



City of Coatesville
Meeting Minutes – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, June 13, 2022

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman C. Arvilla Hunt; Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilman Edward Simpson and Councilman Donald Folks
Council Absent: Councilwomen Charrisse Allen
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 Councilwomen Charrisse Allen would not be in attendance and Mrs. Hunt and Ms. Al Amin would be in attendance via Zoom this evening.

Approved Minutes

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the May 23, 2022 meeting minutes; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Hunt entered the meeting at 7:40

Approval of Accounts Payables

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the Accounts Payables; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

On page 27 of 45, invoice number 04477, looks like an 8. It's for traffic signal maintenance. But then when you actually go and look at the invoice, it was for 4-15-2022, 11:08 AM. But for some reason, we were billed for six hours of overtime and I'm not exactly sure why because 11:00 in the morning should be regular business hours. And if we did get them after hours, I'm just wondering why if this invoice is inaccurate with the 11:08 that's on page 41 of 45, why would we not wait until regular business hours? Why would we pay-- it's one hour of straight time and six hours of overtime? Mr. Logan stated Ms. Al-Amin, I'm not following you. Ms. Al Amin stated okay. The invoice is on page 27. We're paying it. But the physical copy of the invoice is on page 41 of 45. And so, bullet point one, it says we paid six hours of overtime. But on the invoice, it says that the work took place, 4-15-2022 at 11:08 AM which is 11:00 in the morning. So, I would think that's a standard work day. And then bullet point number two, the technician charged one hour of straight labor and then, of course, the bucket truck and then the conflict monitor. But I'm not understanding why we're being billed overtime during regular business hours. And if the invoice isn't correct and it wasn't 11:08, why didn't we wait till the next day to avoid the overtime? Mr. Logan replied I don't have an answer to that. I would have to look into that. Yeah. I mean, I don't know if overtime is just some of the verbiage that they use on their invoices or what. We can look into that. Ms. Al Amin said if you look on page 41, the straight time was at \$65 an hour. The overtime was at \$97.50 an hour. So, I don't think its just verbiage. But why would there be differential in the hourly rate? And then just a couple other questions. So, I know that we are a sponsor for the Grand Prix. So, for the sponsorship, we're paying \$1,000 a month for that. Mr. Logan explained we're not a sponsor for the Grand Prix. We are

the actual promoters of the Grand Prix and we have a consultant that does the sponsorship, does the fund development for us, and that is the monthly invoice that we pay the consultant. Ms. Al Amin stated it says sponsorship. So maybe that should be just worded a little bit differently. And that's the only two questions I had. Vice President Green stated this doesn't necessarily mean that they came out on April 15th and did the work but that's the date it was recorded. Oh, that was a Friday so maybe they came Saturday and that's why charged overtime. Mr. Logan stated I'm not sure. I know that this issue, this is down there in The Marriott. Ms. Al Amin said well, according to the invoice, it's neither of those addresses. It was Lincoln and Strode Avenue. It wasn't at the hotel and it wasn't at 1st & Lincoln. It was at Lincoln and Strode Avenue according to the invoice. Vice President Green stated I'm saying the time on the invoice is indicating the reporting date [inaudible]. That's when they recorded it. That's not the day that they did the work. Ms. Al Amin stated okay, and so I asked that. I mean, I asked that question and I said why would we not--? And if they came out on a Saturday, house one-hour straight time and six hours overtime and I don't know why we wouldn't wait till a regular business day. I mean, I did ask that. Vice President Green stated that's a safety. Traffic light and safety and it's not our people. It's a company that comes out. It's just like when you call a locksmith after-hours.

Presentations

1. Enclave

Hello. Okay. Hi. How's everybody doing tonight my name is Joseph Martino, and I'll be speaking on behalf of Chester County OIC tonight, and I'm one of the new Labor Resource Associates, and I'm just going to let you guys know our third enclave wrapped up on Thursday. All the participants graduated, and we're very proud of them. And on behalf of myself and all the staff, including [inaudible] and Dave over there, we thank you for allowing us to have some time to talk about it and then update you guys on the status and including us in your agenda. This is my first time addressing a city council, so I'm a little nervous. Well, yeah. So thank you, guys, and thank you guys for recognizing the Work Enclave paid ambassador program, and our fourth one started today, and we're feeling positive that it's going to be another successful five weeks. Thank you. The number four session is going to be the last one for a little bit. We're going to take a hiatus from the program throughout the summer. We do plan on bringing it back. We haven't determined a solid restart for the program, but we plan to review how these four have gone and see if we can improve the program or tweak it and adjust it, but loosely, maybe sometime this fall we'll bring it back, but I don't have a determined date.

President Lavender Norris thanked Mr. Martino. We have some certificates of recognition for your graduates. I'm going to read one certificate, and then I will call out the names of everyone, okay? Whereas the city of Coatesville recognizes people who make an impact and play a role in the lives of Coatesville residence. As of June 8th - I'm just going to call his name because it's the first - Tyleke Crawford will have completed diversity awareness training, team building, mindfulness workshops, and deeply explored mental health and resiliency. This entailed 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, the Dollar Tree Lot, Oak Street, South Church Street, Lincoln Highway, 1st Avenue through 4th Avenue and more, and spending 30 hours in the classroom, learning of community resources and bonding with other 19320 residents in the surrounding areas. Tyleke Crawford has expressed love and care for the city as well as taken this unfamiliar path as one of the first Work Enclave ambassadors. Tyleke now has work readiness, emotional intelligence, and soft

skills training, and may enter advanced programs such as business, culinary, manufacturing, nursing, technology, and/or customer 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 they can support their community. Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the City Council of the City of Coatesville recognizes and salutes Tyleke for his selfless, faithful dedication, and it's proclaimed this 13th day of June. That's Tyleke Crawford, Andre Creekmur, Eisha Henry, George London, Lisa Palmer, Quentin Pennington, Victor Ramos, Franchesca Slicer, Shannon Styer, Sean Tooles, and Angela Villanueva. We would just like to take the opportunity to say congratulations to all the graduates, and we look forward to seeing more and building more community with them. Thank you. Vice President Green asked Mr. Martino to keep City Council members informed of where some of the participants and graduates are going to be working? Are they working in the City of Coatesville? Are they working outside of Coatesville? Do you guys have kind of an update on that? Mr. Martino stated I don't have an official update as of right now, but some of the are working in various fields and some of them are not working, but yeah, I'll update you guys.

Discussion Items

1. Minutes

There was no discussion on the meeting minutes.

2. 3rd Avenue Parking Lot Lease Agreement

Mr. Logan explained the Third Avenue lot was recently sold to Proudfoot Investments LLC. And in previous years, the RDA owned the lot, managed the lot. We had an agreement with them. City has an agreement with them to manage the lot for parking enforcement. We are proposing for discussion to continue our responsibility as managing and enforcing the parking lot in partnership. We will maintain it until they determine otherwise. The lease in front of you is the first draft of that particular lease. The lease itself is the template from the one that we've had for years for that same lot. Once we forward this to Proudfoot, we hope that there won't be too many changes in it. It'll come back to council. We will take it to a vote, or to action, and then we will enter into an agreement with Proudfoot and have the Police Department to enforce the Third Avenue Lot.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no comments on citizens hearings regular action items only.

Mr. Folks made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve 2nd Reading and adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 38, Pensions, Article II, Nonuniformed Pension Plan, §38-18, Control; Pension Commission; Nonuniform Pension Fund Investment Account, Subsection A by deleting and replacing the subsection in its entirety.

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve 2nd Reading and adoption an Ordinance amending Chapter 38, Pensions, Article II, Nonuniformed Pension Plan, §38-18, Control; Pension Commission; Nonuniform Pension Fund Investment Account, Subsection A by deleting and

replacing the subsection in its entirety; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Jefferson explained although it says that this is repealing and replacing an entire subsection, it's largely inserting two members into the nonuniform pension fund commission. That is the assistant city manager and one member of the eligible part-time firefighters. And that will be done via a selection. As you are aware, I think there was an arbitration award that was given, and this is done in coordination with that. And it was reviewed by Labor Council as well for compliance with that award. So this was introduced at the first time at the last council meeting. It was advertised as required by the city's charter on June 1st of 2022. So this again just adds two members, the assistant city manager and one member of the eligible part-time firefighters to the nonuniform pension fund. We will advertise, or if council approves this, advertise it tomorrow. And then it'll get rolling in terms of the final process under the charter.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve promotion of Officer Scott Lutte from Part time to full time Officer

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the promotion of Officer Scott Lutte from part time to full time Officer; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Chief Laufer announced we have a vacancy for a full-time officer that was created by the retirement after 20 years of dedicated service by Detective Ryan Wright, who we're trying to drag back here for the next council meeting so the council can recognize him for 20 years of service and also present him with his retirement badge. So, we're hopeful that will occur in the second meeting in June. But that did create a vacancy for a full-time officer. Currently, we are requesting approval to promote Officer Scott Lutte from part time to full time to fill that vacancy. That will keep us at our current staffing levels of 27 full-time officers including myself and a Lieutenant which make 29. So, keeps us at the 27 officers that are dedicated to patrol and to detective. Officer Lutte graduated from Delaware County Police Academy in July of 2020. He was hired by the Birmingham Township Police Department in April of 21 where he is still employed to the state as a part-time officer. Officer Lutte came to Coatesville Police as a trainee in December of 2021 and completed his field training in March of 2022. Officer Lutte continues to work with Coatesville Police Department. Officer Lutte continues to be a productive officer with his Department. He was recommended by his peers and supervisors to be promoted from part time to full time. As per hour Collective Bargaining Agreement here with the City of Coatesville, once promoted full time, Officer Lutte will then have to give up his part time position with Birmingham Township and will serve full time at the City of Coatesville. So I submit Officer Lutte for approval to be promoted from part time to full time. We will have Officer Lutte present the next council meeting to be officially sworn in as a full time officer by Judge Hines.

3. Receive and consider a motion to approve Civil Service Rules and Regulations

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the Civil Service Rules and Regulations; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Chief Laufer explained we requested the Commission to review changes to the Civil Service Agreement. Mr. Jefferson and I worked together to make these changes. They were originally suggested by the prior attorney for the city, Mr. Verwey, who also worked on it, making

some changes that kept us compliant with Act 57 and 59, right, with the Municipal Police Officers' Education Training Commission, which basically just serves to make sure that Police Departments in the Commonwealth complied with the new state law with regard to hiring. Make sure that the backgrounds are extensive and comprehensive, and that they include a full criminal history check and driver's license check, background check, including references, education, training, psychological, medical, physical, and drug testing, just to make sure that the Commonwealth and the Departments within the Commonwealth are doing their due diligence and making sure that we're hiring the best and the greatest that we can attract to the field of Police. So, we made those couple of changes which just included sort of codifying the fact that we added an additional screening tool, a pre-employment screening tool with a packet that is filled out at the time of the exam. Each candidate fills out the packet, which just asks a series of background questions that enables the background investigator to do a better job and more comprehensive background investigation. So that was codified in the new Civil Service rights. And also, under the old regulations, our guidelines for hiring part time officers were put in place in 2013, which was when we first started hiring part time officers with the city. At that time, we had plenty of applicants for the position, and the requirements were that you had to be currently certified as Act 120 by the Municipal Police Officers' Education Training Commission. You had to be currently employed with another Police Department or Sheriff's Department or recently retired from the state Police and eligible for accreditation under MOPEC. They were hiring guidelines. What we found over the last almost 10 years is the numbers have steadily declined in applicants, and that's something that's not unique to the City of Coatesville. That's something that is really nationwide, the number of applicants that Police Departments are receiving continues to decrease. And a lot of that just has to do with the national narrative with regard to policing in our communities. And it's tough to attract qualified candidates right now who want to be Police Officers. So, we modified our Civil Service Regulations to allow us to go to the training classes across the Commonwealth, whether that would be Delaware County Community College, Temple, HACC, Harrisburg Area Community College. The different Police Academies throughout the Commonwealth, that is what certifies an officer to be eligible for certification under Act 120 of the Commonwealth, allows us to go to those categories and recruit from them. Even though they don't have full-time officer experience, we're trying to expand our candidate pool so that we have a better selection to choose from for employment here in the City. So, they're the major regulations. So that's what's before council tonight. It was already approved by all three members of our Civil Service Commission and signed off. And tonight, we're asking council to adopt it. And we need signatures from Madam President and from the City Manager attesting to Madam President's signature, and then it will be common in our Civil Service Rules and Regulations for the Police Department.

4. Receive and consider a motion to approve a resolution adopting the City of Coatesville fee schedule for the City Unity Day Event and Musical Festival at Gateway Park
Mr. Folks made a motion to approve a Resolution adopting the City of Coatesville fee schedule for the City Unity Day Event and Musical Festival at Gateway Park; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Mrs. Hunt left the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson thanked Council. I have provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council since council's last meeting. I provided and continued to provide legal advice to the city regarding land development matters; provided legal advice regarding the Civil Service rules and regulations; communicated with outside legal counsel regarding certain litigation matters; drafted a resolution regarding fees; worked on several lease-related matters; office has answered questions regarding Right to Know; I provided advice regarding a zoning rebuild letter; provided a legal conclusion regarding a zoning application; and worked with Cedarville to address a certain landfill matter.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced during executive meeting, he discussed real estate projects here in the City of Coatesville. I said in previous meetings, we have a lot-- I should say more directly, we have approximately 36 development initiatives going on in the City of Coatesville which is great. In addition to that, we continue to work on multiple initiatives and grant opportunities to fund stormwater management issues. We are increasing our capital stack for the parking garage between 3rd, 4th, and Fleetwood. So far, we've been able to raise \$8.5 million. Econ Partners, under the leadership of Colleen Terry, has submitted a RAISE grant back in March. That RAISE grant submission was \$4 million, which may put us over the top to begin construction plans for the garage itself. So, we're very excited about that. Haven't got the grant yet, but hopefully, it's in the works. And we're also working with the RDA on a citywide parking study, which we have a couple of months for that to be completed. That will provide us with information and recommendations on how the city should move forward with parking enforcement, as well as identify various parking assets throughout the community. In the downtown district, many of you have heard the news about some three, possibly four restaurants, including an axe-throwing restaurant and bar, are on tap for the downtown area. Plans for new buildings are on the way on the 3rd Avenue, Susan Springsteen over here, new building on the corner of Third and Lincoln Highway. Very excited about that. In addition to that, the Flats Development Plan is still underway, with investors aggressively identifying funding to build a \$65 million Sports Entertainment Center with a national field.

Tomorrow is the Healthy Hands Mulching Day. That will lead up to the June 16, Palmer Park rededication. That begins at 10:30. And we will have State Representatives out just kind of helping us rededicate the park. For those of you that attended the Phase One of this particular project, we even had the Palmer family, who were out. They attended that event. This is something that we've been looking forward to for a number of years now, working with, as I said, various funders, and we will acknowledge a number of those funders Thursday. This is the week that many organizations are celebrating Juneteenth. Many of you that have probably seen flyers throughout the city and you probably notice a carnival being put together are up on Gateway Park on 1st and Lincoln Highway. And that is a Juneteenth celebration co-sponsored by MCDC. Tomorrow is the first day that kicks off. And this will just be a kind of, as I mentioned, culmination of events throughout the city in recognition of Juneteenth. And speaking of that, city hall will be closed on Friday in recognition of Juneteenth as well. There're flyers in your seats there if you haven't seen them. Please take one with you. We are going to be celebrating Unity Day this year on July 9th, in Gateway Park. And sponsorship

opportunities are available. Vendors are welcome. We're adding a little twist to this year's event. We're inviting people to actually bring their grills. So, if you have a grill, you can get your grill on. I'm looking at Mr. Folks, Mr. Barbecue. So, we're inviting everyone to come out and enjoy our day of family unity. And I think this is a perfect time for it because there's so much going on in our community. And we can use a little unity and fellowship as we get into our summer months.

The last thing I want to mention is-- or second to the last is you haven't received our official city newsletter. It went out last week. Hopefully, all of our council members received that. If you didn't, you can link to it on our website. But it has a lot of great news in it from some of the things I just mentioned to other initiatives that we've been working on. The last comment I want to make is that the city sends its condolences to the families that have lost someone to guns and gun violence. And the City of Coatesville is a strong city. I think a number of you and those who may be watching, you know that we have a tremendous passion for one another. We have a tremendous passion for family. And in spite of what's been happening lately, whether it's in Coatesville or around the country, I do believe that we can come together in this community and unite so that this violence is never an option to resolve problems and issues with your fellow neighbors, friends, or strangers. So, my plea to everyone is to work toward building a peaceful community here in the City of Coatesville and throughout the cities that you may visit.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Houston wished everyone a good evening. Got to fill in a little bit where James kind of picked up. Number one and kind of been a mantra for the last year, so we have seen a drop back in COVID in Chester County. We're back in moderate. So that's good news. Everybody's being protective and doing what they need to do as far as vaccine and masking, so keep that up. Palmer Park, the Bulge Day tomorrow is from 9:00 AM to about 3 o'clock. Come in your jeans, bring gloves. We'll be providing water and that type of thing for you. But if you have the opportunity tomorrow to come out to Palmer Park and help put down-- I don't even want to tell you how many square footages of square yards of mulch is going to go in there because Palmer Park is over-- is about an acre. That's a lot of mulch and a lot of work to do. So, any hints you can do to help with public works and some other people and especially the OIC folks who are helping sponsor that day tomorrow, get out and help out with that tomorrow.

James mentioned the website. You'll find a lot of things on the website. The events calendar. We've mentioned a few of them here tonight. The event calendar is right on the very front page. So coastal.org, the link is right in front saying events calendar. You can see everything that's been scheduled to date. In fact, Barbara, our receptionist, just updated it yesterday. So, there's fresh things on that calendar. So, make sure you look at that type of thing and see what's going on as far as that's concerned. In the week-- yes, it's been a monster week. We've actually turned over our trash collection. We went from three days to five days. The initial responses from some folks is there are some hiccups. That's to be expected. People not quite putting their trash out the right street on the right day at the right time. But the calls come to the city have been very minimal compared to the number of folks that are on our trash list. So far, we're very pleased with how the transition has occurred, not to say it's been perfect. We have had our little bubbles, but we'll get there as far as the trash collection. That is also on our web page. So, if there's any questions about what street you're supposed to be on, what

day your trash goes out, you can find your street and address on the web page as well. A couple of changes.

Usually, the planning commission meets in here. On Wednesday, they will be meeting in the executive room. There's also something else going on in here. So, the Planning Commission will be meeting in the executive conference room next door at 6:00 on Wednesday night. Right now, we only have one main agenda item. So hopefully it will be a relatively short meeting. And then the other group of people we're working with is I now have three names for the appeals board. And I am working with them, communicating, trying to get everybody to say when we're going to have our first meeting and start putting rules and regulations. And the appeals board is for instant ticket citations. So that when someone goes around, Codes goes around and tickets you for having high grass, you can appeal. We need to have an Appeals Board. So, these three individuals have indicated interest in it, and I will get them vetted and get them set up for an appeals court.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete statistical report for the month of May is in your packet here tonight. A couple of key highlights, total incidents reported to the Police Department to the Chester County 911 center for the month of May was 2,145. That was up slightly from 1,855 for the month of April and consistent with what we normally see as the weather warms. Also, total calls received which combines that figure with also the calls received through our front desk for the month of May was 2,963 up from 2,680 for the month of April. Also, some other highlights from May. We had seven Narcan saves up from two in the month of April, not something we like to see, and once again they're Narcan saves administered by our Police officers and that does not include the Narcan saves that are administered by our EMS. We had five car seat installations and provided five free car seats in the month of May, installed and checked by our certified technicians here in the Police Department.

We continue with our participation in the DA's task force and race injustice now called Pack 19320. As a spin-off from that we were involved in the DMC youth Police forum at CASH which was on 531. We provided two officers that sat on board with five other officers and had an opportunity to interact with 15 Cash students in a sort of a small setting where they had a chance to interact with the officers, ask questions, and try to better understand and foster a relationship that they might not have previously experienced with law enforcement. So by all accounts, it's reported to be a success. We also had for the month of May participated in the Click It or Ticket details and pedestrian safety education initiative. They were overtime funding provided through grant money for the month of May. We had our second Coffee with the Chief, which was held at Presence Bank on May the 5th-- oh, I'm sorry, May the 4th. Once again, we reinstated our Coffee with the Chief program for the month of June. We had it in Salvation Army. And it is the first Wednesday of every month. And next Coffee with the Chief in July is at CYI? We will be at the Coatesville Youth Initiative at the Benner Building for the next Coffee with the Chief with the first Wednesday in July. It is from 8:30 to 10:00. And just some other activities that typically we are involved in every month, we had another birthday stop by on Harmony Street. We had officers involved in Safety Bingo at Coatesville Towers and Safety Bingo at the Brandywine Center. We had officer involvement in the Autism awareness event, Gateway Park, Krapf School Bus Competition on May the 14th. We had the Wellness Event at Scott Six Grade Center on the 26th May and also involved in an Anthrax Rail Safe initiative on the 27th of May. And we

have an upcoming Zoom meeting this week, which will be a follow-up to the Police forum, a CASH discussion item for the PAC 19320 Zoom meeting on this Wednesday.

We also, unfortunately, experienced a double homicide that affected our community, and then just most recently here in the month of June, another homicide on Lincoln Highway this past weekend. As was alluded to by Mr. Logan, gun violence and gun deaths touched our community. I spoke at our staff meeting and also at the executive session prior to the night's meeting. And just kind of with regard to the double homicide, just kind of touched on the fact that the month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. And we always participate every year. And we put the purple ribbons out. And council members come out and help us. And different members of the community come out and help us and put the purple ribbons on Lincoln Highway. And we put the purple ribbons on our Police cars. But having a double homicide directly related to domestic violence really brings home why we do that and the seriousness of that type of crime and the importance of making it possible for victims of domestic violence to feel comfortable coming forward, knowing they're going to be supported, knowing the Police Department is there for them, knowing all the other services that are offered to the county and to the state are there to support them in reporting domestic violence. Unfortunately, this double homicide was a direct result of domestic violence that had occurred earlier in the evening involving one of the two females. And then the individual involved in that domestic was in a relationship with a second woman. And those two women ended up in a car together in Valley Township where they encountered Mamadou, who is the accused in this case. And he had a relationship with both women, ran them off the road, and basically executed both of them there on the side of the road. A true, tragic incidence of domestic violence that affected our community. Even though the actual homicide occurred in Valley Township, everybody else involved in it, the actor, and the two victims were residents of Coatesville and part of our Coatesville community. So, it definitely had an impact here in the city. And then the second homicide that occurred last Friday night, about 9 o'clock in front of the Banner Building on Lincoln Highway also directly affected our community. There's a vigil tonight from six to eight, and then Lieutenant Ollis attended that vigil earlier tonight before coming to the meeting, just in recognition of losing another citizen of Coatesville to gun violence on the streets, certainly something that we as a community feel the impact of. And as a Police Department, obviously, it is our challenge to do the best that we can do to help prevent instances involving gun violence and the homicide occurring, but it really takes a partnership with the community, partnership with all the other service entities out there, our churches, our clergy, our school district, our teachers, to make a difference in the lives of these young people before it gets to the point where they resort to gun violence to settle some type of either perceived aggression or perceived slight against them, or, in this case, the domestic violence. Tough to justify or explain that.

Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)

Ajene Livingston

Mr. Livingston wished Council a good evening. I'm not going to hold you long. Mr. Logan and Mr. Houston already touched what I wanted to talk about, which is the Palmer Park rededication and motion. I'm assuming that we all will try to make it for the rededication, but I wanted to reiterate the importance of the opportunity of promotion. I know a few years ago, Councilwoman Norris and I think Councilwoman Green was also there? It is an opportunity to support the community in this other way and to give the community the support with this volunteer initiative. Natural Lands and us, meaning the City through Parks and Rec have got a nice volunteer base. There will be some good

organizations out there, a lot of community members out there. I will encourage, not everyone on the call, that it's not too late. You don't have to sign up. Just come and bring gloves. If you don't have gloves, we'll supply gloves but come. And even if you just have a half-hour to just walk around and support and feel the good vibe that we're going to have, that's what I'm asking and encouraging.

Angela Villanueva

Ms. Villanueva stated I did arrive late. I'm grateful for the program that I was a part of. I had to come and support just to show my appreciation for what they did for me. What Officer Ollis did for us. It was a very great program. I wish they would have never kicked us out but they had to make space for other people. And I just wanted to basically touch bases on how grateful I am, how much of a difference it made. I just thank its ability to help the City of Coatesville to kind of benefit and grow in their field a bit. It's more than just what the customer service comes with beautification for the city. It comes with more things to help you in yourself, respect, and a lot of other stuff. I feel so if people actually participate in much better for Coatesville and doing something good for once.

Buthainah Madant

Ms. Madanat thanked Council. I had problem with the neighbor. Not just me, the other neighbors. He has the radio outside the house loud. I called the Police many times. The officer nice enough to come talk to him, but no way. All the year, last year and end of 2020, he used to have it day and night. Nobody can talk to him. They come and talk to him. They leave, he put it back. And this year I called again and I asked the operator on the phone to give me the chief Police. I don't know. I left a message. To whom I did I don't know. I'm sorry, I don't know the name. I don't know if I left a message to you or somebody else. I called the city hall. They said to call the Police. They can do nothing imagine if I put my music and the other neighbors, the Spanish put his music and he has music. What's going to happen to the peaceful area in Lincoln Highway? I live there 43 years. I have no problem. I think the President knows me good and I never had a problem. Nobody even know me or seen me even. But that's too much. And I don't know if you can do something to stop. He has now the music on, maybe Chopin or something. I don't want to hear that. I want to sleep sometime. I'm retired. I want my house, my peaceful. Thank you. Chief Laufer asked her to speak to Lieutenant Ollis after the meeting.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens' hearings on non-agenda items; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Simpson thanked everybody for coming out tonight. I won't lie that it's been rough when we talk about the gun violence, and you just struggle and how do you stop it? What do you do? It's not going to be an easy fix, in my opinion. We've lost our moral compass and we need to right that ship, because we are just going in a direction that doesn't benefit anybody. There's too much anger and divisiveness in this country right now, and we need to figure out a way to start working together because-- and we need to do it before the midterm elections. So it's sad what's going on. You see every day, all the gun violence all over this country, particularly in some of the bigger cities. It's just like you wake up every morning and you watch the Philadelphia News and it's not a day goes by that there isn't a shooting it seems we all just need to start praying for each other and start being nice to each other. That's it. Thank you.

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for attending the meeting. We have a serious problem. I hate turning on the news anymore. Kids are dying. Let's see, we got a new ribbon cutting coming up. Congratulations. To the people here in the city of Coatesville. Juneteenth, volunteers, Go to an event. Let's celebrate our ancestors.

Ms. Al Amin wished everyone a good evening. Thank everyone for coming. I want to say that I agree with Mr. Simpson. Thank you so much for your comments. We have to learn how to love each other and we have to learn how to help each other because the gun violence is just really, really bad. And when it happens in our community because we're so small and so close-knit, it affects all of us because we generally know, unfortunately, the individuals that lost their life. Chief, I'd like to say thank you to you and all of your staff. I know it's been a very difficult couple of weeks with all of this. I pray for you guys safety. So, thank you all for all that you do. Susan, Congratulations on your upcoming ribbon cutting. I hope all that are able can get out to Palmer Park tomorrow. Like Ajene said, even if it's just for a half hour, I hope anybody that can go will go and just thank you all for coming and be safe.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. I appreciate you, Ms. Villanueva, for coming by. Your comments were so refreshing to hear Enclave, I cannot say it, well. It seems to have been such a wonderful program for all the people that have come through here. And everyone has always so far has all gotten so much out of this program. More self-worth, a sense of community, improving customer service skills, improving life skills, period. So, I think it's a wonderful program and I just appreciate you. You said you overslept, but I appreciate you pressing out to receive your certificate and to think and give an overview of what you received and what you guys out of the cliff. So, thank you very much for that. There's so much going on. So, when you hear things like this and you know the young people and programs that are working for them, this is good to hear because we are bombarded daily with all types of sad, sad situations involved, as Mr. Simpson alluded to. But I think that we all have to come together. It's our job and our responsibility that we need to contact the people that represent us in government, the people that represent us in Congress, the people that represent us in the State of Pennsylvania. We have to hold them accountable. Something has to be done. We need to stand like never before. We need to petition people like never before. See, sometimes when something happens, everybody, we make a phone call or we do something. We need to do more. This has to stop. Even today, while we were in a meeting, we were informed that there was another or an attempted mass shooting in Texas, again, at a youth facility. You're attacking our young people. You're trying to kill all of our babies. See, this is not a by-chance thing. I'm a believer. So, I just believe that the enemy of this world is trying to destroy our youth. This is trying to destroy us as a people, destroy our spirit and break us down to the point that our moral, as Mr. Simpson alluded to, our moral compass is broken. We have to stand not only to hear prayers and our thoughts and prayers, how many thoughts and prayers can you hold onto? We got to pray, but we also have to take action. We have to stand and we have to demand because otherwise, things that don't change remain the same. Assault weapons should not be allowed to be sold. What do you need an assault weapon for? Not for hunting. They're destroying animals. What do you use an assault weapon for? I just can't fathom. I can't understand the hearts of these people not being softened, not being broken. When we look at our small community, as Ms. Al Amin said, when someone dies here or shot in gun violence, it affects everybody. We're a small community. We can't allow this to just take over our communities. Everybody knows everybody. The people involved, the parties involved are somewhere down the line related or very close or have family members that are in common or family members that are friends and things of that nature. So, when it happens, it affects our

community. My heart is broken. I've known this young man since he was a baby. And just to think that another young man that I have no idea who it is, but I might know took his life senselessly because of guns and the access. Everyone has access. You can have access to a gun at 18 and you can't even go to a bar and drink, but you can go buy an assault weapon where you can go buy a gun legally. That makes no sense to me. So, I'm sorry for the rant and the raid, but I just think that we, as a people, have to do something. Yes, we're in little Coatesville. But in little old Coatesville, we have to stand we have to demand. The people who we elect in these offices to vote for us and to create for us, we have to demand. So I'm thankful thank you, Sue, for all the work that you do in the city. I'm excited for your grand opening. I'm excited for our opening of Plummer Park. I can only imagine, we're setting, creating these parks in these places where our children. I don't want them to become a place of war. You know what I mean? I don't want our schools to become a war zone. We just had an incident and it wasn't a gun, but violence. Something has to change. And as a community, we have to come together and demand that change. We have to stand up and just demand it. And I thank you all for coming out and sorry for the long time.

President Lavender Norris echoed her colleagues. And I don't know, I can't-- I don't know how to put together how I feel. I don't know how to communicate it because it's so much. It's just too much. We need a reset. We need to stop, stand still and acknowledge where we are, see the negative for what it is. Even with this last situation, I'm sure there weren't only two or three people out there when this shooting occurred. But who's going to have the heart to stand up and say, "I saw it?" To stand up and say, "I know who that was."? Or are we all going to wait until it's our brother, our son, our father? What is it going to take for us to come together and forget about that nonsensical, no-snitching stuff. We're losing lives because somebody don't want to say so. We got to get it together. Our time is winding. We're losing people too often for nothing. What is more important than life? A car, a dollar? What? A girlfriend, a boyfriend? Really? More important than life itself? We got to do better. We have to do better. I just want whomever the perpetrator is to be brought to justice. Like Councilwoman Green, I knew the young man from a child. He frequented my house with my children. I know the young man. I know his family well. Yes, everybody in the community is affected one way or the other. Everybody is affected. If you're not biological, you're in [inaudible] because we're all here. How do we not? I mean, this isn't the first one. I'm thinking about Dejar Jones, the same thing. The young man was shot, a crowd of people, yet nobody wants to stand up and say, "I saw who did it." What are we trying to do to one another? Have some care, have some heart, some humanity. We're losing and we're losing fast. I just pray that our eyes can be opened, our ears can be cleared, and our hearts become softened because right now, now we're in a cold, dark space and we're losing hope. We have to give hope to one another. We got to do it. Our Police Department is out there trying, giving all they have to bring things back to order. They have a hotline. You don't have to say who you are, but you can call and say, "I was there. I saw this." Just a word. Just give a word to bring some type of settlement to this. We need it as a community. We're trying to build our community. We can't do it with our hands tied behind our backs and our mouth closed. We have to step up, own it, acknowledge it, and do our part. Pray for our Police Department. I pray for the families, not just Shannon, but for the ones that shot Shannon. I pray for them because I don't know how anybody can bear the burden of taking someone's life. I don't know how that works. And I don't want to know. I don't want to know how to bear it. I don't want to be the one but I am offering my assistance to whomever may know. I'll walk with you. I'll go with you to the Police Department. I'll make the call for you if it's necessary. Just don't continue on in this dark area. We got to do better. We have to do better. By the Grace of God, we have to. I pray for my community. I love my community. And when I say my community, it isn't just the streets and the buildings. It's the people. It's the people that matter. Please come forward. Please step up. Do your part. We have to move

forward beyond this negativity. We have to and it's happening everywhere. It's not exclusive to the City of Coatesville. There's shootings and killings everywhere. Let's be the example of how to put a stop to it. How about that? How about we be the example for everybody else as to how to put a stop to it? No, you're not bringing those guns around my house even if it's my child. What are you doing with a gun in my house? You got to go along with the gun. We can't do it any longer. Your child comes in your house with \$500 sneakers on. What are Yeezy's and all this? And you didn't buy it? And they're supposed to be going to school every day. You know they don't work. How is that okay? How is it okay? We have to do better in Coatesville. I know if my child's coming in with something I didn't buy. I want to know where you got it. So if I know, I'm sure all the other parents do, too. Let's just look out for one another. Some can't help themselves. Let's be the one to help them. I love y'all. I thank God for all of you. My colleagues, our staff, all of you sitting here in the audience, those that are online, y'all be blessed, stay safe, and just pay attention. Pay close attention.

Adjournment

Vice President Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

This meeting was conducted live on zoom.