



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, November 8, 2021

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Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman C Arvilla Hunt, Council Person Nydea Graves, Councilman Donald Folks, Councilman Edward Simpson

Council Absent:

Staff Present James Logan, City Manager; Charles Huston, Assistant City Manager; Anthony Verwey, Solicitor; Richard Troutman, Finance Department; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

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

### Approved Minutes

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the October 25, 2021 meeting minutes; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0

### Approval of Accounts Payables

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Al Amin asked if the Police Uniforms that were damaged by the flood, do we have to reimburse them? Chief Laufer replied yes, we do. 100% of the cost. Ms. Al Amin asked how often do we place an ammo order for when the Officers go to the range. Chief Laufer replied we actually canceled the order. There's been a nationwide ammunition shortage, so we canceled our existing order that had been in for almost a year and actually went to another company and saved money. Ms. Al Amin asked Mr. Troutman about the roll offs we received during the flood. I know that there was money donated for the roll offs. I know Councilman Folks brought money off here. I brought money up here. So is this \$1,575 after the contributions? Before the contributions? Mr. Troutman replied the contributions were used for the rolloffs.

### Presentations

There were no presentations at this time

### Discussion Items

1. Meeting Minutes  
There was no discussion on meeting minutes.
2. Homeless/Transient

Vice President Green stated I just want to thank you, Chief, and Mr. Logan and everybody involved or getting involved. I'm not really exactly sure how everything ended up with making the contact with the one young lady's family, with getting her father up here, I just appreciate you going that extra step. Chief Laufer explained without giving up any names, there was a woman who was in mental health crisis along with some addiction issues, which we had been dealing with for almost a year, some of you Council people will remember. So

we were finally able to Lieutenant Ollis back there, myself, and Street Outreach, and Khadijah, helping with contacts, we were finally able to be working with the County in getting ahold of the father down in Florida. We were able to get him up from Florida, they're originally from this area. Her brother lives in this area still. And between the father, the brother, the County and us, we were able to get her, hopefully the help that she needs to maybe get back on a more even keel, where she maybe won't necessarily remain homeless. So that's what we were able to get accomplished. And it wasn't easy, but we kept at it. So thank you for all the assistance from everybody.

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

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

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

There were no action items at this time.

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

### **Reports**

#### 1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced since our last meeting I worked on real estate matters on behalf of the City related to a number of different properties. I also handled a number of land development issues related to the flats, worked on land development issues related to the DEPG, property, and I worked with RDA on matters related to potential sale of real estate.

#### 2. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston announced this is just a management report tonight. We've been starting off with COVID. I actually have some good news, the County has dropped from the high level to the substantial. We dropped from over 100 down to actually around 88.8, so it's actually very good, so we've seen some improvement in the County. Coatesville School District has dropped the number three to number four in cases around the school district, that's also good news for our area. Vaccinations are running well, and the number of positives is actually dropping off around the County as well. So positive news for the COVID report for this meeting and how the results are going. So hopefully this trend continues and we can probably get out of some things soon through the overall COVID restrictions. We are still going to have masks in the City through our office of 8:30 to five o'clock in the afternoon. So we'll keep that going.

On the Public Works side, it's been a relatively quiet couple of weeks. We are still looking for a staff position for Public Works to work outside during the wintertime and join the staff there. For Codes, it's also been relatively quiet, but we are also again still looking for two part-time positions for the Quality of Life. Both those positions, Public Work and Codes are listed on the Coatesville's website and there also out here in some other sites if you want to just search for Coatesville jobs. So we are still trying to fill, basically three positions in the City for Codes and Public Works. If you know anybody, please forward them in. We're looking for applications at any time, so that will be very helpful to us.

Some things going on around the City. We just had a very successful summer, Sounds of Summer Music Series. There is a recap of them on Vimeo. It's <https://vimeo.com/640093374>, sorry that's the web number, but you can actually see some of the highlights from the Sounds of Summer there. Coming up on December 11th, we have the Pavilion of Trees. And that'll be sponsored by our friends at Elite Therapy, who will again, present the Winter Wonderland on Gateway Park, like I said, the 11th, it will be called Light the Night, the annual tradition of tree lighting, but this year we'll have a twist of having trees being sponsored and you can vote for the tree you find the best with the money going to a non-profit of choice. So that'll be December 11th, and that'll be in the evening for the lighting. The votes are being taken from December 6th until the 11th. And you can find the ability to vote on the [christmasincoatesville.com/pavillionoftrees](http://christmasincoatesville.com/pavillionoftrees). A couple other things going on. Holiday Pop Up and Shop begins the week of Thanksgiving, 11-27. We'll run three consecutive weeks through December 12th, Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, and we'll be using the old Army/Navy store on Lincoln Highway or some of you may now know as the headquarters for the race, the Grand Prix. December 4th, we talked about this, is the Christmas parade, that'll be Saturday the 4th in the morning. And just for those of you who may come into the City Hall Office, this Thursday is Veteran's Day and the offices will be closed on Thursday for remembrance of Veteran's Day.

3. City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. In terms of a couple of updates, on Friday, ECON Partners, they are our grant writing partner, they confirmed submission of a \$2 million application to PennDOT for Multi-Modal Transportation Fund Grant for our parking facility. This particular grant application goes towards the capital staff, other parking garage. We are trying to get to \$11 million for that particular facility. We'll circle back with all of our stakeholders this month to secure fresh letters of support. In the past, we have received letters of support from our local government officials, both on the County level and the state level. Coleen Terry, who is the grant writer, and I will be soliciting for those letters of support. Hopefully, next year will be the year that we'll be able to get all of the money for the Train Station Parking Garage, and again, Coleen has been doing wonderful work with the City as well as RDA to make those particular applications happen. In addition to that, ECON Partners is going to be working with the City of Coatesville to seek stormwater management funding. A week ago, we had the pleasure of meeting with FEMA. Chip, myself, Coleen, and our City engineer. We met with the FEMA representative to talk about funding for our stormwater management system as well as our infrastructure. This is probably going to be a little bit more of a lengthy process, because it's a series of applications and requests and they will be looking for cost estimates to what we may feel or think it will cost to repair some of our infrastructure here in the City. So, we will have one letter of intent that we will be submitting on November 19th, and we have already sent out to all of our officials, a preliminary report, I think all Council members, I did send that report to you as well. So again, we hope to keep the needle moving on any type of funding opportunities that the City can benefit from regarding FEMA, PEMA, as well as County grants. We're waiting for the County to release the RFP for some local vendors that we can also go towards repairing our infrastructure here in the City.

The other item, last Friday, I attended, along with three of our Council members, a municipal luncheon. That municipal luncheon is designed for about 13 to 14 municipalities to give reports and updates on what's going on in their municipalities. And it was nice to see my

colleagues and other cities and townships moving forward on their projects, as well as the changes that are going on in municipalities. And we had an opportunity to share with the audience what's going on here in Coatesville. I didn't get a chance to share with everyone all of the projects, because we had a time limit and the City of Coatesville has more than 17 development projects and City improvements in the works. I did say 17. So, I'm just going to rattle off a few just to keep you guys abreast of what's going on. Starting with the first one, current projects in the que for the City of Coatesville include a \$65 million Train and Commuter Station project, which a few of you attended the groundbreaking ceremony a couple of weeks ago. That is going to be a state-of-the-art ADA compliant Train Station between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and Fleetwood. We're very excited about that. Amtrak have been tremendous partners in helping us bring that to fruition. In addition to that, there's a \$45 million plus National Sports and Entertainment Center, which you all know will be coming to the City of Coatesville on the Flats parcel. We're moving forward, working with the RDA and the development team on that particular project. We're looking to see a shovel in the ground sometime next year. These, just want to put a little note there, these are developing projects, so there is no firm construction end dates. Anything can happen. There're permits, there's soil samples and things like that'll take place, but that is on target for completion, I think it's 2024, if I'm not mistaken.

The 30 and 82 realignment is coming to completion. Of course, that's to improve the traffic flow and pedestrian walkway at the midway part of town. Abdala Park, next year, we hope to see the Outdoor Fitness Center be installed. In addition to that, we have other activities that are going on. I'm looking out in the audience here at Mr. Ajine Livingston, who has already brought to some of our Parks new initiatives working with our residents. Ajine, we appreciate that. He started the Sundays in the Park, which has been a tremendous success with young kids and I understand that you're going to be doing some more activities, hopefully before the winter stars, so thank you.

There is a new grocery store that's slated to go into downtown district. Chip is working with the new owners on that. We also have approximately 100,000 square feet of available retail and commercial space that's going to be realized over the next five years. If you put numbers to that, folks, that is a tremendous shot in the arm for the City, to have that much retail square footage occupied here in the City of Coatesville. We hope to see job creations from some of those projects. I see Sue Springsteen in the audience. I think Sue has already initiated more than 60 employees in your building and hopefully we'll see more, maybe 100 by the end of 2022. But these are projects and opportunities for growth here in the community. We also have at least three restaurants that are coming into the City. We have Park Improvements and we also have Streetscape Improvements. And again, the City is changing. It's growing, we're very excited about it.

Just a little data, if you search datausa, it will show you that in 2019, the City realized 19.42 decline in our poverty rate, so we are making a dent in that. Coatesville, for many, many years, has been known to have one of the highest poverty rates in the County if not the state. So, we are making a dent in that. And what that means is people are getting out and getting work, and that also means that people are taking advantage of the opportunities for the first-time home buyer programs, programs like MCDC is putting out along with Habitat for Humanity. So, we're very excited to hear those numbers.

In addition to that, Coatesville earned income tax collection improved 7.6% in 2020 from 7.1% in 2019, another indicator of a growing workforce. The median household income and property value continues to rise by 14.4% and by 4.8% un-respectively in 2018. So again, the City is experiencing rise in home values and assessment trends. So again, lots going on, lots to be proud of for the City of Coatesville, and we just hope we can continue to improve and move forward in the coming years. I think on the community update side, Chip mentioned the Pop Up to Shop

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced that included in your packet tonight is the full statistical breakdown for the month of October, but just a couple highlights, we were at 1,748 calls for service through the Chester County 911 Center. That was just slightly up from September, which was 1,741, so remaining constant with the trend we had pretty much through June until this October, not varying very much. We also had a total of 2,584 calls for service between combining 911 center and our communications desk from the City for October.

And just a couple highlights, three Narcan saves, six car seat and installations, with the six car seats provided through the PA Injury Prevention Program. We also continued our involvement in the District Attorney's Task Force on raising justice, now called Pack 19320. We had another Zoom meeting this past month, which was quite productive and really has us headed in a good direction. We also participated in the Youth Aid Panel, or YAP planning, training and coordination, Corporal Antonucci has taken the lead on that partnering with the District Attorney's office. We are excited to look forward to January being the first month where we'll be up and running with our Youth Aid Panel and have our first cases in front of the Youth Aid Panel in January. And that panel, we've reserved the Council chambers here for the second Tuesday of each month where the Youth Aid panel will meet and any cases that have risen in the month prior will be heard by the panel, so we're excited about that. Other Officer involvement, with the business district, we had our Domestic Violence Center of Chester County Purple Ribbon Campaign, which we participated in for the month of October, placing purple ribbons for Domestic Violence Awareness on Lincoln Highway. We also were involved in the month October in Operation Safe Stop with the school district and the school district buses. We had Officers on the buses and following the buses looking of any violations that might be observed with regard to safety involving our school buses and bus stops and passing school buses when the warning signals are out.

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Initiate nationwide was on October 23rd, locally here we collected approximately 100 pounds of discarded medication and prescription meds, and even nondisclosure-prescription meds, over the counter. That was a combination pretty much for 19320, just different Police departments that have collection boxes. Lieutenant Ollis coordinates that program. We become the central reception site for all the drugs for National DEA Take Back event, so we had about 500 pounds here in Coatesville combined and it was turned over to the DEA for destruction.

Also, Officer involvement in Chester County Youth Center programming, our Officer in the hot seat program, Corporal Antonucci was down, we're more commonly thought of as the Juvenile Detention Center, but it's referred to now as the Chester County Youth Center Programming, and he was in the hot seat there with those juveniles that are in that program and answered questions and was there to try to develop a rapport with those juveniles that are in the program, so hopefully that was successful. Also, we were at the CYI's Fall Fest at

Abdala Park for recognizing the fall festival, or Halloween, for those that observe the Halloween holiday. We had a table and multiple Officers stopped by and had a good time with the kids, and some great costumes.

Officer Nick Thornburg, who was one of the five Officers who we had given conditional offers of employment to, about two months ago, I guess it was, so we lost one Officer due to background investigation, so we were down to four, and Nick is the first of the four to pass his background investigation, his physical, his psychological exams, and was sworn in before Judge Hines, and started his field training this week. So that's the first of, hopefully four that we will bring on board over the next couple months.

President Lavender-Norris asked with regard to our Officer, the incident in Turkey Hill, how's that going? How is he? Chief Laufer replied Officer Bill Cahill, who was one of our part-time Officers, you may remember he was introduced before Council. He had retired from Westtown after 30 plus years with them and came to us as a part-time Officer, he was involved in the incident that Madame President's referring to where he was stabbed multiple times at Turkey Hill North up on 82 and 340. He has been out on job-related disability. He wants to come back. He's got some permanent nerve damage, which is affecting his eye and also a couple other issues that he's working through, but his spirits are up and he wants to come back and continue his work with the City, so we're hopeful that those medical issues will be resolved and he'll be able to return to duty.

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

#### Dennis Dantzler

Ms. Dudley thanked everyone and wished everyone a good evening. I represent Andre's Jazz Café. We are here before you regarding our request to ratify the parking ordinance, article 13, and allow us to use load and unload signs in front of our establishment. We all know and realize that there is a huge parking challenge in the City revitalization area. We all believe that the safety of everyone that lives within our City is of the utmost importance. We also know that there is a parking study that's going to be forthcoming to determine the City's parking status and offer suggestions and ideas. And we don't know how long it's going to be, it could be a couple of years, so in the interim we're making our position so that until this new parking spec is complete, we will be able to place signs in front of our two establishments. The one location is 236 East Lincoln Highway, Andres Jazz Café and our adjacent building 230. We're asking that we have the signage posted in those two locations, which will allow our patrons to enter in and depart safely. We're going to be offering valet parking for those who wish to take advantage of it, but in order to make that successful and safe, we need to have the two spots so that they can pull in and pull out. And then we're also asking that if it's approved, that we would be able to place our valet parking sign, Dennis has an example of what that could look like. We haven't picked out signage yet, of course, everything will be based on what you all decide. We basically looked under article 13 as it pertains to off street loading alternatives and we hope that you will consider our request to grant us the opportunity to utilize these two parking spaces during hours of operation. We realize that you do have metered parking there. And right now, the meter only goes up until six o'clock and actually we're looking to extend that, so once you extend and enforce the time period, we would then pay those fees at that time as well.

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

### **Special Events**

1 Minutes

There were no special events at this time.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Simpson stated I understand people are in a hurry to get out here tonight, but thank you everybody for coming out. That's it. Thank you.

Mr. Folks thanked everybody for coming out. And once again, thank the residents of the second ward for putting me back here another term. I guess I'm going to have to ride it out and keep doing what I'm doing for this City. I believe this City is moving in the right direction. I believe that it feels good to be part of it, to help somebody, that's all I'm here for. I'm a volunteer. I love the City. My heart's in this City. If I can promote somebody's business, or pick up a piece of trash, that's what I'm going to do. I'd like to congratulate Justin back there. He had a ribbon cutting last month for Valley Creek Productions. Congratulations on your business and congratulations on the chamber, for being the mayor. So, thank you. And I hope you stick around for a long time. We like your presence in this City. Thank you. Enjoy everybody. Thank you.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening as well. Thank you for coming out and hanging out with us again tonight. Again, I wanted to thank our staff, the leadership of the staff. And I want to take time to congratulate our colleagues that won your elections on Tuesday night, as well as Mr. Verwey, we thank you for the service that you've given. And to my colleagues, I'm just glad that you're back and we'll continue to work together to move the City forward. Everybody have a good night, be safe. And to Mr. Dantzler, we thank you for what you're doing for downtown. And I want you to understand too, I know you guys were looking like when we were taking that vote, we weren't voting on what you presented. We had to vote to close the citizen action. So, I saw you looking like, "What are they voting on?" Hang in there. All right. Have a good night.

Councilperson Graves thanked everyone for coming, to everybody who's at home watching on YouTube. I want to say congratulations to our re-elected Council members, our newly elected Council members, and also our newly elected Court of Common Pleas Judge. And other than that, blessed, if you feel that, if not, good vibes and good night.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming. I do want to congratulate all of my colleagues that won reelection and the new member of Council that will be joining us in January. Mr. Verwey, congratulations in your new endeavor of being one of our next upcoming Court of Common Pleas Judge in Westchester. I'd like to give a special shout out to the Chief. I reached out to the Chief over the weekend for a young lady that appeared to be troubled and wanted to attempt suicide. And so, I texted Chief and he got right on it and was able to make contact, so Chief, thank you and please extend my gratitude to the Officer that actually went and spoke with her and I just hope everybody has a great night. The First 48 is on tonight. Ed Simpson was talking about me. It's not the Eagles tonight, it's me.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out tonight. I'm so grateful to the residents of the fourth ward who voted me back in for another four years, and I'm just blessed by that. And I just want to thank all of my colleagues on their election results. We have a lot of work going on in the City. Mr. Logan presented us well at that luncheon from my understanding. And he had pages and pages of revitalization in Coatesville, which is so amazing. Dennis and Bridget, you guys are a part of that and we thank you for the opportunity to open up a new business in the City of Coatesville. I know coming to that podium and trying to get your stuff out in three minutes is not a long time, but you got it all out. We are looking forward to you opening Andres. I can't wait. I don't know who

you're going to have in there doing the cooking, but I just hope it's something good. Chief, I do, I thank you for a lot. I call you with a lot of crazy stuff. But the one thing I would like to say about our Police department, we hear a lot of negativity, but we have a good department, a department of Officers that care about what they're doing. We sometimes get the negative part. People will share videos on Facebook. And the one thing that you always have to understand, that video is only showing you one aspect of what's really going on and depending on the view or the angle that they're recording it, you can't jump to conclusions based on what you see, a video on Facebook. I just thank them because for the most part, have confidence that I know that there's something else going on. And I just appreciate you for taking the time out and not thinking that someone's trying to interfere with you doing your job and I really appreciate it. And the fact that you helped a young lady that was contemplating suicide, the fact that you helped this homeless lady, and every time that we've called you regarding these situations, you're not out here so quick trying to arrest them and put them in jail, you're trying to find alternatives for them, and I really appreciate it. Even though it drives me crazy seeing it, on the bench asleep, the garbage everywhere, I don't like the trespassing, but the fact that you take that extra time, because you're the trained individual, this is what you do, and you take that extra step to find alternatives, you and Lieutenant Ollis. So I so appreciate that and I appreciate the staff and everyone and what they do. And Tony, congratulations to you in winning your election. I really appreciate all that you have given us here at the City. Thank you all for coming out and have a wonderful, wonderful night. And congratulations Justin.

President Lavender-Norris echoed her colleagues in our gratitude and our excitement with regard to the direction the City is going in. These are exciting times and as Mr. Folks said, to be a part of it is a blessing. Congratulations to Mr. Folks, Councilwoman Al Amin and Councilwoman Green for your reelection. Congratulations to you, Ms. Allen, for coming on board. And to you Justin, as the Chair of the Chamber, congratulations. Sue, you already know we are blessed. The City of Coatesville is blessed and our light is shining brighter by the day and it's as a result of us working together as a community. And when I say us as a community, I mean everyone from Ms. Mowday around to Mr. Simpson and including everyone on that side of the table too, us as a community make it happen. We're in a position to be an example with regard to our Police, with regard to our Council, we can be an example to other municipalities as long as we remain a community, a family together moving forward. I just want to mention Mr. Josh Schreiber, one of our firemen, lost his father, please keep him in prayer, his entire family. I'm just excited and I'm grateful to know that we're going forward together. Let us continue to be mindful of our neighbors, of the people we pass in the street, let's make somebody smile, give them a reason to smile even if it's just by saying good morning or how are you, just hello. You don't know what people are going through, and you don't know what can help them out, it could be a hello, so make somebody smile. Trust God in all you do, trust him. He'll make it work. Thank you all for coming out. God bless you all. To our staff, wonderful job you have been doing. Please continue in our administration, thank you so much.

### **Adjournment**

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

This meeting was conducted live and posted on YouTube the following day on the link below:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1u3VUIQr4r0xII0xv1HmvA>