

City of Coatesville
Meeting Minutes – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, April 25, 2022

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwomen Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman C. Arvilla Hunt and Councilman Donald Folks

Council Absent: Councilman Edward Simpson

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 announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters.

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

Approved Minutes

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the April 11, 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; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Al Amin stated she has a couple questions on the account's payables. On page 3 of 52? Invoice number, I don't know, it has a date, so I guess that it's-- I'll go with the other numbers. 0-1-4-0-9-3-2-1-0. It's an expense for long-distance. I don't know, I thought long-distance was included in all phone bills, now. I didn't know there was separate fees anymore for long-distance. Mr. Troutman explained this is the pioneer invoice, comes up every now and then. It's our only pots line that we have in the city. So that's why it's through payables. It came to \$22. Ms. Al Amin stated it's not high, I just didn't realize that there was such thing as a fee for long distance. Because any provider you have, long-distance is included now, so I just thought that was a little [crosstalk]. Vice President Green stated it's different for business, landlines and multiple lines. Mr. Troutman stated the facts that it's kept us a single landline in the city, that's what its redeeming value has been and that's been \$22.00. Ms. Al Amin stated Page 8 of 52, I know what it's for. But normally, it's two separate invoices for police uniform items. And normally, it says who the officer is that they're reimbursing, but this time it doesn't. So, in the future, can we go back to like it used to? Because each officer gets a certain allotment, and it doesn't show who these items are for. So, in the future, Rich, if we could just go back to providing what officer it's for. And then page 10 of 52, there's a full-page worth of refunds for different things, registration, permit not required. Rental license paid twice. Before folks are paying fees, don't we check to see if they've already paid them? Mr. Troutman explained we have discussed this internally. We believe that these four instances of training issues that were retrained on with the change in staff and the new staff, that was part of what happened. We paid some twice in error. Some of the businesses were billed twice obviously, in some cases it shouldn't happen. Ms. Al Amin asked if one person was charged for a rental license, but there was no sale of the property. Mr. Troutman replied yes. Well, I'm sorry, Council. In that case, the individual volunteered to pay because they wanted to do it in anticipation of buying the property. And then it ended up falling

through, so it was our way. That they tried to be proactive and paid for it, and we should have said, "Nice try. Hold off. Wait until you actually settle." Vice President Green said they all state that they're for a refund. Ms. Al Amin said right. They're all refunds. And I'm just saying, before we take money or double-charge, there should be a method where we're checking whether or not they—Mrs. Hunt stated it doesn't necessarily mean they came here and paid. They may have sent checks in, or they may have—Mr. Logan stated one was a check. Mr. Troutman stated No, you're absolutely right. Each individual case, and there are absolutely cases where Councilwoman Al Amin is correct, that we should have said, "No. Hold off. Wait, don't pay yet." And then there are other cases, as you just pointed out, Councilwoman Hunt, where an individual paid at the window, and then they turned around and sent a check in. And there's no way we would have caught that until after the fact because we get a stack of checks. We process them, and then at that point in time, it was discovered it was a duplicate payment. Vice President Green said if someone buying a property had not taken place, you have no way of-- I mean, we have to refund it. There's no way of-- Mr. Troutman replied right. There's no way we shouldn't. But we should have said in all honesty, so hold off, wait until you settle then come into pay your fees. So that part of it was training, okay? That's being recognized and there's an effort to do more training with the new staff. Mrs. Hunt said I was going to say that's among new staff, but. Mr. Troutman said there's also a couple of cases here where we saw that were two years old and three years old and we actually were able to go through it. And fair is fair. The owners would do money because they ended up doubling. Mrs. Hunt stated and the good thing, it wasn't like you had a group of people coming here standing in front of the podium, "You owe us money. We paid twice." You caught it, you refunded it, so. And then page 17 of 52 invoice number 843703. Bike repairs, \$981. Wouldn't it just have been cheaper to buy a new bike? Mr. Troutman said it was 10 bikes. It's 10 bikes. Chief Laufer replied yes. We sent-- I was going to say we sent officers to bike school and our bicycles hadn't been maintained because we really haven't used them in the last couple of years. So, we sent those bikes to the Downingtown Bicycle Shop and had those bikes repaired. A good police bike, brand new, a good police bike is probably about \$1,500 for one brand new police bike so I think we did pretty good.

Presentations

1. OIC Enclave

Mr. David Day, explained OIC Enclave helps each individual according to their current needs and work on those of us who are not currently employed have a desire to earn a living but may have barriers to. We help each individual according to their current needs and work, is just one way we seek to empower and quip the results of the soft skills mental prowess and emotional intelligence to thrive upon their completion and re-establishing themselves in the workforce the participants who are here with us. We help these individuals based on their current need. The participants who are here with us tonight, I do have one, have some diligence, dedication, and desire to become better and all facets of their lives. Each participant brings a different and unique personality to the work. They listened and remain focused and engaged on each student workshop. They have completed a customer service workshop and received certificate of achievement. In addition to that, they completed a formal resume workshop, in which they also received a certificate of achievement. So that being said, I have Rachel Campbell a participant here with us tonight to provide you her experience that she's had so far.

Ms. Rachel Campbell asked Council to bear with her, this is her first-time public speaking. One thing I can say about OIC is I want to start first with when I first went there about four years ago just because I was looking for a job. So as a company as a whole, I really

appreciate them helping me to be stable with work because the first time they helped me with my job at the Giant, now this time work enclave. And I've never been in a program at all anywhere in my life where they trained me in a way where I felt like it was better than when I went to the art institute, when I had training with healthcare. It's just the way they were trying to train people to be employees. And then retail was the kicker for me is when they did the certified customer service to get the credential, I just was hearing everything about the customer service, and it really just really made me rethink about retail. I mean, I'm not saying that I want to bounce back into it because I'm just thinking something new. And with this door being opened, I believe that this will help me to open a door that I can't do by myself. It's just like with everything that they were training me, and I'm able to really be open the way that I was seeking to be open out here with people who are my friends and family members and all that. And I felt like I could never tell them anything that I've said for the past four weeks with the work enclave, and to be honest, I feel better like I can really breathe. It's like when I come out here, I can just really no disrespect, but I can really deal with coastal just a little bit better than what I normally can. It's like even the next job I truly get, it's like I would really, honestly remember everything that I learned with this work program versus any other training that I had in retail or anything else. But those are really the experiences I've had was just healthcare, retail, and that was it. But just with this as a whole, it was just I really would recommend this to anybody that's seeking to just get that right push, not like that push like, "Oh, you should be doing this," and just everybody wagging their finger to you. But they show more concern and passion and just really wanting to see people to get on their feet versus people who talk like they want to, and then they act like they don't care. If I can really put it in them type of words and just this right here, I just wanted to bring - this is really my first certificate with anything, really. And it's just [inaudible] and then today was just a certification of excellence with a speaker who was-- what is it? Sorry. Someone cares about me, but it was just more so helping me to understand that I just have to just do my best to be the best that I am when it comes to an interview or anything that I want to jot down for a resume, and it just really feels like it's helping me improve myself personally, on a personal note. That's really all I got.

President Lavender Norris announced you got your first certificate so come up and get your second. Okay. So, I'm just going to read it really quick and then I'll switch right back. It says, "A certificate of recognition. The City of Coates will recognize its people who make an impact and play a role in the lives of Coatesville residents. As of April 27, you will have completed diversity awareness training, team building, mindfulness workshops, and deeply explored mental health and resiliency. This entails spending 45 hours cleaning up the 19320 from east to west end parks, businesses, and residential areas, such as Ash Park, Friendship Park, Abdala Park, Dollar Tree Lot, Oak Street, South Church Street, Lincoln Highway, First Avenue, Fourth Avenue, and more; and spending 30 hours in the classroom learning of community resources, and bonding with other 19320 residents in the surrounding areas. You have expressed love and care for the City as well as taken this unfamiliar path as one of the first Work Enclave ambassadors. You now have work readiness, emotional intelligence, and soft skills training and may enter advanced programs such as business, culinary, manufacturing, nursing, technology, and/or customer service. You now have the--" I'm sorry, I was-- can we go over that part again? "The Work Enclave has not only transformed the lives of its participants, but it has encouraged each one to become a registered voter, to have a greater understanding of local government and how you can support your community. Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the City Council of the City of Coatesville recognizes

and salutes you for your selfless, faithful dedication. Proclaimed this day. Congratulations!"
You certainly deserve it. You should, you earned it.

Discussion Items

1. Minutes

There was no discussion on the meeting minutes at this time.

2. Memorial Monument Timelines

Mr. Logan explained this particular discussion item came up-- actually, it's been coming up several times in the City. The City has a number of Memorial placements and things that either areas where someone has been hit or if a crime has taken place. And the Memorial sites, I think a lot of folks don't understand that some of them are on private property. Some of them are on city property. Some of them are in front of people's homes. And we have received calls inquiring about how long should they be up? Can the city take them down? We don't really have a policy for that. So, it was asked by a resident to put it on discussion to kind of get some feedback from our City Council members, and also the public would like to chime in at another opportunity. I can talk to the public about it. But right now, some of our residents wanted to hear back from you. Vice President Green stated there was a great idea that was proposed by members of the Police Department for a Memorial that we could find a dedicated place. And one of the places that were suggested was that one corner at Abdala Park. And a Memorial could be put up and they could actually be purchased for a small fee. And we could possibly partner with top crime victims to try to put something together, sort of like-- remember the wall that we had at Gateway Park? That Memorial wall? Sort of like that. And family members could purchase-- I don't know whether it would be a brick or whatever to build the wall, but the wall would be a Memorial for their loved ones. Because when it rains and stuff, we have those teddy bears and things like that out there that gets really messy. And this way, it would be a beautiful memorial that would be kept up. And this was a suggestion by one of our former officers Lieutenant Audette. He had talked to me about it right before he left. And I think if I'm not mistaken, I don't want to put it out there like that. But he had suggested that we contact crime victims and that they may be interested in partnering to put something like this together. And, we thought of Abdala Park because it's open and Gateway has a lot going on, and we have some things that are approved there. But that one point of data that we could start something like that. And that way, all of the memorials would be in one central location as opposed to-- tonight when I came to the meeting, I came the memorial on the Ash Park, and there's like cups through the whole fence spelling out the name. And I get it. I understand you want to remember them, where the incident took place, but I think it would be nicer for the family to have something beautiful and have their loved one memorialized in a stone or something that everyone could see, something to think about and try to come up with ideas. I'm saying bricks. It doesn't necessarily have to be bricks, but just one centralized location, I think, would be better as opposed to all these different homes everywhere. Mrs. Hunt said yeah, I agree with what you're saying. And it's also when someone passes, especially tragically, and families take time to set up those memorials wherever the incident happened. Once it's set up, it's hard to tell them it's time to take it down because there's no time limit on grief. It's almost like you put your loved one on life support and now the doctor's telling you, "Let's take it off." And you're easy to put it on, but it's a hard decision when it comes to saying, "Okay, now it's time to take it off." And that's how personal those memorials become. So, if we, in fact, do have a designated area, then we can guide them to that area. A lot of them are still going to want to

be able to mark the spot where the incident occurred. But when they do that, somebody needs to be there at that time and let them know this can only stay here for 30 days. And then talking to the main next of kin, not just talking to everybody, but contact with the family, talk with the family and let them know this can come, but it can only stay, I said 30 days. But whatever we decide on to let them know that it can't be something permanent because loved ones, they do take ownership of that spot where their loved one passed away. I think if we establish a protocol with that at the very beginning, because you almost know if it's an accident here, there's going to be a memorial. So, if we address it at the beginning, I think it's a little easier because they already have that understanding and mindset that this can only stay here for whatever period of time. But we have another place where you can engrave your loved one's name, like you said, on a stone or on a brick at Abdala Park and take time to visit that. So, I do agree that something like that would happen, but we still have to address the initial thing that comes with the grief of that, so. Mrs. Hunt stated we would also have to make sure we get written rules for the designated memorial because if you look at some of the cemeteries now because there are so many young people that are dying tragically and you go into some of the cemeteries and they're loaded. Now we have the new thing, the memorial blankets that they're putting on the grave. Building fences around stuff. I had to talk with one of the cemetery attendants last week when I was in one of the cemeteries in Haiti, and I looked at it and I said, "You guys can't keep allowing this. It's just so much." But you're trying to adapt to the family and the needs of the family, but at the same time, you have to maintain it with dignity. And it can't just become a place, "Well, today I'm feeling this. I'm just going to go put this here, put that there." It has to be maintained. So, if we do that, then I would say contact each funeral home in Chester County because everybody's not from Coatesville, and we would have to send them something about the established memorial that we have. But these are the rules and regulations so that we can hand them out to the families that we serve. So, I think it's really something nice that can be done, but I think the local funeral director that's taking care of that family can be a major help in trying to make sure that you help the families transition to that. I would put together a committee. People that would come up with an idea. I think you were on to a good idea with that wall because that is really beautiful, and then they have it etched in the stone. Whatever they want on the stone, right. And then it's just like a mausoleum. The price of the stone is depending on the section. Like the mausoleum island is the most expensive, and then you go up and up and you go lower and lower, so it's that's how you would price out the stone and people think they would love that. President Lavender Norris stated so, I think Mrs. Hunt, me, and Councilwoman Green, and our manager and a few of our resident should be on the committee. They can come together, could all come together and form the committee. And it's really something to look into. While I certainly respect the passing of each and every one that's represented with the memorials, they do get messy. They do get out of hand, and we do receive calls about them. And it's not to diminish anything about the person that passed. I've attended several of the vigils. I've left the candles there, the whole nine. Mrs. Hunt said I've done it myself. President Lavender Norris stated I've done it also. And while I'm telling you I attended and was a part of the ceremonies, I've also looked at some months later, like, that's a mess. It has to be cleaned up. And just to be a little more specific, the one on the corner of 8th and Lincoln, the big bear was beautiful sitting there with the big red ribbon and the balloons. Everything is gorgeous. But then everything bright and shiny is. The newness of it is gorgeous. It doesn't take away from the feelings that you go through, the emotions, and all that good stuff, but it does wear down. And for some, it's a constant reminder of something they're trying to get beyond, you know what I mean? So, it's a delicate path you'll have to

tread there. But I trust and believe God and you ladies and gentlemen to be able to make it come to fruition and I will gladly support in any way I can. And I totally agree with the 30 day for where the incident occurs and then remove it. Mrs. Hunt said because when you do it in the right way, when you do it in a respectful way and you're still showing dignity to the family and letting them know you're not trying to decrease what they're feeling, but we're just trying to help you to process it and go through it. President Lavender Norris announced our Police Department are always at every memorial. For them, someone from the department to be involved. Chief announced Downingtown has it at Kerr Park in Downingtown. The crime victims' memorial is there and then every year, we have the crime victims' candlelight vigil, which starts at the First Presbyterian. They march from that over to Kerr Park, where the memorial is and that's where they have the candlelight vigils. Mrs. Hunt asked this memorial that we're talking of is specifically for victims of crime. Is that what we're saying? Chief Laufer replied yes, the one in Kerr Park is for victims [it was a crime?] in Chester County. Yeah. So, it's something similar that we could model after and work with crime victims, Chester County crime victims, and try to tie it all in together. Mrs. Hunt said awesome, yeah, yeah I would like to be on that committee. President Lavender Norris said yeah, I think that'll be awesome. we just have to look into reaching out to whomever you'll have on the committee and set something up.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

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

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

Regular Action Items

- 1 Receive and consider a motion to approve and award the base bid of Eagle Services, dated March 25, 2022, for the Collection of Residential and Municipal Waste and Recyclables of the City of Coatesville in the amount of \$2,423,045.57 for a term of a three years with an optional fourth-year term in the amount of \$931,752.47 and an optional fifth-year term in the amount of \$1,001,633.91. This action accepts the five-day service option and rejects the portion of the bid related to the New 96-gallon Commercial Totes on the submitted bid.

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve and award the base bid of Eagle Services, dated March 25, 2022, for the Collection of Residential and Municipal Waste and Recyclables of the City of Coatesville in the amount of \$2,423,045.57 for a term of a three years with an optional fourth-year term in the amount of \$931,752.47 and an optional fifth-year term in the amount of \$1,001,633.91. This action accepts the five-day service option and rejects the portion of the bid related to the New 96-gallon Commercial Totes on the submitted bid; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

Vice President Green asked if this going to be running on the same timeframe as it is now, the same dates, no changes for recycling, no changes. Mr. Huston explained the schedule will be modified because Eagle is going to be adding two additional days for pickups, so we'll be working with them on those particular scheduled pickup dates. Mr. Logan announced we will work to put the information out. Rich and I and the rest of the team will be working with Eagle to get the proper schedule for all of the residents here the Mailer. I think a nice bright postcard trash pickup change. However, when they word it, make it very simple and plain so that they'll know their day is gone from Tuesday to Wednesday or Wednesday to

Thursday or whatever. Mrs. Hunt stated everybody doesn't do social media. Some of our elderly don't go to their email and all that. So, if we could do a Mailer, if there's going to be changes, I think that is appropriate. I think we've been fully educated on the new bids and the new things that we're going to be working through with Eagle. So, I'm good. And thank you. Thanks, staff, for making it clear and doing a great presentation to us as Council. We appreciate that.

2. Receive and consider contract renewal with LTL Consultants to 2025

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the contract renewal with LTL Consultants to 2025; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Logan explained a couple of weeks ago, we had the actual action item for LTL's contract on the agenda. We tabled it for further discussions with LTL. We were able to just meet with them to confirm what our particular expectations are in terms of the negotiation of the actual agreement. We were able to come to new terms which are favorable for the city of Costa. So now we have the new numbers. They are on page five in your package. And we were able to basically get the new numbers from LTL be under 5% increase. So again, we've given the nature of what's going on today with cost of living and high prices. We think this is a very, very good agreement with LTL Consultants.

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

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to Council. Since Council's last meeting, I provided and continue to provide legal advice to the city regarding land development matters. I attended a meeting regarding a property matter. I received correspondence from the city's insurance solicitor, regarding certain legal matters. I provided legal advice to the city regarding certain licensing matters. And an item that you will not see necessarily on your list, but is more relevant now, given what discussions have occurred, I can definitely reach out to Chris Zaccharelli, who's the Crime Victim Center's CEO. I'm actually on the board of the Crime Victims Center, so I will help you out with that connection. And speaking of vigils, the Homicide Vigil is April 28, 2022. Unfortunately, I don't know the exact time, but it is later this week.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced in Executive, I've discussed one contract matter. And that's pretty much it for what was in Executive. For Public, we have just a few bullets. Four weeks ago, I reported at the 30-82 realignment was nearing completion. And unfortunately, there's been a number of changes and setbacks. We did receive a change order that was put in place by PennDOT. There were some changes that need to be made on the north side. They have to put a delay in our tickler timetable. So right now, we are looking, working with MECO, and working with Cedarville. We're looking to resolve the issue. Once the issue is resolved, we're going to be requesting that MECO remobilize out on 30-82 for the next four weeks. Once they are back out on the street, it shouldn't take any longer than three weeks to complete. So, I apologize for the reports that I gave you all on numerous occasions, that this work would be done by the end of this month. It looks like it's going to be a slight pushback. And as I said,

we feel that we're going to be able to resolve this and get back out there within four weeks. Both parties are aware of the urgency, and both meaning MECO, Cedarville. I should say including PennDOT, but mainly Cedarville and MECO. And [inaudible] has been working with us again to get this resolved. I'll keep you all updated on any additional progress or setbacks that we may have moving forward. On Friday, the City of Coatesville received news that the Coatesville Train Station parking garage/multimodal parking facility received an additional \$1 million in RACP funding. And that was through Senator Comitta's, Representative Williams, and Governor Wolf's office. So, thank you all for that. This is an additive to the \$2 million that was awarded in December and the \$1 million award that we received in 2020. And we now have a total of \$4 million in recap funding that we will add to our capital stack, bringing it to 9 and a half million dollars projected. I'd like to take this time to thank members of the RDA, Senator Comitta, Representative Williams, and of course, Ms. Coleen Terry with ECON Partners, who continues to produce winning grants for the city of Coatesville.

Onto the next item, last Thursday, Tracey Vernon - she's the consultant for PennDOT - she is conducting a Train Station Economic Impact Study. Some of you may have met with her, may have been interviewed by her. We're working with her. Sonny Huntzinger and I are working with Tracey to identify what the impact of the train station is going to have on the City of Coatesville. Tracey was also part of the whole kind of economic development project review. And what I'm passing out to you all is the list of projects that Tracey has noted. Again, working with Sonny, myself, members of the RDA, and PennDOT as well. But right now, we have approximately 31 projects that are on the docket for the City of Coatesville. These are projects that are both in progress. A few of them might be nearing completion, but this is a wonderful kind of statement to the City of Coatesville and to its residence of what's happening here. So, thanks to Tracey and thanks to everyone that's involved in this Impact Study. She has a few months to complete it, I think, and we're very excited about this. And I think what we're going to do-- and I think Sonny is on the call tonight. But we also have a parking study that's being conducted. And the parking study is designed to really address some of the assets and some of the shortcomings that we have in the city of Coatesville in relation to parking. We feel that a city that's growing like Coatesville certainly is going to have to address the parking issues here. There's going to have to be some real discussions about what we're going to do with parking. There are ideas about shared parking areas. These are lots that may not be used. And we hope to have relationships with some of those owners of those lots to convert into a parking lot during the evening hours because once the City starts getting the restaurants into town, we feel the streets are going to be filled. So, there's a lot of discussion, a lot of ideas that we are kind of discussing. And the company that's putting together the parking studies called Desmond. An again, I think a few of you have had conversations with them. So, we're very excited that these two project initiatives are moving forward. And again, with what's coming in terms of economic development, , in addition to the economic development, we do have community development. We have activities that are happening. I see Ajene in the audience here. Ajene has been working with a number of community organizations in Coatesville, and I know he's tired, but he's really assisting individuals to put on a series of Juneteenth events this year. He has partnered with other organizations outside of the area because this is our first year that we are going to be participating in a number of events. This will be kind of an observation year for us and planning year, but Ajene is in the thick of it, just working with people. And we're taking a lot of notes, and hopefully next year we'll be rolling out our own Juneteenth celebrations. But in

your packets, as well as the calendar for the month of June, you will see a series of events, one being a Carnival. NAACP is going to be hosting something. We have a number of people on the East End as well as Ash Park that will be hosting events for Juneteenth. So, you will not miss out on any activity here in Coatesville during the second week of June. So we're very excited about that and thank you for your time.

Many people have been asking me about Comcast and Chanel 66. I have long discussions with both residents and some of our community stakeholders and partners, and they want to know what's going on with Chanel 66. I had a call with Telvue today, and we did receive a quote from them to get Chanel 66 back up and running, because we have old equipment, antiquated equipment. We're looking at an investment of \$12,000. Now, given the fact that Telvue is in the telecommunications business and Comcast also will be working with us, there are several ways that we can go about getting Channel 66 back up and running. There's live streaming, there's creating an app, which some of the areas that I was told by Telvue today they've established with municipalities. So, for seniors who may not have cable, they can just have a phone app and they can actually watch what would be on Channel 66. We are going to be exploring that. But in short, I will be reconvening a small committee of individuals that have expressed interest in getting Channel 66 up. And the one thing I just want everyone to understand is Channel 66 is a municipal kind of public access channel. When it comes to municipalities - and I had to get educated on this, the municipality has the right to partner with other organizations, but we can't turn it over for things that are not related to our local government. It has to be municipal focus. And again, we can partner but the main focus of a municipal network or municipal channel is for that. There are PSA channels that Comcast provides and those are public service announcements and that can range from anything from programming to cooking to you name it, but when it comes to the municipal it has to be focused on municipality work. So just wanted to make that clear. Often times in conversations, folks don't understand the difference between the municipal channel and the public service announcement channel. Mr. Logan explained Municipalities cannot sell space. You can add service announcements but we can't sell because Comcast will look at it as your kind of cutting into their-- that's their area of expertise. But we can have sponsored buyer or paid for if you have a particular channel. Ruthann and I were talking about it today. It can be paid for by Hunts Funeral Home or Allen's on First (as examples). In Telvue, as I mentioned, the idea, one of the ideas that they mentioned was the app. So if some seniors may not have cable, a lot of them have phones. So they can just download the app and they can actually watch what they may be missing on the cable. So that's a good thing. But I'll stay tuned. I'll be bringing more information to the table. A few other items. I have applications for the American Rescue Plan Act, better known as ARPA Money. Where they open up the grant application request, a couple of weeks ago. There is a pool of dollars, nearly \$102,000,000 that will be allocated. The city of Coatesville's submitted their applications.

Mr. Logan presented the new Re Imagine video narrated by Ms. Langas. We see the City of Coatesville as the place for new business development, housing and economic opportunities. The city is buzzing with excitement of a new marketplace driven by breakout entrepreneurs, retail shops, restaurants, developers, a rising housing market, and a reliable transportation hub. That hub is in the shape of a new Coatesville train station. To be a part of the groundbreaking. And I am just so elated to see all of you here as we celebrate this occasion together. The timing for the station transformation is aligned with the ReImagine Coatesville

theme in focus. Coatesville's successful pop-up-and-shop returned in 2021. thought it would be a great opportunity for me to sort of build my business skills and also to network and to learn a little bit more about the city. The Pop Up & Shop market grew out of the city's Business Skills for Success startup program in partnership with Kutztown University. The message here is really, we support local businesses. We want them to come to Coatesville. If you're looking to support and shop local, the Pop Up & Shop will reopen in the spring with new retailers in Coatesville. A community favorite, the annual Coatesville Invitational Vintage Grand Prix is the city's premier event with more than 5,000 vintage car lovers and enthusiasts descending on Coatesville's 1.9 square mile community. Home to one of the nation's only Vintage Grand Prix's held within city limits, Coatesville Grand Prix never disappoints. Fast cars, food, music, and family fun checks all the boxes for this annual event. Coatesville residents went out to the parks this year for family events, barbecues, and unity gatherings. We welcomed the first African American carnival hosted over four days. The Parks and Rec Committee launched fun days in the park and residents sponsored double Dutch jump rope activities for neighborhood kids. And if you like jazz and R&B, pull up a lounge chair and join us for the city's Sounds of Summer Music Series, featuring local and regional musicians that will have you dancing and relaxing under the stars. Coatesville continues to rebuild and reinvent itself to improve the quality of life for its residents. Come reimagine the city with us. You'll be surprised at what you discover. Coatesville, USA.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston stated its good to be back. Tired of being a disembodied voice on the screen for a while. Just real quick update. James has given you quite an amazing rundown of what things have been going on that I could only touch on going back over, so I won't do that. A couple of things though, is-- how long have I been doing this now? A year and a half, beating on about COVID. I am immunocompromised, so you'll see me with a mask on. Boosted, but still trying to keep an eye on things. So, as you are, as you see fit, as you are, as you're going by. We still have the rules and regulations within the city as far as masking and with staff. There was a small uptick in Chester County, but we're still in the low category. So be aware of those type of things, where they stand. But it's minor. We're actually still doing very, very good in Chester County. Street activity, if you've noticed-- obviously we talked about Route 82 and 30, but there's streetscapes going on. You've got the big planters. If you go downtown and want to know what those big gray things are, those will have street trees in them. There are fences up blocking off sidewalks. The grocery store going on up at the other side of the clock tower, they've been working on the interior. James went out the other day double-check for me. And yes, they're in there hauling out. In the near future, we should have a grocery store downtown right by the flower shop. They are in process. Last week, a group of investors came in and toured with James, looking at various properties throughout the city that could be acquired or worked on with the current owner. Activity still continues. People are still interested in the town, still interested in what's happening in this community. And we can only say we're still rising, we're still going with where we are today. The one thing that did come up in a conversation: two weeks ago, I announced the citations/instant-ticket appeals board. There were some questions raised after that whether we could do it with a Council member, non-Council member, whether it has to be citizens only. So right now, in a first opinion, I think Mr. Jefferson indicated we have to watch where we cross the judicial line. So, we have to find out a little bit more about what that committee could be made up of and who it could be made up of. So hopefully we'll get back to it and be able to get some of these instant tickets clarified. Vice President Green stated most of the things in our charter--

our charter talks about other boards and commissions. It just seems to me that because we're the one that writes the charter that it would be not advantageous, we should not be on that committee. And we can't be on that committee. Some of the boards and commissions that we can be on are non, really governmental. But any of the governmental or commissions, Council is not permitted to serve on it. Mr. Huston explained especially when you cross over from administrative to judicial, now you're crossing into a judge's potential territory. Right. So that's kind of what I wanted to bring to you is not dragging our feet, just trying to make sure we're doing the right thing.

4. Finance Department

Mr. Troutman announced we are a quarter of the way through the year. We are starting to get some stable type of indicators. We still have timing issues, which I'll talk to. But the important thing right now is if you see all the squares, all the funds are favorable through. So that's the starting point as a good baseline information. So, we're holding our own or doing substantially better in every category that we track financially. I use the word timing. It is hopefully the start of more years to come like this. But this for the first three and into four months is an outlier in the sense that the numbers that we're seeing for collections of real estate taxes and earned income tax are accelerated. So I went back to 2016 because that was the last time taxes were increased as a rate. So for the last six-plus years, the tax rate has been the same. The collections so far this year are a million-two higher than last year. They're 200,000 higher than even the closest second year. Now don't get too excited because it's a finite number. But what it means is we're receiving the payments earlier. And the cool thing to think about this is resident owners have saved by enacting the discount. I said a million-two. So, residents collectively have saved \$20,000 to \$30,000 of taxes this year compared to last year. So that's more money in their pockets, right? And it is not anything we've really done. We've tried to communicate it, as you know, from different announcements but we get the benefit of the collections earlier for stability and cash flow purposes, the residents get the savings. And another way to look at this is at the end of March, we've already collected as much as we had last year at the end of April. We keep being ahead. And I can only believe that's going to help us with our cash flow and have less than delinquency. But it's also going to help the residents and the owners because while a number of them took advantage of the discount, there's a number of them who I'm anticipating won't go into delinquency. If they pay their taxes by the end of May then they'll have saved a 10% discount penalty which is obviously going to be substantial for more money in their pockets. So that's going to be a segue to the next page.

The next page is a letter from Keystone. This is the first year that I'm aware of that the city is doing this type of letter. It's a friendly reminder letter that, hey, if you missed the discount, can't help you but friendly reminder, try to get paid by May 31 to avoid the 10% penalty. So again, we're trying to have a win-win here that keeps more money in the owner's pocket and for fees. And that goes the same way - excuse me - for-- the solid waste piggybacks off of the real estate taxes as well. No, I wouldn't necessarily say it's because of dealing with mortgage companies and that's because I think that tends to be a finite number because of the very high ownership that's in commercial or rental. I would tend to say it has less to do with mortgage companies. It has, I think, more to do with individuals. Frankly, it tends to be consistent with the increase in earned income taxes. I'm thinking there's a greater economic rebound happening. And I didn't mention it now - I'll get to it again - but earned income tax is up over 11% this year. And it's also ahead of budget by 11%. And that's one that could continue that

isn't necessarily finite. It's based on the rising tide of all the people getting jobs and better jobs, etc., which is one of the reasons why supporting the Penn Medicine type of thing is a win-win. The more we do that, the more it helps the citizens and residents. But frankly, it helps us from the earned income side. It's just one of those great things that is a recent initiative within the last year or two to support the work efforts that way. But with this letter-- it was sent April 15. We didn't want to hit people two days after they might've paid at the end of March. We gave a little bit of time, and now it's being mailed to all those who haven't paid as of April 15. We will see how it works with it being on a trial period. We think it's worth the few dollars it's going to cost.

Next page-- and actually, series of pages are the Chester County Tax Collection Committee. We thought you should have some feedback as to what-- the City is part of a membership with this. And we do pay fees, but they are the ones who-- this body runs the collections of the common taxes, such as earned income tax. One of the things that they point out in here-- if you flip over two pages and you see the list of the different entities, municipality, school districts, Coatesville is a half dozen rows down. It's indicating a 7 and a half percent growth. That's for December over December, right? And as I just mentioned, so far this year, we're at 11.1%. It's increasing each time and that's a good thing, obviously. So that's the extent of the package that I would want you to look at. There's a lot of good information in that Chester County document. A couple other miscellaneous comments. Based on the decision made with the solid waste, starting tomorrow, we'll work with Eagle and actually giving them addresses so they can start planning the three-day to five-day. Mr. Houston, Mr. Logan, myself were mostly going through-- channeling from Mr. Houston are going to be actual process of transition. So, it's the postcards, it's the flyers, it's the, "You're moving from Thursday to Friday or Wednesday." We're going to work through all of that. When I say we, it's collective we. There's a big emphasis on the five-day versus three-day. That is going to help everybody de-escalate the issues. Now, it has to be carried out. And there's a lot of communication and a lot of information that has to be done. But in looking at that, the average over three days is 1,100 pick-ups a day. The average over five days is 660. So, it's going to take the pressure off. Now, not every day is going to be exactly that kind of number because we have to be logical about where they're cutting off in sections of the City. But that gives you an indication of how much stress can be taken off the situation so they can start with a better plan. But we also have to do the county recycling agreement that will come in front of you May 9th. And then the only other loose end would be tomorrow, we have our quarterly pension meetings. And so, we'll get an update on what's happening there and the impact that's happened from the world events.

5. Police Department

Chief Laufer explained I know I'm not on the agenda here tonight but I just wanted to touch base with Council and with our residents and let everybody know that Detective Ryan Wright officially retired from the City of Coatesville Police Department on Saturday after completing 20 years of service to the City. So, we are excited for Ryan and his family and future endeavors but we're also sad to see him go. Ryan dedicated 20 years of his life to serving the residents here. He had a great career. Never really heard a bad word from a resident about Detective Wright. He managed to do his job. The last, I guess, seven or eight years he's been our investigator assigned to most of our child abuse cases. And unfortunately, the City of Coatesville leads the county in reported instances of child abuse. And he was extremely busy, never complained, dedicated the time necessary to fully investigate each

complaint. And we are going to miss him. I'm going to try to get him before Council when we present him with his official retirement badge and official discharge paperwork. I hope he will agree to before Council, and we can officially thank him for his 20 years of service. And we will work on that. So, that does create an additional vacancy in the department for a full-time officer. We will be working in the next month or so to bring a recommendation before Council to fill that position. So, we'll look forward to that also.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens' comments on non-agenda items at this time.

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

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for coming out. I had a chance to go to the domestic violence gala. Am I saying that right? To represent the city. Lieutenant Ollis was there, and we had a very good time to represent and spend money there, but it was a very nice affair. Hats off to the people that care. Hats off to them. It was very, very nice. Thank you. Have a good night, and I'll see you in a couple of weeks.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming and spending the evening with us. I just have one question. With the sidewalks down at First Avenue, Lincoln Highway, right down from Gateway Park plan, do we have a near-future plan to get those sidewalks fixed? And I asked that because this morning when I was coming down, there was a guy and a lady walking together and he literally fell off of that sidewalk on Rt. 30. I don't know if we're going to hear something about it or not, but it's really bad right in that area. Mr. Huston asked if South side or west side. Mrs. Hunt replied west side of Lincoln Highway. By the bridge where the sidewalk ends, right there at Gateway Park. Mr. Huston explained that is owned by the Cliffs. Mrs. Hunt stated that's okay. And that's fine whoever it belongs to. It's fine whoever it belongs to, whether it belongs to us or whether it belongs to them. It's bad. And since we know about it, if we can make contact to whoever is responsible. Mr. Huston stated we have been in communication with them. Mrs. Hunt stated Yeah, it needs to get fixed real-- because somebody's going to really get hurt down there. And regardless if it's not the city's responsibility, if it's somebody else, you still don't want anybody to get seriously hurt. So, if we can just look into that. And again, I just want to thank everyone, thank our staff for the great job that you do. A lot of exciting things are happening in the city, and I'm excited about it, excited to be a part of it. Have a good night, and we'll see you next time.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Vice President Green stated we have a document here with 33 projects in it. I mean, we continue. We hear all the hotels rising and all of that but there's 33 working projects going on in the City, which is so unheard of. I'm just excited about that. I'm encouraged with Richard's report on the finances and the fact that the taxes are coming in at a faster rate. But Mr. Logan, we're just excited that you had the vision to bring workforce development back into City Hall, where we've had how many jobs fairs? Mr. Logan replied seven. Vice President Green explained Mr. Logan has worked

with seven or more different companies who have come here looking to hire 100 people, 50 people, 70 people and we see the fruit of that labor is evident in their earned income, because now these people are-- now everyone's paying taxes. So, I just want to thank you for seeing that, having that insight to bring, because that's not something that City Hall did prior to. And I'm just encouraged by that and hearing the numbers that Rich had put up. That video, I think that the city investing in ourselves and showing what is going on in the city, I think it's amazing in all views. I'm just excited. I'm excited that we have the staff that we have that has the insight to look into doing So here's these many different things that are outside of the box, things that we weren't doing. And I just appreciate you all. I did come with one complaint tonight, the gentleman, the blind gentleman, he told me he hasn't crossed the street in a couple of weeks. He said that he talked to the Chief or someone in the Police Department. And I don't know if it's actually fixed. He thought maybe it was fixed, but the volume was down low for the beats. Chief Laufer explained I actually did have a conversation with Bill - I can't think of his last name - from Signal Service. He acknowledged that there is a problem at third in the highway, right? And he was going to send an email to CCV and direct it to Mr. Logan with the cost estimate to replace the-- he said it's an older technology, and it needs to be updated. And he would provide an estimate to make the repairs. Vice President Green thanked everyone. I'm so happy for everyone that came out. Good to see you. And just be encouraged the city is moving forward. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. I'm very excited for all the projects that are happening in Coatesville. The numbers that Rich gave us is really, really good news. And everybody have a great night.

President Lavender Norris stated I echo my colleagues. I am excited about our forward momentum. I, too, just want to say thank you to our staff. You've done an excellent job. I just want to say we've been blessed here in the city. And as we count our blessings, as we've been blessed, let's make sure our blessings count. Let's not let anything fall by the wayside. Let's stay on top of what we're doing. Let's remain in support of our staff. Let's do our best to stay out of the way while we're staying in our lanes because it matters. This list of projects proves that we're on the right path. And it's showing because we've been in support of as opposed to being in the way of. So, thank you to all my colleagues. Thank you. I appreciate you. And I'm grateful to serve with you because I see our city growing. And to all of you who have come out tonight, thank you for coming out. Thank you. You're a large part of who and what we are and what we do. We need you. So, thank you for coming out. For those of you online, continue to ride with us because we're going somewhere. And it's a positive destination, trust me. God bless you all. Thank you all. And I miss Sue Springsteen tonight. However, I'm sure we'll see her. Everybody have a blessed night. God bless you.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

This meeting was conducted live and on zoom.