



Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, June 26, 2023

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

Council Absent:
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.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the June 12, 2023 and June 20, 2023 meeting minutes; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Discussion Items

- 1 Alternative Citations
Ms. Al Amin stated I asked for this to be put on the agenda and [records video one second?] because when Chip came we went back to the instant ticket. And then last year we were informed that we were not going to use the instant tickets anymore. But we never removed it from the ordinance, which I think we need to do because with the instant tickets, and maybe the city can pull the information and provide it to all council members, I can provide what I have. Problem with the instant tickets is when the instant ticket is given, the first ticket is \$25. But if the person doesn't pay it, or if they don't rectify the issue, that would then require the city to take that instant ticket and convert it into a citation. So for the few years we did instant tickets, that wasn't happening. So the instant tickets were really a waste of money because it took the manpower, the paper, and in some of the instances, the second and the third, the second citation should be \$50 and the third, 75. That wasn't happening either, and I can't say why. I don't know if the staff member wasn't given full direction on how the instant tickets work. And then last year, we got a communication that the administration decided no more instant ticket, but we never removed it from the book. Now, the two individuals that are in Codes that have the ability to write citations, from what I was told, it's up to their discretion, whether they give a warning, write an instant ticket or a citation. At the instant tickets, truly, they're not serving a purpose because if you would've seen how many folks got

instant tickets, didn't pay the ticket, didn't rectify the issue and nothing ever happened. The instant tickets were not being converted over into citations that would go over to the MDJ.

Vice President Green asked if we can actually get the full ordinance or the ordinances? Because I remember having this discussion. Most of us were against it. And specifically, I thought you were the one that was for the instant ticket and that's why Chip [inaudible] for the instant ticket. So I don't agree with instant ticket because I don't think it's fair to everyone. So, we found that an ordinance was done, but it was not codified promptly changing it from the instant ticket. So, we just need to research that because the instant tickets have been removed. And it wasn't administration that said that. It was Tony Verwey that said that. The administration did not make a decision on their own. But I remember Tony stating that there was an ordinance doing away with the instant ticket. So I would like for us to figure out, look at our ordinances, not the actual ordinance that's actually [probably recorded on Ecodes, but look adopted ordinances or amendments to find out which is which, what the actual process is. President Lavender Norris stated for me, the instant ticket, I don't like it. I feel like it creates a hardship. You had a senior on your block. Grass isn't cut. The senior can't cut it. Codes office comes by, issues them an instant ticket. I think they would do better with a warning, "You have to have this done in--" such and such number of days, "--or you'll be issued a citation for it." I think that would be the better process as opposed to issuing the ticket up front without giving them an opportunity. So I don't like the instant ticket. I didn't then, and I won't ever.

Ms. Al Amin said I agree. President Lavender Norris stated because I feel like its—I feel like it's a hardship and-- I would be the one to say, "Let's get it codified and get it out of the way." That's how I feel. Ms. Al Amin said yep. And that's actually what I'm asking for, for it to be removed because even when a citation is written, I want to say, Roberta, is it 10 days? Ms. Cosentino stated I think it is. Ms. Al Amin said if they rectify the problem within the 10 days, then the citation goes away, but. Vice President Green said I think the problem really is here that Council has just sent out so many different things. You know what I mean? Because I truly remember and recall that they didn't want to do the instant ticket, and they were kind of like, "It's on the books." I thought that you brought that to their attention—[crosstalk] --because you wanted people to be instant ticketed. Because I came back with a couple people who were instant ticketed who never had code issue before. And this is how it started out. And all I'm saying is, this is what happens when we try to interfere in different offices in the city. That's why I want us to research this, figure out what is on the books, if the right ordinance is not there, then we need to create the right ordinance. And at the same time, we need to really stop interfering with these offices and allow them to do their job. Now if we find that there's a problem, then we address it. But when we're all over the place and one month we want instant tickets, then the next month we don't. I just think it's so unfair to them. Because we had this whole discussion because I know that I was totally against the instant ticket because a lady in my ward whose house got hit by a car who was in a nursing home at the time-- --her son-in-law was trying to cut her grass, but he works two jobs so he was planning on doing it that Saturday. Codes came out and gave him an instant ticket. They've never had any code violations prior to that. They always keep their properties nice. So I had that issue back then about the instant ticket. So I just want us [to get?] the proper ordinance, we can investigate, research, and if we need to change it, get it changed.

Mr. Jefferson stated just to kind of explain a few things as far as what I've learned. The term instant ticket, I think, is something that we've sort of casually started to reference things as, but it is talked about in our ordinances as an alternative citation. So the words instant ticket-- I personally think language is important. So the term instant ticket sort of denotes that people are instantaneously getting tickets when there's a violation, and that's actually not the case. So the way that it's written is that this alternative citation process is for when there does need to be some discretion. Just in the examples that you all were giving, when perhaps someone-- maybe this is the beginning of the season and someone hasn't mowed their lawn yet and it's a little bit long. That allows for the code enforcement officer to have some discretion in, "Okay, I'll give you a warning, but you need to get this taken care of." And we do issue warnings. So our Code Enforcement officers do issue warnings without alternative citations or state citations. The alternative citation process also references different ordinances. So it's with property maintenance, but it's also with trash and a few other things. So a change in the ordinance would require multiple ordinance changes, I believe. I could be wrong, but-- Vice President Green stated well, if we can just have the-- the original ordinance, provide that for us so that we can all read the language and get a full understanding of it. And we should remove the term instant.

Ms. Cosentino stated and I also wonder if it would be helpful to have our code enforcement sort of explain in more detail what those examples might be if that's helpful. We can also talk about that. I'd be open to having maybe a presentation role on another discussion about this. But I do agree that historically there has been some fault in the process on the alternative citations because we didn't have the system in place to do the follow up. And I do believe that we are working on that. I think SmartGov is allowing for us to put in deadlines, flag the violations for follow-up after a certain number of days. So that has been extremely helpful, but that has only been recently.

Vice President Green stated so prior to MyGov being able to do that, we were strictly relying on memory and [inaudible]. So yeah. With site visits for follow-up. Ms. Al Amin stated and then also, if you could provide the information for-- and you'll probably remember this because you and I went a couple of times. Remember when I think it was when Scott Mulderig was here. If the same property had the issue continuing, continuing, continuing, after so many days the city would go clean it up. Remember that one month, Linda, you and I went twice? And in one month's time, from owner occupants and/or landlords not taking care of their properties and paying any attention to the citations, the city total by the cleanups, made - what was it? - \$5001. Remember? And-- Vice President Green asked but that was doing trash and stuff, right?

Ms. Al Amin replied well, no, there's different things. There was a property up on Walnut Street where the grass was tall. So if on that particular one, it was bank-owned and they gave the city permission to go on. But if it's a repetitive problem, and Rob, this is probably something for you to look into, and the city used to do it, it's called an administrative search warrant. And it costs nothing. You fill out a form, you take it over to the MDJ, and he signs it. And that gives the city the right for those that - this is worst case scenarios - that just refuse to take care of their property or rectify things that they've been cited for. Because they can go to the MDJ if it's a state citation, pay the fine and do absolutely nothing, and then just wait for another citation. And I can give you instances of folks that do that. So when it gets to that, the administrative search warrant allows the city the right to go on a property and rectify

the issue, and it's permissible. [crosstalk]-- Vice President Green stated Judge Hines had said that-- I thought he wouldn't honor the administrative search warrant. See, the property there, you're talking about the cleanup. The bank did own it and the bank gave permission for us to go in and clean it. And unless you're talking about another property, this is the property on 8th Avenue and Stirling Street, but the bank gave permission for that one because they do that one too. But when you're talking about going on people's property who don't want you on their property, I was under the impression that Judge Hines would not honor the administrative search warrant, it would have to be a little bit more detailed because we don't have that as an ordinance on our books. That came up back in 2015 or 2016, I think, and it was voted now. Because there's some other stuff that you have to do to do an administrative search warrant. Ms. Al Amin said well, I got the information from Judge Hines, and he would sit with codes and explain it to them and he has signed administrative search warrants for the city before. President Lavender Norris stated again, I don't think-- again, even with the administrative search warrant, I think it's too much. I think it's too invasive. And I'm just speaking for me, I think it's too invasive. If I put a fence up around my house, and I don't cut my grass until it's the same height as the fence, as long as when you look from the street and you see the fence, you have no complaint. But if you see my grass above my fence and you have a complaint, rightfully so. But to get a search warrant to come on my property and see what's wrong with my property, no. Mind your business. The codes office has enough work to do. They're behind in some of the things they're doing now. Let them get caught up before we try to pile more on their plate.

Ms. Al Amin said right. So like you said, if you can see it from the street and they refuse to address it, then how do you make them address it? President Lavender Norris said the codes office has to do that, not us. Ms. Al Amin said okay. And how would that be done, by writing a citation every day? President Lavender Norris said No. No, because that's ridiculous too. Ms. Al Amin said okay. But I'm asking how it will be addressed. And I'm asking for a particular reason because it affects my property. Vice President Green stated but see, that's the problem. I think that you've got to take a look at a big picture because we can't create something because it affects one property. Ms. Al Amin said it's more than one property. I have a whole notebook full of complaints from other people for multiple years. And for some of these properties, it's three, four, five years, every summer, and they do nothing. And you can look to see if they've been cited, and they have. And so how do they [alleviate?]- Vice President Green stated okay. And that's what I'm saying. See, that's the issue that we need to make sure that code is going out there and citing them because maybe if they get cited, maybe they'll start doing the maintenance and clean it up. Ms. Al Amin said and that's what I'm saying. But some of them-- [crosstalk]-- --they just don't. They get cited and they don't pay it, they don't pay it-- Vice President Green stated and then they get cited again. Ms. Al Amin stated sometimes, and sometimes not. The one property last year, the whole summer, they've gotten cited, state, where they go next door and pay a fine. And this year, twice, it's been next door. Vice President Green stated if the code office goes out and cleans up the property, and we send them the bill, and they don't pay it--

Ms. Al Amin said I'm good with what you said, if they go back and reach out, but that's not happening. Vice President Green stated no, but I'm saying, just listen to me. They get an administrative search warrant, they go out there and [inaudible] that property up, and we send them the bill and they don't pay it. Ms. Al Amin said you put a lien on the property and-- Vice President Green stated and you'll get paid whenever they sell that house or-- So that's

the one time. Vice President Green stated no, but I'm saying, just listen to me. They get an administrative search warrant, they go out there and [inaudible] that property up, and we send them the bill and they don't pay it. Ms. Al Amin said and doing nothing doesn't rectify it either. There's got to be some way to hold folks accountable. And the reality of it is, if they're cited, where they have to go in front of a magistrate, a citation, and they go plead guilty the first time, it's a \$100 fine. If they get cited again, and they go in front of the magistrate again, the magistrate sees that. So fine's not a \$100 anymore. The magistrate can fine them up to 1,000. But if codes is not going back and doing follow-up, and I can give you guys dates. I could, I put Right to know in, you know what I'm saying? Vice President Green stated that's what she's saying. She's saying that my job is helping him be able to do that better, to be able to do follow-up and track it, and be able to go out and give them-- Ms. Al Amin said okay. Well, [inaudible] citation is going to be written every Tuesday. That has not happened. Because you can check, it's public knowledge. Vice President Green stated yeah, but are we writing-- you're talking about for the same violation. Ms. Al Amin said same violation, same property, and I was told by the codes individual that a citation is being written every Tuesday and it is not being written every Tuesday.

Mr. Jefferson explained the state citation and the violation's different. I actually haven't checked about that particular property since we spoke about it, but it could be that the alternative citations are being issued every week, and not the state citation, but—Ms. Al Amin said he used the word state. Mr. Jefferson stated we can certainly look into it. We did talk about that happening daily as [inaudible]. Vice President Green stated yeah. We used to do daily tickets, and they always threw them out. So weekly might be something that they accept. So can you look into that and see? And if the codes office is saying that they're going to write the ticket, they need write it. You know what I mean? Ms. Al Amin stated and that's what I said. And unfortunately, it's not happening. And I can show you that it's not happening. And that becomes frustrating because if you're being told that the city is doing a particular-- we're doing A, B and C, and then you find out that A, B, and C isn't being done or only C's being done, that becomes frustrating. I have [a job?], and I know what I've been told. Mr. Jefferson stated totally, I understand the frustration. There's a lot of things that are requiring improvement, and also tempering that with we have one full-time code enforcement officer in the city and one additional person who goes out on his [inaudible], but he's off on Mondays. So there's also a limited amount that a person can get done in one week. So just to put that out there also. Vice President Green stated so maybe, especially if it's somebody who is deliberate and a repeat offender, that we prioritize a little bit maybe to ensure that we're following up on that particular property because they are deliberate. You know what I mean?

President Lavender Norris said I don't know and don't need to know what the daily workload is, but I would dare to read because we're talking quite a few properties in the city, quite a few. To be able to go back to this one property once a week is taking away from all 12,999 properties over here because this one needs attention. I don't know how you handle it. God bless you in finding a way to smooth it out, but whatever we can do as council to make your job easier in order to allow public works, codes to do what they need to do, let us know. I'm not saying right now tonight. Take your time, go do what you got to do, and come back to us and let us know what's standing in your way that we can [inaudible]. Because this situation that Miss Al Amin is talking about needs to be addressed, no question, no doubt. But there are several situations that need to be, so let us know. Ms. Al Amin explained there are multiple, but for the repeat offender, and it's not just the one, they have to be held

accountable. I mean, they just do. Mr. Jefferson stated I just want to make sure that we're clear on the next steps going forward so that everybody's on the same page. I think what you're saying is that you believe there was a prior ordinance that was written that addressed, probably removed, like you said, the alternative citation process. So I think city's going to look through the records to make sure that that's occurred. Because if it has, it's just following up with Ecodes to make sure that they do what needs to be done to [report?]- Vice President Green stated well, yeah, that's why I ask to have the [inaudible] we're going to need those printed out and forwarded to us because I think that the wording is incorrect. We were hearing instant ticket, and instant ticket is something that was removed. Mr. Jefferson stated so alternative citation I can say is throughout the code. It is in numerous places. So I just want to make sure that we don't do something that's already been done. We don't want to repeat work we don't have to. But also hopefully-- Vice President Green stated so just to get clarification, just to be completely honest, there's times that we have ordinances that are not updated. Mr. Jefferson stated that sounds like a good first step. President Lavender Norris stated for the record, I hate the alternative citation. I'm not having it. Yeah. That's how I feel. I hate it. I've never gotten one, praise to God. I'm grateful, but I think it's a little too heavy, too harsh. And by all means, beautify your property, keep it up properly, but I'm not bringing a sledgehammer down on.

2 Park Dumpsters

Mr. Logan explained so regarding park dumpsters, as you all know that our parks are becoming used more and more each day, each weekend, filled with the residents, which is great. But oftentimes, if residents are using a park, let's say, for example, on a Friday, and we have other residents that have reserved the park on Saturday, those Saturday residents are getting to a park where there's trash around the totes or the dumpsters [inaudible]. So I was informed by members of our public works that once upon a time, the city had dumpsters in a few of our parks, and those dumpsters worked good. So I just want to bring it to your attention that I would like for council to consider restoring dumpsters to some of our city parks. And especially the [crosstalk]-- --and we know what parks those are - Ash Park, Palmer Park - those are the two. But again, as it starts to increase with events and activities, they might want to consider Abdala Park. Palmer Park and the other park as well. President Lavender Norris stated Abdala Park, especially with our--Sounds of Summer Series and the baseball, like you said, the parks are being more utilized now. So actually, dumpsters would be an awesome idea. Mr. Logan stated I can talk to Roberta and Rich on if that's going to be an additional fee, which I'm sure it will be for people. That would cost [inaudible]. The trash on Saturday's and Sundays, it's to the point where the guys couldn't do it. So I would say it's probably two sometimes three additional cans. We try to put out the white cans. But for example, this past Juneteenth weekend, I mean, all the cans were filled. We had a few residents that we spoke to and they were disappointed, the families of Palmer Park. We did reach out to them.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens hearings on regular action items only.

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

Regular Action Items

President Lavender Norris announced there are no action items at this time.

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

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council. Since council's last meeting, communicated and continued to communicate with outside counsel regarding the start of new litigation matters; attended the planning commission meeting; reviewed the VPP grant, proposed zoning ordinance amendments; and provided guidance in enaction zoning ordinance amendments; had my office review the contracts for the fire truck purchases and provided comments; drafted a notice for the special meeting, and continue to provide advice regarding land development matters.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. Council, during our executive meeting, I provided real estate and personnel updates. The public updates, just the first one. I have a sticky note here. I received the call from [a staff?] who would like to invite members of the council and the community to attend Friday, June 30th at 11:00 AM at a robotics class, and we have a number of students that have been participating in STEM education and robotics. For the past couple of years, they've had a tremendous turnout, young people who have mastered technology and robots. It's pretty fascinating to watch them kind of operate these robots. So once again, she's invited everyone here on council to attend that June 30th at 11:00 am at Tabernacle

Next item, Future Focus. The City of Coatesville along with other municipalities and companies attended Future Focus, which is presented by the Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce. It gives us an opportunity just to kind of meet some of our local businesses and give them an update on what's going on here in the community. We provided handouts, just some of our flyers in terms of our upcoming events and things like that. So that is something that gets bigger every year. They had a keynote from the Piasecki Aircraft, which is a recent company that moved out to Sikorsky's old location. They're looking to hire in the neighborhood of 400-plus employees. Some of those jobs are going to be very technical, but they did mention that some of them will be general entry positions as well. We're very excited about Piasecki coming to the community. They will be working on the first fire [inaudible] engine, I guess, or [ladder?] that's going to be built-- engine that's going to be built here in this region. I don't want to say Coatesville, but region [inaudible]. But we're very excited that this company has a rich history in aviation and technology has decided to [inaudible]. I'm pleased to say that under the watchful eye of Richard Troutman, our CPA and finance director, Josh Schreiber, Jim Lentz and other members of the fire department successfully signed Seagrave, that's the manufacturer of fire trucks for the city. So congratulations to that group and team of gentlemen that helped put that together.

Update on the train station construction. That work continues to move according to schedule with minor delays, of course, due to weather. But for the most part, they haven't run into any major delay. Ms. Allen they are still going to get back to you on that whole connector to the water main.

I've had a few preliminary meetings to explore the City of Coatesville's EPA brownfields. Many of you know that Coatesville has a combination of Greenfields and brownfields, but there are grants out there that we can go after to clean up brownfields. The city doesn't have to own the property. We can work with landowners that may have some contamination on their properties. But they're exploring that, and we can't clean up all of Coatesville. So we could certainly write these grants to find out if the ground is contaminated and if there are ways to clean it up.

Several Juneteenth activities occurred throughout the City of Coatesville last week. Still may have a few that round out the end of this month, but I just want to say thank you to all of those that participated. Mrs. Hunt, your group, Women Destined for Change was one, NAACP was another. NAACP had a number of people that came out to Ash Park. A few other people that were not closely connected to Juneteenth also had events that were near the basketball court. NAACP provided food for the young kids on the basketball court, and there were other vendors that the NAACP were good enough to bring out to Ash Park. YMCA, as I mentioned, had an event. And just throughout the county, there were a number of events throughout Coatesville. I don't want to steal your thunder, Mrs. Hunt, maybe you have to comment after-- no, I won't say anything in your closing comments. But it was a wonderful event. They are preparing right now for Unity Day, which is Saturday, July 8th, but the rain date's going to be July 15th. Bringing back old school fun, so we're going to have sack races, volleyball, balloon toss. Still going to bring back the dunk tank. We are encouraging people to bring out their grills so that they can just have a family style outing with their friends and neighbors. A few of us are going to be sponsoring hamburgers and hot dogs for youth ages 16 and under. They will have hot dogs and hamburgers free of charge or them. All of you grown-ups have to fend for yourselves.

Last week, I also attended a TMACC Transportation Breakfast. Members of TMACC along with SEPTA spoke about the transportation challenges and transportation progress that we're making here in Chester County. Also, members from the Chester County Planning Commission's on the [calendar?] talking about the growth of the region. But I was happy to hear that the SEPTA representative, he said some very positive words and I was encouraged by his words that SEPTA will return to the City of Coatesville. Now, the date has not been specified yet. I think what they'll do is wait until the construction is completed. Some of us in the audience know-- some of you in the audience know they have to build an interlock before they can actually restore the full service here. But I think once that's completed and the service is restored, maybe a year or two before SEPTA comes back. If they come sooner, that would be great, but I think they're still looking at ridership and what the ridership numbers are about.

In addition to the progress that we're making, we're also are preparing for the Grand Prix, which is September 16th this year. Sponsorships are coming in already. And then the last note I have here is I just want to give a shout and thank you to our local grant-making partners for their continued support in our revitalization efforts. So those partners, many of you may or may not know who they are, they do include some of our nonprofit organizations here in the City of Coatesville. They include the county, state, and federal supporters that are helping the City of Coatesville advance our growth and help the quality of life advance. Sometimes they go unnoticed, sometimes we don't really thank them for all of their support

[inaudible] letters of support that we get from the commissioner's office, [Luanne's?] office, state representative office. I mean, it's just incredible number of people that are growing together to make Coatesville a successful place to live. And I also want to thank Natural Lands, what they do.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. I will not be translating my full report today but I would like to say, that if any Spanish-speaking resident needs assistance or has questions, they are welcome to reach out to me. *No traduciré mi informe completo hoy, pero me gustaría decir que si algún residente hispanohablante necesita ayuda o tiene preguntas, puede comunicarse conmigo.* For a brief update on our public works department, the department is working to keep the city properly mowed, including keeping the parks safe and clean. Public works also is responsible for our stormwater infrastructure, keeping inlets clear and monitoring them as needed. On a day like today, that work is especially important. As a city, we recently completed our MS4 training, which means that our staff--

Our staff are trained to identify and address any hazardous material infiltrating into our stormwater system. Our street water-- or I'm sorry, I'm having a problem speaking today. Our street sweeper is out and continues to be blocked by cars illegally parked. The sweeper unfortunately can not be effective if cars are parked, so just to note that that continues to be challenging. Our public works crew is also picking up yard waste every other week, and those pickups are scheduled by calling the city's receptionist. Public works also continues to inventory their equipment and make strategic plans for replacements when necessary.

A few other things important things to note, the city has formed a cross-departmental safety which includes fire, police, public works, codes, and administration. The safety committee recently completed their first training and will be working together on a regular basis to improve internal safety standards. The road repair project was awarded to Construction Masters Services at our last meeting. The contractor is prepared to start work as early as July 9th. The contractor will notify neighbors when construction starts in their area because people will not be able to park on the roads that are being worked on. Signs and barriers will indicate the no parking and the road closure days, and the city will inform the public on our website and on our Facebook page as needed as the projects go on throughout the city.

In regards to Ash Park, we have received four proposals for Ash Park phase one and two and those proposals are currently being reviewed. Our grant-funded work at Millview Basin in collaboration with Valley Township went out to bid on June 5th, and bids are due by July 6th. Just want to mention also, today I attended the Chester County Association of Township Officials conference and the organization is looking for elected officials to serve on their committees, and I forwarded that interest form to all of you. It was also great to be in the room with other township supervisors, managers, and really the continued theme of collaboration and working together to achieve major projects like stormwater infrastructure, but also topics like fire, police, EMS, these things are top of mind for everyone. So it was great to be in a room covering all of that. Also, our updated website is just a few short weeks away from launching, fingers crossed, and staff have been working to ensure that the information the public needs is actually accessible on our website. So we are excited about that. I've also kind of been looking at other alternative communication methods that may sort of exist out there that we might not be utilizing right now. Communication is always

something that we're striving to improve on with our community. So with new innovations kind of constantly happening, just keeping an eye on what is out there for us. And also last but not least, our VPP zoning ordinance amendments have been submitted to the county planning commission for approval. And that's the end of my report.

Mr. Logan asked to say one more thing. Vincent Miles couldn't make it this evening. He will be on the agenda for July 10th. He wanted to just share this with you all. Unfortunately, not the public. I can't share the photo yet, but for those of you who may or may not know, Vincent Miles is a very talented young man. He's our public affairs representative and in addition to that, he's a very gifted web designer. But anyway, we gave him a challenge to start addressing some of our vacant properties and looking at putting in either rain gardens or community gardens. His first project was the very small parcel that we have across the street from Brandywine Health on 7th. It's a little strip of land that we have there. Vincent just put together what the future of that particular parcel looked like. He's already partnered with a number of residents in that area along with Minnie McNeil's East End Group, and they're going to turn it into a nice-- it's going to be a combination of vegetable garden and rain garden. He's not here this evening to share with you, but that is one of the images that he's created. He's also going to be working and reaching out to the owners of the two buildings that kind of bookend that piece there.

4. Finance Department

Mr. Troutman explained the financial report. First problem, just a few little edits. Mr. Logan mentioned the fire trucks and the progress. It really, really was good. They did all the lines work and all the detail, they really did great. So and the other comment I would make is add to what this council has seen here, it must be [inaudible]. Ms. Cosentino mentioned about the safety training and the fact that you're training, I want to emphasize that it would be a Pennsylvania authorized training center. It wasn't internal, not to diminish that, but it was a state certified trainer. So and that leads to a six-month process that as the safety committee develops and it and does what it's supposed to do, there's actually financial benefits. The Commonwealth will reduce workers comp fees. I think it's 5% that we'd be eligible for. So of course, I have to mention the economic benefit. But it really is about safety for the employees of the city and all that and there just happens to be some money at the end.

All right. So anyway, onto the financial reports. We are at five months. We are doing really well positioning ourselves for year end to make budget. We have not had difficult stretch yet. So the two biggest revenue-producing one-time events are probably not going to happen until next year. So we're in the process of sharpening the pencil, looking at the numbers triggering how the departments are really good about standing back. We have our issues. The point is we'll talk about those in more detail July 10th because we'll be able to close out the year and have a better idea of where we are with some of the projected areas. So for right now, we don't have [inaudible]. We're going to fine-tune it, come back to you with more details and more information than you can manage from and really want. So that would be that piece of it. And then we'll go on a step further that it's a good time for us to revisit that strategic plan, financing projections through 2031. We're starting to work through that to update it to see if we're still doing okay given the one-time events, given some of the developments that we were counting on, are they going to happen? If not, what's the impact? So we're working with different decision-makers to figure out what we should be working to, and then crunching the numbers behind it. So, we'll be working through that as well. That won't be July 10th, but

July 10th we'll focus more on this year. So that's what we're looking to-- So other than questions, that's the report.

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

Mr. Kellan stated I'm here because I have insurance through American Water Resources. It's through American Water. I had some problems. They've sent a plumber out, which he did work. They scoped my pipe out and they didn't see anything initially on my side. They see damage on my neighbor's side, which he brought out his plumber. Once they started doing work, they started digging and they did find that there was damage to my pipe also, but the problem was, well, they had to fix their side and then simultaneously fix my side because they're tied in together. So I went back to American Water Resources say, "Hey, there was a problem. There was a breakage in my pipe. They had to fix it." He submitted me an invoice and essentially American Water Resources' response was, "Well, it's not our problem because you didn't wait for us to send our plumbers out so we can investigate it because when they scoped it, that they didn't see any breakage." I said, "Well, I can't wait for my neighbors to-- they're not going to wait and hold the hole open, and then the damage on their pipe. I can't coordinate it with you guys to keep waiting for you guys to get a plumber out here to fix my side of the pipe. So they had to fix their side, and they fixed my pipe. And so in doing so, I got an invoice." But they were saying, well, it's pretty much my problem, deal with it. But the problem is there's a lot of people that have problems like me that have tied in sewage pipes. So they all go into one, so essentially, if you've got one bad pipe on one side, essentially you're going to have a bad pipe on the other side. So what American Water Resources is saying, it's pretty much my problem to deal with. I didn't know if there's anything you guys can do to assist or-- because we got a lot of homeowners that have problems with it. That's the way they did things. They tied into the pipes, and it was a shared pipe. So essentially, if one fails, then both sides fail. That's the problem I had. When they scoped initially, they didn't see anything there, but when his plumber went through and started digging, they found damage to my pipe. But since I didn't wait or get a hold of them, get their plumber to come out and fix my side-- I said, "Well, I can't very well wait for-- my neighbor's not going to wait to fix his pipe and then call you guys and stop working and then wait for your plumber to come out fix my pipe." I was wondering if I can get some assistance on that or clarification because there's a lot of people that actually do have shared pipes. Well, I didn't call them because, actually, I didn't know at the time until they started digging into it. And once they started digging, they fixed their side, essentially, they fixed his pipe, they fixed mine, which they said, "I'll give you an invoice." So we couldn't very well leave the pipe or the ground open because, for one, it was in front of the house and-- in front of the house, so they couldn't very well leave the hole open. So that prevented me from saying, "Hey, hey, American Water Resources, can you send your plumber out?" Because they have to schedule everything. So essentially, they make you jump through hoops to get a plumber out of there. Well, I can't wait two weeks for you guys to bring a plumber out, fix my side. The hole's open, they fixed their pipe, they fixed my pipe, so they give me an invoice and now they're saying, "Hey, it's pretty much your problem." Well, why do I have insurance? President Lavender Norris asked Mr. Kellan to come up and write his number down for someone to get back to him.

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa wished everyone a good evening. I'm going to be very short and sweet, surprisingly. One thing I want to say, is I want to touch back on the alternative tickets. All three of you made very valid points, but it is a problem. And I know, like Linda, you were saying about if I have a fence and you can't see anything growing above it. It goes beyond that in the sense that I might not be able to see it visually, but if I look out my back door and I see my neighbors like that, it's a problem because

it attracts-- it's not just a nuisance as a problem aesthetically, it's you get mice, rodents, all kinds of rodents, squirrels, opossum, you name it, we have it, and we live it every day. I'm sure you do too. It's a problem. This is common sense. People know that you have to maintain your home. It's so disturbing to see most of them are landlord owned, unfortunately. The tenants don't care. It's not their problem. The landlords don't care because they're living in their plush houses somewhere else collecting rent. And so residents, they should be held really responsible. They should be fined. And it is a hard shift on people, but unless you're hitting people where it hurts, in their pocketbook-- if I get fine, I have to pay it. I get a parking ticket, I have to pay it. I don't fight it. If I made the mistake, then so be it. I screwed up. It's common sense. You need to pay your fine. And I'll see my neighbors all over the neighborhood, it's just a hot mess. I see people walking down Valley Road, those people for years have let those lots overgrow on to the sidewalks, that it's now a hazard for residents because they have to walk down Valley Road. They can't even walk on pavement. I mean, it's been a problem for years, and it really needs to be something that's addressed. The other thing I want to say, or ask really, is wouldn't this-- I guess, for the positions that are open for council, what made it different this time around that it had to be posted as opposed to the last time? Because that's usually not the way it goes. The way things happened last time-- it's usually announced that there's going to be a position open and you kind of go through that whole process. Last time, it was kind of like I just heard through the grapevine that, "Hey, it's open. So you got to do something." So why is it this time-- what made this time making the announcement different than the last time?

Brian Callery

Mr. Callery stated Jackie brought up a really good point about accountability and consequences because without them, nobody's going to do anything. Trust me, I've been complaining about the one slumlord for a while. They have a hole in the roof. It's obvious. One guy, he came out from-- he was BIU. Remember when we had BIU back then? Now it's LTL. Well, for some reason, this guy got his roof passed with a hole in it. That's what we're dealing with. If you drove down the streets, and I can look like five blocks-- within a five-block radius, there are about 30 violations. You need help. Is there any way we can volunteer? Can a citizen volunteer to enforce codes like drive around, take pictures? I mean, I have a phone. Just for the obvious violation, is that a possibility? It's ridiculous, the things that we're-- your friend, that's horrible, what happened to her, but that should be a case by case-- or, Carmen, it's your friend who's in the nursing home? Vice President Green stated but when it's instant tickets, that's how it is. Mr. Callery stated right. But can't you fight those? I mean, case by case basis, not everybody's in that situation. I mean, [crosstalk]-- --got like 15 properties, and I brought this up to codes like four or five times. Still not fixed. I just stopped complaining about it. You know what I mean? And that's just one instance. I have pictures of several code violations throughout the city. I could share them with you. With the [inaudible]. I mean, if you need help, I'm volunteering. I'm willing to. That'd be a solution? President Lavender Norris stated I thank you. I thank you, I appreciate your willingness, but we can not divvy out our employee's works. Mr. Callery stated that's one employee she just said you don't understand? That's why everything's not getting addressed. And I'm not saying I'm going to enforce them. I can bring this to your attention and just say, "Hey, let's put this on the list so that it can all get addressed." You experience it firsthand, Jackie. I know you do, so. Ms. Al Amin stated I can talk to you afterwards. Unfortunately, as a councilmember, we're not allowed to answer during comments.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; MS. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Special Events

President Lavender Norris stated we have none of those special events, but I will say we have an eventful weekend. It's very helpful we have a lot to celebrate. We have a lot to celebrate [inaudible]. I don't know how many people were out and about, but City of Coatesville is abuzz. It's really quiet, but it's been abuzz here lately. And we have a lot to be grateful for, even to the extent that our council members were awarded and [crosstalk]--

Council Comments

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening, and thanks again for coming and sharing your evening with us. I'm going to be very brief because I see a storm that they were talking about is in motion. So, we can all get home, but I just want to thank everyone for being here tonight. I want to congratulate my colleagues on your awards yesterday. Councilwoman Al Amin and Councilwoman Green. And again, I apologize that I wasn't able to be with you, but my heart and my spirit was there. And I'm just so proud of you, proud to be able to call you my friend and my colleagues. Thanks everyone for attending the Juneteenth breakfast. And it was a major success, and I just hope that everybody [gleamed?] from that. Again, thank you to our staff for all that you do to make things work in the city and to all of you, again, thanks for coming. Thanks. Have a good night.

Ms. Allen said I want to start by saying there's not much to say. I'm sorry. Thank you to everybody for coming out. Thanks to you guys I added something new. You guys help the [inaudible] to the manager, the assistant manager, you guys are doing a great job. You see what's going on in the city. So everybody get home safe. Let's hurry up. Vice President and President, we've got two minutes because I want to get home before the storm. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. I, too, am going to be short because it looks like it's really going to storm. I want to say thank you to my colleague, Mrs. Hunt. Women Destined for Changed, they have a lovely, lovely Juneteenth breakfast. I want you to know that you and your husband are in my prayers for a speedy recovery for him. If there's anything that I can do, please don't hesitate to ask. I'd like to congratulate my colleague Councilwoman Green for receiving the community service award from the Women League for Minority Education last night, congratulations. And everybody get home safe because this storm is supposed to be pretty bad, and so I don't want to be in it. Get home safe, and have a good night.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. Thank you, Miss Hunt, for your wonderful event for Juneteenth. Juneteenth was a wonderful celebration that inspired me. There are so many events going on. And just grateful for my colleagues. Even on yesterday, when I received the award. I was at a loss for words because they selected me, but it's all of our efforts that we all put here, and we had such a wonderful administrative staff or the Police Department that keeps our city safe. We don't talk about that too much anymore, where crime, I'll tell you, it was just horrible at one point. And you're doing such a wonderful job. Our police officers are looked up at by the community—Chief Laufer, Lieutenant Ollis, the way that you guys lead the department is wonderful. So I'm just so grateful and thankful. But everything that's going on, I'm proud about the city. And I know we got a lot of issues with the Codes office and it's going to take some serious work to get it done, but I'm so grateful that we have Roberta. Roberta is doing a wonderful job. Even though it may not seem like it, they have tackled a lot of issues and they've made a lot of stuff-- they've been doing a lot of [inaudible]. So if we'd be patient, I know that she'll work it out. So thank you everyone. Make it safely home. Have a wonderful week.

President Lavender Norris stated I just echo my colleagues, and it was a pleasure attending the different celebrations, and with all of them being centered around the city. Three in a row, centered around the city. I don't know the last time something like that has happened, but I'm so grateful that it's happening now. Stick with us. Stay with us. Please continue to support the City of Coatesville. The restaurants, booming. I was going to the Iron Eagle Saturday, not only could I not find a parking space, they were at capacity, in the City of Coatesville, at capacity, when it was hard to find someone in these buildings. Our glass is not half empty anymore, and I thank God for that. And I do acknowledge our staff, our administration, our police. Everybody is working together, and you can tell they're working together because there are results. Thank you for all your hard work. God bless you all. Have a blessed evening.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.