



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Regular Meeting – Council Chambers  
Monday July 12, 2021

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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**

Mrs. Hunt motioned to approve the June 28, 2021 meeting minutes; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1. Vice President Green abstained due to her absence.

### **Approval of Accounts Payables**

Vice President Green motioned to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda**

Vice President Green motioned to add presentation 3) introduction to new part time Police Officers; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Councilperson Graves was the dissenting vote.

### **Presentations**

#### 1. African American Carnival

Good evening, everyone. Good evening. My name is Vincent Derek Smith and I'm from the African-American Carnival. And we are planning the African American cultural fair, July 26th to July 31st. When I started seven years ago, producing the African-American Culture Fair in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. During that time, we had residents from Coatesville coming to Lancaster to participate as entertainers, volunteers, and vendors. Over that time, we have spoken with residents and they showed interest of having that type of event here. Four years ago, we came, we met with some residents in their house and we started the conversation, during COVID and during the black lives matter movement, you know, it has been an emphasis on showcasing the positive side of African-Americans. Our goal is specifically to inspire and motivate the African-American community.

We don't want to sugar coat it. And when I say we're proud to be African-American. What we have done is created a committee of cultural resonance that I'm planning. I'm just leading it. Quite honest, I'm against people coming into another community and to some events that is not for that community or by that community. So, our committee is five people four from I'm just leading it because I have the experience in producing the event. All the entertainment is going to be local entertainment highlighting African-American culture. So that's hip hop, poetry, jazz and gospel. The last day, which is a Saturday, is going to be a black business

expo and how we market that was residents that live in Coatesville. They'll get a different price than people who live outside of Coatesville. If you live in Coatesville it is cheaper because we want to encourage the residents to participate. There's also another group called Colorful Village who also submitted a permit for that day and we're collaborating with them to produce the Black Business Expo. So, what that shows are two organizations working together for the betterment. The long term is through the way we develop our carnival in the first three to four years. It's about community development, community awareness of the African-American community. Then it moves into a stage where it becomes a profit. Then it moves to a stage where it becomes economic development for the community because you're starting to booking national acts to perform at the event crew people from outside of the town, the closest African-American festival to Coatesville would be Philadelphia. You would have to drive to Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Lancaster to celebrate African-American culture. Why can't you do it at your own community? Why is the dollars leaving your community to go support another community? So that's really the whole vision and goal of the event. We are developing grants and scholarships specifically for black and brown businesses and organizations because we know black and brown businesses and organizations go through a lot more red tape to get grants and scholarships. We're not doing loans. We weren't grants because the end result of the grant is that whoever is awarded their grant. We have to invest in the community. And somehow his thing, apple for a restaurant gets a \$5,000 grant. Maybe they say, we're going to do one free community meal a month. That's their investment into the community. We don't want the money back. We're trying to build the economic for the black and brown community. Thank you very nice.

Natasha DJ Jones and Jermaine. He owns the barbershop and then myself, Natasha is in charge of gospel entertainment. DJ Jones is in charge of DJs and regular entertainment. It's just kind of like our community relations person. And, Jermaine is vendor coordinator with me. They have their own vendors. So again, we collaborate with them to make sure we're not duplicating services, but, it was important for us to show that we can work together. Correct. Five years ago, when I met with four years ago, when I met with the community here, it was like the residents from Coatesville leaves to go to the strawberry festival. And when you go to strawberry festival, it'd be quite honest. There're black vendors, black entertainment, but the money is not coming back to the black community. So, it's kind of like that same model, but eventually, you know, it was, it's not sugar coating. You know, you can have all types of block parties, fairs where it's a lot of black entertainment and all the back vendors, but you won't call it a black event or African-American festival. So that's kind of where we're moving into the highlight, the African-American culture. Have a good night.

2. Tower Health

There was no presentation from Tower Health at this time.

3. New Part-Time Officer Introductions

Just as we've started with the last several rounds of hire a new hires part-time officers with the City Police Department. At the request of council, we're taking this opportunity to introduce the officers, so you can put a name with the face of our most recently hired officers. We started out by proceeding through the civil service process. We had nine qualified applicants that actually showed up to take our exam. Of those nine, four successfully complete everything, including the written, the oral, preemployment background screening booklet, their oral, their psychological and the medical background, everything that is involved with selecting an officer for the City of Coatesville Police Department. All that

we had, four successfully completed the background, the full background, the process, and one of which just recently resigned, just because his full-time job at another agency, it was taking a precedent. He just felt he couldn't devote the time that he needed to devote to his field training program here with the City. So that leaves us with three officers, that are now in their field training program. And what I like to do is go ahead and just read a quick bio on each of the officers.

Officer Bill Cahill, who's not in uniform tonight. Unfortunately, we had the heavy rains, several weeks ago, which we had some water in our closet on the north side of the building, which damaged all of our used uniforms. They only went to the dry cleaners and they're not back yet. So unfortunately, Bill doesn't have a uniform yet. In the middle behind me is Eric Petrucci, and then to my right here is Andrew DiPaolo. Just a real quick bio, Officer Cahill is a graduate of West Chester East High School, Delaware County Community College Police Academy, and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in public safety administration from Newman University in Aston, PA. Prior to joining the City Coatesville Police Department, Officer Cahill was a member of the Westtown East Goshen, Regional Police Department, where he served as the unit commander of the criminal investigation division, the traffic safety division and emergency response team. Officer Cahill was a Task Force Officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Violent Crime Task Force from 2017 through 2021. Officer Cahill has been recognized by District Court and the Court of Common Pleas as a subject matter expert and drug law enforcement and firearms, and upon his retirement with a distinguished career with the Westtown East Goshen Police Department, he elected to come here to the City of Coatesville and continue to serve our residents now, but continue to serve in general. We appreciate his willingness to continue in Police work. And we're looking forward to tapping into some of the expertise that he's acquired over his many years, total 35.

Officer Eric Petrucci was born and raised in Landsberg PA, he's been married for 11 years, has an eight-year-old son. Officer Petrucci, graduated from both Kennett High School and Center for Arts and Technology in 1996. At that point, he began working as a mechanic for Knox Equipment Rentals, working on heavy equipment during the day and moonlighting as an automotive mechanic at night, he obtained his inspection and emission license during his time as well. Officer Petrucci then began a career in the construction field where he maintained and operated a fleet of heavy equipment and trucks. Next, he began his career with the Borough of Kenneth Square, full time as a mechanic operator, where he worked for six years. He also worked as a mechanic for the ants and being Nixon park, maintain all the maintenance equipment and driving a tractor trailer tanker for McGovern environmental incorporated. He's currently still employed by both companies part-time and Officer Petrucci then moved on to a better opportunity with Kennett Township as the lead road crewman, where he oversaw a four-man crew and the daily maintenance and operation at the streets department. In January of 19, he began in the Delaware County Community Police Academy part-time class, and graduated in December with his Act 120 certification. In March of 2020, he began his career as a Police officer at Kenneth Square Borough Police Department, where he is currently still employed part-time and he has elected to come with us part-time. Don't get any ideas chip! We are pretty fortunate to have Eric here as a member of the Department. And he brings a wealth of varied experience in a lot of different positions. So, he'll be a benefit to the City.

Officer Andrew DiPaolo was a 2012 graduate of Interboro Senior High School in Delaware County. He then went to Penn State University at the Brandywine Campus and graduated

with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. In 2017, Officer DiPaolo worked in the customer service field during and after college. He did work in this field, ranging from retail positions to work for a Law Firm in this capacity. He attended Temple University Police Academy in 2019. Officer DiPaolo has been in Police work for over one year with another test academy Police agency. And we're excited to have Andrew with us as well.

These are our three most current part-time officer hires. They still have yet to complete their field training officer program, which will last anywhere from two to three months, roughly depending on how many hours they can give us each week, and assuming successful completion of their field training program, then they will be cleared to serve the residents in another part-time officer capacity. We look forward to seeing some great things from them as they assist us with riding service to our citizens.

Mr. Folks welcomed the officers to the City of Coatesville. Here in Coatesville, we don't have much, well, what we have, we appreciate this is not a white and black town, we are black and red. This is a region that we are proud to be. So, when you come into our town, guess what? You will be Coatesville. So act like this is your home.

### **Discussion Items**

1. Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

2. Homelessness in Coatesville

Mrs. Hunt stated it's a hot topic. It's a sad topic, but it's a necessary discussion. As you go through the City, you're seeing homelessness in a lot of different areas. They are setting up in different places. I was told today when I was working that they're setting up down in Abdala Park. I wasn't aware cause I haven't seen it down there. The issue is homelessness. It seems like they have a lack of respect for people's properties. And, any of you that know me, you know, that my heart goes out and I'll help and try to support and do whatever I can for anyone. But it seems like it, I don't know if it's because my building is on the corner of the street, but it just seems like lately they are coming to my area. Yesterday, I was coming in and a gentleman was laid up on my front porch with a blanket with his pillow, with his cell phone, plugged into my electricity and just enjoying itself. Of course, I hollered get off of my porch. And then, I took pictures of him coming off the porch so that I could send it to Mr. Logan and Council. So that when I'm saying something, I don't want it to be like, okay, we don't have any proof of this. We haven't seen this. But, I'm dealing with almost every day, they're having lunch on the wall and then they're leaving their trash. So we have to go out, you asked them to take the trash, then they want to curse you out. Then, you know, I don't want my children to get into a confrontation with them because you know, when they see mom and in the argument with someone, then they're coming and I'm trying to avoid that. So that's why I'm talking and trying to see, I know that as a City, we have done a lot to try and give shelter to the people that are homeless. We have reached out, we have put them up in different places and they won't stay or they get kicked out. Then I know we have tried, but none of them have been arrested, you know? And so now I see because they were across the street at the library and I mean, it was just, the noise was so loud. And the one day it was a Sunday. Many of you know, my husband is ill, when he was home and his therapist had come to the house. She was afraid to get out of the car because they start cursing at her. And, we did take action that day. The Police came over and took care of that. But, in the Fifth Avenue area, I don't see them physically getting hurt by any of us there, but other areas, somebody is going to hurt them. And that's what my concern is that it's, it is just escalating to a point

where, what else can we do? I know I've gotten instruction to put the no trespassing signs up. It just looks so bad on my building, having no trespassing. I just don't like the image of that. But if I have to do it, you know, in order to get some action, then I will do it. But, they just have no respect for personal property. And one night, they were outside and a gentleman walking past, he called in and he said, Ms. Hunt, I don't know if you know, but they're outside. They got extension cords and everything running from your electricity. And so we came out, I called the Police and they came over and you know, we talked to them and so they asked me, do you want him arrested? I don't want them arrested. I just want them away from here. And, you know, find a place to live, find a place to stay. But you know, I don't know. I'm just like at a crossroad as to what can we do further? Is there anything we can further do, to stop this?

Vice President Green replied, you can't really help them if they don't want to the help, Right. And the ones that we're seeing all the time, they don't want to know. They don't want to get help. There are some that are going to the bathroom underneath the trees and over in front of Walgreens and all kinds of nastiness, you know, those reasons that you don't want them there, you feel you should empathize with their situation, right? But they don't want to go to a shelter. Exactly. You don't want to get mental health treatment. They don't want to go to a rehabilitation facility that they may be. What do you do? What do we do? Ms. Al Amin explained in that role before we used to have the connect points in the building right across the street from Turkey hill and that program was restructured and taken away. And so now when you call 211, that's based out of Harrisburg. And so if it's a homeless person, the Chief and I have worked on getting people the help, bit in some of the cases, they have burnt bridges with 211. And most of the ones that are out there by the library. Now the one guy on your property, even, I don't think he would follow up, but the others have rubbed their bridge until will not be because they've gone to the hotel, they messed up, they're doing drugs, stealing or doing other stuff. So the hotels will not take them. Even though someone else is putting the bill, they're getting away from that program. Now that the COVID restrictions have been that if they're not really doing the hotels now, but the young lady she's talking about the person that was down by Walgreens, the outreach team physically went out there within the last week. And again, and this isn't the first time they met with her. She refuses shelter. She refuses mental health treatment. She refuses drug and alcohol. And because she does not have a guardian over her, if she says, no, they have to leave her. It seems like it comes from the county. That's where they come from. It just seems like the, the rate of homelessness is getting worse by the day. Just because of mental health. We don't have institutions anymore, so they don't have to stay. They don't have to be where they don't feel that they want to be. Are they migrating? Where are they migrating from? the one that I sent you a picture of yesterday? If they can establish that they're from Chester county via an ID, a driver's license in particular shelters that are in Chester county will help them. If they are from outside of Chester County, they will not help.

Mrs. Hunt said that it just seemed like Coatesville, as soon as we're on the brink of great things happening, developers showing interest in coming to the City, then we get hit with, so we didn't have this homelessness problem in this magnitude, in our area. And now it seems like, you know, things are happening. Things are starting to look up and now, we have investors coming to the City and they see that, you know, what happens? Is it a deterrent or is it some that say, well, maybe we need to come here to help improve this. But it's just more now than I know that I've ever seen in the City. So, one day y'all gonna drive by and it's going to be an eight-foot fence all around my building. I just can't, I just can't, you know, it's,

it is what our hands tied. And then I don't want to feel like, I'm mean, you know, you go out there and you know that they don't have a home, they don't have electricity anywhere else, but that's not the place for you to prop up at. And then, you know, so I don't know.

Councilperson Graves stated that as you all know, from the April council meeting, I am employed by a housing, nonprofit, and housing has long been defunded throughout the country. It's a systemic issue. As long as we look at housing as a commodity, rather than a human right. There's always going to be a problem with people being unhoused. So, the nonprofit I work for does a housing first solution, which houses people as quickly as possible with as little barriers as possible to be able to qualify for our housing program and really understanding that there are layers of trauma that might make people go into a cycle of trauma, of being accepted to places, getting kicked out, denying treatment, wanting to go to treatment, not being successful in treatment. These things are cyclical. And, it's important when we are talking about people who are unhoused is to look at them, not as an issue or a nuisance that we need to solve, but members of community that need healing. And so really, it's not going to be easy to solve an issue as complex as housing and homelessness, because the issues that lead to homelessness are complex. Most people are about three paychecks or a disaster medical emergency away from being on the street. And that's the reality for everybody. So I don't think that there's a one-stop solution or housing, excuse me, I'm not finished. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm not, what about housing? It's not about housing. There's a housing system. And then there's individual trauma, which people experienced for being homeless because the issue of being homeless is that you're not in a house. So it's an issue. Vice President Green explained that With that, right? But it's not about housing because some of them have been in housing and refuse to read their net worth or each time that they're presented and given housing, they're put out on the house because the bottom line is that they have to be in trauma. Exactly. They have to be treated for their mental health and they don't want the treatment when they have to be treated for their drug and alcohol. And they don't want to be treated for their housing. Councilperson Graves stated yes, but what I'm saying is that there is a combination of housing barriers in cyclical trauma too. There are two things. What I'm saying, this is a complex issue. And there are, there are people who I worked in housing. I'm the first person that people who call my agency talk to. There are people who are insightful of me. I am an administrator and information and referral specialist. So there are people who it's a very complex issue to solve and it's not, it's not easy at all, but we do need to focus on people's individual trauma, healing people in a way that they want to be healed because people are going to refuse when they're not ready and, and people don't have to take treatment.

Mrs. Hunt asked Councilperson Graves what is your method for healing? Does your organization offer that treatment? How do you deal with the consistently talk about healing? So I'm asking, what level, what degree, what type of healing are you referring to? That's what I'm asking. Councilperson Graves replied there are organizations that have like trauma informed specialists that work with people on an individual basis and, you know, help them work through trauma, help them navigate the housing system and understanding that they have trauma. But sometimes people do refuse people. I mean, people have the right to refuse medical treatment. Mrs. Hunt asked that the organization that you work for, you live here in the City. You're part of the City Council, and you see these people on the street, you see them without homes, without shelter. Does your organization reach out to them where they are or is it a system where they need to come into your facility? Councilperson Graves replied no, I have reached out to so many of the people that live on the street, because we're

thru the county you'd have to call to online and get referred. Ms. Al Amin explained then Outreach comes out, when she comes out, they come out because Chief and I just helped the person and the outreach team came out. She refused any services. Councilperson Graves explained that the person has the right to refuse. Vice President Green stated that we get her help, but she doesn't stay, she gets out. Like all the discussion. What do you do? Because you're on private property and they are defecating in the bushes, it's smelly, full of paper everywhere. What do we do, because we've not be arrested any of them. So the fact that they continue to refuse help, What do you do? You go through the philosophical reason of why they're homeless and what the next steps or, and how we handle this. Because people are trying to help. Noone is trying to cause any criminal issues. They have to figure it out because they can't live. You know, they could go take up residence in my back yard or your backyard. Mrs. Hunt explained she came home, the one night, and there was a guy on the porch and he had, I called Chief. He had cardboard or something on his back. Like he had wings or something and he was hovering over the door. And I'm like, what in the Sam, hell I didn't quite say that, but what is this? And so I had to call Chief. and you don't know the extent of it. You don't know the extent, the mental illness, that's the thing. And if I try to approach him, I try to walk on my porch and approach this person. And then something else happened. You can't do that. So, but I can't have that at my home. I just can't, you know, and I've tried to be as kind and as I can, but you know, something has to be done. I cannot have that.

Ms. Al Amin explained there was one gentleman that I don't know, chief, what was it between you and I am calling different places and he continually reviews, but we kept trying. And then what, what did, what did, did take about four or five months? And then he finally agreed. And the young lady that you're referring to chief, we've been trying to help her off and on for over a year. Right? If not long for over a year. Mrs. Hunt explained one-night chief, when I called you, the guy had came past and had put blue bandanas to on my sign to the railings on both sides and the front of the house. And then when they looked at the cameras, Chief was able to find out who it was. And then later, I guess, the next day or so he came back and he apologized and he said, but everything I tag, I own. Yes. So, I mean, that's what I'm dealing with it right on the main street. So, you know, it's, um, it's, it's a little unnerving. President Lavender-Norris explained that what we are saying when we try to help them try its organization as the local government, that's not in our purview. That's not what we do is not what we're required to do. It's not what we can, we are looking for help for them as residents, as individuals, as someone that cares, not just about them, but about convenience, because I can tell you, and I don't want to sound cold-hearted uncaring, but I think it's horrible. Riding down the street on Lincoln highway, seeing people live comparably as if they're in their homes or on the beach, or what have you with all their belongings spread out around them. For me, that's a deterrent to our growth. And we don't just want to build buildings. We want to build our community. People in the community. We don't need the determinants. And again, I don't want to sound cold-hearted work careless, but I do want to make it plain that we want to clean it up. As a Council, that's what we want to do. We as council, can't place them in homes and things of that nature. I just wanted to make that point clear for everybody's understanding. There has to be something where reaching out for help. So if anybody viewing on YouTube or in the audience or anywhere else, if you have any idea of how we can help them, to help our City, please let us know. Please contact City hall, Mr. Logan is here as well. Mrs. Hunt stated the library has posted a No trespassing sign. They did put it up because they were just evading that whole area. So, did one, one day the guy had a

barber chair out there and people were walking up getting their hair cut. And I'm like for real homeless, but he had a barber chair and people were getting their haircut.

**Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)**

There were no citizens comments on regular action items only.

Vice President Green motioned to close citizen hearings on regular action items only; MS. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0

**Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion adopting a resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville supporting the filing of a grant application with the Chester County Department of Community Development for 2021 Chester County Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for improvements in the City of Coatesville consisting of improvement to stabilize and reopen Wagontown Road.

Mr. Folks motioned to approve a Resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville supporting the filing of a grant with the Chester County Development for 2021 Chester County Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for improvements in the City of Coatesville consisting of improvement to stabilize and reopen Wagontown Road; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Verwey explained this is a project to repair Wagontown Road, between the City of Coatesville just off of Manor Road. It is about a hundred feet or so off roadway that has kind of caved in and going into the valley there. And that happened, I guess, back in 2014. So the road has been closed now for about seven years and working with Valley Township in this case, the road actually goes into both communities. So part of it's in Coatesville apartments in Valley, and they've asked us to join them with this grant application to try and get this road repaired and open. I think we're still looking at two years down the road, but we have waiting, but we've agreed to try and help them out. In that case, it is their grant. We're going to be supporting on a secondary basis. It's been closed for seven years and it's a little difficult sometimes for emergency vehicles and other things to get down to that area of the community and Valley Township. So that's what we've done is brought this to you guys today. Mr. Huston explained Valley township obtained a \$1.5 million grant towards the \$2.1 billion cost of repair. I believe PA American water is going to also kick in a hundred thousand dollars towards the repair because they have a line that runs along Valley Road in the areas that's damaged. I believe Valley also has a sewer lateral that runs through that area that services 3,400 people. The City is requesting this grant as matching funds. So, it will be for \$500,000, which will bring to a 1.5 up to the 2 million. And then with the PA American Waters, \$100,000, that'll cover the \$2.1 million in repair costs. And they'll start that process as soon as they have approvals in there. I think the anticipation is that the construction will begin in 2022 and be done in probably fall of 2023.

2. Receive and consider a motion adopting a resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville supporting the filing of a grant application with the Chester County Department of Community Development for 2021 Chester County Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for improvements in the City of Coatesville consisting of a parking garage for the Coatesville Train Station.

Vice President Green motioned to approve a Resolution of the Council of the City of Coatesville supporting the filing of a grant application with the Chester County Department

of Community Development for 2021 Chester County Community Grant Funds for improvements in the City of Coatesville consisting of a parking garage for the Coatesville Train Station; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Logan explained this is a continuation of the CRP funding at the City of Coatesville submits over the last two years, we have received \$500,000 in \$1 million from the County on this submission will be for \$1 million. And it's to add to our capital stack or the construction of parking garage.

Vice President Green motioned to close action items; Councilperson Graves seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

## Reports

### 1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he worked on zoning appeal related to 338 West Lincoln Highway; Zoning and Codes issues involving various properties within the City; Real estate matters involving City properties and matters related to pending opioid litigation involving opioid manufacturers. Now they're being sued by a State Municipalities to recover funds for expenses related to the opioid epidemic.

### 2. City Manager

Mr. Logan started with the Business and Economic Development updates. Today or this afternoon, ECON partners, which is our grant consultant, confirmed submission of our grant application for the Department of Transportation RAISE grant. This is for again, our parking garage facility. This goes to the capital stack of that facility. The submission is one of many in the pipeline to secure approximately \$11 million for the construction of the train station., RAISE, is an acronym for Rebuilding American Infrastructure and Sustainability and Equality. It was known as BUILD and formerly known as TIGER. Today we also received news that Senator Casey has submitted the City's train station project to the transportation housing and urban development and related agencies subcommittee, to support funding. This will go to the appropriations committee for consideration. We are very excited about that. And, we certainly appreciate the efforts of Senator Casey's office as well as several other elected officials, from our City Council members who are kind of commissioners, Representative Dan Williams and Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan, they've all been very supportive, also Senator committed. We have tremendous amount of support of behind our train station efforts, and we're very excited for this particular submission, it supports the project. As I mentioned, the actual application, dollar amount is four \$8 million. We are keeping our fingers crossed. It's not common that such a large ask will be received of the appropriations committee view. It's not an open-ended it's at least six or five. In addition to the City of Coatesville submissions, the County had two other submissions. So, three came from the county and we hope all three that will be successful.

This Saturday, the City of Coatesville, is going to partner with the new workforce and job creation company out of Morgantown. I think I sent this information to you all on this weekend. The company is called Photogenics, they will host their first job here in City Hall this Saturday from 10 to 2. All job seekers are welcome. This is part of a series of workforce development partnerships that the City continues to build with industry leaders. We have now partnered with Urban Outfitters, the Morgan Truck company, CTDI grant buses, and now Photogenics. We are very excited that this organization is going to be coming to the City.

They are looking to hire 200 employees. My hats off to a number of individuals in this community that help spread the word, they're going to have a food truck, which I'll certainly be there for that. Photogenics is located in Morgantown. They are working, I think with TMACC to provide some transportation opportunities for those residents here in Coatesville that might not be able to get to Morgantown. We are very excited about that partnership. I'm going to take one of these and pass them around, this is information on SEPTA. Not only is SEPTA returning to the City of Coatesville, via the train station, but they will also be taking over or transitioning, the Krapf Bus route. The transition is slated to occur August 1<sup>st</sup>. As part of this transition process, we're looking to get SEPTA key fare instruments into the hands of our residents. So, within the next week or two, you might see a huge SEPTA bus parked in the Third avenue. A lot of that is to anyone who was interested in buying the key cards. They will be out there for a couple of days as a kickoff to this new initiative or this new program. This will allow passengers to, as I said, acquire key cards that will provide them with reduced fares instead of paying cash. There is some incentive to get it out there once you see that truck.

Representative Chrissy Houlahan, hosted a town hall meeting last week. Some of you may have heard about it as a follow-up to a town hall meeting. I think she had about a year ago, maybe a year and a half ago highlighting the importance of apprenticeship and workforce development programs. Earlier that day, she did visit the Brandywine Valley Aging and finished up with a brief meeting at Midway Arts with a few of our local business owners there. Later on that day, she met with the Morgan Truck Company, which is one of our workforce development partners, to tour their facility. She was a busy Congresswoman that day.

Onto the Grand Prix, which is September 8th, at 8:30 am, We are moving full steam ahead. Sponsorship commitments are continuing to come in. We are anticipating a huge turnout this year for the Grand Prix. And for those of you who are not familiar with the Grand Prix, you can go to the Coatesville Grand Prix's website. All of the information is there for you. And we're very excited to be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintage Grand Prix in the City of Coatesville.

This past weekend, we also had a Pop Up and Shop, which was the first this year. The Pop Up and Shop is an opportunity for our local businesses, small businesses, minority owned businesses to come out in a pop-up and shop open market. We had 13 vendors this past weekend and it was good. Traffic was a little light, but this was our first one. We do anticipate future pop up and shop events to bring out more people. And then the last item I have is, The Sounds of Summer Jazz Music Series that kicks off August 27<sup>th</sup>, This will be at Abdala Park. The Jazz Series will run every other week until October 8<sup>th</sup>. All shows will be at Abdala Park. If you have any questions, you can go to our website or you can contact City Hall for more information. It's just, it's a free event. You just come out with your chair and your beverages, non-alcoholic, and enjoy the nice sounds of Jazz Musicians.

One last item, I just want to take this opportunity to say thanks to a number of people that make a lot of things happen in this community that often times we don't recognize. And these are some of your neighbors, some of your friends. I'm not going to go down the list of names but, the individuals know who they are. You know, one thing about this City is we have a number of people that are willing to give their time and their energy. And, and no one really knows who they are. They don't come here. They don't look for any praises or accolades. They are just doing what they do. They feed people with pizza. They come here with shovels,

rakes and forks and things like that on weekends. We just have a tremendous community here of individuals that some of them have some of the best catfish around which for whatever reason, they're not making it right now, but I'm not going to go into that. They can miss a time. We really have begun to turn this community around and Mr. Smith is coming out with his organization. This is what Coatesville needs. We are not going to go back to the days of the Steel mill. That's not going to happen. We are pivoting right now. We are looking at cost savings in every department of the City, and we're looking to work with our young people. We are also looking to work with our seniors. We are making the turn. It's not going to happen overnight. We ask for your patience sometimes we don't get it, but we know that you you're hanging in there with us. But again, I just want to just thank, you know, some of those, you know, unsung heroes, if you will. And also think, you know, individuals that work for the City, our staff, Ruthann, she does a tremendous amount of work for not only me, but everyone else in our organization, Chip Houston, Chief Laufer, Rich Troutman, the man with the plan our financial genius. There is a lot of other people, Jessica, Leslie, Barbara, Mary, Linda, Stacia, Steve, Andrew, the list goes on like that. Our public works guy, Julius, Andrae, Kyle, and Aaron. So again, we're, we're all trying to do it. We're all trying to make a difference in our community. And, certainly we can't do without you. It's a welcoming opportunity to serve this community. We don't always get it perfect, but we're trying our best to get it right and we appreciate your patience.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston provided a short update as the county is no longer doing full updates on Covid. Concerns around the Delta variant are not so high in Chester County as we are relatively high on the percentage of vaccinated communities. 89% of eligible residents have had at least one shot – 18 and over. Including the overall population (under 18's) we are at 76%. New numbers posted Chester County has a positivity rate below 1% with only 26 cases reported in the last week.

In response, as we are meeting here in person, Coatesville will be returning to normal from an office standpoint. Beginning Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the main door will open at 8:30am as well as the service window for the Codes and Finance departments. They will remain open until 4pm (currently the hours are 10 to 3). We will still ask that you continue to wear masks in the building.

Public Works has both splash pads are up and running. The daily hours are 10am to 7pm through Labor Day weekend. We got the repairs done to Lincoln highway and the chemicals have been changed over from what would blew to what is now available for us today. So, that's something for you to, you know, especially this, this heat wave here lately has been really good. I went by yesterday and it was a nice crowd of kids out there, splashing around. Grass cutting never seems to end.

The Public Special events are available on the City's website calendar. There are a couple of things of note coming up for City residents that are City sponsored events. The Coatesville Invitational Vintage Grand Prix will be on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The race day festivities start at 8am. New this year is a Cruise In on Friday night on Lincoln Highway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues. No registration needed just bring your favorite ride into town and show it off. Times are 6pm to 9pm. Other community events of note are: 2nd Century Alliance Block Party – July 17 from 5 to 9 at the Gazebo; Family movie night at Abdala Park – July 24 from

7pm to 11pm; Summerfest/Carnival at Abdala Park – 7/27 to 7/31 and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Washington Hose Company – August 28<sup>th</sup> - Block Party + Fire Works on the flats.

4. Finance Department

Mr. Troutman stated tonight's comments will be a little longer and in a little more depth than in previous months due to our review of the closed first six months and the remainder of the year. First a few generic comments, the first half of the Federal Rescue Funds known as ARPA has been received. We are working with the bank to segregate them as discussed in the June 28 meeting. The funds will largely be held until storm water planning is performed. About a quarter of the funds will be expended this year according to regulations for compensation, costs and lost revenues attributable to Covid.

An intern is scheduled to start within the next week or so. We are excited to have essentially a rising junior at West Chester who will potentially be with us through the Fall. She is going through the background process. An extra benefit is we were able to get funding through the Pennsylvania Municipal League for \$5,250, or about 11 weeks.

The Strategic Plan is progressing. The consultants are formulating recommendations and projecting impacts. In the next two weeks we will be circulating a summary document to provide a common starting point, baseline if you will, to lay the foundation for RKL's report. We are working with RKL to determine specific next steps and when they will occur. Some of their initial assessments are included in the financial summary to follow.

For the six months ended June 30, I first want to thank the finance team for their work closing the books so expeditiously, which included working around a holiday weekend. As you will see from the financial summary provided in your packages (the circle/square schedule), the first six months seems rather good, with most funds, especially the GF having sizeable surpluses and being favorable to budget. With 50% of the year completed we are reporting 47.0% of budget for General Fund expenses and slightly over 50% for Solid Waste and Liquid Fuels. Both of these Funds incurred seasonal expenditures, explaining the higher expenses. Recall in most of the first six months I would mention "timing" events and since a few of these occurred in January I used the technical term "stockpile" these one-time revenues. What we see in this six-month report, the City, even with the stockpiled items, lagged behind the revenue budget by almost \$300,000. Expenses being favorable to budget allowed the City to be favorable for the first six months.

These last few statements are a window into the remainder of the year. The additional reporting tonight will focus on the projections for the remaining six months. As an overarching comment, the annual budget is still attainable; tenuous, but attainable. It will require three basic themes: Continued monitoring of expenses, deferring to 2022 where appropriate; No significant ability to "cut" expenditures to solve current budget concerns; and Grow revenue.

The last two are paraphrasing conversations we've had with RKL. Expenses are generally budgeted equal between the first and second halves of the year, but revenues are weighted more to the first half due primarily real estate taxes. Given the revenue shortfall in the first six months, there is going to be more pressure on the last six months overall.

The areas of concern include: Earned Income Tax collections will be heavily dependent on the transition from Covid to recovery economics for income earned from April thru September. The timing of receipts will be in August and November. While we are confident employment will continue to improve, it is the timing of concern. One action is the continued sponsoring and proactive actions being undertaken to support job fairs; which helps the City economically in addition to the larger benefits to employees and employers. Sales of RDA and/or City properties is a major component of this 2021 budget. This too is a timing concern. For example, regarding the flats, if it does settle in 2022 the bulk of the benefits will still be reflected, albeit delayed from when budgeted.

Licenses and Permits: The City performed analysis on its Licenses and Permits, noting both the rates were low and the compliance was low. Rates were increased for this year and initiatives were identified to start in 2021. For example: Business Privilege Licenses were historically issued from a fairly stagnant database. The initiative underway is to identify existing businesses not previously identified. About 300, or 50% more, are expected to pay for licenses this and every year. Rental Inspections were historically performed based on landlords requesting inspections. Over time this compliance degraded to less than 50% of what is projected as the required level (800 annually verse 1,700-2,000). The initiative underway is proactively pursue inspections not in compliance with the City Ordinances (maximum allowed is bi-annually). These and other initiatives are expected to help in the second half of the year make budget. In closing, alerting Council of an uncertain second half due to major timing issues, but continued focus on expenses and implementing initiatives.

#### 5. Police Department

Chief Laufer provided some of the Police Department statistics. The main part is in your packet. There were 1866, 911 generator calls for service, for the city police department. That was up from 1,805 for the month of May. So a slight increase, which is predictable with the warmer months. The total calls, which are everything that involves on station, as well, as far as calls for service that are generated front desk here on station was a 2,645. That's our high for the year also, which is somewhat predictable. The 1866 was just 911 calls. We have additional walk ins calls for service, things that we received directly, not through the county, which is the larger number of 2,645 for the month generated at the front desk. In June, we had two Narcan saves by the police department. The sad part of that status. They were both the same person. So we saved the same person twice in a month of June from an opioid overdose, which is sad. As Lieutenant Ollis always says, the Narcan saves are a result. They're not the solution. It doesn't get to the heart of the problem. Really. We did have five car seat checks/installs provided by our certified technicians here at the police department. We had three part-time officers who you met here tonight that began their field training this month in June. Unfortunately, we had four, but the one officer did resign for conflicts with his full-time position. Sorry to see him go. We also had a successful completion of our chaplain training program over at the training center on June 29<sup>th</sup>. of, uh, pastor Rob Marshall and Emam Mohammed Jamal. They successfully lead our chaplaincy training program. So, they are available for us to draw from for our chaplain program for the city. They assist our officers with handling critical incidents. They do ride along with the officers and also are available for the officers for any type of spiritual guidance or spiritual interaction that they may seek, a one-on-one with our chaplains. And then they're also available to the community. We use them for our safe surrender program. We use them for different things. We have a death notification and just different things that we involve our chaplains in serve the community better. We are excited to have Pastor Marshal from New Life in Christ and

Emam Mohammed Jamal. We participated in a race and Justice Task Force with the DA's office and the County FOP. Some of you were in attendance on June 21st, when we screened walking while black love is the answer. It was very well received. I think by everybody that was present, we look forward to some follow-up conversation. I know they're talking about a date for the end of July for some follow-up. A Follow-up meeting also to talk about what conversation generated from our first screening of that video. That was actually the second time that Lieutenant Ollis and I had seen the video and it was just as powerful the second time. Really? It was the first time.

Regarding the Fireworks going off in the City. We have had some discussion I know we're going to have more discussion about it. Several officers were out, you know, just sharing with our residents that it is illegal to have fireworks, but there was a concern that some of the fireworks were not only getting on the roof, some of our residents home, but cars and things like that. I think it, it comes down to just trying to continually educate that, you know, although several years ago, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania legalized most, all consumer grade fireworks, which covers quite a bit are legal in the Commonwealth, but they are illegal in the City of Coatesville by ordinance. And they're also illegal under the Commonwealth law for setting them off within 150 feet of an occupied structure, which when you think about it, there's not many it's 50 yards. So there's not many places in the City of Coatesville where you're not within 50 yards of an occupied structure, maybe in the center of some of our parks. But once again, there's a city ordinance against discharging the fireworks within the city limits. So through education, we try to put out our PSA's or public service announcements or our Facebook page. I put out two messages trying to get the community on board with us. They are truly a public safety issue, because of the density of the city. And some of you may have seen in the news where there was an NHL goalie, professional hockey only for one of the NHL teams who was killed at a backyard barbecue party over the 4th of July, when a box of fireworks tipped over and a rocket discharged and hit him square in the chest and killed him. There's a professional athlete who is dead now because of backyard fireworks. It is public safety issue. And I think the only way we're going to educate and change behavior is to continue to push that message out to our residents.

### **Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)**

#### Derrick McComsey

Mr. McComsey stated it's been a really rough year. I probably haven't been out of the house much in a year and a half. I've lived in my home for 54 years. Some of you are aware in the past, I've had some cosmetic in structural complaints about the property. I'm attached to 116 Pennsylvania Avenue. In the past three months, they have only cut their grass when it was about four feet high and Codes cited them twice. The trash and high brush are still in the backyard and haven't been removed and that still is there. But the reason I'm here today is to let you know, I'm handicapped. I've been dealing with several other medical issues, since then I'm in pain every day. When I was released to go back to work in April, I've been working from home ever since some CF assistant to the CFO of my company. I've been there about 20 years. It's pretty high-pressure job. Like all of you have. The problem I'm having and I desperately need help with is the amount of excessive noise coming from the house that I'm attached to. That's got progressively worse over the past year to the point where I can't concentrate and do my job. I can't relax at night to watch TV. And I can't go to bed until about after midnight. 2:00 AM 3:00 AM because there's about 10 people in the house, four adults, other kids, and they just run amuck all night long, the walls shake my house shakes. I can't do my job. I can't do anything. This has nothing to do with summer break it's all year, it's gotten progressively worse and this was going on. And to top it off, this was Saturday night, midnight. If you can all see

this video of what's going on there, this is fireworks in the middle of the street and midnight, the whole family's on the porch, watching it. Everyone's in bed on Pennsylvania avenue between Walnut and Oak. And this is going on. This is going on in front of my house, five feet away from all of our cars of 20 feet away from our doorsteps. I'm fed up. Um, I have scorch marks on my car, calling out the police officer Corcoran was out there, wrote up a report, contacted them. I'm fed up, I'm losing my mind. I've been in my house 54 years and I'm begging anybody for help. They pretty much made my life a living hell and you know, I've had problems with this house, but every runner that's been in there since then has said on the best neighbor they've ever had. And these people I've asked them three times when they moved it very nicely. And the last comment I just said, could you please keep it down? And it was basically said, well, we pay a lot in rent. I guess that means we can do whatever we want. And um, I just wanted to let you know that we're 50% home ownership between Walnut and Oak. And when this happened on Saturday night, what you're doing here is the noise. This thing was shooting about two stories, high five feet away from all of our cars. And if that thing would have tipped over, if a car would have come up the hill, it would have been a disaster yet they're up all night. So everyone's going to be up all night. And they had all the kids on the front porch at a firework show when the rest of the neighborhood's in bed. And, my older neighbor said they might be leaving now because of this. And they'd been there 54 years. I don't want to leave this town. So that's it. I have a new flash drive for the chief, which officer Corcoran said to bring you with all the videos.

#### Jaleah Bowman-Blanton

Ms. Bowman-Blanton stated she is a rising senior at the Coatesville Area Senior High School. I started Girl Scouts in second grade and I am now an Ambassador as a Girl Scout. I have earned my bronze and silver awards this upcoming year. I am hoping to obtain my gold award. I want to focus my project on the community I have known my whole life. The purpose of my presentation today is to ask for permission to conduct my project in my hometown for my gold award. The objective is to place a community fridge within city limits. Ideally 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the communities for just concept arise from the city's food boxes by Ash park on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and in front of the dollar tree on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln highway, which my family and I give to. This project is significant because it will allow the community to help others in a different aspect. The city refrigerator provides our residents access to chill foods, such as fruits, vegetables, pudding, jello, et cetera. The community fridge will be self-sustaining as local residents, businesses and organizations contribute to it. If approved one organization, I planted contact as the Chester county food bank. I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my presentation.

Vice President Green motioned 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 its good to be back inside. The Lord told me to stay still. That's why I haven't been on Facebook or really being out there. Please pray for me. I don't know what he wants me to do, but pray for me. Have a good evening.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming out and hanging with us for the evening. I'm grateful for all that has taken place. Rich, I want to thank you for that honest financial report and making us aware before we get into the budget season. Thank you so much for that report. Again, I just want to thank

all of our staff or leadership for all that you do to make the city run. To my colleagues, again it's always a pleasure to be with you and try to make some things happen for the city. I'm just excited about things that are happening and things that are going to happen. So, for you that come, encourage others to come so that they can see firsthand what we are doing and trying to do to improve the city. I do really, really, truly hope and pray that we can get something done with the homelessness that is, seems to be on a rise around here in our city. That really bothers me. I really hope that we can do something about it. And again, thank you all to our Police Department. And, thank you, sweetie for coming tonight and you'll talk to the great people over here that can make things happen for you. Okay. Alrighty. Have a good night and thanks again.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for attending the meeting. It's been a long time. Richard, I want to thank you for that report because you know, I question all the finances. So, I appreciate seeing things ahead of time. If something needs to be tweaked or adjusted or that we can get it done before we have a major issue, because I think it's very important and we all work very hard, when you work very hard do our best to make sure that we get a balanced budget, which we were able to obtain last year. And I know that we can continue to do that. I think it's very important. I just look forward to working with my colleagues, the staff, and the investors and future projects that are coming to the city. Again, Susan, we're still waiting for your grand opening. I really look forward to that. I look forward to visiting the inside of your building and thank you for always being a part of everything that no matter what Coatesville does you show up. And, you really got on par to Coatesville stuff like, you know, give a personal, thank you to you for that. And I just hope everybody has safe travels. Thank you.

Councilperson Graves thanked everybody for coming out tonight and thank you to everybody who is going to rewatch this on YouTube. We have a lot of extremely exciting endeavors happening in Coatesville which is super exciting. I am a bus rider, so I'm very excited about SEPTA taking over the bus line. Things like public transportation needs to be kind of like obligate monopolies. And when there's not a company that has regulation from the state, they can just, they don't have any competition, so they can be as poorly run as they want without really having any consequences or accountability, which is what this community has had public transportation for a long time. This looks great. I hope the schedule can between buses can kind of close a little bit to maybe instead of every hour and 10 minutes, maybe every 45, but, it's a good start to even have a fast company that has the accountability with the state to provide good service because the community and those who take public transportation deserve it. There is a pre Narcan training and distribution this Friday at six at 134 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the backyard, talking about assessable healthcare, medical assistance treatment, medical assistant treatment and harm reduction measures. And so that's free to the community. Anyone can come receive free Narcan and also free training on how to use Narcan and possibly save somebody from an overdose. I just invite the community to come out. Thank you.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Rich, of one of the things I built in your financial report, you know, the fact that our expenses are not still out of line. and that's the line [inaudible] and, um, you know, I seen a lot of things. I've heard a lot this year, people thanking council for a balanced budget. I just wanted to clarify that Council had not one input in that. That budget was put together by our Finance Department, our City Manager. I just want to say that because they put that thing together and you know, last year was a different kind of year. But when I look at what you gave me, you're giving us an alert, what our expenses are right there. It's this, that our revenues are coming in a little short. If we do some of these property sales we'll be fine. Like you said, it's about time. I do appreciate that you are back and letting us know, right now where we are. Susan, we appreciate you as always. I get excited when young people come and present ideas,

especially girl Scouts, I was a girl Scouts until I got a little bit older. I think that that's a wonderful organization and this builds such great character. And I thank you that the way that you do your project, but know, this has been a heck of a year Mr. McComsey, and I will speak to you after the meeting. And, I'm glad to see you. I didn't know that you had stroke. I haven't been to see, you know, we appreciate everyone. I just wanted to thank Krapf buses. I mean, it's a small service, you know what I mean? We've been trying for years to just have SEPTA, not only to come back to the train station, but there also have to be able to show them that you have the ridership, you know, so that they are here. I don't want to disregard Krapf buses, you know, they've been good. They've been here. They have provided the service a lot.

President Lavender Norris thanked everyone for attending. I was thinking about Krapf buses also, but I also know that if we're faithful over the little things, then we can move forward to the bigger things. As you said, they, you know, they been here and I appreciate, however, the service was, I appreciate the availability of them, the opportunity to have the transportation. And, I look forward to the new. I'm sure they'll be issues there because you can never please everybody all the time. SEPTA coming is speaking to the city, moving forward, Coatesville rising that we're on track at this point to do very well here. So let's not forsake our small beginning. However, we're going forward with our small beginnings growing into the bigger and the better. Jaleah, thank you so very much for coming out. Thank you for even wanting and we haven't even gotten to the point of implementing, but thank you for even wanting to make a difference. We were speaking earlier with regards to homelessness and how we all need help with addressing it and for you to be a young person coming to the podium with the idea as to help, how to help, not just the homeless with a short to the refrigeration, but even those of us that have homes fall short. So thank you for your concern and congratulations. And you're going to be a senior this year. You grow girl, Awesome, God bless you. Mom, congratulations. It has been a blessed evening. We are growing.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Folks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm; Councilperson Graves seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

\*This meeting was conducted in person (LIVE) and made accessible the following day via City of Coatesville's YouTube channel.