



Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – COVID 19-2020 – via ZOOM
Monday June 14, 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

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.

Approved Minutes

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the April 26, 2021 meeting minutes; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

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

Ms. Al Amin questioned the invoice for the miscellaneous signs. What signs were ordered? Mr. Logan replied there were a variety of signs that we needed in our parks, on our roads, from stop signs, pedestrian walking signs, park rules, antitheft signs, private property signs, off-road vehicle signs and a notice of private use only signs.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda

There were no additions, deletions or modifications at this time.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Discussion Items

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

2. Handicap Parking

Mr. Logan explained this is just more information for the community at large and information for our council members. We have received a number of requests to have parking signs throughout the City. There seems to be a misunderstanding at times that handicap parking signs are not guaranteed for residents to have the signs placed in front of their homes. These are signs for individuals who are handicap or need the special parking areas, but we do not guarantee that the signs will be placed in front of your home. We often get requests to put in a certain location and addresses that we don't do that. The actual process is done downstairs first at the Police Department and placards, they come into the Police Department. Once they are processed, the individuals will receive their placard/sign. We go

out and put up the signs. We also are kind of experiencing individuals who are not renewing their signs. So, there are a number of signs throughout the City that remain up and we may not necessarily have individuals with handicap needs in those area. So we have to remove those signs, but, often times residents think that we are removing their particular sites. We do kind of have some challenges with any kind of parking in the City. We want to make sure that those who are applying for the signs are using them and we're trying to accommodate anyone who needs the handicap parking assistance. But I just wanted to make it clear that we can't guarantee that it's going to be in front of your home. Chief Laufer explained there is quite an expense to the City and maintaining this program. We don't charge anything for these placards or for rather we don't charge anything for the signs. It's a large administrative expense to keep track of all the different handicap spots in the City. And, of course you have the expense from Public Works, to purchase the sign, the post, the hardware, the cement, the air compressor, the time for the members out there, the truck that needs to tow the air compressor. There is a considerable expense to the City, that we don't charge for. So, that's something to keep in mind.

President Lavender-Norris explained just because I have the City erect the sign in front of my house. If someone comes to park in front of my house and has a placard there, they have as much right to park there as I do. Right? The Chief, replied that's correct. President Lavender-Norris stated so, the other thing is with regard to all the signs that are out there, that people may have relocated, or what have you, can we consider an annual renewal fee to ensure that they're still the people that have the signing and are still residing in that particular place? Chief Laufer explained we do have a renewal, we skipped a year with COVID, but we do an annual mailing, where we do mail out a letter requesting that people reminding people that they need to come in and renew their application for a handicap spot. And that's sometimes where we won't get a response to that. So, we'll send Public Works out there to remove the sign, they'll remove the sign and then people will call up and say, well, you know, why did you remove my sign? Well, of course our response is, well, why didn't you renew your sign? But it ends up. We have to then go back out. Re-install the sign, all at the expense of the City. Mrs. Hunt asked if there is a fee for renewal. Chief replied no, there is not.

Vice President Green stated I don't understand. We don't charge to put them up, but if someone comes in once the children at play sign or something like that, they have to pay for it. Chief Laufer replied yes, I mean, that has always been the policy of the past councils. They felt because of the nature of a placard and the reason for it that the City would not charge for that, but that is solely, up to the City. Councilperson Graves stated I think the Americans with Disabilities would probably feel that it was problematic to charge for erecting the signs for sure. President Lavender- Norris stated I apologize, but I think as much as charging for other signs and it may not make a lot of people happy, but I believe if we charge for others, we should charge for these. Vice President Green explained she had a sign erected on our alley behind my home that said Children at Play and I had to pay to have that sign to be put in. I'm not even really saying that, but if you go to some of these streets, like Virginia Avenue, there's no parking, it's all handicap, and only one regular spot. Mr. Folks stated I'm just throwing that out there that most of the time they are elderly. President Lavender-Norris stated I don't want to assume one way or the other, whether they're elderly, handicapped at this state, I don't want to assume any of that. But at the same time, I'm assuming that if they have an assigned record, then they're able to drive. And if we're charging people to put a sign up to protect children at play, then why are we not charging people to put up the handicap sign? Or why are we charging for the children at play? But I

don't think we should weigh the cost on one group and not the other, if I think we should be consistent with it. That's what I'm saying. Councilperson Graves stated I mean, I guess we can consider not charging for the children at play signs too. But I would like to make us aware of the fact that there are certain people with disabilities who can't work and collect disability income from the state, which is fixed income. And if they're going to be incurring an annual fee, to be disabled and live and have parking. That is being able to park their cars close to their homes is literally just, and so I don't think that we should be charging people for that. Ms. Al Amin explained it isn't an annual fee. It's, isn't it a one time. Chief Laufer explained the City does not have a fee at all. We don't charge anything for a sign. Ms. Al Amin asked not for the handicap but other signs. Chief replied it is onetime fee. It would just be a one-time installation to pay for the cost of the sign. That's correct. For other signs. Ms. Al Amin stated I think the children that play and those other signs, if we do away with the fee for that, anybody that has kids on their block might request it. And then we're going to end up with signs all over. Vice President Green said that when you have handicapped signs, the whole block, people who live there that are not handicapped, have nowhere to park.

Chief Laufer asked if the solicitor would weigh in, but I know our previous solicitor had done a little research on this topic when it came up a number of years ago and there he could find no requirement that the City is under any obligation to provide handicap spots in front of everybody's house and requests. They just have to provide a reasonable number of spots on the street, which could be one on each side at each corner for the block. That strictly would be a decision made by the City, but that was from our prior solicitor, who said, there's no legal obligation on the part of the City to provide parking in front of everybody's home. Mr. Verwey replied to the Chief, I'd want to go back and look at it. My recollection is exactly that. I mean, no, there is no right to have a spot right in front of your home, but the City in order to comply with ADA does have to make sure that there's parking spaces available for persons with disabilities. So, calculating that number and that location is something we'd have to refer to the law on to make that determination from the City. But there is no requirement that you have one right in front of your home.

Councilperson Graves stated I have just like another question, I guess I'm unclear on why we're talking about making reserved parking for disabled people, less assessable than it already is. Are we by getting complaints that there's too much reserved parking? President Lavender-Norris stated I've heard complaints regarding signs and no parking. Vice President Green explained that Virginia avenue has no regular parking it's majority of that is that right. Chief, the majority of that is handicap correct? Chief Laufer replied yes that is correct and Woodland Avenue.

Councilperson Graves asked I mean, if we're already annually checking in with folks to make sure that they still live in their homes and are using their spot, then I'm unclear on why folks here can't like park around the corner and walk to their house if they are not disabled. Mr. Logan responded I don't have an answer for that, I think you have to ask the individuals that live on the street. It's very difficult in a City like Coatesville to provide ample parking. We have a parking issue in the City and there are a number of handicap spaces. There are not a number of open spaces for folks who are not required to use any. We have to create in some way or fashion, you know, strike a balance. Oftentimes, folks are coming in, they're requesting a placard. It may not necessarily be for the individual. It may be for their grandmother or grandfather or aunt, uncle who is disabled and they are the caregiver and they're driving the vehicle. Sometimes it is a matter of convenience for them to pull up in

front of a relative's home, but they don't necessarily live there or their cars there at all times. So, there's a lot of variables. There's a lot of variables to this and I don't know if there's a silver bullet to kind of figure out what's the best course to take. I was just saying to chief's point, we do have an expense, you know, to the installation, to the removal of the signs. Uh, I, I think that's where we should be looking at not to, we're not trying to penalize anyone for four parking or not parking. We're just trying to figure out what the balance is.

Vice President Green asked what's the difference between having a placard and having a handicap sticker for your court? Chief Laufer explained there is no difference in the eyes of the enforcement. Ms. Al Amin explained an example, Carmen, like when my sister Mae lived with me because she is handicap, you know, from her stroke, she's paralyzed on the one side, even though she herself didn't drive, I was the person designated to drive her around, her doctor gave her the placard, not the license plate and signed paper for her to have a space out front because of her inability to walk long distances. Usually a lot of times, if you're the person, don't you get the handicap license plate, Chief I mean, if you're the driver you're handicapped and it's your vehicle. Chief Laufer replied yes, and sometimes it's a matter of some people get the placard because it's a temporary thing. They may have a short-term disability, which will resolve in six months and there's different ways. It's also easier when you sell a car, and you get a new tag and all that stuff. I think a lot of people just do the hanging placard for a matter of convenience. President Lavender-Norris stated this is only my suggestion that we consider the way we with the Codes Department, where we're not trying to profit, we're just covering the costs. I think that's the direction we should go in with regard to the handicap signs to cover the cost. Mr. Logan stated that what he could do is I can get the information from Mr. Troutman and sit down with the Police Department and identify, what some of these costs would be. And then also just provide some additional information to how many renewals that we have each year. And that way you can never know it's something to make a good decision. Vice President Green asked to look at the block and see how many we have in relation to how many residents that at the parking is equitable. President Lavender-Norris stated a lot of times, there are multiple vehicles at one home, which is already taking up a lot of parking spaces.

3. Block Parties

Mr. Logan announced that we've received a number of special event applications into the City requesting block parties. As you all know that we don't necessarily allow block parties and I wanted to bring it back to Council because there's been some innovative ways to look at having block parties in the City of Coatesville. I just kind of wanted to open it up for a pre-conversation in reference to, right now we don't really allow block parties. If we do move forward, I think we should consider allowing people to have block parties provided that there is an understanding with all of the neighbors that are on that block, that this event is taking place and also maybe consider a limited number of hours that you actually have the block party place.

Vice President Green stated I think it would be beneficial for them to put a deposit down that would be refundable once they cleaned up after the party. Councilperson Graves said the time, especially in summer too. I know we have a noise ordinance, and Mr. Verwey, when does the work, the noise ordinance go to? Mr. Verwey replied it starts at 9:00 PM to 8:00 AM. Councilperson Graves stated that's a little early to end the party, but I guess we'll have to because of the noise ordinance, would that be like if we have block parties with the time,

the latest time you could go is when the noise ordinance would start probably cause you would be in violation of the noise ordinance otherwise, or is there any way you could do like variance for a special event? Mr. Verwey replied I don't believe so. I think it is a violation of the noise Ordinance, no matter what the circumstance. Chief Laufer explained from a public safety standpoint, we've gone down this road before in the past year in the City and there's always been the question raised of how do you close the street legal? The barricades need to be erected, need to be brought out by Public Works, transported there ahead of time, set up, picked up, brought back. There has always been the thought process. How do you ensure access to for emergency services such as ambulances to get down the street, if need be? If there's a tent set up outside the houses, set up in the street, how about the neighbors live on the block, but aren't necessarily taking part in the party. Now they can't park on their street, they have no access to their homes. How do you charge, how do you cover the City's costs for these things? They are all considerations that prior councils have looked at which sort of led us down the road of having a blanket policy of no road closures for other than City sponsored events. Vice President Green stated with the residents and coming off the pandemic. I think it depends on the road closure, how much of the block is being closed and the timeframe, if we allow the four-hour timeframe for that, I think that sometimes in the neighborhood we used to have block parties and they were a great way of bonding with your neighbors and them coming together and rallying, I think it would be great if we could get back to doing that. It has been suggested that we require them to put down a deposit of possibly \$200. That would be refunded once they cleaned up the block. And that way, if they did not do that, Public Works would have to do it. And that would cover some of that expense. I think that this something that's just great for the neighborhoods, especially in this climate? I mean, I don't think the noise ordinance should be over by nine o'clock, I mean, cause people work and, you know, nobody wants to be out and hearing a lot of noise and music after nine o'clock. Councilperson Graves concurred, I think block parties are a great idea. I mean, I know that we have like a City sponsored Unity Day, but people really don't always want a party with the City. Sometimes they just want to invite their friends and neighbors to enjoy time with them. I don't think it's unreasonable for us to allow folks to have a four-hour party maybe in additional setup and take down hours. But you know, for our parties, I don't think four-hour blocks parties. I don't think that's an unreasonable request. It is a pandemic. We are encouraging people to gather still outside, cause that's safer than inside. I think a block party is probably more pandemic safe than a house party inside.

Ms. Al Amin asked Chief Laufer, if there is a block party, the block party still has to abide by the laws that are enforced. Like they can't have open containers of alcohol or the alcohol would not be permitted outside. Is that correct? Chief Laufer replied that's correct. By City Ordinance, the open container ordinance would still stand for that since it's not a City sponsored event and even in a City sponsored event, you have the designated areas that are fenced off where the alcohol can be consumed. So, you're right. Certain ordinances would still apply for a block party. Ms. Al Amin stated if the block parties are permitted and I'm not saying that I have an objection to them, but I do believe then on the application when they made the application for the party, the application needs to say no alcohol or something, because otherwise if there's a party and there's alcohol there, then those individuals could be technically cited for open container and drinking in public, whatever. So, having a block party, but then everybody getting cited for having alcohol kind of defeats the purpose of the block party. Vice President Green said I think they could have the alcohol in their yards, and in their homes, but they just can't be out in the street with open containers. Ms. Al Amin said let's say you have a, whatever, like you said, it would have to be looked at how much of the

street's going to be blocked off or whatever. Let's say you have the barricades out in the street and you have tables and people sitting at the tables and you have food. If you're sitting at that table with alcohol, that's a violation, is it not chief? Chief replied yes, It would be if it's on public property and not in the yard. Ms. Al Amin stated so also, I'm saying is I think we're going to have to be clear with people what the do's and don'ts are, because it would be horrible to have a block party, but then somebody be cited for drinking, you know, in the street, during the block party. President Lavender-Norris stated I would think it would be the responsibility for whomever applies and submits the application for them. You know, hold, hold them accountable to inform everyone that's out there. There's no alcohol on public property. You know, they can be in their yard even. Am I right when I say stay on their sidewalk Chief. Mr. Verwey stated the public sidewalk would be the same as the street. Chief Laufer explained that's right. That's correct. A homeowner sidewalk in that they, they maintain it. It is still considered public and therefore it would have to be in their yard. President Lavender-Norris stated that whomever submits the application, it would be behoove them to inform everyone that there's no alcohol on public property. There is no way if the street is blocked, there's no way the City can monitor whether there's alcohol, unless the police park and walk up into the block party. Ms. Al Amin stated that's why we're saying maybe it could be put on the application. So, who's ever applying right now. It has the understanding that, you know, the block party is their responsibility and there's no alcohol and in public places. Mr. Huston explained on the special event permit application, second paragraph down, type of event in red parentheses, no alcoholic beverages or smoking is permitted. And it's above the areas that you're checking off. What kind of party do you have in first one? First one is a block party. So, our application does say no alcohol or smoking. Mr. Logan clarified the no alcohol is for the parks and then the smoking is for the parks. I think we may have to clarify that a little bit because you can smoke in front of your house and outdoors. I understand, you know, that that's not illegal to do. I wanted to ask Mr. Verwey if we can draft a Resolution, with some of the bullet points that council members are making this evening and bring that back to council and let them, take a vote on this. Mr. Verwey replied let me look to see if we require any ordinance. We can do it all via Resolution. We would probably address my resolution, but I do want to take a look at that information for you by the next meeting

Vice President Green asked regarding the fee. Does anybody think that \$200 deposit is too much? Mrs. Hunt explained they will get it back. As long as everything's clean and back in place think, it's an incentive, so they'll get their money back. You know when you say \$25, people forfeit that. And again, I think we also need to make sure we assess the area that they're requesting to be blocked off. To make sure that we have access for emergency vehicles and things of that nature. If it's businesses in the area, be mindful of their times of operation before we shut down. Because if you all remember when we were trying to do the block party, closing the street up the town for Unity Day, we got some resistance from some of the stores, even though we try to invite all the stores to come out and have a sidewalk sale, right? There was a few that did not want to participate and they put up a big fight against us blocking the street off during the time of their operations. We have to keep that in mind. Councilperson Graves said also, the other thing too, I would say is maybe just as a courtesy. I guess it will be the host's responsibility just to courtesy, to the neighbors, to let them know that there's a block party with the hours on such and such a day. If they have to rearrange their parking. Mrs. Hunt explained as Mr. Logan has said from the onset that it would be nice to go to each whoever's sponsoring it to go to all the residents on the street and try to get their signature of approval. And then of course you may have some that don't, but if you get

the majority, you can move forward. So at least everybody would be informed that it's going to take place. But again, I don't agree with locking the street down for all day, but if we can get some set hours and then the people can still have a nice time enjoy not causing hardship to those that live around you. Vice President Green stated yeah, I know the one person that approached me about Merchant street and my thinking was half of Merchant Street. Access would be able to be given to Coates Street. Not the entire Eighth Avenue so that people can come up Seventh and go to still go to Coates Street. Chief Laufer explained another thought would be just as we require like a tenant inspection fee or something like that would be a public works fee because I do think if you're going to close a road, I think you need some type of official barricade to indicate that the road is closed, which would require a public works to deliver drop off, pick up barricades. So, something else to consider as part of the fee for a block party. Councilperson Graves asked what the fee would look like? Mr. Logan how much does it cost for in our fee schedule for public works, of course. And then pick it back up. Mr. Logan stated he would look it up. Vice President Green asked what the fee was for a block party/close the street. Mr. Logan stated we don't have a fee for that. We have to put together and we would have to add the deposit into that too. Councilperson Graves asked would you be able to avoid the public works fee by picking up the horses and dropping them off yourself or folk you just only want public works to be able to do that? Mr. Logan replied well, since it's a City property, I think it's better if our public works department with him with that. President Lavender-Norris asked if that would violate their union, if we did that, right? Mr. Logan replied yes, it could.

4. Flood Issues (June 8, 2021 storm)

Mr. Logan announced as everyone is aware and certainly if you were around on June 8th, the City of Coatesville was devastated by like tremendous rainfall here and flooded out a number of homes. More than 20 people were placed into temporary housing by the American Red Cross. I just want to thank the Fire Department, all of the gentlemen and women that were out there on that day and assisted with those families. The Fire Chief, he was out there along with our police chief and a number of our officers, were out helping as much as they can. In addition to that, our public works guys. I think they stepped up, they did a tremendous job in assisting, helping them in the water situation as well as just identifying problem areas throughout the City. A lot of folks came together during the June 8th storm. We suffered some substantial damage and we are in the process of assessing that damage. We are going to be putting together a report that will come to council members as well as our county officials and our state officials. Thank you, Mr. Verwey for the fast turnaround of the Declaration of State of Emergency for the City of Coatesville. Thank you to all the volunteers and residents pulling together.

Mr. Huston announced we had an opportunity to work along with the Chester County Emergency Services and the American Red Cross to get the families placed. In the meantime, I have the number here specifically, the Red Cross served 11 families, 48 individuals were displaced and having temporarily rehousing. We've been working with some of the landlords who own some properties in there to make sure that they're getting their inspections done, to get their electricity back on so that residents can get back in. Mr. Scott and the Public Works team, they did a great job getting out there with barricades and keeping people from going and especially to our, what I call our usual areas. Third, Fourth, Eleventh Avenues, and underpasses flooded as normal. The flooding on Fifth Avenue and Pennsylvania and Fifth and Olive was unusual. Some of the residents said its been 30, 40, 50 years since they've seen water that high. And that's attributed mainly to the fact that we had

seven inches of rain in such a short amount of time. But I think overall between the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, just even people on the street, helping out their neighbors, getting stuff out of the way above the flood levels, kept some of the damage out for Eagle. Our disposal company came back a couple of days later and got some big 30-yard dumpsters out for residents to put some of the damaged product in to get the cleaning started. Then we had volunteers through Second Century Alliance. I know Fonz Newsuan, swollen, had some word out there for some of the Commissioners and their Politicians got word out. The volunteers grabbed the help. So overall, I was very impressed. The City came forward. The residents, the nonprofits, put a hand in and get this done. I don't know where we are on getting the families back in. We'll have an update from the church emergency services probably tomorrow and the Red Cross and find out where we are. But, it was an exceptional day. You sit here in the office and just watch rain, rain, rain for a couple of hours. We have pictures of Ash park further up to the soccer field. It was a very, very unusual event. We have work to do. And as James said, we're waiting for our engineer to come forward with a report on where we can fix. We have some damaged areas we have to get to, and we'll see where those are, but I want to congratulate the City as a whole. It was a good response and it was a good outpouring of homes. Thank you.

Mr. Logan announced Mr. Newsuan on one of our unpaid employees, better known as Mr. Donald Folks coordinated a lot of the activity that took place. He was out this past weekend, kind of coordinating everyone working with residents around the entire area. Mr. Folks, thank you for what you were doing and all the other Council Members, Ms. Al Amin and Vice President Green, I know that you guys were on the Facebook and let people know what was going on and where we were, and President Lavender-Norris. And it's great what you all were doing, incredible work, just keeping people abreast of our movements. And that really helped us a lot to try to deploy, the guides and other volunteers to places that we may have skipped. Thank you all for that.

Ms. Al Amin stated also, Mr. Logan, I don't know if you're aware, but I know that you met him. Remember Tyrone, you met him. He was up here the day after, and he gave a lot of the families, clothes and water and juices and food. He came up here and tried to do his part as well. Mr. Folks, announced his truck broke down today, and the first thing I said, really didn't break down on Saturday. Vice President Green gave a shout out to Ms. Springsteen, business owner in City. She has come into our community and has really become a part of our community because she helped to clean up what was out there too. Arlene Miles, and her crew, I tell you, we have to have them at a meeting. They're just out here cleaning up the City. They were out over the weekend, also what they do and the difference in what they're doing.

Councilperson Graves stated I would like to just say that the, the slides are going to continue to happen because they are a symptom of the larger changing climate patterns. And that is going to continue to cause impacts to public how infrastructure emergency services continue to have a large economic impact on residents and also the City and going to affect our local agriculture and recreation. The other thing to do is work and support our volunteers and nonprofit who can respond to the emergency, but also work on changing things like infrastructure and climate laws and ordinances in order to mitigate the cause of the storm, which is rising climate. So we need to depend and work with our federal and state governments to advocate and show how directly impacted we are by inaction around climate. Otherwise, we are going to continue to need to clean up after floods and needs will be a lot

more frequent. And it won't be like, I can't remember this since the forties. It'll be like, I can't remember this since two and a half weeks ago.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens comments on regular action items.

Mr. Folks made a motion to closed citizens hearings o regular action items only; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve an Ordinance ratifying the Declaration of State of Emergency issued on June 9, 2021

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve an Ordinance ratifying the Declaration of State of Emergency; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Verwey explained the City, under section 19, one of the City Code, allows for the Declaration of an Emergency by the President of Council upon request of the City Manager, that took place on June 9th. The request was made and the Council President, signed a Declaration of Emergency regarding the flooding event on the 8th. The City Code also requires though that once that Declaration is made that a meeting be held by council within seven days, which we're within that timeframe now, to ratify that Declaration and continue the Declaration for an additional 30 days, the purpose of that 30 day time period is to make requests for any federal or state aid that might be required or made available, to remediate or ameliorate the impacts of flooding. The Ordinance will expire by operation of law at the end of that 30-day period.

Vice President Green asked of the Ordinance declaring a State of Emergency. Will this be an assistance to homeowners who have the file claims? I know it's very difficult Pennsylvania. You can't get flood insurance, but this be able to help them in the system in any way with insurance claims that we declared a state of emergency. Mr. Verwey replied to Vice President Green, I do not know if that will be of any assistance, but it's certainly something that they could bring with them when they're filing their claim to show that there was a Declaration of Emergency or may also want to seek out State or Federal Disaster Relief. I don't know if that'll be made available or not, but something worth looking into to see if there may be some funds made available. That may be done in consultation with both the State Senator and State Rep Williams, as well as a Representative Houlihan.

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

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he worked on a number of zoning matters on behalf of the City related to appeals and applications for zoning relief; continues to work on real estate matters related to the Flats development and certainties, which related to that development; worked on the litigation issues, quitting claims made against the City and resolved ; and worked on an Emergency Declaration, in order to as preparation, facilitate the City's ability to access certain resources, state local governments.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. I'm just going to start my report on the business and economic development. Many of you are aware that we have a grant consultant, Coleen Terry and her partner, Pauline Garcia of ECON Partners. They have been assisting the City with Capital Stack grants for our parking garage, as well as applying for funding or Commonwealth, a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) that are known as our category. In addition to that Colleen has submitted an application for a RAISE grant, RAISE's an acronym for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equality. Those grants are designed to assist us with the Train Station project. Colleen and Pauline have been instrumental in working with PennDOT and Amtrak on multimodal transportation grants. We have been awarded a Multimodal Transportation Grant. So, all in all, I just wanted to share with you, ECON partners work with the City of Coatesville as well as RDA and has proven to be very, very beneficial resource. And they're also working on EPA and prep programs as well as of course with the storm will be working or infrastructure funded to do our repairs. Moving on to the Gateway project, which is on First Avenue and Lincoln Highway. Legend Properties are better known as DEPG, is working on their financing, for the first phase which is 20,000 square foot. The second phase will include 14,000 square feet and there has been some delays, on the project board, mainly due to COVID, that's very hard to get, or it has been very hard to get financing. So we continue to work with them. We are making progress and we were looking to hopefully have some work started in the Fall. The Train Station construction bids are expected to go out late June or in July. I would anticipate the shovel on the ground this year, we have been working closely together to move this project on the docket without any major barriers. I want to just thank all those Coatesville train station team members for keeping us on track. I'm not going to say the names you guys know who you are. Overall that estimates, this project will have a duration of three and a half construction seasons. We are looking at, whole completion by 2024. The project is tentatively estimated at \$72 million. That is a very substantial project for the City of Coatesville. I'm sure it's going to attract other investors to this community. Once people start to see that such an investment made in Coatesville, that's going to attract them, some more eyes on not only our real estate, but our commercial opportunities as well. Plans and meetings are progressing on the 260 proposed apartment structure called the Brandywine Views, located near Buchanan Adams Drive.

On the Zoning Ordinance update, Cedarville has submitted a grant application, or they did submit a grant application back in February, through the Chester County Division Partnership Program for amendments on the City's zoning ordinances. We will begin to start editing and revising some of the City's Zoning Ordinances, which have somewhat plagued us in some areas of the City. Anthony along with Cedarville will keep working with LTL to make sure that those Zoning Ordinances meet our demands for the 21st century.

The Community Update, we have been working with Natural Lands Trust and Cedarville on phases 2 and 3 of Palmer Park. We continue to move forward to finalize a hundred percent design documents project. We are very excited about that. And, um, last but not least, uh, the City of Coatesville, it's not the last, but the City of Coatesville is planning on September 18, its fifth annual Grand Prix, with an 8:30 start. The committee is coming together, nicely sponsor packets will be going out soon, working with employers to offer sponsorship opportunities for them as well as we're going to be recruiting for volunteers. If you want to be part of a great event here in the City of Coatesville, shoot me an email or let us know if you would like to volunteer for that event. Once again, it's on Saturday, September 18th, this year.

Workforce development, we are working with two new employers to offer job opportunities for Coatesville residents. I'm in the process of working on some dates, once I get that, I will blast that information out to the community. Last Tuesday, the City of Coatesville and Kutztown University launched the first small business and entrepreneur workshop. This is a nine-week program for startup businesses and advanced business owners. Kutztown University, SBA, SBDC and SCORE have all joined us this year to deliver these very informative and helpful workshops for small businesses. Kutztown University is still accepting workshop registrations. If you are interested I'm going to put the contact person's name in the chat so you can have it. In addition to this program at the end of the nine weeks, we have what is called the Capstone. The Capstone really is a pop-up and shop event for the participants. The first one will be on June 26, and those will go through the summer into the fall to November. We anticipate not only participants to take place in this, but also, we're inviting small businesses from not only Coatesville, but from the surrounding area to participate in our pop-up shops. We would like for you to be a business, if you're not a business, certainly I'd be more than happy to talk to you about how to start a business. But we are looking for small businesses that are starting out, or as I said earlier, that are in their phases of their companies. Thank you.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston thanked everyone for their assistance with the flooding. A quick coverage of COVID update. The State has lifted most of its restrictions. There will be some more restrictions lifted soon. I think go to the political environment in Pennsylvania, changing with the election most recently. We will see how that affects us. Last week, the health department in the County has released guidelines for summer camps. If you have youth that are heading for summer camps, there are guidelines out there for the summer. It is on the county website for the full information. If you'd like to read it in its entirety, some positive news, Chester County also announced that over 80% of eligible residents have at least one or both shots. Vaccinations have been going well in Chester County. We seem to be ahead of a lot of our neighbors. So that's a lot of good news, a couple of negative news items. Coatesville is now at 1,250 positive cases and 21 reported deaths due to COVID. The county as a whole is 38,000 positive cases and 831 deaths. Despite the positives on the vaccines, we still have taken impact. As far as the County is concerned. One local note for you next Friday, June 25th will be the last vaccinations at the Brandywine Valley Active Aging here on MLK Boulevard. It will be closed down Friday after those shots. So if you're looking to get shots here in the City, that facility will be closing down this Friday, according to the County website. James has covered a bunch of special events applications, parks are now available to for events you may want to look into or have the, a couple of things that James noted the pop-up and shops are coming back. The Grand Prix has announced to come back the weekend of the 17th and 18th, the Sounds of Summer Concerts. We're working on the planning now for August through October, and those will be held in a Abdala Park. I see a folks are ready for that. You ready for some music and some entertainment. There you go. They will begin every two weeks on Friday evenings from the 27th of August to the 8th of October and from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM or 9:00 PM. I'm sorry. And then the last thing on the calendar list just to make note of is August 28th will be celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Washington Hose Company on the Flats with some fireworks. I guess there's going to be some events and things going on with that, but also there'll be fireworks, that's on the calendar for upcoming events as well. So that's what I have.

Mr. Logan announced that this Friday, the City hall will be closed, in recognition of Juneteenth. This will be the City of Coatesville, first celebration of Juneteenth. We hope everyone observes that day reflects on that day and we'll be back at it on Monday

4. Chief of Police

Chief Laufer announced the complete statistical packages are in your Council packets with just a couple of the highlights. The first statistics, which will tie into really what I want to talk to tonight, which is our rising crime rate, here with the warmer months, in the City of Coatesville, but the numbers, tell that same tale. The 911 calls reported for the City of Coatesville, rose from 1,508 in April to 1,805 in May. You can see that's almost 300 additional calls for the month of May. Then our total calls for service, which includes everything that happens here at the police station, as far as walk-ins and phone assignments, rose from 2,271 and April 2,478, in May. Our numbers continue to rise here as the summer heats up a little bit. And that's really what I wanted to talk about tonight. Just a general comment on the increase in violent crime, specifically gun crime that we're seeing here in the City over the last couple of months, we ran the statistics from March 1st until June 1st. We responded to 36 specific calls for gun violence during that time. That ran from accidental shootings, to actual criminal attempt homicides, we're over 20 rounds fired and gunfights on the streets of Coatesville. In a single incident with over 20 rounds being fired.

We also had the most recent one that gathered the most attention here in the City, of course, was the involuntary manslaughter, death of Mr. Perry, in which it hit close to home here with a lot of people here in the City. And, just a comment on that. When it seems to be, I don't want to say acceptable, but when it seems to be commonplace, if you will, for a gathering of friends to occur, and at that gathering our friends, in a garage, there's three handguns present, two of which are ghost guns, and one is a stolen handgun. What could go wrong? Obviously? What went wrong was the unfortunate untimely death of a young promising athlete and a young father. And that's the result, what can go wrong, when those things come together and then just today, we respond, we ran all day today. We had two different shooting incidents today in the City. One involved, domestic, between three brothers, reportedly the argument was over power aid and baby, and ends up with one of the brothers shooting another brother, fortunately, that individual survived. And then we had another shooting later tonight, earlier, right before the council meeting, we had another shooting, involving a subject reported to be self-inflicted. Once again, two stolen handguns present at the scene of that self-inflicted gunshot wound accidental reportedly, but once again, two stolen handguns present. These are the incidents that we're starting to see a resurgence of here with the warmer months. I really can't attribute it to anything specific, whether it's the emergence from the COVID restrictions. You know, there's a lot of pent up energy there that is being released in different forms. But as the Police Department, we can't lease ourselves out of this problem, and it really is a community-wide problem that needs to be addressed holistically. Those of you who may have seen the article in the paper where the district attorney announced the charges for involuntary manslaughter for DePre. We commented on the fact that we're not going to police ourselves out of this problem, that it really is going to have to be an effort from the community to change this culture where guns are such a part of the lives of these young predominantly males here in the City of Coatesville. We are looking for any assistance, anybody that was willing to partner with the Police Department and try to make change with regard to this and we're hopeful that this trend will not continue for the rest of the summer. We are trying to make as far as the Police Department can, we're trying to make plans with our staffing and focus on areas, where we have been known in the past to have gun violence.

We are actively looking at things that we can do, but that's really not the answer. That's the result of the problem. It's not the answer. And so we truly are looking to partner with the different people out in the community, whether it's family, relatives, friends, mentors, coaches, teachers, you name it. We need to all pull together here and try to make a difference in our community.

Along the same lines, just one additional note here. Our "Walking while Black" documentary screening had to be postponed because of the floods from last week. So that has been rescheduled for June 21st, at 1800, at New Life in Christ. We would encourage those members of the community to come out and do that video with us, and then also the breakout sessions that we'll follow, where we'll get a chance to discuss one-on-one about some of these issues that we're dealing with here in the City.

Mr. Logan explained this is a hard week and the month actually. As the Chief has mentioned the City is struggling right now. We have some bright stars. I see a few on this call this evening. We have individuals like Josh Crans who has a good program, who is doing some outstanding work. Ms. Lovey was out there last week with a number of young girls, Double Dutch in. Me Derek Smith is coming to the City, with some great things. We have a number of Pastors that are putting together some Youth Initiatives with the kids. So, people are coming together. We appreciate you. I don't want people to say, well, there's nothing for the youth out here because that's not true. There is CYI and it's doing some great things and YMCA's. We are all trying to band together. I think we have to just reach these kids where they are, which is, in our parks and at home, and let them know that there are individuals that care about them. We want to have them attend these various events so that they're not falling victims to the perils of our marketing community here. So again, thank you all those individuals that are out there doing what you do and for the kids that might be listening, take advantage of these leaders in your community and join a program, get involved, volunteer.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

Laurie Shannon Bailey

Ms. Shannon-Bailey wished everyone a good evening. I simply wanted to remind us all, the funeral last Wednesday has left a traumatizing impact on this community. So I just want to remind us about how important it is that we recognize the trauma. It would be great if we had means to have hubs of counseling or just areas where the youth could gather, family to gather, and be provided some type of mental health support, but I understand it, that's probably not a possibility, but, trauma is real. And as we all know, there's various forms of trauma throughout our community. Sadly, the increase in what the Chief talked about is, is definitely traumatizing. So it does impact us all. Businesses are looking and families are looking and thinking about things. I just want to say a huge thank you to Chief Laufer for his staff. I know firsthand how dedicated he is and his staff are it just behooves all of us to really support them to the degree that we can and to each of you on City Council, thank you as well. We are having some tough times and our youth are having tough times. I'm happy to hear that we are creating the village, that we need to support each other and to love each other, and to look out for one another, as we have heard throughout this meeting tonight. So again, a huge thank you to Chief and his staff, a huge thank you to all of you, employees, and volunteers. Let's keep the band together. Let's keep creating the village. Let's keep loving up on each other, because tomorrows not promised to any of us. Thank you very much and have a good night. Thank you.

Mr. Folks made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items only; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Folks stated there's a blessing to be a resident of a Coatesville. It really is. My heart is here and my life got a little easier because Amber Little Turner now she is in downtown. I'll call her our supervisor. Amber, I know y'all online. I'm so pleased and happy that you are going to be the main lady for downtown. That means I don't have to go out. I mean, I don't have my life. You just took a load off of me. That's something I started. Now, you have it, but I will be on your coat tail if you need me, because I love downtown. I just want to thank a couple people, Amber Little Turner, Uris Cole, Sue Springsteen, there was a couple of other people there. It was a manager that came out on Saturday. It was six of us. We went down there and clean up flood, six, broke my heart, but blessed my heart, to have two ladies, three ladies there that Michell Dillard, It blessed my heart to have and be working with these people. You know, we had a prayer vigil, for the community that went very well. I wanted to ask Council tonight, if I can continue to have it at each park, to have different pastors heading up, I already talked to the next pastor that wants to head It up. He don't work as a night, Mr. Jack corns. Cause I want to get my young people involved in the City. My heart bleeds before the young people, we have guns in this City. Nobody talks about, we have probably kids and adults that nobody talks about. We as a community need to help these people. Like our Chief said, we need help. We can protest when it comes to guns, nobody says anything. Nobody does anything but the Police. I'm wanting to do everything I can. I don't know how long, not long, but I'm going to take the words of a good name. Coatesville is a good fight and I got Coatesville's back. Have a good night and I'll see you in the morning.

Councilperson Graves thanked everyone for logging in tonight and joining us for our City Council meeting. There has been so much going on in the community and I just want to thank the community members and also City staff and my colleagues on City Council who have risen to the occasion in done some direct response to the events that are happening in the City. And thank you to Capri and Katina who have done some great work to raise community morale with the Double Dutch event that you guys have over the summer. I work until five on the weekdays. So generally, if I can get there before five, I will show up because I love double dutch. I don't know if I can still jump double dutch, but we'll see, but you know, thank you for doing stuff like that, that really raises the morale in the community. I got a chance to sit with the Child Guidance Diversity Council who posted their second panel to spotlight Coatesville and really talk about the relationship between diversity and community safety. I was joined by Josh Crans, who is on this call now, Keith Wilburn from Coatesville Kids to College, Jarvis Barry from the Coatesville Youth Initiative, Elgin Bailey from Friends Association. So that was a really good conversation. And it's available on YouTube now, but touched on a lot of important ways that we can keep our community safe, especially during the summer with community-based by the events and during trying times to really create the infrastructure for community health, community feeling, mental health, and infrastructure for community privileged and to share space with those folks. I am just very privileged to be in community with all of you who really make this community so colorful and charismatic. Good evening.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everybody for joining us tonight. There has been a lot going on in our community, negative, positive, mixed together, but I just want to applaud us as the leaders in this community, our staff and our colleagues for stepping up to the plate in the criticisms, along with the praises and still trying to work with all of our ability to make things change. Coatesville continues to be a place that you want to live, work and play. The plagues of the last, listen to chief from March to

May, 36-gun incidents in our City. That's unheard of. I don't know when we've had such a record or if we've ever had that many gun, violent incidents in our City, but Chief, I give kudos to you, hats off to you and your team. All that you do, you go over and beyond the call of duty while I'm putting the law in place, but also showing compassion and considerations. When these things happen, we have realized that this affects the family of the victim and you have the family of the suspect and they're all hurting. So we have to do what we can as a community to be available, to be assessable and there to help in any way. To speak to what Ms. Lauren Shannon Bailey was speaking of earlier, my son and my daughter and I were in a conference today with the three of us. And we were talking about what can we do to give some assistance in an area of grief and in the area of trying to help the young people as well as us, you know, because just because we're older, it doesn't mean that we don't suffer the same feelings. So, I will be coming back to council, not just as a council person, but as a citizen, as a licensed grief counselor, to talk with you about some programs that we would like to implement in the City to try to help. It's time that we stand up is time that we look at things, face things, grab things by the horn and try to make it better. We have so much going on in this City. That's positive that we can allow it to be overshadowed by the negative. And that's what always happens in this City. As soon as we're on the brink of something major happening, maybe we start getting hit with things that will cause you to be discouraged cause you to be downtrodden, but we have to realize who's in charge of it all. And I know that beyond a shadow of a doubt that God has many prayer warriors, too many people in this community for us not to be successful. I do want to say that on this Saturday, Women Destined for Change, many of you notice my women's ministry. We will be giving clothing away. We'll be giving household items away. And I had a call from a family. A young lady needed a home furnished. She got the apartment, she furnished it and everything together. And then she was hit by this rain and everything that come together to give her. So, we're putting together furniture items as long as it's good stock. If you have anything to you would like to donate and I'm speaking to the community at large. Someone donated a two-piece leather set. So as of Thursday, we'll start taking donations here at the funeral home and we'll be out there on Saturday trying to do what we can again, to assist with our community. So, thank you for this time to be able to speak to you again to our staff. Thank you so much for all that you do or that you continue to do. And to my colleagues, let's do what we do best join together and make our City move forward.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming. I see some new faces tonight, so I always appreciate when the citizens come. I think it's important for the residents to, you know, join the meeting so that they know what's going on with the City, as far as the storm that we had, I'd like to give a shout out to all of our staff. Mr. Logan and Mr. Huston. I know that had to be a very trying day for you guys. So thank you. Thank you, Mr. Verwey for what you did, Chief, thank you to you and your staff for going over and above that day on the storm. I'd like to thank the Fire Department, our Public Works Department. They really went over and above. I saw them on a lot of videos. Thank you to all my colleagues that helped out with the calls and the problems and the questions during the storm. Mr. Folks mentioned our prayer vigil, which went very nice. I ask that those at believe in the power of prayer, please, please, please continue to pray for our City and our residents. We have a lot of positive going on and it's like Mrs. Hunt said it just seems when the positive is there, the negative comes. We have all of the shootings that the Chief mentioned. We have the suicides, we have the drug overdoses, and this is the time for us to come together as a village and we are a village. So, we have to stand as a village and we all have to do our part and, and do what we can for each other. There's a lot going on. There's a lot of people hurting right now. A lot of families grieving. I would ask everybody to, to pray for some of my colleagues, Councilman Folks for his health, Mrs. Hunt's husband for his health, our Council President Linda Lavender-Norris for her health, and just pray for the community as a whole, because anybody that believes in God, I don't care what your faith is. God hears our prayers and God hears our cries. And so, we all have to reach out to God because who

better to reach out to, and we have to come together as a community and do what we can. So let's just do that. That's, what Coatesville does, we come together. I would also ask everybody, please remember, just stay safe because even though the numbers in the county as a whole are going down, Coatesville continue to rise. So COVID is still very active in Coatesville. And if you're not vaccinated, please get vaccinated. And just thank you again for everybody to come that came tonight and let's just come together as a village.

Vice President Green wished everyone a good evening. I just want to resonate everything that I've heard tonight. I appreciate you all. Mr. Folks, I stand in agreement with you that the prayer vigil was nice. And it was this about coming together. You know, the scripture says where two or three are gathered. There's so many of us that pray individually, but there's power in numbers. I know that, 15, maybe 20 years ago, pastor Mark Oliver used to have a monthly prayer for the City of Coatesville. And I'll tell you prayer changes things for those of us that believe and know prayer changes things. The Chief's is looking for people to partner, but I think that we, um, even with the people that are partnering with him, prayer is the best word, you know, in the midst of everything, you know, um, we'll protest this and we'll protest that, but no one says anything when it, when it comes to the gun violence in the City, it's silent, you know, and this is the biggest issue, you know, I just believe in addressing the issues that affect us on a daily. And this is an issue that affects us as a whole, you know, and we need to really come together against this. We need to really figure out, as a community because the word community that lasts syllable is unity. And I'll tell you when we had, when that prayer vigil took place, two Sundays ago, it was wonderful. You know, I thank Ms. Crystal Thomas for bringing out her food truck and donating hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone that was out there, you know, she didn't have to do that, but it's about bringing your gifts and your talents and putting them to use for the community. And, um, I'll tell you that prayer was wonderful. All faiths, you know, coming together, everybody going on being on one accord, it was just wonderful. I was excited a little disappointed. I would have loved to have seen more people there, but I tell you again where two or three are gathered in his name. I know that if we continue on this Mr. Folks, it'll grow. I contacted Mr. Logan the day of the flood, and then I contacted him the next day. I was calling to figure out what we were going to do. And I, I just thank the Lord for him and Mr. Houston, they already had a plan. They already knew and had things in place with Eagle, putting those dumpsters out. You know what I mean? And I think that that's a blessing, you know, to help, to assist the residents and trying to get rid of that stuff, having it all over the street, you know what I mean? The volunteers that came out, Michelle Dillard, Mr. Folks, Fonz and Sue Springsteen and whoever else was out there that day, that's amazing, you know, that they came out and unselfish, you know, not, not coming out to get rid of their stuff but coming out to help people, elderly and those that could not carry those things to the dumpster to help them to the score, to their belongings. So, you know, one thing about Coatesville is that we will come together, we will come together. And I just wish that we could be more unified at all times. You know, right now the City is in a very delicate state of trying to revitalize if we could just come together and just have that same faith and just believe. Okay, it didn't happen for us 10 years ago, but guess what things are moving now, you know, and we're all working hard and we all have that same goal. And that same determination that with the support of the resonance behind us, you know, things can move and can move faster. You know, I'm excited. I was excited about the double Dutch. I can't come out because it's, you know, Thursday, it was kind of early, but financially I'm going to support them. You know, when every week I'm going to, you know, it takes money for stuff, more ropes, you know, making sure water and all kinds of, I can't be there, but financially I'm going to donate and make sure weekly that they have what they need. You know, out there every Thursday. I think it's wonderful, you know, this bringing something. So, you know, so small, you know, it's not the big things that you do is the small things that you do. And I just appreciate everyone. And I thank you all the staff. I thank 'em all my colleagues and I'm just

excited and just rejuvenated today with everything that in the midst of the bad storm, things are working out. I just appreciate everyone. I appreciate them for dialing in tonight and God bless and have a great night

Ms. Al Amin stated I forgot just one person. Can I say thank you to, to Mr. Troutman? It was not my intention to leave anybody out, but I mentioned everybody else and forgot Mr. Troutman. So, thank you, Mr. Troutman.

Mrs. Hunt stated Carmen, you're talking about the prayer in the City. Do you remember back when you used to be able to call Coatesville Bible fellowship, they have a prayer line. You could call them anytime at 215-384-5353. You remember that time of day and they would have prayer on there for you to listen to. Thank you for calling the prayer line.

President Lavender-Norris thanked everybody. I do not want to be redundant. Everybody knows how we, as a whole body of Council feel with regards to you all. We appreciate you. I just want to acknowledge, Darryl Perry, that brother showed the love of Christ from the very beginning, even at the event at the prayer vigil, asking for prayer for the young man, Depre. And I thank God because it was the expression that were for him. He gave the example and I thank God for him. I just want to end with saying, I read and have been just resonating in. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land in Jesus' name. Jesus name. Speak his face. Humble yourself. We all have to, if we want better, we got to do better. And by the grace of God it will get done. You all have a blessed night. And thanks for tuning in with us. God bless you.

Adjournment

Ms. Graves made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

This meeting was conducted remotely and live-streamed over the internet at the following link: 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