. My name is Jeanne Gerber. Thank you for considering this as Mr. Verwey summarize this isn't an unusual request, but I just wanted to let you know that we are just about ready to record The Land Development plans and we should be submitting building permit applications in the very near future. So just so you are aware. We're not pushing this off for the indefinite future. We really are hoping to start construction in the spring just you know,

3. Receive and consider a Resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the City of Coatesville to enter into a 5 Year Winter Traffic Services Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, for 3.7 miles of state routes within the City during winter seasons 2020-2021 through and including 2024-2025, and providing for payments totaling \$22,320.55 for the term of the agreement with adjustments to offset severe winters.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve a Resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the City of Coatesville to enter into a 5 Year Winter Traffic Services Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, for 3.7 miles of state routes within the City during winter seasons 2020-2021 through and including 2024-2025, and providing for payments totaling \$22,320.55 for the term of the agreement with adjustments to offset severe winters; Council person Graves seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Verwey explained the agreement covers about three point seven miles of PennDOT owned roads within the City of Coatesville that will be maintained by the City, and for that maintenance PennDOT will be paying the City a certain amount each month, starting in excess of four thousand dollars then going up each year. The total amount is for a five-year contract. There are provisions in this agreement that provide for increases in the event of an extreme winter event or winter conditions over an extended period of time. There may be adjustments made to the amounts paid to the City for that maintenance. This is really just a reimbursement agreement for maintaining the portions of the city's roads that are owned by PennDOT.

4. Receive and consider a motion to accept the settlement proposal in Griffin v. City of Coatesville to resolve all claims for a payment of \$75,000.00, of which the City shall be responsible for \$25,000, with the balance to be paid by the City's insurer.

Mr. Folks made a motion to accept the settlement proposal in Griffin v. City of Coatesville to resolve all claims for a payment of \$75,000.00, of which the City shall be responsible for \$25,000, with the balance to be paid by the City's insurer; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Council person Graves asked Mr. Logan or Mr. Verwey to expand for the public as much as legally. Mr. Verwey explained the agreement was handled by the City's Insurance Council, but my understanding is that this lawsuit involved an individual who sued our city, the City Police Department and the matter went to a settlement conference with the judge and the individual. It was represented by counsel as wasn't City and a number was reached as an agreement to resolve all claims for the amount set forth in the settlement agreement. That is

generally a better way to resolve issues and it does so in a manner that is not does not create exposure for the city.

Mr. Folks made motion to close action items; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he worked on real estate matters related to the city's Riverwalk address development issues related to the proposed Flats development; real estate matters related to the city's leasing of city-owned property for the development of a solar farm, which was referenced earlier this evening and items 7.1; addressed litigation matters related to a proposed settlement address land and development issues and questions regarding properties within the city.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan stated with the business and economic development side. As you all know, we continue to move forward with several projects here in the City as I mentioned in the last two reports. This includes 30 and 82 realignment and streetscape projects from 1st to 3rd Avenue. The old train station and the new train station projects as well as investor projects. Unfortunately, due to this this weather that we're having, a lot of our projects have been delayed but we look forward to each of those projects getting right back on to a schedule by the springtime, late spring, a lot of these projects will be completed. Many of you have experienced some potholes. We are working with our Public Works Department as well as PennDOT to get to these potholes as quickly as we can. Unfortunately, the weather has softened many of our roads here, but we're working to do our best to get to those fixed.

In progress right now, we do have construction bids for the new train station. They were projected to go out this month, but got delayed. We do anticipate on those bids going out in March with plans for construction to start this year. We are closely monitoring the progress of that and working with PennDOT, Amtrak and the City Council. Everything is moving forward. I want to mention the members of the RDA and the Coatesville development team, they continue to work with PennDOT and Amtrak to move this project forward. We are looking ahead and we're very excited about the progress of our new train station.

As many of you know a couple weeks ago, we had a hiring event with URBN Outfitters. The event was positive starting right direction to fill over 200 positions at bourbon. We were fortunate to get 80 plus maybe close to 90 positions in the field. There are still individuals that are applying online for position. URBN Outfitters, we encourage you, if there's any job Seekers out there or any anyone that know of anyone looking for a job. URBN Outfitters is still looking. We plan to host another a hiring event sometime next month or early April and this is just a you know, we talked about a Workforce Development pipeline. I think this is the beginning of it, we are starting to see, you know individuals in this Community get excited about job opportunities. We're going to be working with a number of organizations to make that happen as well. Because of the URBN outfit Outfitters hiring event we've experienced a ripple effect. That effect is basically sparking other employers interested in our region, in our City this month. Inform the employers that are interested in partnering with City to host hiring events for their companies. So right there that's evident that you know, we have talented people here in this community. We can get them connected to the right employers

and hopefully they can get in there and put their best foot forward to land that job and to keep that job. All of this fall in line with our vision to create a workforce pipeline here in the City. You know those particular individuals that have been asking for employment opportunities to come to the City now, we're finally breaking the ice and making it happen. I'll be working with training providers like OIC, CYWA and the Career Link to establish training sites throughout the Coatesville area. We are talking about maybe training pods if you will, because we believe that there are pockets of Coatesville that people may not always want to come out, and we believe that if they don't want to come out then we got to go to them. So, we are going to be working with some of the organizations. I just mentioned to get these training pods in these areas for people who just want to get some tools to be a better interviewer or job seeker or for individuals who are just trying to upskill themselves so that they can advance in their careers. We are very excited about those two Workforce Development areas.

The last thing I have and I'm just going to hit up on it, like likely think our assistant City manager has some comments on it as we are continuing to monitor our Covid cases, even though some of the counting numbers are dropping, our numbers are still climbing and we're right now we're at 948. Of course, the country as you all have been listening to the news, we have hit that five hundred thousand mark, which is very unfortunate. But you know, there is some Hope on the horizon with vaccinations and we are working with the County, the Commissioners and the Health Department to identify vaccination centers in Coatesville. I think in the coming weeks we'll have some news on where those locations are going to be.

Last but not least, and this is a kind of a nice little note to end on, but this past Saturday, the Parks and Rec Commission and the City of Coatesville hosted its third annual Black History Month pancake and book reading, of course, we didn't have the pancakes. They kind of, you know, got into the the spirit of recognizing Black Culture Black History Month and it was a huge success of members and volunteers this month recognition and book reading. We had a small group but a wonderful turnout via the zoom featuring some of our future leaders. There were three rising children stars that read their favorite books by African-American authors, and I want to thank those parents for sharing your talented children. Thank you very much for bringing smiles to the kids. Thanks to James Bookman, Chairman and Fred Sharpe, Vice Chairman, of the Parks and Rec Commission for their time and moving the event smoothly.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston announced at the Millview Basin the planning work continues on the repair/rebuild of the retention basin at Millview off of Glencrest Road. We are working with Valley Township officials on a partnership agreement to fund the work and correct the issues. We currently have a Growing Greener grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a good portion of the funds needed and we are talking to the Chester County Department of Community and Economic Development team about a possible grant to help get the project done. We will be meeting with Valley again later this week to hopefully get the parameters of an agreement between us completed.

In the Fire Department, there were a couple of callouts this past week due to residential fires. One on Community Lane resulting from an unattended candle and one at the high-rise apartments in the 300 block of Lincoln that was due to improper use of a microwave oven

(metal was not removed before using it). All residents were physically fine and are staying with family or friends at this time.

In the Codes Department two Zoning requests were filed and will go under Zoning review. A small residential construction plan was presented to staff for feedback by the proposed builder. They were notified to follow up with a Zoning application for their next step. There were 2 Building Permits issued; 1 Mechanical permit issued; 2 Plumbing permits issued; 15 Contractor registrations; 24 Rental License; 2 Vacant Property registrations; 10 warnings for snow on the sidewalk, all cleared in 4 days and 1 trash warning.

In Public Works it has been another interesting two weeks for the guys in PW. 40+ hours of overtime put in including the President's Day holiday to handle the load. Over 130 tons of salt used before today's event. If practice makes progress then we are getting there because the team has had plenty of practice lately.

With Eagle Disposal, the snow also made it a rough few weeks for trash and recycling pickups with numerous postponements and delays. Over the weekend we also had some missed streets due to PECO replacing poles in town and blocking traffic including Eagle trucks.

Regarding PECO and the Pole. A PECO spokesperson indicated that the residents of those blocks were notified of the work by mail. It has been requested that PECO notify City Hall of future replacement projects in the city so that we can notify residents of possible closed streets to avoid issues. Our police did go door to door to alert residents and no cars were ticketed or towed. PECO did apologize and promised to work with the city on advance notice of the next round.

COVID Update, as of today Coatesville has 921 positive cases, up 47 from two weeks ago. I am sorry to report another death of a city resident bringing us to 12. County wide we are at 27,377 positive cases with 697 deaths. 205,000 tests have been performed out of a population of just over 500,000 people. The county as a whole has administered 37,000 first vaccines and 18,000 second vaccines. The tough weather has also played a part in slowing down vaccinations over the past two weeks. The promising news is that cases are dropping in overall numbers. Hospitalizations are on average 30% lower than two weeks ago (90 down to 60 on average) and those patients on ventilators have been cut in half from 14 to 7 day. The Health Department continues to look for locations throughout the county to increase available dosing opportunities. Mr. Logan has been in touch with county officials to offer a couple of suggestions here in the city or at least the school district.

4. Finance Director

Mr. Troutman started with the two schedules the one for the ending of 2020 and the other is January 2021. Both are to be perfectly clear on audited. We're not final yet. We're getting close, but we're not there yet. But both are very favorable. And I would suggest that it's consistent with the comments that we've been making over the last couple of months about some of the positive events that are both one-timers and also structural improvements. So with that specifically for 2020, we have a net Surplus that we're projecting and I'll just say it again because it sounds so nice. We didn't need to draw down on the reserves. We can all say it as often as we want right now and feel good. The Capital Reserve was stalled because of Covid so we didn't have progress in the City from infrastructure, we didn't have

expenditures. We didn't have to fund costs. It was stagnant and we lost a year on that front and then with Liquid Fuels we ended with a nice Surplus and it was almost exclusively due to low expenses last year.

Beginning in 2021, it's obviously very early being January, but we continue to see one-time events that are favorable and we're also seeing some timing differences that just because January-February it is a little bit of time in between the months, but as a general rule is favorable.

I want to reinforce a message about the ways the City is growing and growing together and that literal wording is compliments of Mr. Logan earlier today. I'm going to highlight a couple of things that are happening first some of the things that started last year we're doing again this year. I'm talking about are geared toward holding everyone accountable and consistent application for what's happening. And we now have the staff that's working toward those goals and I think that's important that the people here know how this is translating. The consistency of results so we have those types of things that we started last year that hadn't been done for a while. And so they're continuing into this year and then there's some new ones that are happening that Mr. Logan, Mr. Houston and Mr. Dobson, on the operational side, they are making a difference by pursuing the delinquent rental lengths, pursuing business licenses tied to rental owners. They're pursuing fire inspections and amusement device licenses. These are initiatives that were identified again to be consistent, but they also have value to the residence for the safety. And so there's a broader perspective as to why it's being done. It's servicing the residents well, and then there's a new one that started last week that were starting to look at the size of the delinquent taxes, real estate taxes and solid waste delinquencies to see if we can identify some strategies to help hold accountable but target solutions when they're one year delinquent, literally 60 days at this point as opposed to getting to be two, three, four or five years and then it becomes an insurmountable or hard mountain to climb to get installed. So, with that initiative starting right now with a few of us to see what kind of strategies we can work with to help. We are busy closing out the year, starting the year preparing for the different audits, doing the filings, those types of things and we're well positioned to keep it simple.

Lastly, you heard earlier about the URBN Outfitters. I think we can all appreciate how important that is to every individual family. And that's the most important part of the message to reinforce that. It's probably over two million dollars' worth of economic impact to the City. Wow. So, from a macro standpoint, I just want to give you that number to put it into a little bit of perspective, but I don't want to take away from the meaning that has to each individual family that has made an appointment.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

Wendy Whitaker

Ms. Whitaker asked who benefits from the Solar Lease. Mr. Logan replied the City benefits from the that particular agreement itself. Trina is a program called Community solar and we hope once we continue down the relationship path with them that we will be able to benefit from that program which helps the city reduce its energy cost. There may be some opportunities where I don't know exactly if we can pass them on or if they will be passed on to the community. But what we're doing is we are reducing or will be reducing our energy use footprint in the entire city of Coatesville.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Folks stated Mr. Logan was talking about the job fair. I have had requests from three companies. They want to know when the next one is so they can come here. I just want to thank everybody for coming out. Once again, to the residents of the second ward, with the pole and the trash I understand, I feel you, It will be resolved and you heard about next time when they replace them poles. We will have notification earlier. I'm glad that I got the phone calls. I was out there when the poles were going up and I stayed there for two days that made sure nobody's car was moved. I knocked on doors and got cars moved. We had a place for them to park down on Third Avenue and down at City Hall. So I think we did a pretty good job at that. Just be mindful of the roads when you go out they are icy. Take your time, it's better to get there one piece instead of girl me boom because it's bad out there. If nobody told you today that you were somebody, you are somebody. Have a good night.

Councilperson Graves thanked everyone for watching and attending on zoom or YouTube and the folks who are going to re-watch this from home. I just want to send heartfelt messages out to Texas, with climate change. It doesn't matter if you live in a blue state or a red state or a swing state because in Texas, we had a major failure snow storms, but in the summer, we'll have fires in California The Bluest of blue and we had constant snowstorms in a swing state like Pennsylvania. And so, we are a collective and the actions of all of us, affect all of us. That's how community collectivities is and that's just like human nature. I did notice last week. That folks were really excited about some readings from black history. A black poem that I read from black history. I wanted to read one today and just keep it brief, but this is from the book called Black Power Revolt. It was produced in the 1968. This was like around the time of the Civil Rights era when this book was published as you can see its very Very old and it's actually a sociology textbook from the time but this excerpt comes from Stokely Carmichael or Pomade or as he was known later in life. And so I just wanted to share this excerpt: One of the tragedies of the struggle against racism is that up to now there has been no organization which could speak to the growing militancy of young black people in the urban ghetto there has only been a several civil rights movement whose tone of voice was adapted to the audience of the white liberal. It served as a sort of buffer zone between them in the Angry Young blacks. None of the so-called leaders can go into a writing or writing community and be listened to in a sense. I blame ourselves with the mass media for what has happened in Watts Harlow, Chicago, Cleveland, Omaha. Each time the people in those cities saw Martin Luther King get slapped, they became angry; when they saw four little black girls bombed to death, they were angrier; and when nothing happened, they were steaming. We had nothing to offer that they could see, except to go out and be beaten again. We helped to build their frustration. For too many years black Americans marched and had their heads broken and shot. They were saying to the country, "Look, you guys are supposed to be nice guys and we are only going to do what we are supposed to do - Why do you beat us up? Why do you not give us what we ask? Why do you have to straighten yourselves out?" After years of this, we are almost at the same point because we demonstrated a position of weakness. He cannot be expected any longer to march and have our heads broken in order to say to whites; come on, you're nice guys. For you are not nice guys. We have found you out.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening and thanked everyone for joining us tonight.

It's always great to have you along with us and share as well as your comments. I just want to again acknowledge our great staff. I want to give special thanks to our road crew they have been extremely busy and efficient in doing what they can to make sure that our roads were clear and that we can travel safe. I want to give thanks to Mr. Logan as well, for the leadership that he is presenting to us as a council, as well as to the city on your hard work, as you are thinking out of the box to make things happen for the city and it's proven that you are a true leader. You can tell a leader by the fruit that grows. Thank you to the officers and the community as always love you guys. Mr. Verwey doing such a great job and I'm thankful for all of that. I want to thank my colleagues for your endurance the way we come together for the City and just want to thank you guys for that. Everyone be safe. I want to thank all of you again for the condolences you sent to me when my brother passed and many of you know, that very week, my first cousin passed right behind my brother. But you guys came through, the flowers with beautiful and I thank you for that and always the prayers that you send up for Emmett.

Mr. Folks thanked Allan on the First for doing a tremendous job in this community. This Saturday coming, they will be on Channel 6 about their business. That's big for the city and it started with a picture and now went to Channel 6 Action News. So if we can build up our businesses, and the news people come to our town, instead of for a murder and or fire. They are coming for a black owned business. That does tremendous for this City. Just a little pizza place. So, thank you, I can't wait till the spring so we could do the ribbon cutting. Things are in place and congratulation for being on Channel 6 Action News this Saturday. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody that attended tonight through meeting via YouTube. I hope everybody continues to be safe. Unfortunately, our numbers in Coatesville, we still have cases as our Assistant City Manager, Mr. Houston said. So, I hope everybody continues to where the masks, and social distance. Be safe with the weather as well, and I just hope everybody has a good night.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. This is always will to know what's going on in the city. And I know I get excited when the residents are tuning in. I just want to thank all of my colleagues for all their work and commitment and dedication. You know, we may not always agree but we all have the same in-game. I hope that is for the betterment and the advancement of the City of Coatesville, so I thank you all and I appreciate each and every one of you. I appreciate all of our staff and I just want to say thank you. Be safe. Be safe from Covid. Be safe from the weather. Just take care life is so short. So many things have been going on in our community. So we just got to hang on and this continue to have hope and know that God is always in control. Mr. Logan. I do want to just thank you for Parks and Rec and everyone for coming out and having that event virtual. I enjoyed myself on Saturday. I was a little down on Saturday and I tuned in and my spirits were lifted, and I just thank you for that. Have a great night.

President Lavender-Norris echoed the gratefulness, thankfulness for all our Administration or our Emergency Services. My colleagues. I'm just grateful, you know that we today had another opportunity to move the city forward, to make decisions that have lasting effect. I'm grateful that we can do this from an informed standpoint. We can make our decisions without assumptions. We're actually making strong informed decisions. You may not agree with what we have. But anyway, as long as we're working together will do better by the grace of God. Everybody, just continue, you know, see the positive somebody, because we are moving forward God bless you all, be safe and have a wonderful evening. Can I get a motion to close? I'll make that motion.

Adjournment

Mr. Folks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

This meeting will be conducted remotely and live-streamed over the internet on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1u3VUIQr4r0xII0xv1HmvA> and Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86429711249?pwd=U2pxdDByYkhqQmFsMzB5TE0rdVdCdz09> Meeting ID: 864 2971 1249 Passcode: 562540 The general public may offer comment, during the meeting