



Minutes

City of Coatesville

Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA

Council Chambers

Monday, April 24, 2023

---

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

Council Absent: Councilwoman Charrisse Allen

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 Councilwoman Charrisse Allen would not be in attendance.

Mr. Logan asked members from the point to come forward for their presentation. Mr. Bud Herman introduced himself as the director of Operations for Parkesburg Point. And, oh, it's been quite a while ago now, but we had a meeting at The Point that City Manager, Mr. Logan was at and saw something that we had made in our hands-on training program center. We have a mini tech school, where we teach kids from 2nd grade through 12th grade how to use their hands and how to make things. It is our honor and our privilege to present a new podium to the City of Coatesville. I would to offer an invitation to everyone and anyone who would to come over at Parkesburg to The Point and visit us. Sanjay is our director of outreach, and we'd love to show off The Point. So please thank you. I would like to introduce the crew. Brandon Phillips; Justenia Phillips; Hunter Connors; Caiden Lancaster and Zeke Moses. All of Council thanked the members from the point for the wonderful job that was done on the new podium.

### Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the April 10, 2023 meeting minutes; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### Presentations

#### 1. Proclamation Presentations

President Lavender Norris asked Mr. Nathan Bookman to come forward. She stated because of who you are that [us?] our entire community-- we just want you to know how much we appreciate you, your service to our community, your dedication, and your commitment. We want you to know we appreciate you, love you, and we thank you. And with that being said, I want to read this proclamation that we've had prepared. Excuse me. "Whereas the city of Coatesville recognizes people who make an impact on and play a role in the lives of Coatesville residents, and Nathan Bookman Sr is a lifelong resident of the city of Coatesville. He graduated from Scott High School. Nate has owned and operated Bookman's Beauty and

Barber Shop in Coatesville since 1971. And during this time, he has mentored, trained, and provided apprenticeships for many of the barbers and cosmetologists in the area. Nate has been actively involved in the Coatesville community for more than 62 years. Mr. Bookman served the city of Coatesville Planning Commission, has spent many years supporting Coatesville Midget Football League. Nathan R Bookman Sr, the patriarch, he's a God-fearing man, loving husband, great father, and papa, and everyone's uncle. [laughter] [To sum up?] Uncle Nate is challenging. He's the man who will give you the shirt off his back or the last dollar in his wallet to help a stranger. He's humble and non-judgmental. He treats everyone with respect. And now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the City Council-- the City of Coatesville recognizes and salutes Nathan R Bookman Sr for his selfless, faithful dedication and service to the lives of the citizens of the Coatesville community. Proclaimed this day, April 24th of 19" - Oh. Sorry - "2023"

Mr. Bookman said City Council, family, everybody. This is a honor. I never would in my wildest dreams thought that I'd be standing here receiving a proclamation. When I was told I was getting a Proclamation. I said for what and they started reading off things that I've done. I said I do what I do. There were other barbers before me and during my time that did not receive something like this. This Proclamation is for them also. Thank you.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Parking Committee**

Mr. Logan stated just really quick, you all know that about a year ago, we completed the parking study for the City of Coatesville. That was basically funded by the RDA, with the assistance of the RDA and the non-profit Second Century Alliance for the research data. And the study made recommendations to some of the parking challenges that we have throughout the community, not only in the commercial area, but also in the residential areas. So one of the things that we thought would be necessary as we move forward is to create a parking committee, more of an advisory committee if you will, and that would be made up of some of our residents as well as council members. [inaudible] [another stage?] [inaudible] some of the interviews to get to where we are with [parking?]. So we will begin that process. And again, we're just looking to have some of the residents involved in identifying what we're calling some of our challenged areas. Some of the residents, you are very much aware of, we have handicapped parking spaces throughout the community. We have as much as up to six handicap spaces in one block. It's unheard of. But in addition to that, we just have a shortage of spaces throughout the community. We are working on parking garages and other areas that we can free up for parking. City Council, many years ago, they had actually approved Martin Luther King to be designated as a line parking area. That would free up a number of spaces for residents in the community. As we continue to build the downtown district, parking is going to be needed as well as on the East End as well. So, this advisory committee will be intricate-- or play an intricate role in identifying what some of the priorities should be as we look at the recommendations made by the study. Vice President Green asked how many people would be on the committee. Mr. Logan replied we haven't determined that yet. We will make sure that we have all that information out to everyone as we move forward.

### **2. Palmer Park**

Mr. Logan announced have an opportunity to work with members of AAHA. AHA has submitted a proposal that is included in your packets. I think it's in the packet listed at 4.2. The proposal is to install a full-- what they call a PULL (Pop Up Lending Library) at Palmer Park. We do have one downstairs in front of the police department right now. You may have

seen them throughout other communities. These are designated areas for young people as well as adults to pull out a book, read, and return. But I'm just going to let Jan Michener to step forward and explain. Ms. Michener announced we're the ones that in 2015 started all the Pop-Up Lending Libraries here in Coatesville. Coatesville, Oxford, and we have over 100 of them throughout Chester County now. We've collected and distributed over 20,000 books, and we've also started the Chester County Imagination Library where every child in Chester County from birth to age five is eligible to receive a free brand-new book every single month in the mail from birth to age five. On that, Home Builders Association built another pop-up lending library for Palmer Park that they held a kids learning series to getting painted. And we've been-- we had worked with Mr. Chip Huston and Ajené Livingston last year where we wanted to get a funding report for the fall running series. The spring series just started Monday and will be for five weeks. And we would love to have it installed one at Palmer Park before their last night so that all the [inaudible] giving out free books to all the children as they run and complete the race. And we would love to have another place where they can go and return the books after they read them but also get new books and keep the exchange going. And we also work with [inaudible] is our donation station where we have books where people donate books. We work with the CCIU Discover team, and they sort and label the books. And then once a week, they go and replenish the books. We also work with Keith Demayo who is a retired school teacher from Coatesville once a month, he [egjender?] another Coatesville school teacher who go every month to check each of the pull stations, do maintenance on them, and recycling all fresh books, so that they're always different books. So that's what I would love, is to be able to-- we call them planting our pull stations and helping our literacy grow with children.

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

There were no citizens comments at this time.

Vie President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion to appoint Officer Kevin Bochanski from part time to fulltime Officer

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to appoint Kevin Bochanski from part time to full time officer; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Chief Laufer explained tonight, we have an opportunity to hire one of our part-time officers to full-time, Kevin Bochanski, promote him from part-time [also?] to full-time. And just by way of background of what we are asking tonight council, we have members of the department here in the back to not only express our support for Officer Bochanski but also express their support and their opportunity and thank council for being supportive of the Department. And this promotion will actually put us over our current complement of 27 full time officers, 29 if you include myself and the Lieutenant. But council agreed with us that the opportunity to promote Officer Bochanski, who's been with us since last August as a part time officer. The amount of training and the money that we have invested in him, and there was an opportunity for us to offer him the full-time position with council in agreement, so that we would not lose him to another department. We are going to offer him the full-time position. So, it's sort of the foresight of council to be in agreement with City Manager, Mr. Logan, and our assistant city manager, Roberta, that we didn't want to miss this opportunity and lose a good officer who has begun to integrate himself into the community, and we have

invested a lot of training and money into his position. So, we are fortunate tonight to be here and to have council take this vote to promote Officer Bochanski from part time to full time.

Officer Bochanski was before council previously when we introduced him to council as a newly hired part time officer. We are here tonight to reintroduce him as our newest full time officer, and just a real quick bio. Kevin graduated from Monsignor Bonner High School in Upper Darby in 2006 and went to Temple University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice, graduating in 2010 from Temple. From there, Kevin went to work for Amerihealth, where he began a career in that field, and he worked there for approximately 11 years. But his true passion was still in criminal justice and law enforcement. So, after he took that opportunity to go part time to the Delaware County Police Academy, while still continuing to work for Americare, and then after he graduated from the police academy, he just made the decision to leave his career after 10 years, having worked his way up to being its operations manager. To leave that company after 10 years and begin his law enforcement career. He was hired by Alden Borough initially, and came to us in last August. Excited to have him here as an officer, and he has integrated himself well within the department and within our community. We are just excited tonight for City Council to agree that we don't want to lose this opportunity to retain a qualified officer and the police look forward to adding another officer to the department, with some idea that there is a lot of growth that's happening in our community, with the idea of the different things that are happening which you're all bringing from the future of the City of Coatesville. It will provide us to have a larger police presence with that? There are more people coming into the city to patronize fresh products, train station, and just all the projects that are on the books are finally coming to fruition here in the city. We are looking forward and at the same time, it gives us an opportunity to vote and retain a qualified officer in who we put a lot of effort into training. So at this time, I think you have your mom and dad are here tonight, you want to ask both of them to come forward? And we'll have Judge Hines who's here tonight to administer the oath of officers even though, Officer Bochanski is already a sworn officer as a part-time officer, we like to have him retake the oath as a position of a full-time policeman. The Honorable Judge Gregory Hines swore in Kevin Bochanski as a full-time officer while his parents held the Bible.

2. Receive and consider a Resolution supporting the filing of a grant application with the Chester County Department of Community Development for 2022-2023 Chester County Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for the City of Coatesville Comprehensive Evaluation of Gibbons Run Culvert System.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve a Resolution supporting the filing of a grant application with the Chester County Department of Community Development for 2022-2023 Chester County Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for the City of Coatesville Comprehensive Evaluation of Gibbons Run Culvert System; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

## Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced has communicated and continues to communicate with outside council regarding certain litigation matters; attended a gathering regarding the Brandywine View land development project; drafted and mailed the conditional preliminary land

development approval letter for the Flats; communicated with the RDA's Solicitor regarding certain RDA property; provided and opinion regarding the Construction, Property Maintenance, Building, and Electrical Codes; reviewed an RFP for Ash Park and provided an opinion regarding social media.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. Earlier this evening, we discussed real estate matters that could comments to public meeting information. Just want to share with everyone in partnership with ECON partners and Natural Lands. Our administration team continues to forge ahead with our grants mission, both Ash Park Innovation Stormwater Management that was part of the resolution that we just passed the grant cross CRP grant. In addition to that, I just want to make note that so far Econ Partners has worked the city pursuing over \$3 million in grant funding and submissions. Happy to share with Council this evening that one of our recent grant submissions, [inaudible] Bill of Applicants has reached an important ground step for review the House Committee on Appropriations. The City of Coatesville is one of 15 applicants for the community project funding right in front of you, led by Congress Chrissy Houlihan. Project fund is a central funding vehicle that members of Congress can advocate for projects in their communities. City of Coatesville was a recipient of these funds last year, and again, to be selected as a 2023 and '24 awardee. Once again, in your end, has a list of all of the projects, the 15, I should say, that have made it through the second round, and we hope to be one that will be selected. Moving on to Palmer Park, again, we talked a little bit about what's going on in Palmer Park, with the additional of the pool station. That's going to be a nice kind of addition to the park. It continues to add some additional features, including lighting. We will be implementing as festive of lighting, which you all know we have between Martin Luther King Boulevard and Lincoln Highway right now. So we're going to be installing those, working with Bond Construction. In addition to that, we received books of the Bathhouse, that root there. So we have some additional dollars that Natural Lands had from Palmer Park.

On a sad note, I have noticed arising number of vandalism reports coming out of Palmer Park. This personally concerns me because our initial goal with restoring Palmer Park, as well as all of our parks in the area, was to provide open areas our residents can enjoy. The act of individuals that forget about others who use our parks for gatherings, events, meditation, just relaxation, has resulted in the reduction of replacement items and possible funding. So it goes without saying, as we try to improve our parks here, it's unfortunate that individuals are going into the parks destroying them. Not that I want to point any fingers or anything. We do have surveillance cameras in our parks. We will find the individuals that are invading this vandalism. And as I said, it's just unfortunate here you are. You have citizens, community are trying to do good. We have local residents that go into that park and clean up the park only to come back the next day this is the park littered. So I think it's just very disrespectful to our residents here. But anyway, we continue to hope that folks will share in the responsibility, clean the parks, keep them safe, and make them reusable for others to enjoy the parks. The last note I have is just a thanks and a shout-out to some of the folks that attended yesterday's event. It was a wonderful event. Thank you, Councilwoman Hunt and Councilwoman Lavender Norris, both for {inaudible} meeting with [inaudible], putting a spark in her to carry out, I think, your vision, start out your vision Councilwoman Hunt, who is very humble, never said what she was working on behind the scenes. But we thank you both for your leadership in this. And members of your organization[inaudible] it's wonderful. For those of you who missed it, it was a dedication for the legacy and the work that Dr. WC Atkinson

provided in this community as a leader, a healthcare pioneer, and a game changer, so we're very grateful. Thank you.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino shared with everyone that starting May 5th led by 2nd Century Alliance and supported by City of Coatesville, we'll be having First Fridays here in Coatesville, again starting May 5th. And that's kind of exciting because it's an opportunity to bring people down to the businesses downtown. And there's going to be special vendors, music as things progress throughout the year. And on May 5th Chertoks is also going to be celebrating their new grand opening. So I hope everybody will make it down for our First Friday starting May 5th. Also, I just want to thank our parks and rec commission who did a great job on Earth Day on Saturday organizing a cleanup in Palmer Park, as you mentioned. And also, they did a plant giveaway. They were giving away some garden tools as well. It was really well done and a great way to celebrate Earth Day. And speaking of Earth Day, I also wanted to mention that the recycling facility that we used which is J.P. Mascaro was actually in the daily local, being recognized for their sustainable processing methods that they use, which is great to hear. And that sort of prompted me to look a little bit more into recycling and some of the numbers that our finance director tracks for us. And I learned that, in general, municipalities on average recycle about 30% of their waste. And here in Coatesville, thanks to Rich Troutman, we know that our recycling-- we're about at 24% here in Coatesville. In honor of Earth Day, I hope everyone can support some recycling out in your communities. And we'll get that number up to 30%. I also wanted to share a few things about our Public Works Department today. Public Works has several projects they're working on, including cutting grass again and working in the Parks on the West End and the East End of town. They also finished repainting the handicap spots throughout the city and are now working on repainting the faded yellow curbing for the city. Public Works is also updating signage both throughout the city again and at the municipal lots. Trash continues to be a top concern for the city, residents as well, and businesses. If your trash or recycling or bulk item is not picked up, please call the city receptionist within 24 hours. That is really key because we are tracking all those calls. Yard waste pickup, that's springtime, so everybody's doing their cleanups at their homes. Yard waste pickup is every other Wednesday. And it's also important to remember to call the city or to schedule your pickup. The other option is to take your own yard waste to the compost site on Upper Gap Road in Modena every second Saturday of the month. I also want to mention that on June 23rd, the Chester County Solid Waste Authority is hosting hazardous waste collection at the CCIU Center in Coatesville. Hazardous waste includes anything from car fuel and oils, antifreeze, solvents, acids, flammables, and many other things. Safely disposing of hazardous waste is critical for public safety. So, if you or you know anyone has hazardous waste at your homes, please take it to one of the disposal sites. On June 23rd, they'll be at the CCIU. And there are other dates throughout the county, and that is available on our website under the Public Works tab. And last but not least, we do have our sweeper back out Tuesday through to Friday. The schedule can also be found on our website. And I know some people have been getting tickets and have concerns about violations, so I was hoping Chief could explain a little bit about our process behind that.

Chief Laufer explained as everyone probably knows as a resident of the city, we suspend the street sweeping operations over the wintertime, that we begin them again, usually in the month of April. And we put it out on our social media and city's website, the date that we are going to resume street sweeper operations. And for two weeks prior to that date, we do put warning notices on windshields just to try to get the public back in the habit, remembering if

they live on a street sweeper route, that they need to have their vehicle moved during so that the street sweeper can effectively clean the streets for us. We give them a two-week sort of grace period leading up to the actual start of street sweeper season. And then once that happens, we do go ahead and issue citations and the amount of \$25 for vehicles that do fail to move on the street sweeper routes. And it's really to just try to get compliance as best as we can so that we can efficiently clean the streets here in the city. It is not meant to be punitive. We do not look at it as a way to raise revenue for the city. It's a way to gain compliance so it can be done effectively, clean the streets. And if you talk to the public works operators that run the street sweeper, they would be very grateful if we could get 100% compliance because it just makes their job so much easier, and they can be so much more efficient and effective. But we try to work as best we can with the residents, make sure we give plenty of notice when we start issuing citations. And that also applies to a lot of the other violations that we see around the city, whether it's handicapped parking, whether it's fire hydrants, parking too close to intersections, whether it's parking during prohibited hours. It's probably one of the number one complaint that the police department receives from residents are parking issues. And I know we spoke earlier tonight about the parking study that was completed for the city and the RDA contracted with a private company to complete that parking study and one of the facets of that study is the enforcement component, to try to get compliance with the current laws that are on the books to try to keep some semblance of order to parking within the city. We know we have a problem with having a lot of residents, a lot of vehicles, families that have a lot of vehicles. It's just part of our modern lifestyle in a city that was designed probably for families that have one car. So, we're trying to accomplish a lot of different goals here. And the police department is responsible for the enforcement side of that. But we try to be as even-handed and as fair as we can and work with the residents the best we can.

4. Finance Department

Mr. Troutman ask Council to turn to the simple square report that is on your packet. And then, while you're doing that, make a note that the Real Estate Taxes are in the face value rate if you pay it by May 31. Most importantly, if you pay before May 31, you're not going to end up with a 10% penalty. So, that's why we wanted to help encourage people to make those payments by May 31. Regarding the circle square financials, we are 25% into the year past, so we are starting to get a little bit more traction on the year. If you look at 25% of the circles are all showing 25% or less. So the expenses are tracking better than [inaudible]. And all squares, we have surplus. So in three months, we have a surplus of about \$51,000.00 in the general fund. And we're doing that and we need to be doing that because we have higher risk items toward the end of the year. And we just need to do that technical term called stockpiling.

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

Pamela Depte

Ms. Depte greeted city council. I'm just addressing as the administrative secretary for Tabernacle Baptist Church officers, and Member would like to commend Mr. Nathan Bookman who's the president of our trustee boards for his wonderful award tonight and we do want to give that award for the work that he does, and by doing that, we're giving him his flowers, and it makes our city more united as church and City because we are rising to greater heights that work together when you give a person their due that's for all. [inaudible] this little bit you done for this gentleman will make him run all the harder, because we go to the young for their strength and we go to the old for their

wisdom. So we comply as members of the Tabernacle Church, that we thank you for such an honor to our trustee.

Cassandra Burgess

Ms. Burgess stated she had two items to bring before Council. On behalf of the NAACP, these two items focus on our youth. [inaudible] parents, women of faith, specials, educators, counselors, and non-profits. Why are our girls fighting? What should we do as a community to help? With the one weather approaching. Young ladies fighting in the schools and in our streets. They need our help. Calling all Coatesville women, [inaudible]. If you care, please call Donna Rowland, NAACP or email all godschildren2@Verizon.net. And if you are willing to take part in the session that will be held here at Sydney Hall on May 9th at [17:00?], and this is for all community [members?]. Let's combine forces and try to come into some kind of resolution or whatever for this issue that is happening to people. Secondly, about three years ago, the women in the NAACP, which is known as Win, W-I-N, drafted a letter and sent to a superintendent school. That letter expressed an interest in teaching parents and teaching members of the NAACP how to teach. It's one thing to be a mentor, but to be able to teach child how to read, it's a different story. So at the time, the student district did not have a program-- [inaudible] taking part in that program. And the real reason for helping that session, we hope to have at least half of those come from different organizations in the city that are already connected with programs so they can take the skill sets taught and learned back to their organization. Because this is going to be aligned with the curriculum and it's the first time they have a coping that's going to be aligned with the curriculum. So, everybody that learns those skill sets will be right back to their students and hopefully be a better student. Wow. Children in the first, in the sixth grades, will be involved and they're only taking 45 students from each grade level. That's the best they can do for this year. Hopefully, that'll go next year, but 45 students from grade level and they're the lowest performing students. We've also expecting from success of those students. Thank you [crosstalk]--

Mr. Folks made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

**Council Comments**

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out tonight, and I love our new podium. It's so beautiful. And thank you to my colleagues yesterday, the event yesterday. Anybody that was there know that it was a very well put together event, a very well-deserved event for Mr. Atkinson. You guys did a wonderful job. Mr. Bookman, you know I love you, sir. Thank you for all that you've done for those in the city, a lot of barbers, a lot of cosmetologists, those barbers that have shops because you were kind enough to teach them and take them under your wing. So, we so appreciate you, and just continue to grow the city, and look forward to all that's happening. Safe travels home to everybody.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for coming and spending the evening with us. We're always grateful to see residents come and being you in attendance. Actually, want to acknowledge Mr. Bookman for the great work that you've done, not only through the barbershop but through city, for your endurance. Even when things look bleak and it doesn't seem like you're appreciated for what you do, you still hung in there. And this is a well-deserved retirement as well as a well-deserved recognition. So, I do salute you and all that you've done. Sandra, thank you so much for making us aware of these things that are coming to the city through the NAACP. Just one question with the website, Is that numeral 2 or is it T-O? Number 2. Okay. I just want to make sure I have that correct. Again, as always. I want

to thank our staff for the great job that you do. Chief, thank you so much for your hard work, Lieutenant Ollis, making sure the streets are safe. Mr. Logan, you always stay behind the scene with things, but thank you and your team for making sure the sign was made. It was there and you were there. You changed your agenda to be able to stay to the end after we begged you, but still you were there. No, thank you so much. And to all my colleagues, had you not voted for it to happen, it could not have happened. So we thank you so much for what you did to make things happen. To our NAACP President, it's always good to see you. It was well. It was good to see you on Sunday. So again, I just thank everyone and my colleagues as always just for spending time. Thank you, Roberta. Thank you to our Solicitor, Rob.

Mr. Folks stated Yeah. Like my colleague said one thing I want to say have you once drove down the street lately and seen no homeless. Seen no homeless. Have you drove down our street and seen no homeless people? Last month. They don't know. They're not here. For the last month I haven't seen a homeless person. That's not normal. I'm just saying. And our police department. Thank you. Nate, man. We run, I'm proud of you brother. I don't know, we went to the super bowl together, games together. Yeah, like I said, I travel the streets probably every day down highway, probably 20 times back. Just walk in. I'm in the whole city. I'm out over the city every day riding up and down the streets, just looking. It makes me feel good that the city's changing. I'm going to start really building our East-End stores. Because they don't get no play. Nobody talks about, a lot people don't know about. So, I think downtown's going be downtown. It's going to pay for itself. But East End, it needs to be, put back in Coatesville instead of East End. We are Coatesville. This is 1.9 miles square; 14,000 people East End is a part of Coatesville. So, lets this make it part of the city. Have a good night.

Vice President Green stated I would just like to reiterate the Atkinson Memorial dedication yesterday. Such a wonderful affair. It should have been televised. It was wonderful. I mean, it was beautiful. I think that the committee did such an exceptional, job, Ms. Hunt, you mc'd so well and it's a proud moment for the city of Coatesville and it was so long overdue because Dr. Atkinson, when we think about all that, he went through, coming here as a first black African American doctor, he could not take his patients to the hospital, he did not get any type of state funding. His hospital started with, how much did they say? \$5,000 in private donations. You think that when you hear it, it's one thing, but I know that. To actually experience it and go through it. It was another, when look at the sign and the sign says that he treated people who didn't have, even if you didn't have money, even if you didn't have insurance, God made it a way. God provided the project of that hospital group was 60 bed hospital, and I tell you, I was mad at myself because I didn't get the opportunity to submit to the committee. I had a picture of my mother, who was born in 1938, her and her twin brother on the lawn of the hospital with a nurse. We've been trying to identify who this nurse is, but she's holding these little infant babies, and it was my mom and my uncle. We have a big picture at my mom's house. I'm showing that, but it's this wonderful memory. I guess my grandparents must have knew one day that Dr. Atkinson needed to be memorialized. That that hospital needed to be-- you know what I mean? But I was just proud yesterday. I was proud of everything that I heard over the comments, and it's just a wonderful thing to acknowledge your community, because Nate, you deserve to be acknowledged when you come to the community, it's a hard, sometimes, to hear what we've done, but you've been a pillar of our community. Not even just your barbery, but the marching drill team. supporting these young guys, encouraging them, mentoring them. Just to be able to stop by your barber shop, you done stopped probably a couple bad things from happening by saying a kind word, by stopping someone and sitting them down and just talking to them. So, you were very deserving of what was presented to you tonight. To be in business in our community for 53 years, but to not only just be in business, because it wasn't about the money. It wasn't about the money. It was

about community, and when you have someone that loves their community, this is what you get, so I really thank you for who you are, and I tell you that I heard that you were-- I've seen on Facebook that you were retiring. I inboxed Ronnie right away. I said, "We need to give your dad a Proclamation. He deserves it. You've seen a lot, so you were around part of Dr. Atkinson-- I'm not trying to say your age-- No, but I'm saying. No, you were here, and you knew what it was like growing up in the City of Coatesville. They could use [inaudible], but we need pro-life visitors to be able to move forward. We need people like you to be able to push us up, to push these young guys and give them an alternative where they can see the right way of doing things, so I thank you, and I always, for all that you've done, but thank you all for coming out. It's so wonderful when the meeting is full. This involves the NAACP here. I get so excited, you guys come every meeting, and you do so much. You've been doing so much in our community. We've never had an active NAACP the way that we have now. The emails-- every time I open my email, it's there. It doesn't always have to be about [inaudible]. It's about the community. It's about why are these young girls fighting? What can we do to stop it? How can we impact that, because the Bible says the old is supposed to train up the young, so that's where we come in and we need to offer our gifts and our talents to find a way to make a difference? Because we don't want our kids in school fighting. They start fighting, they're getting suspended, they're in trouble with the law. It's a whole downward spiral. I appreciate all of you, what you're bringing to the table. And Ed you've been missing my comments. You know I go on and on for a long time, but the staff, I really appreciate all of you for all that you do in your individual departments. Mr. Logan, who is always behind the scene running from the phone, don't want to take a picture. But Coatesville is rising, we have a lot going on. There's a lot going on in our community and it takes a family. It takes us all and we all bring to the table. Thank you all for coming out, have a wonderful night.

Mr. Simpson thanked everybody for coming out tonight. It was 25 years ago I was asked to be on Council to fill a void. So, I accepted that challenge 25 years ago. I got beat in the special election next year, but I never want to do this again. Then I was asked to run again to help stop the eminent domain for which I'm proud of and got elected in 2003. Unfortunately, tonight, I'm here to let everybody know this is my last city council. As of probably noon on Wednesday, I will no longer be a resident City of Coatesville. Because of that, I have to resign on Wednesday. It's been a long, hard journey. I've been through six police chiefs, I think. Seven city managers, three Interim City Managers, and last but not least, 29 different council people that I have worked with over the last 20 years. This is one of the best that I've worked with. I would've stepped down four years ago, I didn't feel like after 16 years I got much done and I was convinced to run again and I'm glad that I stayed for another four. Unfortunately, there is a family matter that I need to attend to. But everything that I wanted to say is gone but I want to recognize different people. The first one I want to recognize is-- she's going to get me back there for 20 years. She was at my first council meeting when I got sworn in, and this is the second council meeting she has attended, my wife Terry, but she's put up with a lot over 20 years. So I'll be [inaudible]. Last but not least, the person that I leaned on very heavily when I first got elected, when I first was appointed she worked in Codes, and when I got elected, she worked for Representative Hennessey Office. I would stop in there all the time. She would cuss me out, and I would sit there and just "Okay, all right." But Linda Lavender Norris and I have been friends since kindergarten, and I tell that story all the time, but she has been there for me that whenever I needed somebody to talk to, she was always-- except for the one night that-- you remember that night. She [crosstalk]. But thank you so much, everybody. Mr. Logan, thank you. You're an inspiration. I know all of the good things that you have planned for the City of Coatesville that you'll continue to march forward, get a lot of good things done, and I'm proud to say that I've been here with you. Roberta, known each other for a couple years. But, good luck with whatever you do here as Assistant City Manager, keep everybody in line, especially Mr. Logan. Mr. Jefferson,

we've got a lot of solicitors, right? I forgot to mention how many solicitors [inaudible] I can tell you [inaudible]. I was a little unsure when you came on board, but it didn't take me very long to realize that you were probably one of the most efficient city solicitors we had, and it's been a pleasure working with you for the past couple years, and I really mean that and you have done a wonderful job and I hope that you continue to stay the City Solicitor for a long time. Chief Laufer number six. Maybe that'll be your new nickname six. Chief, I want to thank you for everything you've done. You've taken a department that I think over the years lost a lot of its credibility, but you have transformed this police department to be in my opinion the best police department in Chester County. Our police officers do more in one year than a number of police departments do together and you've done a wonderful job and I commend you for it. You're welcome. Last but not least, Ruthann Mowday. She has been the rock as been [the route?]. Anybody here will tell you, if you want to know something ask Ruthann. Unwavering support for this city, you go above and beyond, the work we've done for the Grand Prix, and everything else associated with this City. We do it without question. I want to thank you for making my 20 years one of the best. So, it doesn't mean I'm gone, will stop in now and then. I was asked to stay involved with the Grand Prix Committee and I'm going to continue to do that. But again, if I could have stayed and had one term I would have done so. But like I said, family comes first. I made a decision that, even though this is my city council family and the City of Coatesville family, my own family came first and we're going to do what we can to help out there. Love you's all—and thank you very much

President Lavender Norris stated Ed, now that you've put me out there. I reiterate and I'm grateful for all my colleagues. I'm grateful that we can lean on one another in good and bad times. I'm grateful for that. Like you were saying, we're like a family. And when I say that I mean like sisters and brothers. You know how you get mad at your sister and your brother and want to fight? That's who we are. We're just real tight. And I'm grateful for that. If we all said the same thing all the time we'd be lying to each other because nobody agrees 100% of the time. Teri, thank you. I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for the time you gave up for us. 25 years is a long time. And you stood by him, you supported him, and indirectly you were supporting the city the entire time. So, thank you for allowing us to share your time. Ed, thank you so much for your time, your service, and your commitment to the city. You've been wonderful. You haven't been good all the time and with that being said I have something for you that I want to share. Okay. So this is what I have for you buddy. It's a proclamation saying the City of Coatesville recognizes people who make an impact on and play a role in lives of Coatesville residents. Councilman Edward Simpson Jr. has dedicated twenty-plus years of service as a council member to the City of Coatesville. He served as the wisdom keeper, memory, and storyteller of this city and its residents. Ed's service has been given willingly and cheerfully - sometimes - and he's contributed immeasurably to the success of the community endeavors-- endeavors, I'm sorry, and to the betterment of the quality of life for many of his fellow citizens. His direct approach to city and legislative change has helped shaped the City of Coatesville's revitalization effort. In 2016, Ed cofounded the annual Coatesville Invitational Vintage Grand Prix that has successfully run for six years. Now therefore be it proclaimed that the City Council of the City of Coatesville recognizes and salutes Councilman Edward Simpson Jr. for his selfless, faithful dedication and service to the lives of the citizens of the Coatesville community. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr. Bookman, you know how much you mean to our community, and to me. Love you. Thank you all. Please be safe on your way home.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Simpson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.