



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Re Organization Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, January 3, 2023

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

Mr. Logan called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm.

**Election of City Council President**

Ms. Green made a motion to nominate Linda Lavender Norris as President of City Council; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Election of City Council Vice President**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to nominate Carmen Green as Vice President of City Council; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Resolution No. 2023-01 – City Council Meeting Dates**

Vice President Green made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-01 – City Council Meeting Dates for the year 2023; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Resolution No. 2023-02 – Designating Emergency Response Service**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-02 – Designating Emergency Response Services; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Adopt Robert Rules of Order for the Year 2023**

Mr. Folks made a motion to adopt the Roberts Rules of Order for the year 2023; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the Proclamation commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

**Comments – City Council President**

President Lavender Norris stated I would just like to be the first to say thank you for supporting us, our team here. It's been both a pleasure and an honor serving last year. We have had struggles, but without the struggles, we wouldn't have any success. So even if there weren't times I'm grateful for that, we grow through it, we learn from it, and I think we also grow together. I'm just grateful to be in a position to serve and, again, I thank you for your support, and Happy New Year.

**Comments – City Council Vice President**

Vice President Green stated she resonates on what President Lavender Norris said. I just appreciate the team we have here. I just get a kick I get a chuckle of Mr. Folks. I was not here but I've seen the video

of Santa riding around the City on the firetruck. I appreciate that, I appreciate Ms. Hunts insight all the time, and just your commitment to the City. Not only on Council but also the Women's Destined for Change. The wonderful, wonderful things you do here for our residents. I was just so taken back by Christmas and all that was done. I want to thank the Administration and I thank Mr. Logan especially for spearheading and being the leader. I'm so grateful for the Chief for your leadership in the City that people can feel safe. There was a time that investors didn't want to come here. They didn't trust opening up a business here. And like I said, we're moving forward. But in all of that we can't forget the people that we serve, and Mr. Hunt that's where you come in at. You're doing such a wonderful job of meeting needs because we consistently hear all the time about gentrification and y'all are trying to move everybody out of the city and that is not the objective at all. If that was so we would not have organizations like yours. We wouldn't have the OIC. We wouldn't have other things going on to consistently help people, and I'm just grateful. I'm just at a place right now that I'm so excited for Coatesville. And this has been such a long time coming. I've served on council off and on since 1999, and he's sitting here now and seeing all the wonderful things that are going on, it just amazes me, and I'm just grateful. Mr. Logan, you put together a team that you have Ruthann as your assistant, and you do such a wonderful job Ruthann, keeping things going, and I'm just looking forward to the future. I am trying to find a little phrase for 2023 but I have not found it yet. It's just 2022 to 2021 was hard. After the pandemic for a lot of people, emotionally, financially, and so I'm just looking forward to what 2023 brings. And as we continue to move on, as we continue to pray and see the work of God that has come to fruition, I'm thankful.

#### **Comments – City Council Members**

Mr. Folks stated yes, yeah, I'm excited, I will say. Especially on our ride up on the weekend, there's cars all over the place. I just Look a said my God. We haven't had that in a long, long time. And its working, I mean, I don't see a lot of people from the city but a lot of people from out of the city are coming inside the City. So I'm excited about the city. I'm excited about the police force. We have everybody. I mean, Mr. Logan, thank you. You came, and you took it, and you're taking it, so. Keep on doing what you're doing, man. Anything that we can do. Mr. Logan stated it's a team effort. Mr. Folks stated yeah, so. Because when you look good, we look good. We have a hell of a team here. That's what people say. I mean, when I get phone calls and talk to people, and they said, "Man, yo'uns are making a difference," so. I say it's not me, us. The City is the best its ever been. And I have no complaints. Thank you.

Mrs. Hunt said good day, good day, good year. Looking forward to the year. I am personally glad to see 2022 end. I'd say this, 2022 was a very, very, very trying year for me, for our family, and even for the business but God has brought us this far. The Women Destined for Change was truly blessed this year by so many people. The Ministry is committed to strengthening the overall women for all walks of life. We desire to strengthen the mind, soul and spirit. My goal is to have a physical location to help foster the program. I have been looking at various locations to open an office. I don't think Emmett wants to keep turning the Chapel [inaudible]. I want a physical location, office, staff, open to the public. But I do want to have authority where it counts. I want to have a building with a full staff and that's what I'm craving for, sincerely. And praying for that. We are working on our 501c3 now. And I want to thank Carmen for the encouraging me to do that. So, I'm thankful for the people that have surrounded around and I'm thankful for the relationships that we have built beyond than just sitting here. My concern, my love, is always to be able to serve without people and that's how I do with the funeral home and I attempt to be with Women Destined for Change and the ladies I have working with me. We had an awesome Christmas toy giveaway. Wednesday, we're were schedule for Saturday. That Wednesday before, we received a call from Toys for Tots. That they had approved us for 1500 toys. We received a call on that Wednesday that we were going to get less than 300 toys. I called various Organizations, posted on social media for help in getting donations of toys. I called the Commissioner who in turn called others, the message went out and the response was overwhelming. I received a call from Sonny from 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Alliance, she said I have a check for you in the amount of \$1,000. I asked her if she

had anyone who could do the shopping as I do not have the time. She said she would find someone for the shopping. Then I received a call from Kara, from Pennsylvania American Water. Which, actually, I needed to talk to her anyway. And some guy from somebody's office called her. And she said, "Miss Hunt, we have \$4000 for you to go get toys." And I said to her the same thing. I said, "Do you have anybody that can do the shopping? Because I just don't have the time." She said, "I'll do it." She said, "What do you need?" And I just said, "Anything for children s two-year-old to ten." And when I tell you, they bought never ending stuff bikes, and scooters, hoverboards. All kinds of toys. That just really ended up being an amazing time for people, and for the children. I'm just grateful for that. The following week we had Christmas Dinner for the Concerned Group Home in Valley Township. They had 22 young people to feed at Christmas. And we were able to get 22 people adopted, each one of those children. And when I tell you, they had so much fun. We fed them dinner, Mondre donated his time to come and play music. Our council president was there, she helped us serve up dinner. She stayed and watched them open their gifts. And just to see their faces. It was so indescribable, that feeling that you get when you really sincerely help people. I'm telling you, if I couldn't do anything else on earth but help people that would be okay for me. That's truly my passion and truly what I desire to do. I think I look back as I know when I was a child, I'm one of nine children and we didn't have stuff. My mom died when I was 10 and we didn't have stuff. And I remember those plastic bags being brought to our house so that we could have a Christmas. And I think from a child growing up, it has always stuck with me and I was just always feeling when I grow up that's what I would do. And that stuck with me throughout my life, because when we look at people, we look at statistics and people quickly say you are a product of your environment. I can truly say I am not a product of my environment. Because if I was, I wouldn't be sitting here today. I wouldn't be doing any of the things that I'm doing if I was just a product of my environment. And so, I thank God every day of my life that he gave me his stamina to be able to live in a bad situation but grow out of it to kind of focus and determination. And that's when I look at the two of you and the job that you do and your positions, there's no need to move you from the positions because you're doing a magnificent job and the city is moving forward. And we move forward together, we support each other, not tear each other down. So that's why we continue to do the things we are doing and we are able to do the things that we're doing. So that's what I want to be a part of. So I'm just grateful and I know I'm taking up a lot of time. I'm sorry, but I'm not really sorry. [laughter] And then just continue to pray for us this year, 2023 my husband is eligible to receive a kidney. And so, the first quarter, he'll be going through some more testing. He has to strengthen his legs, so I talked with Pastor Dan's son, Jonathan, he's going to come over and start doing some one on one building to build up the strength in his legs. So, if everything goes right by June, he should be ready for a kidney. They told us in 2020 that he wouldn't be eligible until 2023 but we never told him because we didn't want him to be discouraged. And soon New Year's Day, we shared that with him. So, it was a little overwhelming but I just want to thank all of you for your prayers, for your concern, Chief Laufer for helping during bad weather. And so, with those things, I'm grateful and I would like to just thank you, guys, for everything. I look forward to the new year. Thank you, Mr. Logan, Rich, Chief, my colleagues, thank you, everybody. I love you guys. Thanks again.

Vice President Green said I have just one thing I want to add on the record, when I was speaking, I did not mean to omit Rich. Rich has given us a balanced budget again, again and again. That's very important to everything that's going on here and that we did not have to raise taxes yet. I'm thankful and I'm just thankful that you're here with us. I pray that you continue to stay.

President Lavender Norris stated I believe that it all works together for the good. And it doesn't feel good going through sometimes, but having the opportunity to look back and see the things that we thought we couldn't get through, looking back at them, meaning that we've come through and are better for it. I'm just so grateful for where we are right now. It's so exciting. It's awesome, it's wonderful.

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Mr. Logan stated I don't know if I have anything to add since our last meeting for the year. But I always try to share with our staff the direction that we're going. I'm trying to get to, for the city. And it's very important that we get the right kind of combination of people and behold saying, "Get the right people on the right bus." That is very important. But my hats on to achieve and to reach all the other people that come together and make this happen. And Ruthann, who tries to keep the balance, the referee and has to reign me in sometimes. And I mean that. And one of the things that, and Rich knows this, what we're trying to do is we're trying to change the mindset of our employees. Because I think there's still this perception of just accepting things as they are over years ago. And we're trying to move them in a totally different direction, trying to get their minds stretched a little bit. And I think it's starting to happen and we may lose a few people on the way, but I think-- --I enjoy what I do. I haven't lost speed. You appeal to it and again, I just think everyone that's in this room, you all know the conversations I have with you. They're good. They're not good all the time. They're insightful which I think helps the better understanding of what's going on. So, I appreciate you offering that. I have been thinking about the state of the address of the city. And I continue to think about how that's going to look. I thought 2023 to be a great year to do it, but I think we might need one more year. And maybe 2025 it will be the year, but at some point, we do need to make a very strong statement to the city in terms of where we are. So, I'm coming forward to putting that together, whether it's a comp plan or just join the state of specific address on your future. Thank you.

Chief Laufer echoed what everybody else has said here tonight. But I truly believe that 2023 is going to be a good year. I think we're positioned well in all aspects, whether it's finance or Codes, Public Works, Police Department, Administration, I think everybody. The nice thing is I don't sense any animosity between anybody when you pick up the phone and you call and, you know, "I need Steve Dobson for codes and I need finance questions with Rich." Or "I need to call Jules up and we need to do this." And, "Yes, sir. Okay. All right Chief, I'll see you out there." It really is refreshing to see everybody working and willing to role in the same direction. And I think it probably has not always been here. You guys have probably seen it times before I came where that wasn't happening and I truly believe that we had a good team in position and I'm excited about the new year.

Ms. Mowday stated everyone works together here. It is not an I, I, I but a we as a team. Everybody works together to help. It's nice to work with everyone and to be here.

Mrs. Hunt stated and that's what happens when we have the same goals. They could be in different angles of getting there, but sometimes people they can't accept what you have a difference of opinion, but it will be a sad commentary if all seven of us [inaudible]. Can you imagine that we all have the same [inaudible] sick all the time. So, we have to be able to coming out through what's best for the city.

President Lavender Norris thanked everyone. And that ladies and gentlemen, is our wonderful first hour in 2023

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.