

City of Coatesville  
Meeting Minutes – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, May 9, 2022

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

Council Absent: Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, 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 Ms. Al Amin and Mr. Simpson would not be in attendance this evening.

### **Approved Minutes**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the April 25, 2022 meeting minutes; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Approval of Accounts Payables**

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Presentations**

#### 1. CMS Elite All Stars World Champions Certificate presentations

Hi. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Thiola Wesley Bailey. I am one of the owners and founders of CMS Elite All Stars here in Coatesville. This lovely, lovely woman right here is Renee Tally. My co-owner director Wayne's around here, the other owner right here. Little bit about CMS. We started out as Coatesville Middle School. I wanted to do a competition team since the high school doesn't compete. When our girls aged out, they decided they wanted to stay with us, so we went all-star. And this will be our eighth season coming up. You guys presented us a few years back my daughter's last year with an award when they won Nationals. So, we're very humbled to have this group of kids here with us now, bringing a World Championship to Coatesville. A little bit about this group, for those of you that don't know, some of these kids have been with me for six plus years. This year, the dance program especially went through a hard hit when they had lost their coach due to personal reasons. We are a completely volunteer program, so it's hard to keep staff. But the kids came together and decided that with the help of coach Renee, none of us are dance coaches. So literally we said, "Well, what are we going to do? Are we just going to have, like for fun or whatever?" And they came together and danced, rocked it. These kids came up with their own choreography and killed it this year. Our cheer team started out with a rough start. We started with two teams and said, "This isn't working. Let's make one big team. Wait, this isn't working." And had somebody come in and said, "You know what? You need to change your level." And we revamped them. And they ended up going the World's and becoming top 10 in their division. So, to be finalists their first year is amazing. So I'm going

to let Renee kind of take over because she kind of spearheaded everything this year. She was at that gym more than me. So I'm going to let Renee just say a couple of words for dance, and cheer. Ms. Tally thanked Council for having them this evening. The kids really did work very hard this season so that they can be able to pull off what they did this past April. We are super, super proud of them for all their hard work, their dedication. Many of them wanted to give up. We, as coaches, wanted to give up. But we were like, "No, we got to keep going. We can't give up. We got to keep going." So we don't want to teach them to give up in the middle. So, teaching them, "You got to persevere and keep moving." Got you. I just thank you for having us this evening. Ms. Ms. Wesley Bailey stated the underdogs always come out on top. Don't ever sleep on the underdog. [applause] And I express to this team and they'll tell you, we're those coaches that we don't look for a win every comp. We look for you to do your best. If you got a 93 last comp, I want to see a 93.1 or higher this comp. I don't care how you place. So for them to do what they do what they did, every single last one of them here has cried, has quit. "I'm done." I've had parents call me, "No, my kid is dying. They're finished." [laughter] It has been a crazy season, but these guys-- oh, I'm trying not to cry. But these guys stuck it out. And to you guys I want to say thank you for-- --giving us the strength because, Coatesville had a rough time this season. And there was a time when I had to step back for a little bit, but y'all all texted, called, and you gave me the strength. So I appreciate all of you for showing me how to stay strong—

President Lavender Norris read the certificate of Recognition and presented the certificate to each Champion. President Lavender Norris stated can I just tell you all how awesome y'all are and how proud you made us of your own efforts, your own volition. And you did this. You represented Coatesville. And please know how proud we are of y'all. Parents, thank you for working with them and keeping them. Thank you. Thank you.

### **Discussion Items**

1. Minutes

There was no discussion on meeting minutes at this time.

2. Handicap Parking

Mr. Logan explained the handicap parking issue has been pretty much on the topic for a number of years in the city of Coatesville. I can't even tell you how many handicapped parking spaces we have. We do have a number of them in the city. And for all the right reasons and good intentions, there are individuals who require handicapped parking for various disabilities, health issues, challenges. And we provide them with those parking spaces. Well, one of the things that we do not do is we do not guarantee that once you require a parking placard or a parking space, that space is not guaranteed to be in front of your home. What we've noticed over the years, with the accumulation of parking spaces, they are beginning to take up the nonhandicapped residents that live in our city. So now it's become almost a battle of handicapped parking versus nonhandicapped parking. And this has been brought to my attention by a number of residents who do not require handicapped parking. They feel that the number of spaces available or that were once available on their blocks or in their neighborhood has now depleted. So again, the issue has been brought to my attention by both individuals requiring handicap parking and those who do not to just kind of bring it up for discussion with their council members because it is getting-- it's getting tight in our city. We have more residents that are living here. We have more individuals who are in rental properties. Some of them require handicap parking, and we just have very, very limited

spaces. So that's why the handicapped parking is on the agenda this evening. Vice President Green stated I know, Mr. Logan. Virginia Avenue, I don't think there's a regular parking space on Virginia Avenue. Mrs. Hunt asked if we have revisited the residents that are living in those homes to see if they still require handicap parking, or are they placards that have been there and it's just an ongoing but maybe the handicapped person is no longer there. Do we have a way to visit that and see? Mr. Logan explained the Chief and Lieutenant Ollis who's here, they're pretty much on top of when we have issue there. I think what we're trying to do is improve the communication between the residents that leave and our public works department so that they can remove them. And then I think we also-- correct me if I'm wrong. We should also examine or explore a moratorium on them because we're just being outpaced by the request. I don't know how many you see each month that comes in or each year. Chief Laufer explained that currently, the only thing that's required by state law, the commonwealth, is that they have a placard to hang in their vehicle. The plates are not required. We honor the placards every two years. We do request everybody has to renew their handicap parking permit. And those that don't, then we may contact with that residence to see if that individual still lives there. If they do they still need it? Do they still have the placard, and is it appropriate to keep the spot? If not, then we send a message to public works and they take the sign down and paint over the lines. But that's kind of how we keep track of-- like Mrs. Hunt was saying, keep track of those that still require it. Those that might have moved is every two years they're renewed.

Vice President Green asked if we keep a count on how many? Because you live in this house, you don't get a parking handicapped space in front of your door, and then your neighbor next door is handicapped. So they get a handicapped space in front of their door. They're not per household, right? Chief Laufer replied currently, they are, yeah. If there's a request that is submitted, then we go out and we verify that the handicapped permit is valid. We take a measurement, make sure that the spot can be placed as close to the residents as possible, and then they are given that spot. While there is a spot placed there, it's not their spot. Vice President Green stated it's not guaranteed. Chief Laufer stated right. But then we will place that spot there. Public works goes out, erects the sign, paints the lines. And all this is done with no charge, and the city absorbs the cost. Vice President Green said yeh, there's not many. You have four handicapped people. Chief Laufer explained right now, there is no regulation, no ordinance that governs the number of spots on a given street. And I think that's one of the reasons why this is up for discussion. President Lavender Norris asked even designating a handicapped spot, they do take up more space than a regular spot, right? Chief Laufer replied I don't think so. I think it's 18 ft is supposed to be the minimum size for a parking stall parking spot and we don't account for-- I think you're thinking like a van like if you had a handicap van with side loading or something. We don't—President Lavender Norris said in length. Chief Laufer said yes, in length. We give it a standard spot. Same as we would parking on Lincoln Highway. Ms. Allen explained they just came out two weeks ago. They put a new handicap. So now we have three handicap spots in a row. And it's people who live there can't park there. Chief Laufer stated perhaps Mr. Jefferson can comment. I know a prior solicitor had done research and had informed us at that time that there was no state law that said X number of spots per block, that it only had to be a reasonable accommodation, and that's all the city is required to supply. President Lavender Norris said in addition to that, the city has to purchase the sign and the city has to erect the sign. So that's at the city's expense. Is there a way those signs being erected can be costed out to whomever is requesting? Vice President Green said they used to be that way, that they had to pay.

President Lavender Norris said well, I mean, not since I've been here, we've never charged. It's been discussed before, before council, as to whether it would be appropriate to charge a fee, but it's never gained any traction and there's never been any action taken. Vice President Green stated with any sign, when you put up special sign like the children at play in alleys, whoever came to request it for that, because I remember I got one on my block and I had to pay for the sign. President Lavender Norris explained in that same time period, it was a requirement for you to get a handicap sign. You had to have a handicap tag because the placards expired. But if you're handicapped with a registration plate, then they would erect the signs. That was back when Francis Pilotti was manager. So, I don't know what the changes are now. That's how it was. And I think it would do us well to consider looking into costing out the erection of purchasing and erecting the signs, the labor, everything, because not only is it taking up the entire block, it costs the city to establish the spots. And I'm telling my neighbor, "You got to pay to have my sign erected, but you can't park in the space." It's not fair. So, I think we should look into that. Mr. Logan stated I think the other thing, too, is we have a number of people that-- let's just say you had an injury and you're going to physical therapy and you may be a year or two in physical therapy, so you get a placard. So, you need that. But once you've healed, there are some individuals that are still using that space, and that's very difficult to monitor. So, as I said, it's a growing problem in the community. There is a study that's being conducted, as you all know, by Desmond, that's working with the RDA. Part of that study will make recommendations. I don't know if handicapped-- I have to go back and look to see if it's one of the areas. I'm pretty sure it's one of the areas that they're touching upon. But these are the things that we're starting to see in a community like Coatesville. More people are moving in. We're going to have growing pains. But the number of available parking spaces, it's dwindling because there's an increase of handicap parking. Chief Laufer explained some communities have established a local ordinance that reasonable accommodation is each block would have a handicapped spot at the end and maybe one in the middle or whatever would be decided, as long as it's applied fairly and evenly. And this is considered a reasonable accommodation. The solicitor would chime in or back-- President Lavender Norris asked how about annual-- call it recertification, if you will. But have anybody that has had that sign erected if they have to come back every year to do that. Chief Laufer explained currently, we do it every two years just because of the logistics behind it. It's a lot of work. Kelly manages that. And it's a lot of work. It's postage. But every two years we require a renewal. And that's when we sort of review. If we don't get a response, then we go out, knock up, confirm whether the resident still lives there, and then go from there. Yeah. Ms. Allen stated or they may get a recertification hearing from their doctor statement-- because when you and try to get their input then the doctor has to fill out a form, then you have to send the image to the state, and then the state sympathizes. And that it was just too much for the-- but it's only nice to do that-- every year, go see your doctor-- the city could come up with a form that your doctor has to certify to make sure because [crosstalk]. Chief Laufer replied yeah. I don't know. We would probably be usurping state law at that point. I don't know if we would be able to do that, because right now, I think---- our handicap placard is good for six years, is it? Handicap placards are good for a number of years once they're granted by the state. They do have the dates on the placards themselves, but. Vice President Green said see a block like Virginia Avenue, you have 12 houses and 10 handicaps. Do you know what I mean? And it's like -- because people are applying. My whole thing is that, does it have to be 10 of them on that block? Can it be six? You know what I mean? Because it doesn't belong to any specific person. Because the other people on the block have to park, too. It just seems like it's just too much. Mr. Jefferson stated I have to

admit, I candidly am not an expert on this yet. But I'll look into it and see what is required versus-- Mrs. Hunt said I just think it becomes-- it's a two-way street on that. Because you have people that are really in need of the handicap spots. And then, of course, you have those that are just taking advantage of the system. So we have to draw a thin line and figure out the best way to address it without offending those that actually need it. Because I know if I'm sick and I'm down, oh, God, now, I got to get another certification from my doctor to say I can park here. But we have to get some kind of control. But again, we don't want those that really need it to be hindered or put into a bad situation. When you see a whole street of handicap signs, there's definitely something wrong with that. Vice President Green said because some people are using other peoples. Mrs. Hunt said It's like we have a handicap in front of our house. And I had to get it mainly because I'm trying to bring my husband in from dialysis. He can't walk. And I don't have a place to park. I'm parked-- double parking in the street. But when I'm not bringing him in, I don't park there. You can go up and down Fifth Avenue all day long, and unless I'm bringing him in or pulling the car around to take him out I don't use the spot. So, anybody that's handicapped, if they need to park there, they can park there. But we have to make sure that people that are needing it can have it without any hassles. But then also be able to label those, circumvent those that don't need it, and it's just there. Maybe they moved there and it was there. So, it's a convenience. That's even when I go to Walmart or whatever, if I don't have Emmet in the car, I don't park in the handicap, even though I have a sticker because of the respect for the spot and for those that need it. So, we just have to work it out. When you really have somebody handicapped or you are yourself, you have respect for that spot and you don't want to use it if you don't need to, because someone else could just have the same situation or worse than what you have and need to spot. Mr. Logan stated what he would like to do is maybe start with just a count of handicap parking per block, and we would have to do it in phases. We will be working with CYI this summer with students. We're going to have six students that will be working here at city hall. And maybe we can get a couple of those students to walk a block and just take inventory of handicap parking. We, can start with a little research if it hasn't been done by Police/Public Works already. Mr. Jefferson explained I'm looking at a specific subsection in the motor vehicle code, and there is a provision that says under this paragraph, local authorities may charge a reasonable fee and shall comply with another section of the Americans with Disabilities Act. So, it sounds like you can charge a fee for signs --for the erection of a sign, and it does say that. So, I'll also look into all of it, but I'll prepare something that's bullet point for you guys as well. Vice President Green stated yeah, it was always that way. I don't know why they stopped charging but they had to.

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

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

Mr. Folks made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Part Time Police Officers Eligibility list

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Part Time Police Officers Eligibility list; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Chief Laufer explained we administered a Civil Service compliant exam for part-time officers. Our previous one had been exhausted. We advertised for positions and had our Civil Service Commission on board and approve our testing procedure for a written and an oral. And then we administered those exams. And when we first started, just a little bit of background quickly, when we first started doing part-time officer hires about 9 years ago, we had over 30 applicants that qualified for employment with the city as a part-time officer. Mr. Folks is shaking his head because I know he was on the Civil Service Commission at the time, and sat through quite lengthy oral interviews over the course of several days. This last test, we advertised through the PA chief's website, which is really the go-to place. Anybody that wants a law enforcement position in the Commonwealth knows that that's with a clearinghouse for all positions. We advertise with them. We had it out. We networked, we did everything we could, and we had three qualified applicants this time. That's it. And we're not unique. That is really-- a universal over the law enforcement employment opportunities right now. Even the better-paying township departments here in Chester County are struggling to find qualified applicants and even applicants in general. Just the number from which to select a good qualified applicant from. So, we are not unique. So anyway, so we administered the test. We had three eligible. Two showed up. They both passed the written and received a passing score on the oral. And that list was then certified by the Civil Service Commission. And so for 7.1, that's what's before us to adopt tonight.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve conditional offers of employment from the Part-Time Police Officers Civil Service Eligibility list.

Chief Laufer explained we have a rule of three by Civil Service regulations, but we only have-- two on our list, and we are recommending conditional offers of employment be-- given to these two individuals, which will allow us to begin their background, which will include a thorough background investigation. It will include credit review, driver's license check, criminal history check, references, former employers, everything that is, we are totally compliant with the regulations established under Act 57 and 59 by MOPEC back in 2019, '20. So, rest assured, we are fully compliant with the regulations with the Municipal Police Officers Education Training Commission that set a standard in Pennsylvania to make sure that we're doing our due diligence and hiring the best that we can. So conditional office employment allows us to begin that process. And only after they've completed that, along with the physical and the psychological are they then officially onboarded as a part-time officer.

President Lavender Norris asked for the Appointment of Part-Time Patrol Officers, The Civil Service Commission has provided us with a certified list of applicants who have successfully completed the oral and written exams for appointment. The City has adopted and incorporated the civil service provisions of the Third-Class City Code for the purposes of appointing police officers. These civil service provisions require that the Chief of Police nominate a candidate from among the three highest-ranked applicants on the eligibility list. These appointments are for the position of part-time patrol officer within the Coatesville Police Department. Any candidate who is eligible for veteran's preference under the City's civil service provisions appearing on the list of three candidates must be selected. Candidates appointed tonight by Council will be conditionally appointed subject to successful completion of a background check, medical, and psychological evaluation. There are currently vacancies for the position of part-time patrol officer within the City of Coast Field Police Department. The list of the two highest-scoring candidates eligible for appointment to

those four positions ranked in order by score for council's consideration are as follows-- Kevin J. Bochanski and Daniel Hollingsworth. From this list, Chief Laufer has nominated Kevin Bochanski and Daniel Hollingsworth for conditional appointment as part-time patrol officers in the City Police Department. Is there a motion?

Vice President Green motion that Kevin J. Bochanski, and Daniel V. Hollingsworth, be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officers in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Vice President Green made a motion to close action items; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

## 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 received correspondence regarding a potential litigation matter. I received correspondence from the city's insurance solicitor regarding certain legal matters. I worked on a grant matter with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. I reviewed proposed amendments to the Civil Service rules and regulations.

### 2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced he only has just a few items. We talked a little bit about real estate in Executive, and again, we continue to make positive progress here in the City of Coatesville in terms of our development, in terms of opportunities for our youth. And in this summer, we're very excited that there's going to be a number of events filling our parks, starting with the Juneteenth celebration, which will begin the week of-- I think that's June 14th. So lots of activity happening in the City, and I'll just kind of segue into the public meeting comments. Last week, and this is a little bit different direction. But last week I did receive notification of a possible PA American Water rate increase proposed for July. PA American Water filed a rate adjustment request with the Public Utility Commission that reflects roughly \$1.13 billion in water and water waste system investment needed to continue providing safe and reliable service to the communities they serve. PA American Water will also propose an expanded three-tiered approach to our current low-income discount program to better address the affordability needs of different levels of household income. Through this expanded approach, PA American Water will provide monthly bill discounts of between 30 and 60 percent for water and wastewater service to eligible customers. I don't know the exact increase amount. It's roughly 28 to 30 percent, and we don't really know what that is because PA Public Utility Commission still needs to approve or deny PA American Waters filing. The Commission will spend at least nine months reviewing the request and will offer multiple opportunities for public input. The commission could grant all, some, or none of their request. If any of the public wishes to learn more about this, please visit [www.americanwater](http://www.americanwater) or [amwater.com](http://amwater.com). And when you go to the landing page, just look for the customer service billing to get more information on wastewater rates.

Next item. Oh, excuse me. Before I end on that, PA American Water, we have invited them to a future City Council meeting. The representatives from PA American Water will come out and share with the community what the rate is all about and what some of those new services are going to mean to the City of Coatesville. Onto my next item. Last Thursday, Natural Lands President's Council paid a visit to Coatesville. I was here with our Madam President to view Ash Park and Palmer Park. We also had one of our partners from the Alliance. The Alliance for Health Equity. Kimberly Day Hardy, she attended this particular meeting. This was a Natural Land Trust's way of bringing out some of their donors to see some of the work that they've been doing here in the City of Coatesville. We had paid a visit to Palmer Park, which is currently under some renovation, new walk area, new apron, new pavilion. That's happening at Palmer Park. And then we move down to Ash Park, right around the corner here to look at plans, which I hope-- there they are. The master plan, which was completed a few months back, really kind of illustrates what's going to happen in Ash Park. We are grateful to have this ongoing support from Natural Lands and the generous donors that came out last week. They care about the parks in Coatesville. They care about open space, and they care about healthy and safe environments. We will continue to work with Natural Lands along with the Alliance for Health Equity, correct me, DNCR, to raise the needed funding to redesign our parks for community residents and our youth. The next item and last item, May 16th is the deadline for the funding of the City of Coatesville submitting an application working with Colleen Terry, and we are very enthusiastic about our submission. We know that this is going to be a very competitive process, but we feel confident that our application is going to be successful. I'm sorry. I do have one other item, June 1, and I'll pass this around to our Council members. Starting June 1, our partnership with Kutztown University will once again host this year's Cultural Business Skills for Success for Entrepreneurs. If you recall, for the last two years, the city of Coatesville has partnered with Kutztown University SBDC, SBA. And this year we're bringing on the new partner that would be the Chest County Economic Development Council. This is a series. It's a six-week series of entrepreneur training for businesses that are in phase one to phase three of their startups. We will be pretty much covering Starting a Business 101, financing, building your brand, marketing, human resources, and other available sources. So this year, we're going to kind of change it up a little bit. We're going to have a little bit more of entrepreneurs from the City of Coatesville being guest presenters. But more importantly, we are trying to continue our efforts to get some of our local talents that are operating businesses. Ms. Allen is one of them. But you've been in business for years, so you're not really a newbie. But we do have a number of young entrepreneurs that are following in her footsteps that want to cut their teeth on owning their own business here. If you all know that we end our particular program with the capstone of a pop-up and shop, that's something that we started a few years back. That was just more of a pilot pop-up and shop. It's gaining traction to the point now that it looks like we will be partnering with the local food grower and some of the farmers. So, we're looking to blend our pop-up and shop that we have with the summers to one day combine it with the farmer's market. So, we're very excited about that and we're just looking forward to a great year and a great program this year. So once again, it starts June 1. The first three workshops, June 1, June 8th, and June 15th, will be in-person sessions right here at city hall. And then the June 22nd, 29th, and July 6 will be via Zoom and Kutztown University will be monitoring and managing those particular sessions. And that's my report for this evening.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston wished everyone a good evening. Just a short report for you all. A couple of quick things that are large, but they're going to be quick now because there's no detail. Really detail is two weeks ago, we were presented with the solid waste contract. We have spent the last couple of days talking about how the rollout is going to be done. We're looking at a June 6 city-wide rollout of the new five-day schedule from the three-day schedule. So, in that interim time, we'll be working on getting mailers out. Something was pointed out today about making it a bilingual one because of the nature of [inaudible] changing from a resident standpoint. So, we're looking at hitting the websites hard, staff education. But the rollout will be hopefully in play, ready to go June 6 for the new solid waste pickup schedule, okay? Other than that, there's going ongoing things as far as construction sites. James did not mention this time because I guess we're tired of talking about it. Eventually, we'll get 30 and 82 paved. But that is coming along. I think we've got some of the Is dotted and Ts crossed to get that done. So, by June, we should see that intersection done as well. There are other projects going on as far as construction sites. We've got the bistro in Main is now open. The Ax throwing location is under construction. The grocery store is looking for a summertime opening at this point. So, there's a lot of things going on there. The Marriott is open and is looking forward towards the grand opening in a couple of weeks. And then let's see, I got a phone call from our friends over at Habitat. You are all invited on May 14 at 4:00 PM - that's a Saturday, this coming Saturday, actually, for the dedication of three or four homes up on Community Lane. Actually, I think it's City View. And then there's also going to be the chance to check out the last houses. They have four homes remaining on the corner of Community Lane. And they are currently getting them ground-broken and ready to complete that neighborhood by December of 2022. So Jason has made sure to invite you to those home dedications this weekend. And parking-wise, remember, the sweeper is out. So, watch your parking sites as you're going around town looking for the sweeper.

#### 4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete statistical packet is in your books tonight. But just a couple highlights. 911 generated calls for service through the Chester County Police radio for the month of April was 1,855, down slightly from the month of March where we saw 1,889. And total calls for police service, including those generated by our front desk, was April 2,680, just up slightly from March, where it was 2,620. So, the two months are almost a mirror of each other for calls for service. Just some other highlights that we had for the month of April. We had two Narcan saves, 10 car seat checks, installations provided by our certified car seat technicians. We continued our involvement in the DA's Task Force on Race Injustice, now called our PAC 19320, which we do have another meeting. The next meeting of that, Zoom meeting, is next Tuesday, May the 17th. We also completed our Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative, L-E-T-I, where we had all of our supervisors complete the training on April the 13th, and then we rolled that program out, and basically, that was through the District Attorney's office. And it's basically a way for our supervisors to receive additional training in the services that are offered for mental health to those individuals that we might encounter, either through an actual mental health call or through an arrest where we feel that mental health services might be more appropriate than criminal prosecution. So, all of our supervisors attended them and received the L-E-T-I, or Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative training through the Chester County District Attorney's office. And so, we are considered as having an active program here in Coatesville, one of the first here in the county for that. So just trying to provide the best service that we can for our residents. Also, we had our first "Coffee with the Chief" back in April, a resumption on April the 6th that was hosted

by the Brandywine Valley Active Aging, formerly the senior center. Bill did a great job hosting us for our first, and we will continue. Now, the first Wednesday of each month will be our "Coffee with the Chief." Just this past month, for the month of May, we were at the bank. We had a nice morning at the bank there. Mr. Logan was present. And so next month, the month of June, we are at the Salvation Army for that first Wednesday in June. Yeah. I think because we resumed, we don't want to-- in the past, we took July and August off. But I think because we just resumed, we'd like to just continue it right through the summer months just to try to get the interest back in the program.

Mr. Logan asked Chief, can I bring everyone's attention to pages two of six, three of six, four of six, five of six, and six of six? If you just look through those pages, starting with two of six, you'll see the numbers from 540 and you see them beginning to kind of go down. What I also like for you to look at is just next to those numbers, what those events subtypes are. And then I have a question for Chief. So Chief, when we look at these numbers here, these are the monthly event count by all subtypes. And you're looking at everything from traffic stops to fire to fights to school checks, harassment. In your estimation, is this a violent community? And this may be a loaded question, but I mean, looking at these events here, I don't see - knock on wood - homicide. I don't see an uptick in gunshot victims. I don't see an uptick in suicide. I don't see an uptick in armed robbery. I don't see an uptick in strongarm robberies. So how would you categorize the City of Coatesville at this particular time? Chief Laufer replied based solely on past statistics, if you look at our UCR statistics with their uniform crime reporting, we are in a good position as the city looks to the past. It doesn't mean we don't have room for improvement. And I think most municipalities would say the same thing. But I think, all in all, our crime picture is very favorable to what we like to think is to attract businesses and redevelopment here in the city. Our actual numbers for street crime are very low and generally, that's what creates the angst or the fear amongst residents and potential investors. And I think we are in a good position as a City. Mr. Logan asked and would you say that some of this is due to-- how many officers do we have now? Chief replied exactly. We are one short of what we consider our authorized complement and that it was generated by the retirement of Detective Wright. And we will be looking at backfilling his position from one of the part-time officers in the very near future. So, thanks to council support, we are currently almost fully staffed and we will be, shortly. Vice President Green stated please just understand that for an urban community, I mean, when people look, we can't be compared to the surrounding municipalities like East Caln and Valley. They're more rural. They're not an urban center. And for an urban center, I think that we are on a great path. I think that a lot of sometimes we just get a bad rap when you're trying to compare communities and you got to compare apples to apples a lot, you know what I mean? So, when you're looking at Thorndale or you're looking at Caln, we're more of an urban center. So, for us being who we are, I think that we're in a good place.

Chief Laufer provided a couple of other highlights. We mentioned Coffee with the Chief coming up in June with the Salvation Army. We conducted Officer in a Hot Seat at Cache on April 26th. We facilitated active shooter presentation at the Brandywine Center on April 27th. Very well received. Corporal Antonucci did a great job with that. We had Officer in the Hot Seat at Chester County Youth Center, the juvenile center on April 28th and we had officer involvement with the crime victim's vigil on 4/28 also. And then on 4/30, we had our participate in the DEA take back where we collected our prescription drugs out of the prescription drug collection bins that are placed in the different municipalities here in 19320. Thanks to Lieutenant Ollis for coordinating that. We are sort of the central repository where

the other departments bring the drugs to us. We collect them and have them in one place for DEA to come and pick them up. And that was on Saturday, April 30th. And combined for the 19320 area, we had 735 pounds of collected drugs. Taking out some packaging, the weight of the cardboard box or the weight of a pill bottle, still, when you think about that, how many individual pills must there be in that collection to account for 735 pounds worth? So it is a program that I think serves a need here in the community and it just kind of demonstrates that there are drugs that-- the biggest concern is that they end up in somebody's medicine cabinet and another family member sees them there and yeah, that's how it all starts. That's how that vicious cycle can start. So if you remove that from the medicine cabinet, once the need for that prescription drug is over, we think it really does help break the cycle that can lead to dependency, which can lead to tragic consequences.

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

There were citizens hearings 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 5-0

### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. I was so excited when I came into Council Chambers this evening and heard all the commotion and seeing all the young people. I think that they just deserve the recognition. When I talked to their coach, she told me all the odds that were against them this year. They had so many things that came up. And these kids worked hard together. They gathered their monies because they are a nonprofit. All their coaches don't get paid. They did not have a lot of money. They had a few fundraisers, but they had to get their flights together. They had to get their uniforms together. They had to put all that choreography together. And I just thought it was amazing. So, what happened here and us acknowledging them, nothing good on our court. These kids deserve this. And I just love to see our young people. They have that show on TV, America's Got Talent, Coatesville's got talent. There's a lot going on here. And we have some very young entrepreneurs, young children that have businesses, that have so many talents and doing so many things. So just thankful for that. And I'm grateful for everyone who came out tonight. And keep coming out. That's all I have.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out today. It was a joy to see the children come out tonight and see their routine. I know some of the parents personally and some of the children. It was great to see them in their element and be part of the community and to know that they are important. What we do here allows them to have a positive place to go. Thank you and have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone again for coming out and hanging out with us tonight. So good to hear all the great reports from our staff leaders and just to hear everything that's going on in the city. And it's so exciting. Chief, thank you for that report and even being able to just look at the statistics, and Mr. Logan for bringing out that last section just to show where our city is. And a lot of it is due to your leadership in the police department. And we're thankful for that and to have you as our chief. So, I just want to, again, thank everyone. And again, I was happy to see all the kids. And I believe they have a group of kids in Florida now. The Raider Starz. We have a lot talent here. And it's just

great to see everything happening. So again, Ruth Ann, thank you for that you do. And Mr. Jefferson, thank you. And of course, Mr. Logan, thank you.

Mr. Folks wished a Happy belated Mother's Day to all mothers. I feel mighty blessed to have my mom with me. She's 94. We had a ball yesterday at the casino. Somebody posted count your blessings. You're so blessed to still have your mom living. So, to all the mothers. To all the want to be mothers, all the don't want to be mothers, to all the ladies, happy belated Mother's Day. Have a good, and thank you, everybody.

President Lavender Norris thanked everyone for attending. I am just grateful. I was trying when the team was here, I was full, I was ready to cry and I didn't want to be up here crying and trying to read and everything. So, I was trying to hold it together, but I was so excited and so just proud of them. All they went through and for them to come out winners, the resiliency of them, the drive and the will, that's who we are. It isn't just a saying. It's literally who we are. And the parents, they fought as hard as the children did to keep them going. Coatesville is moving forward in spite of any bump that lies in the road ahead of us. We'll just surmount it, keep it moving and look for the next, and go over or around that too. We're going forward together as a community. We're growing, and people are recognizing that we're growing and they want to become a part of it. When Mr. Logan spoke of natural lands bringing their people out, I tell you, they were as excited about what's going on in Coatesville as we were. I mean, some of the ladies were telling me what we're doing in Coatesville. I mean, I was already aware, but for them to come to me and start mentioning different things going on, it's like our light isn't hidden under a bushel anymore. We're moving forward and it's by the grace of God and us surrendering our will to Him. When we lined up, we started moving. Let's stay in our lanes. Let's stay lined up. We have somewhere to go and it's a wonderful destination. So, anybody you know that isn't aware, grab them by the hand, tell them, "Come on," show them the way, because we're happening now. Thank you. Thank you to our leadership, to our administration. Y'all are wonderful. Rob, awesome job. We have an awesome team to work with. We work together, and it's such a blessing. It's such a blessing to see things come to fruition. So, don't be distracted by this tax going up or this company wanting more. Don't be distracted. If he brought us this far, he'll carry us through. Everybody have a blessed night. Thank you for coming out. My colleagues, I love y'all. God bless and have a wonderful evening.

### **Adjournment**

Vice President Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

This meeting was conducted live and on zoom.