



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, April 10, 2023

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

Council Absent: Councilman Edward Simpson

Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Richard Troutman, Finance Department; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; 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 Councilman Edward Simpson would not be in attendance.

### Approved Minutes

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the March 27, 2023 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Ms. Al Amin was not present for the vote.

### Approval of Accounts Payables

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Ms. Al Amin was not present for the vote.

### Presentations

1. Cedarville Engineering – MS4

Good evening, everyone. We'll make this quick for you. My name is Karen Cerenzia and this is Amanda Reitbauer. And so, we're from Cedarville Engineering. We help manage the City of Coatesville stormwater program and the required stormwater permit. So basically, because the City of Coatesville discharges stormwater to local rivers and streams, they're required by federal and state governments to have an MS4 permit. So MS4 is the municipal separate storm sewer system. But MS4 is basically-- so it's different than your standard stormwater water. [inaudible], that water reaches the sewage treatment plant, and then flows to the local rivers and streams. Well, the municipal separate storm sewer system doesn't do that. Your stormwater goes right through the storm drains into the local rivers and streams. And so that's why this program is so important. So we want to manage our stormwater because we want to reduce pollutants to other local waterways to protect water quality. The EPA potentially has strict State and Federal requirements. And again, this is a requirement of federal and state governments that we have in this type of program This program basically, consists of 6 minimum control measures. And I used to-- these are all the focus of the program. We also have Pollutant control measures for the west branch of the Brandywine as well as a total maximum daily load requirement for Christina River Basin. And that's because we know that these waterways are a carriage for different pollutants. And, again, we're going to talk about this a little bit later. What are some of each of the minimum control measures.

The Public Education and Outreach is our MPM1. This is, literally, just educating about stormwater. Why it's important. Why we want to-- what are the impacts of stormwater runoff. And the sequence as well to the Christiana Watershed municipal partnership. And they're always publishing on their website. Coatesville has a stormwater management website. I have it listed up there. And then there's also Facebook and social media that stormwater information was published to.

MPM2 is the public involvement participation. It's, essentially, a quick meeting and your involvement in it. It's part of the program. So providing the opportunity for the public to participate is part of the permit and included in that is this [inaudible] get a chance to read and address [inaudible] permit. And, again, we have our written program and this is part of our requirements to not only educate the public but get you involved as well.

MCM3 is our illicit discharge detection and illumination program. So, essentially, we're trying to develop and implement a plan how to produce illicit discharge. How to identify how to produce it and why is this important. So, basically, anything that's not stormwater is considered an illicit discharge, even sediment. So how do we go about doing this? We have a GIS map that, basically, has the entire storm sewer system up on a Coatesville map on that including the 30 outfalls or the areas where the stormwater discharges into rivers and streams. The 26 post-construction stormwater management EMPs, we'll talk about that a little bit the next slide. And so we use our mapping system to identify potential illicit discharge sources within our system. And so things like, and the picture is up there, things like vehicle waste, or soap. Like when you wash your car, that soapy water is not, technically, supposed to go down the sewer system. So, really, anything that's not stormwater we consider an illicit discharge. And so we have a program written as to what we do about identifying illicit discharges. And then how to properly dispose of waste.

MCM4 has to do with stormwater management Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control. We're just going to skip to MCM5 Post Construction Stormwater Management for Development & Redevelopment. And so our PCSM BMP, Best Management Practice inventory, which are basically structures that help us manage storm water. So we have a list of the-- an inventory of this PCSM BMPs that you get inspected. And then we inspect it this year and then-- so we just basically inspect to make sure they're working the way that they should, right, that they're holding the storm water, they're draining it, or it's being diverted to parts of the stormwater. We have a tracking system, and we can track whether these-- Best Management Practice for our clients or not from year to year.

MDM-6 is just pollution prevention and good housekeeping. So mainly this is our public works garage, making sure that things like [road recall?] are stored properly, any sort of oil waste or vehicle waste is stored properly, things are labelled, [inaudible] maintenance, basic safety-- safety metrics. And so, we do have fluid control measures in place for the West Branch of Brandywine Creek. And the reason for this that we know that the West Branch of Brandywine Creek [inaudible]. PCBs are basically volatile compounds that do not readily breakdown that are formed during manufacturing. Production was banned in the late '70s but these contents overlap so they are persisting in the environment. So as part of the permit-- as part of the permit, we have to map where these potential sources of PPD or pollutants could be coming into the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek, specifically in Coatesville's

municipality. So, we kind of came up with six potential outfalls that could be a source of PPD pollutant, we went out, sampled them, sent the results to the lab, and we found out that PCDs were not detected at any of the outfalls, even though it still West Branch of Brandywine Creek. So that was good. That's good news.

We did the Total Maximum Daily Load Plan for the Christiana River Basin because River Basin because the river basin is [in care?] for seven nutrients. Phosphorus. And 30 outfalls like discharge into the Christiana River Basin, we have to implement this TMDL plan with long- and short-term goals. With the goals are purchasing, sending nutrients to the river. And so basically, we did this by building and maintaining different storm water Best Management Practices, and for this [inaudible] things like City Hall infiltration basin, we got a Millview Basin retrofit and even street cleaning is a way to help reduce that TMDL. Each year we have an annual report that's due. So basically, everything that we've accomplished for the city, or everything the city's accomplished in this year, during the permitting year, gets wrapped up into an annual report that we submit to the City. Mr. Turner stated he would provide the power point slides to City Council.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Zoning Amendments**

Vice President Green stated at the last meeting we asked for more time. I really think that we really do need more time. Everyone didn't have the opportunity to look. It's a lot of information there, and with the amount of development we have going on in the city, I would not like for us to approve and Ordinance that would stifle in any way. I think some of these are very important. We've waited this long, so a little bit longer is not going to make a difference because these are important. And I understand that a they put a lot of time and energy into this but the onus is on us for approval. They're not going to look at the other people. They're going to look at us. So, I think it's real important that we take the time that's needed to review each and every one and then to have a discussion. And I think it will help us do what we need to do in an executive meeting. Mr. Turner stated that's what we planned on doing. President Lavender Norris stated she had some questions. I don't feel like I need Tracey to be available to answer questions because, like my colleagues are saying, a lot of information has been submitted, and when we ask your company for information, we are understanding. So, when we have our discussion time, I would request that she be present. Mr. Turner stated that sounds fine and we will make sure she is available with the information. The intention wasn't necessarily to rush you guys to make a decision. It was just to kind of outline the schedule that we stay in line. I apologize if you felt a little bit rushed. Please, feel free to take your time. We just want to make sure that it keeps moving and that it doesn't stall. Mr. Logan made a recommendation also. You all are going through it and I know that you have items, can you list them. You can send them over to me. Mr. Turner stated yeah, I was going to say, don't forget to reach out to Tracey with any questions

### **2. Special Events**

President Lavender Norris announced we have a special event submitted from Bridge Academy. It's a request to block the intersection of Virginia Avenue [inaudible] from 10:00 in the morning to 8:00 PM. And just a note that you had stopped closing the streets for block parties or anything of that nature. So, I'm mentioning it now for discussion to see how counsel feels about this going forward with regards to closure. And for this one, in addition to the broader applications. Mr. Folks asked on this blockage, is that affect the flow of traffic,

an emergency? Chief stated it would not. Ms. Al Amin stated I thought last year that this was-- allowed it again, but only until four hours. I know, but not to exceed four hours. Mrs. Hunt said that what we did. Vice President Green stated I just think that we got to be consistent. We can't approve for one person one way and approve for another person in another way. [crosstalk] Mrs. Hunt stated a previous one was for up to 12 hours, and that's too long to have a street block for a day, but I thought we said that if they stay within four hours. We would approve it if it didn't affect emergency services. Vice President Green stated we are looking at Olive Street and Virginia Avenue. Is that what we're looking at? [crosstalk]. How will that be? Is that one-- I mean, so no one would be able to turn from 6th over to Olive? President Lavender Norris stated they wouldn't be able to turn from Virginia, come down Virginia. Olive comes across the bottom. So you wouldn't be able to go up—or come down. Vice President Green said so essentially, we would be blocking 6<sup>th</sup> and Olive over to Virginia, and so they wouldn't be able to come-- where would they go if they turned on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Virginia's the next street. So they wouldn't be able to use that coming off the 6th Avenue and making a right. Chief Laufer stated Woodland is west Virginia Avenue. President Lavender Norris stated right – [crosstalk] made them turn onto Olive. He would be able to go up or down, wouldn't it? But not [crosstalk] the other side. Chief stated if you turned off at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue you could go onto Olive on the 6<sup>th</sup> you would have to use one of the alleys. [crosstalk] Mrs. Hunt stated 6<sup>th</sup> and Olive and Virginia would be blocked too. Chief stated it's really not clear if they are blocking Olive or not. Vice President Green stated but you wouldn't be able to turn on it. It's that I'm saying whether they're blocking it or not, if you make that turn from 6th Avenue on to Olive Street right where their Church is, there's no way to go [crosstalk]. Chief said well, they're not going to close Olive, though. They're just closing Virginia. Vice President Green said It says the intersection of Virginia and Olive. Chief Laufer stated It's really not clear. President Lavender Norris stated maybe we need to get with them for some clarity. Vice President Green stated but they said the intersection between Virginia and [crosstalk]. Chief said I think you could see leave Olive open and close Virginia. The problem would be more manageable. [crosswalk] Mrs. Hunt said to close up Virginia. Are they planning to have things on the street, or they have room in the back of the church? I'm saying this because if this going to be on the front side of Olive, then I would say we would need to block that off because if its children, and everybody's not going to get a walk-in line. We have a festivity going on that for the safety if they're gonna allow it, then we have to do this for the safety for-- everybody is protected. So I'd go back to what Vice President Green saying. If she went up to the corner of 6th and Olive and then blocked down to Virginia so that those [inaudible] blocked down to the beginning of Woodland. So once they got to Woodland, they would have to go up. And then that way you're protecting that full front of Olive.

Chief stated and this discussion is why we initially went to the policy of no street closing. There's a lot of residents who live on Olive Street who are going to be inconvenienced for four-plus hours, not being able to get in or out of their [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt asked Didn't we also say that whoever's sponsoring would need to go to all the residents on that street [crosstalk] So I'd think we would request that they do that as well. President Lavender Norris stated and then I know we brought it down to 4 hours. Mr. Hunt stated that we had stick to that. I believe we haven't stuck to that. Because other than that, it's just too much of an inconvenience, and we're saying that residents that live there are sacrificing their time in their homes and their days to make it happen. So, we have to be respectful of that as well. But if they could meet those criteria's, get the signatures from the residents there and bring it down

to the 4 hours, then I'm okay with it. Mr. Logan stated the consensus is to go back to them and ask if they change it to 4 hours, and then having a contact [crosstalk] the neighborhood. Ms. Al Amin stated yeah, the neighbors, it has to be okay with the neighbors as well. Mr. Logan stated we just did talk about the four-hour window, so four hours does not include the set up. [inaudible]. Yeah, because it's [crosstalk]. Vice President Green stated it is six hours altogether, because an hour before and an hour after [crosstalk]. If we did six altogether, we'd definitely need the [church?], because an hour of it was clean-up [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt stated for clean-up and set-up and take-down, you're right. That's what we did. Mr. Logan stated four hours of activity, an hour for set-up, and an hour for clean-up.

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

#### Laurie Shannon Bailey

Ms. Shannon Bailey stated I stand before you today in support of item 6.3, specifically, the Boys and Girls Club is very, very much needed here. I know that's not outlined and plans have changed. I stand corrected, but I believe the last time I read any details about this, it included the implementation of the Boys and Girls Club, so I'd like to just on behalf of citizens in the city who are looking forward to all of the recreation there being-- Boys and Girls Club is tops on my list. I have them in my trust, so when I'm gone, some organization will be getting money, but it's an outstanding organization. I think it's exactly what our community, what our citizens, what our children need, and I just wanted to stand before you as someone who was a non-profit for troubled youth. This is a very, very good [inaudible] spent, I believe, and I would appreciate your support of this initiative, especially in terms of children and providing, sort of, recreation therapy, leisure, healthy leisure programs, things of that nature. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close regular action items only; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a Resolution designating Emergency Response Service providers for the City of Coatesville

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve a Resolution designating Emergency Response services for the City of Coatesville; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0

Yes. A couple of weeks ago, we had Resolution for Emergency Services. Once that was signed and sent back to the county, there was a request for an edit. That edit in the form of the number of days that the system was going to be in place for ALS services or better known as Automatic Locator Services located by the computer-aided dispatch. We had in the previous resolution that the system would be in place for a period of 90 days no more than 180 days. The County wanted that to be revised. So we are presenting to the council this evening a revised version of that which is dated-- this is on the Advanced Life Support (ALS) would be chosen by the Chester County computer-aided dispatch CAD an automatic vehicle locator system and further be resolved Steve Dobson is designated as Emergency Management Coordinator. So the edits were revised to omit 90 days.

2. Receive and consider a motion to accept the dedication by the City of the street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> on Chestnut street to Dr. Whittier C. Atkinson, MD

Vice President Green made a motion to accept the dedication by the City of the between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> on Chestnut street to Dr. Whitter C. Atkinson, MD; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

President Lavender Norris announced the actual event will be April 23rd, from 2:00 to 4:00. The street will be dedicated. It's planned out really, really nicely. Committee is requesting anyone that was born in Atkinson Hospital to submit your information because they do want to acknowledge and just give you a token to ensure-- well, I don't want to say to ensure, to highlight, so if you have been, or you know anyone that has been born there, please have them contact the WC Atkinson website to submit their-- they just want their name and their birthday. Submit that so it can be acknowledged. Vice President Green announced her mom and uncle—they're twins. We have a baby picture of them being held by a nurse at Atkinson when they were born. President Lavender Norris announced the rain date. It's the following Sunday, will be the rain date which is the 30th. It'll be the 30th rain date. That's that part. It's really built out to be a really nice program, and it's going to start. I'm excited. I love drum lines. They have the drum line starting the program at 2 o'clock on the nose. So, to be there on time will be to your benefit. Vice President Green stated this is long time coming. Dr. Atkinson who's been here and to know the story in which he founded that hospital. As a young black doctor in the City of Coatesville, he could not go to the regular hospital. He was not accepted. And it's just wonderful they were able to finally get this done and acknowledge him because he has treated and served quite a lot of people. President Lavender Norris announced and also that day, April 23rd, is his actual birthday. And it's the day of the 35th year the Atkinson Center being of service to the community after hospital was closed. Mrs. Hunt announced he would have been 130 years old. President Lavender Norris stated all are welcome. And by no means is it for city residents only. For whosoever will

3. Receive and consider a motion to grant conditional preliminary plan approval of the Preliminary Land Development Plan of NSEC Sports Complex prepared by D. L. Howell and Associates, dated June 24, 2022 and last revised December 19, 2022, (26 sheets) subject to the following condition; compliance with Cedarville Engineering Group's letter, dated February 10, 2023; proof that National Railroad Passenger Corporation has no concerns with the proposed use and improvements within their Right-of-Way; mutually satisfactory terms regarding the splash pad; and successful resolution of the River Wal realignment and maintenance.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to grant conditional preliminary plan approval of the Preliminary Land Development Plan of NSEC Sports Complex prepared by D. L. Howell and Associates, dated June 24, 2022 and last revised December 19, 2022, (26 sheets) subject to the following condition; compliance with Cedarville Engineering Group's letter, dated February 10, 2023; proof that National Railroad Passenger Corporation has no concerns with the proposed use and improvements within their Right-of-Way; mutually satisfactory terms regarding the splash pad; and successful resolution of the River Wal realignment and maintenance; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Jefferson explained So this is one of the many steps [thrown?] away, but as you know, we implemented the flats [inaudible] amendments earlier this year or last year. It was for the NSEC sports complex. This is one of the steps first. The group went to the Coatesville City Planning Commission. It was reviewed by the County Planning Commission. It's been reviewed by Cedarville. The City's Planning Commission recommended approval of the

plans, its subject to commissions of approval as noted, along with other state approvals and state laws that are applicable to the project. Project is also partly in Valley, so they've already started the process with Valley Township. They've submitted that. And Pennoni has actually prepared a review letter as well. So, this is one of the many steps that is going to go, but this is a good step in the right direction. Preliminary plan approval is just that. It approves the character and intensity of the plan. Per the subdivision of land development ordinance, within one year of preliminary approval, the applicant shall submit a final plan. So, they still have to come back to City Council to get final plan approval. There will be other things to do with association with that. It gets a little bit more engineering work with it. Mr. Gill is here on behalf of the developer, along with Mr. Wood. And Kyle Turner is here on behalf of Cedarville if you have any questions. But that's generally where we are. Mr. Turner said he only knows two major outstanding issues that we ended up hashing out. One being [inaudible] we have resolved that with the conditional note of Amtrak submitting their [inaudible] right-a-way. And then the other one storm water, we're satisfied with where we're at [inaudible] that they have alternate plans in place they've worked in bate flows if they can't run everything through their basins while still complying with the city's requirements. Mr. Gill stated just to add that as the plan review from the Valley Township in the near future, tomorrow night meeting to advance on that process. So this is a not insignificant, I would dare say major step on the way, preliminary plan development approval is very important milestone for the project. Guys have any questions that council might have? Otherwise, we really appreciate council's support and we continue to move forward.

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

## Reports

### 1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council. Since council's last meeting; communicated and continued to communicate with outside counsel regarding certain litigation matters; continued to provide advice regarding land development matters; the third one should read, I had discussions regarding the outline of the enactment of the zoning amendments. I provided a legal opinion regarding a potential litigation matter; reviewed a matter for the Grand Prix; communicated with the RDA solicitor regarding a certain property; provided a legal opinion regarding Act 151 of 2022. Just for reference, that is the cybersecurity; and finally, drafted a proposed communication for Millview Basin.

### 2. City Manager

Mr. Logan thanked Madame President. Earlier this evening, in executive I provided an update on real estate activity as well as personnel activity. Last week, we played host to the National Planning Association mobile workshop. A couple of weeks prior, with the help of Kevin Myers of Chester County Planning Commission and Sonia Huntzinger of the Second Central Alliance. We were visited by about 14 to 20 planners that attended the conference via Philadelphia. The conference itself had undertook visitors but we had a bus tour of 20. They made five stops throughout the city. They got an opportunity to see some of our development, some of what's going on here in the community. We were told after most a half-day touring, that this one of the best stops included in their workshop. It was just nice to hear that feedback. What we're trying to demonstrate to them is the support that we received

both on a local and state-federal level in terms of the grant application that we submitted to build out for the community here. So they had questions, "How do you realize those grants? What are some of the business that have benefitted from it? The Enterprise Zones, the RACP grant, the BIOS grant," things like that that are continuing to help build community so it was a well-attended event, and that we are happy that the City image is the same as ours. In addition to that last week, you may have seen one of the first articles of a series in the Daily Local. That was on a little bit of our city's economic impact, what's happening with all of the grants, and some of the activity that's going on here in the city. I had noted to city council's public, a few months back about the projects in progress. Some have been completed. These totaling in the upwards of 200 million dollars just in investments and activity going on here in the City of Coatesville. So, we're very excited about that and the impact that these projects are having in the city. PennDOT was gracious enough to hire an independent consultant who did a benefit assessment report. That report, the numbers we have received up to with that. We will share that report or that assessment with the public once we extract more information out of it. This information is beneficial to the city.

Moving on. In June this year, the city is partnering with the West Chester Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council to host an Economic Development Symposium. This will be the first time the City of Coatesville-- I shouldn't say first time, but maybe the first time, the City of Coatesville will host an impact symposium based on the region's changing economic landscape. So we'll have this event up at Coatesville Training Facility. This time I said Coatesville. I didn't say South Coatesville. I don't want you guys to yell at me for that. But that training facility has more tables for this event so that will be the best location for it. So we're very excited to be partnering with two great organizations to present this event.

On to the next item. Over the next few months, the City of Coatesville's website-- actually, I'm going to leave this for the Assistant City Manager to talk to you about some of the upgrades to our website. And now I'll move to our final bullet which is the city and community partners are preparing-- of course, you guys have already seen it. We are preparing for another busy season. We have restaurants that are currently open. We have a place that opened about a week ago, Richie's Water Ice. For those of you that haven't been in there, stand in line like the rest of us. It's been wonderful to see a business like that here in Coatesville. It is a minority-owned business that we hope that folks continue to support. And this goes back to a year, maybe two years ago, when we talked about keeping the money in Coatesville. This is evident that we can support local business, and it's evident that a minority business can thrive in the City of Coatesville. In addition to that, as promised, Mr. Folks. I have to report to you today Pizza Hut opened, our staff tried to order pizza, and we could not because they closed. And the reason why they closed was because they were overwhelmed, and they had to shut down. I don't know if they shut down online service or not, but we weren't able to connect and get pizza for this evening.

We have plans coming up for Juneteenth in the month of June, obviously. The city has, along with various stakeholders and partners throughout the county are providing a series of events between the dates of June 16th and June 19th. NAACP is going to be part of it. Donna is here this evening. Thank you, Donna for your support along with our staff members. We also have Unity Day this year. That's the first Saturday after Fourth of July, or following Fourth of July. That will be followed with Sounds of Summer. And then we go into September, which is the

Grand Prix. So, there is lots going on here in the city. Longer days are ahead. Just a little program notes for everyone, it's going to be warm again this year. Be nice to your neighbors. Ajené Livingston is here, he heads up Parks and Rec Commission, they have a lot of great events planned this year, so hopefully we can put to rest the rumors that there's nothing going on at City this year].

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino wished everyone a good evening. I just want to give you a few updates from our Codes Department to start out. Codes has been working to update some processes around commercial property permitting and licensing, as well as registering vacant premises. Most landlords have complied with our rental license deadline so far, and Codes is currently getting up to date with delinquent inspections. Rental properties need to be inspected every two years or when there is a change in tenants. We are working with that [inaudible]. In the month of March, Codes issued 62 code violations. They issued 30 rental licenses. They completed 81 commercial, residential, and rental inspections. And they currently have 13-- I'm sorry, in the month of March they've had 13 commercial and residential pending permits of various types. Some additional updates, as Mr. Logan mentioned, we, as a city, are working on researching several grants to identify funding for infrastructure, for stormwater management, and also for a new fire station. With the collaboration of 2nd Century Alliance, we are working on keeping Lincoln Highway clean and free of trash and debris. One of our key issues right now is that residents often throw their household trash into the public street cans, which turns into trash in the streets because those cans are not emptied daily. So we're kind of working out a system to hopefully address that. I'll also just, since I'm talking trash, just kind of remind everyone again, if your trash or recycling or bulk item is not being picked up, please call the city receptionist, because we do track that, and it's helpful for us to know. And, as Mr. Logan mentioned earlier we are working on-- to update our website, which is very exciting. I know that a lot of people have experienced just not being able to find the information that they need. So in the coming few months, we're going to be working on revamping that and, hopefully, making it much more user-friendly. Thank you.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer Madam President, the complete statistical packet, it's in your books tonight. Just a few key highlights. Our false service generated through the 911 system were on the March, 1,827. That was up from 1,520 in the month of February. And the total calls for service, which include the 911 calls and the additional calls received at the front desk, for the month of March was 2,825, and that was up from 2,343 month of February. That's consistent trend for the time of year with weather warming. More people are outside. Our total calls for service do continue to-- to go up throughout the summer months. Some additional areas to highlight, we had four Narcan administrations by the police officers for the month of March. We had three saves and one unfortunate DOA. We had 21 car seat checks and installations provided by our certified technicians. That was actually up from 18 from the month before, so we are seeing an increase in the demand for our services through childcare seats and installations by our technicians. That's a good thing for the community. Detective Jose Colon was assigned to the crime room from his patrol duties, so he is one of our new detectives. Certainly, Jose is well known in the community and has been with the department for a number of years, and we are taking advantage of his bilingual language skills as we are seeing more and more cases for police intervention within the Hispanic community, which is growing the populations-- continues to grow here in the City. And Officer Joel Williams,

whom you were introduced to-- along with Malik, Joel completed his field training program successfully and is out patrolling, and Officer Malik Williams continues his FDO program and will be cleared to patrol on his own shortly also. And Coffee with the Chief was held in the Marriott on March the first, very well attended. And also, we had Coffee with the Chief-- I know should be jumping ahead a little bit with Coffee with the Chief. We just had the April 5<sup>th</sup> one at Salvation Army, and our next one for the month of May, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, is at the Millview Apartment Community Center up in Millview. So that's a little departure from normal location, but we thought we would try to include the Millview Townhomes in our Coffee with the Chief program, so we'll see what kind of reception we get up there. Looking forward to that. And that's on Wednesday, May the third, from 8:30 to 10. Also, we had a-- involvement in Valley PD's. They did a first-ever Coffee with a Cop program they call that. A way for them to sort of have an open house to have people attend their new police station, which is part of the new government offices there for the Valley Townships. So in support of Valley Township and our brothers of law enforcement at Valley. We went out there and supported their Coffee with a Cop program. That was on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Just one additional highlight in the month of March. Those who may have seen this in the Daily Local. It's always great to have front-page news on a positive note here in the City of Coatesville. Obviously, we would much rather see tremendous community stories like this involving our officers and the community and the services that we provide as opposed to a criminal incident, so. Now that was great front-page coverage with a nice color photo in the Daily Local on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. That was for kids who do something right are rewarded with bicycles and helmets through the generous contribution from Chester County Highway Safety Project.

Mr. Logan stated Chief and I have talked about all of the activity that's happening in the city, both on the, I want to call it the downtown district, but also on the east end of town. One of the things that the residents continue to ask is, "How will the city of Coatesville deal with the increase of foot traffic and the safety to its residents here?" And Chief, I just want to put you on the spot for one minute. I know that we've talked about it. But in terms of how you see the city's trending. We looking at, we good? Should we be adding more guys on the street? Women on the street? How do you see our trend right now? Chief Laufer explained it is referred to as directive patrol. And that's where typically the administration looks at the demand for services across the city. City wide. And we certainly are cognizant of the impact these additional businesses are having. And an additional draw into our community from outside of Coatesville. And we realize that's very important to sustain the economic vitalization of the city. So, we're taking a hard look at that. We are doing what we refer to as directive patrol, where the officers are encouraged to [inaudible] and get out there and make sure we're visible in the business district. We try to maximize what we have. Make the best use of the number of officers that we have on patrol. And council has always been very supportive. And the need for police services is you find to continue to grow here. And we want to make sure that we're able to present a safe and welcoming environment for everybody that wants to come. And that includes those outside the city and our own residents here in the city. So, we are cognizant, Mr. Logan, of what you're alluding to with our coverage and the services that we provide. And we will have to at some point in the future, as everything else is growing in the city, we'll have to grow along with it. We're comfortable that we're staffed adequately at this time. And we enjoy the support of council, and I think we will continue to do so. President Lavender Norris stated with regards to what you're speaking of now, we often think of the business district downtown. Excuse me. We think of our business district as the downtown, but I would dare to say there are more businesses in the

east end of town than there from 1st to 3rd. So yes, we are growing some more and with respect to your question, we're definitely going to need more presence.

**Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes) – Residents/Tax Payer/Property Owner**  
Portia Graham

I'm here for the formal submission of the proclamation. In lieu of October 2023 as Pregnancy and Infant loss Awareness Month in the City of Coatesville. Primarily, for the City of Coatesville not only with our organization but in collaboration others with help with preventative measures and increased awareness of the causes and impacts surrounding pregnancy and infant loss may lead to greater, understanding, support, and resources in communities across Chester County. We are also working with MCHC and BWCCA and Planned Parenthood to make this celebrated annually to bring the families a month of remembrance to honor the children far too soon and support the lives who are forever altered by the heartbreak of losing a child. This is something that is very personal to me. This is something that I have experienced for myself and [inaudible]. We have been officially on the books since 2019 we've been in business for five years. As far as the information that is requested is important. The Proclamation would lend official recognition to the important work of educating the public on pregnancy and infant loss as well as emphasize your personal commitment to raising awareness about the risks for such tragedies. An example of a proclamation has been provided as well with the letter to the City. There are bracelets provide for you. They're a representative of the company with our branding colors which are red, black, and white (Coatesville brand). This is our focus for our brand. The red represents the family blood tie, the black represents grief and the white represents hope. Vice President Green asked Mr. Jefferson if this is a Resolution or Proclamation. Mr. Jefferson replied it can be either the Resolution or Proclamation.

Elgin Bailey

Mr. Bailey explained one thing that the COVID-19 pandemic put the spotlight on big issues. One of the biggest is housing. One of the things that we saw during the whole pandemic was people who were straight up poverty stricken or on the verge of being out poverty stricken were really grappled with many effects. And that hasn't changed. Still very high in Coatesville. Chester County just like many counties across the country has been a slow rolling and housing prices for several years. Phone calls and two-on-one hotline sheltering housing services have risen over 600% since 2020. The current average cost of rent utilities is over \$1,300. More than 44% of [inaudible] or whatever. On average one person in Chester County is evicted every single day. The emergency rental assistance program that was put in place during the pandemic will be ending shortly. We're still having an eviction report session in each port in Chester. It's surmised by the recent changes that the housing crisis and number of evictions have gotten worse since those statistics were published. These problems are no less acute at the municipal level and Coatesville residents know firsthand how to struggle to secure affordable and affordable housing for training or working families and multiple city can must and hopefully will do everything in its power to alleviate the burdens on struggling resident and keep people in their homes. As a legislative body of a whole municipality, Coatesville City Council has the power to enact ordinances that can provide a lifeline for tenants. The people of Chester County along with the people of Coatesville therefore are asking, begging, and demanding that the Coatesville City Council require landlords and tenants to participate in an eviction diverging program prior to getting a hearing eviction report, which would require seeking all available rental assistance and attempting to negotiate a payment plan before eviction proceedings take place. The City Council can enact an eviction report very much like the boards or 11 years or a flood. These sorts of simple common-sense measures are well within the council's power and have already been

enacted by other municipalities. We the people of Chester County along with people of Coatesville are asking and begging you guys to do whatever is possible to end this medical crisis.

Ricardo Whittington

Mr. Whittington stated he's here to piggyback on what the gentlemen before me spoke about eviction notices. I'm not being evicted yet. But I got a stronger feeling that it's coming. The reason was-- is because the landlord that was-- previously, my landlord has sold the building to another entity. So, the housing authority and HUD-VASH-- I am a veteran of the United States Air Force and was threatened by HUD-VASH and housing authorities that they're going take my voucher. And they done it before for 30 days my ex-landlord called them and said I was knocking on his door. I called them and explained to them that I'm not at his door. Because I was trying to find out if he's going to give me my security deposit back. So, he held my voucher for 30 days. And he claimed that I threatened his kids, which is not true. He submitted an 80-second video of me knocking on his door and walking away. And I was homeless for 30 days two years ago. Now, if I lose this voucher, I'll probably be homeless again. I recently paid my rent. And they're saying that because I made a deal with the landlord that I would work for my rent, which I was not aware-- they saying it's still illegal. I did not know that than he applied a 211 for some back rent-- you got \$2100, which I was not aware of. That was him involving me in one of those underhanded schemes that he pulled off. And I do feel like I'm caught up. I came here to overcome homelessness and my drug addiction. I came here for recovery. But now, it feels like I'm being pulled back in. Thank you.

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

**Special Events**

A special event permit was submitted from the Bridge Academy and Community Center for a Block Party. The request is to block the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Olive Street on August 18, 2023 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for coming out. I just want to thank the Chief and his team. I mean, they have been doing outreach to this community for so long. And it just feels so good to see them. They do stuff, seem like, every other week out in the job or in school or-- it's them, it's a plus two in my book. Thanks for your leadership in that Police Department. You know, the other week I was out of town. And I opened [inaudible], you spoke up and saw a line down the street in town at the ice cream place, I can remember we had nothing. To James Logan, thank you. What he's bringing to the city, it just makes me feel so good to just go up and down the street and see people standing in line, just standing in line to get something in Coatesville. That's [inaudible]. They couldn't even get in there. The line, that's big. The Pizza Hut opened, you couldn't even get in there, the line was so long. Thank Mr. Logan for you vision. Thank you have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt stated I am thankful for you coming tonight. Thank you for sharing and your comments. I don't do this often but I wanted to echo off of what Mr. Folks said. It is wonderful to ride through town, especially at night and seeing our lights and restaurants and people walking around. I was-- I'm born and raised in Coatesville, so I can remember as many of you, and we had everything downtown area from children's stores to men's stores, shoe stores and Saturday looking for parking spots. Newberry's and Woolworths and you're starting to get that feeling again. So I am too, as modest as Mr. Logan is, I too appreciate you because you had a vision. You brought a vision and you're

implementing it daily. I thank all of our staff, Chief Laufer and the police officers or solicitors or finance directors. We are in a position that I've never seen us in as far as being a part of the council and just to have a [inaudible] knowing that those that are in place are doing their jobs. And over, I always have to say to Mr. Logan just bring a pillow and a blanket and change his address because you're here all the time. And you don't have to do all of that with your private time because your private time is not your time as far as you're concerned, but we do want you to take some rest so you don't go through a burnout. But we do appreciate you. And our new assistant manager, Roberta has just stepped in, and thank you for all that you're doing. And again, it's always a pleasure to be with my colleagues as we share in the rules of the city. Again, thank you so much Porsche. I'm looking forward to talking to you more about your program, seeing whatever we can do to help, okay? Thank you all. Have a good evening.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out to get home safely. You have a good night.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. Thank you to the residents that come up with their input. It's always nice when the resident tells us what's going on in their circle or their part of the world or the issue they're having, the positive's that they're having. I was at Richie's Water Ice and that one there butted in line. No, I'm just kidding I let her in line. But that line was steady down the street, waited an hour, but the water ice and the soft serve is really, really, really good. If you have not gone, please go. The only way for us to keep businesses here is to support those businesses. Pizza Hut opened today and jam packed all day. Drive thru, double parking. They're going to have a special on Wednesday, so make sure you look and see what they're special is. It's definitely worth going. But we have to continue to support--[crosstalk]. --that are here because that's the only way they can stay here. And it helps the city. We're still growing. There's a lot going on. There's a lot that's going to happen in the future and I look forward to being a part of it with all of you guys. Have a good night and safe travels home.

Vice President Green thanked everyone that came out. Just have a few things. Just want to give a shout-out to Publics Works regarding Ash Park. I went there over the weekend and it was nice and clean. And something about it just looked extra. So just a shout-out to them for that. Lincoln Highway is looking great. I mean, I know I sent you a picture earlier of our back alleys, because people still want to dump trash their everyday trash wherever they want to dump it. So we still have work to do, but I see the progress and I see all that you guys are doing. The residents, all myself included. We're having an economic symposium. Isn't that amazing? It's amazing because as Mr. Folks said, we had the opportunity to hire a very good, well-rounded city manager. That came in and has creativity and thinks outside the box. That became a member of our community as soon as he got here. Because, see, that's what it took. It failed in the past because we weren't found timing that person that wanted to integrate themselves into our community. So I'm so grateful for that. And I'm also grateful for my colleagues. So grateful that we're all like-minded. We don't always agree on everything, but we're like-minded to the point that what's best for the city is the most important factor. And Coatesville's rising, Coatesville's moving and when I look at the fact that our median household income has drastically increased. It's amazing. When we've looked at the real estate property values and they're just going up. I mean, you want them to go up. You don't want to pay the higher taxes on the property, but property values are going up. Things are headed in the right direction. Businesses are booming. And not to make light of all the businesses, but our minority entrepreneurship or our minority businesses have grown. We have a lot of minority businesses in the City of Coatesville. Also included in the-- and I'm not even including the incubator because that's a great thing also. But we have a lot to be proud of. Our grocery store is going to be opening up real

soon. It looks fantastic over there. I've had the opportunity to visit the DePetri's Iron Eagle. And it was delicious. [inaudible] definitely delicious. I went in there and was like, "Let me see what he got in here. Let me check this." And it was amazing. I mean, very nice. The service was great. The ambiance there was great. The same thing with our Record Kitchen. I'm just excited about all the other businesses that are going to be coming. Because if you build it, they'll come. And I'm saying that because other people are seeing these other businesses coming, they're going to want to be a part of it. So this is a great time for the City of Coatesville. One last thing is when is the fish rodeo again? The end of the month the fish rodeo is back over on the Flats, so make sure that you come out. It is a two-day event. The 29th and the 30th. Bring your children. Go fishing. That event has always been very special and very nice. So, again, I thank everyone for coming out. Get excited for the city. Continue to come out. Continue to answer questions. And watch us, we're headed in the right direction. So thank you all very much.

President Lavender Norris echoed her colleagues with the gratitude for our staff, our managers. I just want to speak to Mr. Bailey's comment about the housing. We understand that there's an issue with housing. But I need all of us to have the understanding that we, as city council, cannot change that, rentals are private business transactions. The only rent control would be with public housing. We have no say over public housing either. That's just a federal law, but with regard to evictions, it would be as if I came-- if you were renting your home and I came to you with your tenant not having paid their rent for three, four months and me telling you that you can't put them out. Who am I to tell you what to do with your property? So, it is with city council. We cannot tell you how to conduct your personal private business. It just doesn't happen. It's unfortunate, and I know it's a hardship. I'm aware of the rental increases that are, in my opinion, totally ridiculous. But again, all I can do is be mad and sympathize with those that are going through it. I can't force an end to it. I don't know what the answer would be. I have no idea, but I do know when I have a problem and don't know what else to do. Guess where I'll go? The rock of my salvation. I talk to God about it. I can pray for whomever Mr. Bailey was speaking of. And anybody else that's having an issue. I can talk to the Lord about it, but I can't personally do anything about it. But I do promise you I will talk to him about it. This has been a wonderful day. Our City is certainly alive, and not only are we alive, we are thriving. We have businesses thriving. When's the last time you saw somebody standing in line to go in any door in the city? Right? We're heading in the right direction. And I'm not just saying us on this side of the table, I'm talking about us. All of us, we're on our way. We just have to continue to hold each other up because the load does get heavy. So, one more time, and I'm not going to promise you that it'll be the last time I say this, we have several boards and commissions with vacancies, consider them. Please consider them. Some require residency, others don't. Look into them, see if it fits your schedule, piques your interest. On the website, it gives the oversight of what the requirements are and what the duties of the particulars are. So, look into it. We could use your help. Thank you so much for coming out. Everybody, please have a blessed evening.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.