



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, January 14, 2022

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Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman C Arvilla Hunt, Councilwomen Charrisse Allen, and Councilman Edward Simpson  
Council Absent: Councilman Donald Folks  
Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Charles Huston, Assistant City Manager; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; Richard Troutman, Finance Department; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

President Lavender Norris called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm and announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters.

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

### **Approved Minutes**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the January 24, 2022 meeting minutes; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Approval of Accounts Payables**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Al Amin questioned page 14 of 54. 118. No, I'm sorry. 014101960 and I ask this every month. Again, there is the \$200 deductible for someone who retired from our police department but is gainfully employed full time and has benefits. That was supposed to be checked into so that we could stop paying this \$200. Has that been checked into yet? Chief Laufer explained we did check into that and it is permissible under the contract that that individual retired under, that if they have to contribute to their healthcare, then they are entitled to that stipend, and he does have to contribute to his health care plan where he's currently employed. Ms. Al Amin stated that is the only question I had.

### **Presentations**

#### **1. Swear in 2 New Firefighters**

President Lavender Norris announced there was to be a swearing in of two firefighters but due to the unavailability of the Judge this evening, the swearing in will be moved to the next meeting.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to table presentation until February 28, 2022 meeting; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

#### **2. Chester County OIC -Enclave Project Partnership**

Good evening, everybody. My name is Jovana and I'm a program manager for our workforce program. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you tonight. Our president and CEO, George Chester sends her regards as she was attending another meeting tonight. But I just wanted to give a general update of some of our programs at OIC. We have resumed our GED

and ESL classes on Tuesdays and Thursday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at our building, so that's really exciting. But I'm really here to talk about our new program, which is the work on Cleave, and it's a partnership with Second Century Alliance. And then we also were awarded funding from the county, the Department of Community Development, that will run through the summer. So, it is a pilot program but we're really excited. We just launched the program today. And essentially, it's a paid ambassador program to focus on beautification of the city. So, with that, the emphasis is on cleaning up the park and some of the downtown areas. And then with the help of Ajene Livingston, he'll help us find other areas that might need some cleaning, also the public works have any recommendations. The participants will be out there, too. The program is 15 hours a week, and it's 5 weeks long. So, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10:00 AM to 03:00 pm., they're either at OIC getting two hours of resource per day, or they'll be on the community cleaning up. And during those hours of resource, it's basically paid professional development. So, we'll have diversity training. We'll have team building from Paradise Farms. Once the weather breaks, we'll actually be able to go to the campus in Downingtown, so they'll do high risk courts and things like that. And the entire goal with the professional development is for them to build trust, communication, cooperation. And so a lot of employers struggle with said soft skills. And if you think about it, in our careers, most of us have the chance to get paid professional development. So, this is really what that is. It's helping them to connect with the people in the cohort. Our goal is to only have Coatesville residents or people who live in 19320. And currently, well, today we have eight participants and twelve have signed up. So that's really good. We're expecting two more to come tomorrow. So, we'll have a total of 10 in the cohort. And then at the end of the five weeks, on the sixth week, we'll have an opportunity fair, which we've been running those all throughout the year. We've had them at the New Life in Christ parking lot. And we'll welcome employers, but we'll also welcome other training programs to come in for those who might not be job-ready. Yeah. So today was day one, and then it will run for five weeks. So, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, they'll be with us. Thursday, they'll be able to pick up their sites and paycheck. And then they'll be back Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. So that's how it will run the five weeks. So, at this time, there are no prerequisites or qualifications, as long as an individual is willing and able. We've been accepting people with backgrounds. Some people might even struggle with mental health, whatever it may be, but as long as they have a willing attitude and they're able to show up and learn and get to know people and they're willing to go outside and do the cleaning, they're eligible. So, we've been saying, "Go to our website. There's a registration form." We have a flyer out. They can text 19320, and then the case manager will call them and get them signed up for the program. So basically, we do go through an interview process to make sure they're a good fit, but there's not too many things that will disqualify them if they're willing.

3. Education Resolutions – Laurie Shannon Bailey

Ms. Shannon-Bailey introduced Ms. Sandra Miller who was on Zoom. She is the director of Advocacy for Education Voters, PA. She is here. She's going to open up with a few remarks on the importance of the resolution and how we got here. So, Sandra? MS. Miller thanked Ms. Shannon-Bailey and everyone for letting her have a few minutes of your time today. I'm involved with the group-- as you can see behind me. I work with Education Voters and another organization called Children First. You might be familiar with them they were the formerly PCCY organization. And we are working together to support the school funding lawsuit. This lawsuit was filed in 2014 and has finally made it to Commonwealth Court and started in November. And we are asking our school districts, our municipalities, and our counties and other organizations to support the lawsuit by passing a resolution that calls for

the legislators to address the unconstitutionality of the school funding system in Pennsylvania. I'm here to provide you with any information that you might need. I believe that Laurie had shared with you the draft resolution and some material. And I have some background about the schools as needed. But I just wanted to thank you for understanding the importance of school funding and the importance of this resolution as we move forward with the lawsuit. Thank you. Ms. Shannon Bailey stated it's important to acknowledge some of the local people who are supporting the initiative. Arden Hunt, representing Committed to Coatesville, has been a strong supporter of all things with the school district. And so we're thankful for her. Robin Seagreaves is an admin for the Coatesville Community Area Parents, a relatively large private Facebook group. They are also very supportive. She could not be here tonight. They're strong parental and teachers' supporters, and they're very, very supportive of this initiative. Susan Spica is the Executive Director of Education Voters PA. and Tomea Sippio-Smith is with Children's First of Pennsylvania and Kenny Lewis is someone who has been a strong supporter in terms of wanting to understand the importance of the resolution and also providing a lot of support. I'd like to also give kudos and acknowledgement to the Coatesville Area School District. They passed a unanimous vote on Tuesday, the 8th of February. So, we should have their signed resolution-- maybe it's available now. But of course, they're very, very excited to support this initiative. And then also, Caln Township voted unanimously last Thursday evening. That would have been the 10th, I believe. Also, unanimous vote to pass the resolution. And then of course, tomorrow night, Valley Township, I will be presenting to their Board of Supervisors. And we hope to, at some point, get a positive result or signed resolution from them. I've also sent the resolution with supporting information to South Coatesville Borough leaders and haven't gotten the opportunity to do a presentation yet. But of course, I expect that invitation will come sooner than later. So tonight, really is an opportunity to entertain any questions that you all may have. Clearly, we are in desperate need of additional funding from Harrisburg. I don't have to talk to you all about the needs of a Coatesville School District. And so, I'll pause to see if you have any questions or if I can expound on any information so far.

Mrs. Hunt asked if there is a deadline. Ms. Shannon Bailey stated she didn't know if there was a deadline. The lawsuit is in full force. This week, we should expect the defense to rest their case, and then next week we'll have the plaintiffs continue, so it could go through the end of this month. It could go in the middle of March. Let me ask. Sandra, do you have a thought or any ideas or some comments to share about what you think the timing might be? Ms. Miller replied actually, it is proceeding as you had just described. There will be at least one week of rebuttal witnesses that we expect from the school's petitioners that are part of the case, and then we do have to have closing arguments. So as of right now, we believe that we will be into March for any future activity on the lawsuit at this stage. And then, actually, it could take several months before the judge will reach their verdict and that is a single judge that is hearing the case, and then we will proceed after that, depending on what the decision is. Ms. Al Amin stated I just wanted to say thank you for getting back to us with the decision of the school board. I was at that meeting when they said they would give you the decision next time. And Mr. Logan, I would like to ask, since Ms. Bailey has-- Ms. Shannon Bailey actually came to us before looking for our support, and we said that we couldn't until she received the support of the school board. Would it be possible for us to add it to the next agenda to vote on supporting this matter? Mr. Logan asked Ms. Al Amin if she was asking if we could put it on the agenda for our next meeting. Ms. Al Amin replied Yes, so that we can vote to support the matter, because when she came before us before, the school district had not made the decision, and there were council members that said they were in agreeance with

it, but as a council, as a whole, collectively, we could not vote on it until the school board did. And so, I'm asking that now that the school board has voted unanimously and there's other municipalities that are voting in favor of this, could we please add it to the agenda so that Coatesville Council can take a vote and decide whether or not they're going to support it or not support it? I think because there'll be another hearing in March-- I think if we could do it on the second meeting in February, then whatever our outcome is, they would at least have it for the next hearing. Thank you. Ms. Shannon-Bailey stated I forgot to mention the League of Women Voters of Chester County. They informed me today that they will be signing the resolution. In addition to the league there's three other leagues, the League of Women Voters of Bucks County, and the League of Women Voters of Pittsburgh and a few other organizations and school districts, but I won't waste your time to go into those but thank you all so very much. I know that you're committed to this community and I know you're working very, very hard to make sure all residents, especially our vulnerable students and the school district as a whole is supported. So, thank you very much for the opportunity to come back again and to provide some additional information.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **1. Fireworks**

Mr. Simpson stated he asked to have this put on the agenda. What I'm trying to figure out is I've looked through all the council minutes. I'm trying to figure out where we discuss this. I didn't see anything in the minutes. I went back the entire year to see where we discussed fireworks on New Year's Eve. Can anybody tell me when did we discuss that? President Lavender Norris explained it was discussed not particularly for New Year's Eve but it was definitely added to the budget for Fireworks. Mr. Simpson said for Unity Day. President Lavender Norris stated and because we did not have a Unity Day Celebration, we had fireworks at the end of the year. Mr. Simpson asked when did we discuss that having it at the end of the year? President Lavender Norris stated I don't know that we did. Mr. Simpson asked then how did it happen? President Lavender Norris stated the young man said he would do the fireworks and he did them. Mr. Simpson asked but we paid him correct? President Lavender Norris replied Yes, absolutely. Mr. Simpson asked Did we spend any money-- we spent money for something that we never discussed as a council? President Lavender Norris stated we discussed this during budget period. Mr. Simpson said I understand that, but that was for Unity Day. It was for Fireworks for Unity Day, and we do it every year. President Lavender Norris stated okay, so is it a problem that we had that the fireworks. Mr. Simpson stated it's not a problem that we had the fireworks. The problem is that the fireworks were discussed, I'm sure. When did anybody ever talk about having fireworks New Year's Eve? President Lavender Norris explained last year. Mr. Simpson said no, that's not the question. The question is not last year. President Lavender Norris replied nobody knows Ed. Mr. Simpson said So nobody knows. So we spent money having --an event without discussing it publicly or, even privately, even-- so, our--. Vice President Green stated the money was allocated. President Lavender Norris asked If I can just say we spend money on the Grand Prix that isn't allocated but there's not a problem. But we have fireworks and that's a problem. Mr. Simpson stated no, it's not the fireworks, I'm not upset that we had the fireworks. What I'm upset about was, on January 28th, I got an email saying that there's a private viewing to watch these fireworks. And I'm like, "What fireworks?" Vice President Green said no, it's not a private viewing to watch the fireworks. Mr. Simpson said well, that's what the email said. Vice President Green stated the fireworks are for the city, period. Mr. Simpson replied it said private viewing. President Lavender Norris said okay. Understand, the viewing was Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Green, and Mrs. Lavender North put our

monies together and requested to use a space in order to view the fireworks and have a little dinner while we're-- We put our monies together to do so. We didn't use city money for that. The fireworks were for the community. Mr. Simpson said I understand that. The question is: when did Council, as a governing body, discuss having fireworks on New Year's Eve? Vice President Green stated but we had already-- the money was already allocated and approved for fireworks. And then-- discussed having fireworks on New Year's Eve. We already have two bids for Unity Day, and they were both over \$10,000. So, when did we-- President Lavender Norris asked how much were the fireworks on Christmas Eve? Mr. Simpson replied \$8,500 or \$8,600 dollars. President Lavender-Norris stated less than what they were for Unity Day. Mr. Simpson stated the problem is, Council never discussed and approved having fireworks New Year's Eve. You guys got together. You discussed-- You discussed having it on New Year's Eve. President Lavender Norris asked who got together? Mr. Simpson said I'm assuming somebody had to get together. Mr. Logan, did you decide to have these fireworks on New Year's Eve on your own? Mr. Logan replied I had a discussion. Mr. Simpson said you had a discussion. Mr. Logan replied but I do have the-- I think I do have the authority to approve the fireworks. Mr. Simpson stated but you don't have the authority to do something that Council never discussed as a whole on having them on New Year's Eve. That's the end of my discussion. Mr. Simpson said I think it was a Sunshine Law violation and I'm going to pursue it, that's all. Vice President Green explained Council doesn't approve Special Events anyway. Mr. Simpson said I mean, when we spend money on it. I think we approve. Okay. Vice President Green stated we voted for the fireworks for Unity Day. The Unity Day committee voted. We had the authority. Mr. Simpson said so my point is, I-- my point is, I didn't see anything in the minutes that said-- Mr. Simpson said so my point is, I-- my point is, I didn't see anything in the minutes that said-- President Lavender Norris stated your point is very well taken, Mr. Simpson. Mr. Simpson said thank you, thank you, President Lavender Norris said please do as you feel as though you should to do. Vice President Green said if Mr. Logan has the authority, then it doesn't have to be approved. Mr. Simpson said Mr. Logan does not have the authority to spend money that Council does not approve. Vice President Green said Council approved the money. Mr. Simpson said Council approved the money for Unity Day. Vice President Green said you're saying we didn't approve the day. You're saying we didn't approve the day, but we approved the money. Mr. Simpson replied okay, so here's another question I have for you. So previously, in the past, there was a former Council member that put in a Right-to-Know and everybody was upset with her saying, "Why did you waste money putting in a Right-to-Know request? All you had to do was ask us, and we would happily provide it." Now I'm asking you, if you will provide me with your city emails from September through December, or do I have to put in a right-to-know request? President Lavender Norris stated do what you deem is necessary. Mr. Simpson asked right now, I'm asking you, will you provide me those? President Lavender Norris stated I don't have any. Mr. Simpson said all right, never mind. I'll put in a right-to-know request. Okay, thank you, that's all I have.

## 2. Mask Mandate

President Lavender Norris asked Mr. Simpson what about a mask mandate. Mr. Simpson replied I don't think there is one I know of. Ms. Al Amin stated this was actually something President Lavender Norris asked to be added last time. Remember when we talked about it, and you asked could it be added to the agenda for discussion? President Lavender Norris stated I know I asked to have it on, but I asked Mr. Simpson if he wanted to have some discussion. Ms. Al Amin said oh, I'm sorry. My misunderstanding. Excuse me. Mr. Simpson said I didn't ask her for it. President Lavender Norris said okay I asked to have the

mask mandate on the agenda for discussion because the numbers have been rising in the city with regard to the Omicron variant. And I just thought maybe it would be good for those that work in city hall and those that are visiting city hall to wear a mask to not only protect themselves but protect those that you come in contact with. That's why I asked to have it on for discussion. Any comments? Mr. Simpson and Mrs. Hunt said I agree. Vice President Green said I think that it better for safety. Because it's not about being vaccinated or not being vaccinated. It's just about the spread of the virus. I think that we should have a mask mandate. Ms. Al Amin stated I would say that I have to agree with you for multiple reasons because the numbers are rising. And even though they say the Omicron variant is much less severe than the Delta, it spreads a lot more rapidly. And actually, when this option became available that's actually why I'm on Zoom tonight because I'm one of the COVID paranoid folks so that's why I'm on Zoom. But I do agree that the mask should be worn because it keeps us safe, and it keeps the others around us safe. And if you look at some of the other offices that run even on a state level, the state reps have to stagger their staff. Appointments have to be made. You cannot just walk into the offices. And I don't know, I just think until we can get back into an area where cases are not extremely high for the protection of everybody that we should wear a mask.

### **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 6-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion to accept a Resolution approving the termination of the Parking Lot Lease Agreement, dated March 19, 2012, by and between the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Coatesville, for the real property located in the City of Coatesville at 300 East Lincoln Highway (Tax Parcel 16-5-258).

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve a Resolution approving the termination of the Parking Lot Lease Agreement, dated March 19, 2012, by and between the Redevelopment Authority and the City of Coatesville, for the real property located in the City of Coatesville at 300 East Lincoln Highway (Tax Parcel 16-5-258); Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Logan explained this to terminate the lease agreement between the RDA and the City of Coatesville for the new investor for the Third Avenue launch. But again, basically, it's just to resolve the-- this resolution is for the termination of the parking lot agreement dated back in 2012 between the RDA and the City of Coatesville at Third Avenue, which is parcel number, for the record, 16.5.258.

2. Receive and consider motion to retain Gawthrop, Greenwood P.C. as City Solicitor represented by Robert Jefferson

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to retain Gawthrop, Greenwood P.C. as City Solicitor represented by Robert Jefferson; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1-1. Mr. Simpson was the dissenting vote and Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to table. A motion was already on the table at the time. Ms. Al Amin said okay, so no one heard me say that I wanted to make the motion to table it. Vice

President Green said it was made after a motion was made. Ms. Al Amin asked I said it afterwards? Vice President Green replied yes. Ms. Al Amin said okay. So, then I will make a comment. The reason I was asking for this to be tabled is because this was a personnel matter so council had collectively decided to put an RFP out for this. And we received some very, very impressive contracts. And we did not go through the process of interviewing any of those folks including the current solicitor that's sitting with us tonight. And the reason I asked for it to be tabled so that that process could have been completed and then a decision could have been made. Were we going to interview some of the applicants? Were we not? And then we could have voted on the solicitor that we wanted to retain. Mrs. Hunt said she would like to speak to the process of the RFP. We did decide together to go through the process of the RFP and we definitely feel we did do that. We went through the process of the RFP. We received packets of information from the different firms. We made all of those packets available to everyone or anyone that was interested in seeing it. As an individual council person, we all have a right to vote for this one and not vote for that one. And if you're interested in there, we still have that right as well. But all of the information for each firm was made available to each one of us. Those of us that wanted to look at them and review them, we had the opportunity to do so. And if we had questions or if we wanted to move forward, we said in that meeting that we would make a meeting available. But no one, from my understanding, none of us called in or requested to have an additional meeting on the RFP. So now we're at the position where we need to make a decision. And many times, when you're in a perfect world. When you have a major position such as this, oftentimes based on your resume and then the references that come along with it, is how you make your decision. After you contact those that sent the references to get a positive reference, then you make your decision. And I believe we've had that, and we have had a positive reference to continue with the law firm that we have, as well as the fact that we are in the middle of major projects that are going on in this city. And I think it would be detrimental to us if we took a sidetrack and decided to go with another corporation, as opposed to staying with the firm that has got us where we are now. So that's my opinion. But I do want to make sure that it's noted for the record that we did go through the RFP, and we made this information available to each council person that wished to receive it, the information was made available to us. Ms. Al Amin replied yes, the information was made available to us. Some council members refused to take the information, and yes, Mr. Verwey did recommend that we stay with his firm. Mr. Jefferson, how many municipalities, boroughs or cities have you been a solicitor for in the past? Mrs. Hunt said I don't think you have to answer that. I think we're going to far with this. President Lavender Norris stated yes, we are. Mr. Simpson You had a comment. Mr. Simpson stated I am the one that asked for the RFP and because I wasn't at the last meeting, that's my fault and I'm okay. My question is if what you're saying is true, MS. Green, is that it's the same law firm, it's just a different person working in that law firm? Then there's no need for us to even vote on this if they're already our solicitor. Vice President Green said yeah, I wasn't asking-- I did not vote if favor of sending out an RFP. Mr. Simpson asked but if we're retaining the same law firm and we already have an agreement with them, why would we do this right now? And if what you're saying is true, why did we put this on the agenda? President Lavender Norris said I'm going to tell you-- let me tell you why it's on the agenda. I asked Mr. Logan to put it on the agenda because it's been a month since the packets with regard to the RFP have been submitted to every and any council member that that wanted it. They were submitted. It's a month later. No questions, no comments, no requests have been made, and we're moving forward. We're not going to drag our feet. We're not going hold these things up. We have to continue moving forward. So, I, being one of the ones that said yes to committing to RFP, I was one of the ones that

said yes, let's submit. However, since we submitted, we received the resume, we had time to go over this. We had no response, no reply. Now we're at the point of either you say yes or you say no, for whatever reason, it's up to you. However, right now, I'm going to call for the question. Mr. Logan, call counsel, please Mrs. Hunt said I'm sorry, Madam President. I'm just asking what Mr. Simpson was saying. Since we are already engaged with the law firm, do we have to vote to maintain them, or do we just continue with them? President Lavender Norris responded this is more on the agenda, Ms. Hunt because there was question as to whether we'd continue on. This solidifies the fact that not only do we continue on, should we vote yes to it? Not only do we continue on, we voted again to say yes, we'd continue on.

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

## Reports

### 1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provide a more detail attorney-client privileged report to Council. Since council's last meeting; I provided legal advice to the City regarding a potential amendment to the zoning ordinance; I worked on an assignment of a lease of a particular property; I attended the February 10, 2022 meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board; and I continue to work on an agreement of sale of a particular property.

### 2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced in executive, I've brought a brief update on personnel and real estate. Say the city continues to move forward with new economic development projects like the train station, the sports complex, and the Third Avenue commercial building and parking lot. We are also making progress in the community development space here in the city with initiatives designed to help local entrepreneurs and small businesses scale up and get the proper tools required for success. We will lead a series of programs this year to attract more business and community development in the city. In addition to that, Palmer Park is entering its completion of phase two. This particular project and initiative is being led by Natural Land with the assistance from the Alliance for Health Equity. A new Pavilion and play area is currently underway. The Coatesville Community Center, you all know that a couple of weeks ago, CYI announced its bid to build a multi-purpose office for themselves or headquarters and Community Center across from Palmer Park. This building will reunite residents on the east end and throughout the City of Coatesville. So we're very excited about CYI and we hope folks will reach out to them and lend their support for this wonderful organization and enterprise. Additionally, our partner recreation commission is gearing up for a great year of youth-sponsored events and outdoor activities for our young people. This past Saturday, the Coatesville Parks and Rec in the City of Coatesville hosted its fourth annual pancake breakfast and book reading. Of course, due to COVID, it was a Zoom call, but we had about 48 viewers, including some outstanding young readers ranging from the ages of 6 to 17, and probably had a couple of plus ages in there too. A challenge pledge was offered at \$25 to support the 22 activities. That was answered with an estimated \$1,500 hundred dollars in response. I just want to take a moment to thank all those who were on the call that day. Thank you for your wonderful contribution and support and-- I'm in here, but it's Ajene Livingston, if you're listening. Thank you for putting on the wonderful program on Saturday say that we get recorded and we'll get that put out to all of the community in the coming days. Once again, congratulations to the Parks and Rec. And if you're interested in learning more about Parks and Rec, you can email [info@coatesville.org](mailto:info@coatesville.org). We'll take the



emails and send them over to our new Parks and Recreation Chairperson, Ajene Livingston. The last bullet I have is function of Historical Commission teamed up with the city and tower. A couple of weeks ago we were asked to come in and pick up some artifacts from the hospital. Jeff Deacon, a chairperson for the Commission, went out. We met about 7:30, had a great morning, and we got some incredible artifacts from the hospital, including yearbooks, photographs. A lot of folks here in the community that may have been born there or just remember the hospital from back in the day. We are going to preserve a lot of the materials that we have. I will not tell you where they are because we've already had calls from people wanting photographs. But anyway, if you are interested in exploring the Coatesville history, this is a wonderful committee to join. Go to our website and put down on government and then click over to the City Board and Commission. It has the chairperson information there. And if you want to know more about it, again, just email us that [info@coatesville.org](mailto:info@coatesville.org) and we'll get that information over. That concludes my report. Thank you.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston started with the COVID update since it was a matter of discussion a few minutes ago. A lot of new information coming out. The CDC is asking people to continue masking indoor places. President Biden believes it's too soon to lower mandates. States are starting to selectively lower their own mandates. Pennsylvania is staying with CDC recommendations at this time. The county is seeing reduced cases, but are asking to continue mask and vax. All county offices are not mandatory. However, all the courts in Chester County are mandatory mask sites. City schools are staying with masking in class. The city right now will continue with its current protocol of all visitors will wear masks and staff will wear masks while traveling between offices and having meetings if possible. Numbers wise, the county remains in the highest class. Four weeks ago, the incident levels were about 900 per 100,000. This week it has fallen to just over 160 per. So, we have seen a drop off in county incident rates. Positivity in the testing has dropped from 27% to 10% in the same four-week period of time. So, Chester County is seeing a little bit of a rollback in Omicron. But no one is yet quite ready to release Chester County through the wilds of unvaxxed world. As of today, 99% of over 19-year old's, our recorded as at least having one vaccination. So that kind of is the quick COVID update. The codes team continues to review and process building permits. We have a number of projects out there, everything from large to small. So, stay tuned for some announcements coming along on new places that are putting the paperwork in potential, even potential hiring, because once they come to codes, we hear about them if they're ready to go, we get them out to the community, that there are potential jobs available within city limits. Public Works has our two new team members on board and out now, obviously was perfect timing with the weekend snow. In Public Works we've been working alongside, as you just heard about the OIC's work enclave, Jules and the team will be making sure they're available for the enclave as they do cleanups to become available with our pickup truck, and any other things they may need as far as trash bags and things like that. If you have any kind of dumping, we had some dumping this past week that we had to work with Eagle and with our team to pick up. If you see any dumping, please call Public Works as soon as possible so we can try and keep the city to that kind of bulk level clean. It was actually a very messy alley that required a little bit of work. If you have a trash concern, please call the main city hall number and report it to Miss Leibold. Rich has asked me to remind city residents and property owners that the tax bills have been mailed out, and the discount period ends March 31. So you got about six weeks to get in on those, so check your mailboxes. Also, the 2021

solid waste fees are now delinquent, but can still be paid through 3-1 at city hall. So you've got two weeks there before we turn the accounts over for collection.

Mr. Logan added one more thing on feedback and on that would [inaudible] about COVID? This is not directly related to that or anything but about a week ago, Dr. Miles partnered with the Atkins Health Center and Memorial Community Service Center, and they put out relief packets. They gave relief packets to some of our schools here. And I just wanted to recognize him and the volunteers that helped, as well as the Atkins Center. And also it was the superintendent, Hannah, who welcomed the efforts to donate these COVID relief packets for the kids. So again, I just wanted to just kind of give a shout out to Dr. Miles and all the volunteers that help them go out, provide these packets for the kids, and it's just wonderful for them to do that. And that was all part of the MLK Day service.

#### 4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete statistical packet is in the report tonight. Just a few of the highlights. We had 1750, 911 generated calls for service for the month of January, combined with our front desk calls for service was 2447, up from 2128 in December. In addition, just a couple of other highlights. So, we had two Narcan saves for January, seven car seat checks, and installation with car seats provided by our certified technicians. We continue with our youth aid panel. We had our first meeting of the youth aid panel with a youth before the panel in January, and we also had a second one here just this past month in February. So, we're excited to have that program up and running. Just once again, special thanks to the District Attorney's office who partnered with us and also Corporal Antonucci who's our YAP coordinator who's the youth coordinator Sergeant Ingemie was recently promoted to assistant team leader for Chester County Emergency Response Team. That's in recognition of his training and years of service to the Special Emergency Response Team for Chester County, where he's been given that leadership and command role with the team. So special recognition for Sergeant Ingemie. Also, we had two organized articles in the Daily Local in the first week of January and the second week of January. The first was our officer involvement in bus stops with our hat and glove distribution, which was very nicely covered by the Daily Local. And then the second one was our officer involvement in a student recognition and distributing a bike to a young student who was nominated by her school as being an exceptional and outstanding student. So that was also covered by the local relation to the community relations and PA's Task Force on Race. So, with our partnership with that, we've got some positive coverage for the city. Also, we have officer involvement in-- we went to the CCIU for Gordon Early Literacy Center right across the street here, and our officers presented a staff safety presentation for the teachers and for the staff there, very well received. They requested that we give an additional presentation for other members of the CCIU. So, we're working on that, and we appreciate the officers' efforts in putting that presentation together. And basically, it just was a safety presentation, what to do with an active shooter, what to do with different type of emergencies that might arise in the workplace. So, it was very well received. On a sad note, this would be the second month in a row where we participated in the funeral services for a retired member. Larry Cooper-- Corporal Cooper was the first one. Back in January, we talked about his passing, and then just this past month in February, Terry Alexander. Some of you may remember Sergeant Alexander. He worked here; retired after 23 years as a Sergeant. I believe he was an acting chief for a year, right here, in the city for the police department. And he then went on after 23 years with us. I think he did 17 additional years with the VA, and he retired as a Captain from the VA Police Department and Security Department. So sorry to see

him passing. The police department participated in the services and represented the city well in his funeral last Friday. And Madam President, that is my report unless there are any questions.

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

#### Mardette Shockley

Ms. Shockley stated I'm coming here tonight to let you guys know that some-- well, actually, I want to second what Mr. Hudson said. The trash behind the 600 block of Olive Street is ridiculous. And how I know is because I own a property there and one of my tenants moved out. And for the last month, it's like trash hasn't even been picked up as far as bulk items. So, I was talking to one of the neighbors, and neighbors says, "Well, the reason it's not getting picked up is because they don't bring the trash trucks actually behind the properties. They just go on the two sides and not down the actual alley." So, I just want to let you guys know because the next thing you know, I'll probably be receiving a fine because trash isn't being picked up behind my property. So, if somebody can get in touch with them to let them know because I'm not sure who it may be that-- they need to come behind there and pick the trash up and the bulk items. Mr. Huston stated he will contact eagle and get on it.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items only; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Special Events**

There are no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Mr. Simpson wished everyone a happy Valentines Day.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening to everyone and also happy Valentine's Day to everyone that's here. And, Chief, thank you so much. We appreciate it. I want to say welcome to our new solicitor, but continuing on with the firm, we appreciate all that you're doing. And thank you so much for your service to us. Last time we had our meeting, I had asked the council about possibly putting an ad into the booklet for the new pastor that's coming in at Passtown and the deadline for that is this Friday. And I'm asking again because I do know firsthand that all of the surrounding municipalities have put ads in the booklet welcoming him into our community, and I really would like for us to be represented. We could do it personally, but I know the different municipalities are doing it. I'm just welcoming him here and he's already doing a lot of work in the entire area. So, I would like for us to possibly consider doing that, to welcome him to the areas. We are the city. I would really like to see us do that. We have to vote on that. The ads are 100 for full-page and 50 for half-page. I think we should do a full page. I really do. But again, I want to thank our staff chief, as always, do a great job. And just to piggyback on what you said about the police and the different funerals, your staff and your gentleman, they do an excellent job. They come to the funeral, they make the families feel so good and they come in for us. And it's just really a beauty to see how the department comes together at the time of need. And the families, they think so much of it. So I appreciate the way you handle that and come along with them take care of families. Thank you so much. That's it for today.

Ms. Allen wished everyone a good evening. Hope you enjoy your Valentine's evening and stay safe.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. For those that celebrate, Happy Valentine's to all. I'd like to explain something to the public. I was just under the assumption that because we had discussed the RFP, that a follow-up discussion would have been added and it wasn't and that may be

my fault for not reaching out and saying add it. But I know when I first got on council many times in person and by email, I asked for things to be added to the agenda and it was always overlooked. Twice, I called Ruthann Mowday myself and had items added to the agenda. And twice a fellow colleague called Ruthann and had those items removed. When Mr. Simpson requested that the fireworks be added, it was overlooked. It wasn't until he asked for it in one of his closing comments that it was added to the agenda. So sometimes I think statements are made and they're not completely explained and sometimes things are not as simple as other council members make them appear to be. But again, I just want to thank everybody for coming and I hope you all have a great night.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming. Again, I am happy to hear that the reviews were good for Saturday. So sorry I missed it But I am going to get a chance to watch it. I just want to thank you for your commitment. Vincent Miles Jr. Had called me today. When they came out to the Scott school today to talk about safety. One of the things that the Assistant Principal talked to him about is speed bumps in front of the school. Now if I'm not mistaken I think they had been aware it before. But I'm not sure what happened to it. And also 15 mph signs, let me know if that's something that we could look at or do a study on. What they were looking at the front of school and one in the back. We were also talking about [inaudible]. So, I'm not sure what all this entails if you could reach out to the principal. We talked about this before. Chief stated this is the school district's responsibility to install-- they finish the installation and the maintenance. Vice President Green asked if Chief could follow up on this. Sometimes, we as council, we all took an oath for office, we all ran for seats in the office. So, we all have to take responsibility for how we do and what we don't do. One of the sad parts, sad thing is that if we're going to be the leader on passing something or trying to get something passed, you got to stay on top of it. It's nobody else's responsibility but ours to do something. So, I don't disrespect anybody's position, but I do believe in moving forward. And I just want to clarify. We just move forward. So again, I just thank everyone. Wish everyone a happy, happy Valentine's Day and have a safe

President Lavender Norris echoed on behalf of my colleagues, I thank you all for coming out. Ajene, the celebration was awesome. He was so gracious. We got to meet Mr. TC. He was just imploring people to read. Don't stop. Read. That was awesome. Thank you for that. Again, the students that read, they were amazing. They were amazing and I'm just excited about the direction of the Parks and Rec Department at this point. I'm excited to hear and see the people on the Zoom during the celebration allowed me to see that I'm not the only one that's excited. So, thank you for your leadership and for Mr. Bookman's leadership. Thank you both. To the staff, thank you so much. Rob, congratulations. Just keep doing what you've been doing because you've been doing a wonderful job. We don't agree all the time, but the good part about that is we're in the process of learning how to agree to disagree and keep us moving forward. That's what we're here for. That's what we're here to do. And by the grace of God, that's what we're going to do. We're going to keep moving forward. To my colleagues, thank you so much. Happy Valentine's Day. Chief you're the best. You shine! This is Valentine's Day and you made us feel special. And whoever the gentleman is on Zoom, we may have gotten his Valentine, too. He was smiling. Everybody, God bless you all. Thank you all for coming out. Thank you all for coming out virtually with us. We appreciate you. Don't stop coming. And again, look on our website, we have vacancies on our boards and commissions and we would love for them to be filled. Get involved, help us move. We want to go forward and we want you to go with us. So, let's lock arms and make it happen. Thank you so much. God bless and good night.

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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