



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, July 13, 2023

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Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, and Councilwoman Charrisse Allen  
Council Absent: Councilwoman C Arvilla Hunt  
Staff Present: Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Richard Troutman, Finance Department; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

An Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters. President Lavender Norris stated well, I first want to start off with saying thank you to you all for coming out. And to those of you that were not here on Monday, I'll let you know this is the rescheduled meeting from Monday. We were not able to continue our official business, so we had to discontinue the meeting. This is the new beginning of our meeting. We will begin with our presentations, but first, I want you to know that we're coming out of our short executive session, where we were discussing real estate, legal, and personnel. And at this time, we will have our presentations. Mr. Miles is not present so we will move his presentation to down at the bottom.

### **Presentations**

1. Public Affairs Update

Mr. Miles was not present at this time. Update will be provided during reports.

### **Discussion Items**

There was no discussion at this time.

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

Paul Evans

Mr. Evans wished everyone a good evening, Council President, administration, and residents. I want to bring to everyone's attention the fact that City of Coatesville did on their website, council vacancy update page, list a deadline of July 5th at 4:30. There is a person in here tonight who was here at the last meeting. They came in two days late after the deadline. On chapter two of our Charter, Article II City Council at 2-208, the filling of vacancies: the council by majority vote of its total membership shall within 30 days from the time the office becomes vacant, make an interim appointment of a qualified person. And I believe that all the people are qualified, and I believe that the council failed to within 30 days conduct the vote. I do not believe unless I'm convinced otherwise, so based on what I know now, that council has jurisdiction to make the vote tonight. Might have had the jurisdiction the other night. So these are two deadlines that have not been met. I believe that a deadline is something that used to apply to prisoners, that if they went over the line, they were shot. That's why it's called the deadline. So it's a hard line. I'd like to talk about nepotism. It's the act of granting an advantage, privilege, or position to relatives or close friends in an occupational field. These fields may include, but are not limited to business, politics, academia, etc. The term originated with the assignment of nephews to important positions by Catholic popes and bishops. Nepotism has been criticized since ancient history by several philosophers, including Aristotle, Valluvar, and Confucius, condemning it as both evil and unwise. The term comes from the Italian word nepotism, which is

based on Latin roots, nepōs, meaning nephew. I believe that-- the person who is granted an extension, I believe this person was allowed to be an exception to the rule. I believed this person is the nephew of the council president. I would like to state that we are in the danger zone where the council president is no longer adhering to the deadlines on the website or in the Charter, is involved in nepotism.

James Bookman

Mr. Bookman wished everyone a good evening. I just want to go back to what Paul just said, nepotism. That plays no part in my character at all, for any reason. I am a gentleman. You can say my name. It's no problem. Anyway, we're a small town, everyone's family. This type of business has nothing to do with anybody's family. This is something I'm dedicated to doing, as you've seen it before. You've been to events that I've held, [stability?] to the city. Now, back to this. The deadline, there's two different deadlines. There's one on the website, which I'm just now being aware of as of Monday. There is a notice on a door that does not have a deadline, where you can just walk up and see as you're coming in with other forms that are on the door. So being not aware of what the website was, I had no clue of that. I've seen the opportunity to come and stand up for this community, which I always wanted to do since I'm still in this position for being on the Parks and Rec. First Ward is the ward I live in. I care about it, just as much as I care about everything else in the city. So I put my work out into other parts of the city. I want to bring it back to where I live at. I see what they need there. And not just there; I want to do it as a community. I want to work as a team with council. So, I just want to say if anything that I said that was taken out of context, I apologize for that. But I know my desire and what I feel about the city and the people from the city. I grew up here. I was born here. I was born on Chestnut Street. Like I said, that's where I lived. I lived there for years, and my I might die here. Who knows? But I know that I'm doing something right. Thank you.

Tiniera Turner-Green

Ms. Turner-Green introduced herself. I'm here to represent Second Ward. I live on 401 Colina Lane in the middle of the Second Ward. I volunteer a lot in the city, sitting on commissioning for Parks and Rec. Additionally volunteer for youth a panel as well. All of what I do is because I feel an obligation to lend whatever expertise, whatever talents that I have to the betterment of my community. If I was awarded this position, I would essentially just hope to represent my ward correctly and accurately.

Fran Scamuffa

Ms. Scamuffa wished everyone a good evening. I'm Fran Scamuffa West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and I did submit an application for Ward One. It's no secret, I've applied for council before. I have applied a couple times already. If at first, you don't succeed, try and try again, so that's what I'm here to do. I just wanted to revert about James Bookman really quick and his application. I don't feel in any kind of way towards him because he was putting in a bad spot, but they should have been brought to his attention early on, this whole situation. I did view the website. The website's stated a date. It also was immediately taken down with date, and the updated date was not the same. The last time I came up here to apply for Mr. Simpson's position when he vacated, I typed a letter out for everyone to read, and stated where I stood with being with a Ward One council person. It stated the different committees that I've been on. Council, at that point in time, suggested, and even at the end, that I should get involved. I have been involved with the city. And you all should note that resettling and leaving this [inaudible]. You [inaudible] me I've never been involved in the city for years. I was born and raised here. I grew up on S 6th Avenue, 6th and Olive. I've worked here. My family's here. My grandparents emigrated in 1902 with the whole 1st Avenue and eventually moved into the city in the

early 1900s. It's frustrating for me. I have great ideas that I would like to present. And you just can't do that a lot of times, being on the civil side, as opposed to being on the council, and it's very frustrating. You don't have the ears. People don't want to listen to you because they see differently. I think more can be done. I just want to be on council so that I can start working on things, and we all deserve a better place to live. [inaudible]. One of my main things is Codes, a lot of people in the city have issues with both. That will be one area that I would like to focus on in working with the city and making sure that we do, do things properly and correctly and by the book, the way we're supposed to. And this whole situation was completely unfair to everybody who applied, including Mr. Bookman. Council should have reached out to him and said, "Hey, sorry, you can't do that." That's pretty much it. At the end of the meeting when I questioned Ms. Green, about how last interim vote went. I want to clearly say [inaudible]. President Lavender Norris stated I asked you nicely, when you heard the buzzer, complete your sentence and—Ms. Scamuffa said I'm [inaudible] because you only, you are the exception to the rule. You are not the exception to the rule. President Lavender Norris stated I am to mine. Thank you, though. Okay, with that being said and done, we will now move on. No, we'll have our close. Yes.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

President Lavender Norris had a comment with regard to the citizen's comments. I, Linda Lavender-Norris, being the city council president and the aunt of James Bookman from the day he was born until this very day. I will not deny that I know him. However, I need you to understand, I'm here to conduct city business, not family. I will remain above reproach. I will do what is required of me. I took the oath to uphold our Charter and our law, and I will do just that. You may not like it. You may not agree with it. However, it will be done. As far as nepotism, I'm not playing that game or the cronyism or any other ism. I'm not into that. I'm here to handle business, and that's what I do. Thank you so much for listening. And let me apologize that we weren't able to complete our business Monday night. But by the grace of God, we will this night. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin had a comment. Monday night, we couldn't complete our business for the following reason. I refused to vote, and I refused to vote because I felt the policies weren't followed. Because as Mr. Evans said, the website did say April 5th at 4:30. By the end of that night, it was changed, and so was everything else. I was under the assumption because we now only have five council members, that three was still a quorum. I didn't realize until the solicitor confirmed it that it isn't the members that are sitting. It's the total, and total, we have seven seats, and that was not said to me that night. So the cancelation of the meeting on Monday, I would say that falls on me. But I still stand by what I said Monday and why I left Monday. Thank you.

Vice President Green stated the website, the July 5th was for council to have time to review. Nowhere on the website did it say that no application would be accepted after that. There was nothing that said anything like that. On Monday night, I was very clear that we needed a quorum. Matter of fact, I said it in executive session that four is a quorum, not three. Ms. Al Amin, you told me, "No, Mr. Jefferson said that three was the quorum because we don't need four." And I told you, no, that was not true. We have to have a quorum of four. See, I can read my Charter, and I try to follow my Charter. Ms. Al Amin said it is not in the charter. Vice President Green said It is in the Charter. It says the quorum is four. It's in the Charter that a quorum is four. Very clear in the Charter. So for whatever reasons, I'm hoping that we can get through this tonight. I'm just so dismayed by all the animosity that seems to be here. I'm just not quite understanding it. Whoever is

not selected tonight, you have the opportunity to run if you'd like to. You have the opportunity to run in the election. So whoever is appointed tonight is appointed to the seat. If you're not appointed, you will be able to run in a special election in November. That's simple. So it's not about what we say or who we appoint. It's what the people will say in November. This is the short term. Okay? So for those that are passionate and feel that the seats belong to them, put your campaign together and run for it. That's all. That was it. Thank you.

### Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to appoint 1<sup>st</sup> ward City Council Member

Vice President Green made a motion to appoint Fran Scamuffa for 1st ward council member; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion failed 0-3-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote.

Vice President Green made a motion to appoint James Bookman for 1<sup>st</sup> ward council member; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote

2. Receive and consider a motion to appoint 2<sup>nd</sup> ward City Council Member

Ms. Allen made a motion to appoint Tiniera Turner-Green 2<sup>nd</sup> ward city council member; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote

President Lavender Norris stated okay, so with that being said, the two seats, please, for a matter of record, make note that Councilwoman Hunt is not and will not be in attendance. With that being said, Ms. Green and Mr. Bookman, Judge Hinde will schedule a time for you to come into his office and swear you in. Ms. Cosentino will reach out to you both to coordinate the time for you to be sworn in. So in our next scheduled council meeting, you will be seated council. And congratulations to you both. Thank you. And that will be August 14th.

3. Receive and consider a motion for first reading and authorization to advertise an ordinance authorizing the City of Coatesville to purchase UPI No. 16-4-4.1B located in the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania form Chester County Tax Claim Bureau through the Repository List, for the purpose of repairing the stormwater basin contained thereon, for a sale price not to exceed om thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200).

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading and authorization to advertise an ordinance authorizing the City of Coatesville to purchase UPI No. 16-4-4.1B located in the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania form Chester County\_Tax Claim Bureau through the Repository List, for the purpose of repairing the stormwater basin contained thereon, for a sale price not to exceed om thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200); Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Jefferson explained this is a property that's located in [inaudible], commonly called Millview Basin. The basin has fallen into the state of disrepair and gone on to the repository list. The city through its grants, individuals, and Cedarville Engineering have acquired some funds to repair the basin. But one of the things that has to be resolved first is ownership of the property as it's on the repository list, meaning back taxes. And the entity that owned it essentially failed to do what it needed to do, a very simple way. This is one of the many steps that will be taking place. There are other factors that have to be done, but in order to use the

grant funds that the city has obtained, ownership of the property has to be resolved. Everyone is aware there's the first reading and then a second reading, so there's some work to be done in between the second reading, but that is the purpose of this ordinance.

4. Receive and consider a motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania authorizing submission of a MultiModal Transportation Fund Program Grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania authorizing submission of a MultiModal Transportation Fund Program Grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Cosentino explained this submission for additional funding is actually for our Street Aid Project. And that's for additional funds to extend that project, hopefully, to 4th Avenue. Currently, we have enough funding to get from 1st to 3rd. So, we're trying to extend that.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close action items; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

## Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson stated Thank you, Madam President. I provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council. Since council's last meeting, I've communicated and continue to communicate with outside counsel regarding certain litigation matters and tax assessment matters. I continue to provide advice regarding land development matters. I and my office, filed the deed for 731-733 East Lincoln Highway with the recorder of deeds office. I continue to provide advice regarding the proposed zoning ordinance amendments. I conducted research and provided advice regarding Millview Basin. I communicated with outside counsel regarding land development matters. And please allow me to say this, that I also want to apologize to council. I will endeavor to be more clear, going forward, using more precise language, and making sure that if there's something that's truly legal, I put it in writing so that it's more clear. So I want to apologize. And personally, to you Ms. Al Amin, I do want to apologize, and I will endeavor to be more precise. So I also take some of the fault for Monday, so I want to apologize.

2. City Manager

Ms. Cosentino announced this evening, since Mr. Logan could not be here, I'm going to give the City Manager report, and then I'll give my Assistant City Manager report. For the City Manager report, during last meeting's, I guess, executive meeting, Mr. Logan provided real estate and personnel updates to members of city council. Just a few updates that will be quick also. The city did make plans to acquire two new fire trucks. The city announced a \$2.9 million agreement to procure these trucks through industry leader, Seagrave, which is a company that's been around since 1881. The purchase of these fire trucks is essential for the safety of the city. And it will be several years, two to three years before we see these trucks, but it's important to put these plans into place now, as construction and financing of the vehicles takes quite a while. Key people to thank for the acquisition of these vehicles. We've mentioned it before, but Josh Schreiber, one of our firefighters and chair of the selection

committee was essential to this. Josh Tracey and the Fire Relief Association. Richard Troutman, our finance director, and of course, city council all played a key role in making this happen, so thank you. Also, the train station construction work continues to move according to schedule with no projected delays. Last weekend, we had our Unity Day, and it was truly an amazing day and so much fun. And several of you were there that day. Thank you for all you did, especially Ajené and city council putting in so much work to make that such a wonderful community day. It really was amazing to see everyone out there.

Our Grand Prix preparations continue and are moving along. And we're looking forward to having a full roster of vehicles. I understand motorcycles are also very interested and excited this year, so it should be a really fun day. Mr. Logan and myself met with the new leadership for the Alliance for Health Equity. New CEO has started as this week, and we had a great conversation that really, we believe that collaboration is going to be even stronger between the city and the Alliance moving forward. And we're really looking forward to that. As I mentioned, our streetscape plans are scheduled and moving forward, hopefully, for 2024. And last but not least, the city just received news this week that we did indeed receive a grant from FEMA, to the tune of \$621,360. Only 58 projects were awarded throughout the United States, and Coatesville was one of them.

The funds and plan scope of work is meant to address the flooding in Coatesville, and especially in the areas of 4th and 5th Ave and Olive Street, and other areas throughout the city. And what this funding will provide us is the ability to do a full engineering scope of work and study and design of our stormwater infrastructure in the city. So this is really a big, big piece of news and a big win for the city. And it's in thanks to our engineer and also our grant writer who collaborated to make that happen, as well as our internal staff. And of course, our Representative Houlihan, Senator Casey, Senator Fetterman, who all [did it?] for our application. So thank you to all. That's all.

### 3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino stated on to my assistant city manager report. To start, I just have a brief update from Codes Department. I will note that I've been working with our code supervisor to work on a different plan for our reports on a monthly basis. So next month, it will look a little bit different. And I'm excited because we're really starting to think about what our success [inaudible] are within the department, so hopefully, sharing that will be helpful and will tell a better story of what the Codes Department is working on. But in June, Codes issued 50 notices of code violations. We completed 101 commercial, residential, and rental inspections. We have 8 commercial and residential pending permits. And it's important-- I also wanted to add on to that that our Codes Department is also working on-- they've been tasked this year, especially with updating several out-of-date forms that we have, and also just getting up to date our records for our business privilege tax, rental inspections, and vacant properties. And those are larger projects that are happening. Just aside from the day-to-day that's happening, we're working on these other things as well. So I just wanted you all to be aware.

Another big thing that's happening in the city currently is major, major concerns about trash. I note that last week there was an article in the Daily Local about A.J. Blosenski, and I'll note that A.J. Blosenski and Eagle Disposal who our contract is with, are both owned by the same company currently, which is Waste Connection. An article detailed a lot of unhappy customers from A.J. Blosenski and Eagle. I mention it because city residents are also feeling

this. And I'm sure some of you here tonight are also feeling this very, very personally. I know some council members are as well. I'd like you to know that I am personally in touch with Eagle on a daily basis. We track phone calls. Anytime something's not picked up and someone calls, we notify them. They are experiencing a lot of problems, and these past two to three weeks, it's reached a peak within the city. And I know many of you know that some people's trash hasn't been picked up for two to three weeks. This is not acceptable in any way. Eagle is not trying to offer excuses. They understand that they are missing the mark right now. But I've been assured that they are doing everything that they can to get back up to speed. And I know that as of yesterday, they did hire brand new drivers, specifically for Coatesville, that have Philadelphia experience, driving a trash truck. So that makes me hopeful that they're experienced in driving down tight city streets and alleyways, and that sort of thing. So the message is we're going to try to be patient and let them catch up in these next couple of weeks, and hope that we can get back on track. there was an article in the Daily Local about A.J. Blosenski, and I'll note that A.J. Blosenski and Eagle Disposal who our contract is with, are both owned by the same company currently, which is Waste Connection. An article detailed a lot of unhappy customers from A.J. Blosenski and Eagle. I mention it because city residents are also feeling this. And I'm sure some of you here tonight are also feeling this very, very personally. I know some council members are as well. I'd like you to know that I am personally in touch with Eagle on a daily basis. We track phone calls. Anytime something's not picked up and someone calls, we notify them. They are experiencing a lot of problems, and these past two to three weeks, it's reached a peak within the city. And I know many of you know that some people's trash hasn't been picked up for two to three weeks. This is not acceptable in any way. Eagle is not trying to offer excuses. They understand that they are missing the mark right now. But I've been assured that they are doing everything that they can to get back up to speed. And I know that as of yesterday, they did hire brand new drivers, specifically for Coatesville, that have Philadelphia experience, driving a trash truck. So that makes me hopeful that they're experienced in driving down tight city streets and alleyways, and that sort of thing. So the message is we're going to try to be patient and let them catch up in these next couple of weeks, and hope that we can get back on track.

Other updates that I have for you are about Millview Basin project. We did not receive any bids for the project. Our engineer actually followed up with some of the contractors to find out why there wasn't any interest. And they're actually quickly working as we speak, to make adjustments to the bid package based on those comments. And they are bidding the project. Another update is regarding our road repairs. So the Construction Masters Services has started their work on-- they're currently on 13th Ave, starting with the ADA ramps. And they'll be moving to Graham Ave very shortly. We'll have periodic updates on our website about where they are as soon as we get that schedule. There's been no road closures yet, but they will be happening. Neighbors will be notified as they're happening, but that work is in process. And last but not least, a quick update that we are also currently in the process of reviewing the proposals for Ash Park. So hopefully, we'll have a recommendation at the next meeting. And that concludes my report.

#### 4. Police Department

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. The complete statistical report is in your packet review tonight, just a couple of highlights as we normally do. For the month of June, our calls from the 911 Center were 2,038, down slightly from the month of May, where we hit 2,572.

When we include the calls for service generated by our front desk, month of May was 3,796. And June once again saw a decrease down to 3,009. Just like I mentioned, a statistic that normally we don't bring up at the council meeting, but I received a phone message the other night from a victim of domestic violence. And it really was heartwarming on my behalf to receive the phone message because it was from a victim of domestic violence that scored high danger on our LAP form, which is lethality assessment protocol form the officers complete to judge the danger that a victim of domestic violence would be in, and she scored high danger. And she could not have been more appreciative of Coatesville Police Department and the two officers, Officers Bochanski and Marvel who responded out and treated her with respect and kindness. And I'll let you know, they didn't end up making an arrest of the individual involved in the domestic, but just to hear her voice-- of course, I can't play it for reasons of privacy concerns and so on so forth, but just to hear her voice in the voicemail and understand the emotion from her, this was really great. And the statistic, unfortunately, is we respond to-- and this is an average one. We responded to, for the month of June, 392 calls for domestic violence in the City of Coatesville.

One month. And we consistently ranked number one in the county for number of domestic calls responded to every month. Think about that, 392. There's some additional statistics from my report. We had two narc administrations, three car seat installations by technicians, and car seats provided free of charge to city residents. We did have a DUI checkpoint on June 30th. We ran the checkpoint with Lincoln Highway in the area of the Flats. We utilized the empty lot. [inaudible] Michaels gave us an opportunity to utilize that empty lot to run a checkpoint out of-- it's a countywide checkpoint, so we had officers from surrounding departments come in and help us with that county DUI trailer. So we had over 1,000 vehicles come through the checkpoint. We administered 9 field sobriety tests, and we arrested 5 DUI, alcohol or drug-impaired driving. Not great numbers when you look at 5 arrests, but I think getting the public awareness out there that we are out there and that the county takes this seriously. And it really is an educational effort, trying to keep the roads safe for all of us.

As we drive home tonight, you can rest assured that you'll be passing somebody on your ride home tonight that is impaired. It's a guarantee. It's a statistical certainty that you will pass a vehicle either following you, in front of you, or driving the opposite direction, that is impaired. So just think about that from a safety standpoint. And obviously, we want everybody to get home safe. In regards to the training, Officer Scott Lutte, one of our newer officers has a history of working with trucks. He's a certified diesel mechanic and inspection mechanic. And he just recently completed the motor carrier safety training put on by the State Police. And then he has a second level of training at the end of this month in July, which will certify him in the scales to weight of oversized vehicles and overweight vehicles. But we have been without a motor carrier safety enforcement officer. We've been without one since the retirement of Officer Keech. So it's good to have him trained now. He has to go through a certain number of inspections under sort of a coach, if you will. It's already certified by one of the other departments. It should be a certain number of inspections being observed by that individual. And then he will be able to operate on his own here in the city and provide us with the motor carriers inspections, and once again, looking to keep our roads as safe as we can.

Also, Corporal Kirk Guyer recently completed firearms instructor certification, which enables us to have an extra officer to keep our officers certified in our biannual-- or



semiannual firearms certification training. And Officer John Bogan, he goes by Jack. So Officer Jack Bogan just completed an advanced and technical collision investigation certification. So he is one step away from being an accident reconstructionist, which allows him to go out and investigate fatal accidents, serious crashes, and be able to testify in court at the level of an expert in accident reconstructions. Once again, that's a position we have not had since Officer Keuch's retirement. So, he is one step away from getting up to the level of reconstructionist, which once again just allows us to offer services to the city, to the residents, and to a city that we feel that we should offer a professional police department our citizens deserve. And we did have a coffee with the chief. We held it at the Coatesville Library on June 7th, well attended, and we're taking the months of July and August off just because of vacations and everybody's busy in the summertime. But we will resume on September 6th at the Brandywine Valley Active Aging. That will be our first coffee, so the year of [inaudible] September.

#### 5. Public Affairs Update

Mr. Miles wished everyone a good evening. First and foremost, thank you all for having me today to speak and present what I have been working on for the past couple of months. Things have been progressing in such a positive direction here in the city, despite everything that's been going on for the past week. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm looking out at a crowd and everybody's familiar faces. It's family, friends out. But I'm Vincent Miles. I'm the public affairs representative for the city, so that's why-- but again, I'm so proud to just be here, and I feel truly blessed to just sit here and just talk about what I've been working on. Such an awfully great time in our community, and I'm excited to be here. But here is an overview of what I'll be talking about today. I'll start with a recap of Unity Day. Thank you, Roberta, for pretty much taking shine on that one, but I'm still going to go into it. But I'll have to go into the Sounds of Summer Music Series, then I'll give a few updates regarding the National Fitness Campaign, Friends at our Parks, the Brandywine Revival Gardens, and finally, Ward Walks. So, during the Ward Walks conversation, I kind of want to talk with Council members.

So, to start the report, I got to give a huge shout-out to everyone. Thank you for participating in this year's Unity Day. We had such an outstanding turnout on a Saturday, and all of the children seemed to really enjoy themselves. The vendors were very satisfied, and to think that everybody there was able to eat, that was just phenomenal. So, thank you all for that. We definitely would have heard it from Facebook if we didn't do a good job. Vice President Green asked to say one thing? When I got my shirt, when they handed me my shirt, I knew you had something to do with it. Mr. Miles replied yes. Ms. Cosentino stated on the last slide, all the designs/logos (other than the Fitness Center) were developed by Mr. Miles. Mr. Miles stated all in all, it was just a good event. I didn't get any complaints other than fireworks. The community just felt that they should have been longer, but other than that, everybody loved it. So again, thank you to all of our Unity Day committee, sponsors, volunteers, and vendors, most of all, our community for coming out and sharing with us this amazing time on our Unity Day, and that's all of our sponsors for the event. So yeah, next year, let's go bigger and better. Unity Day in 2024, that's what we plan to do next year. Peace, love, and happiness. So next up is our '23 Sounds of Summer Music Series. This event will be running every other Friday throughout the rest of the summer, starting July 28th and ending on September 22nd. DJ Dre Money will be [inaudible], and [inaudible] will be returning this year on the lineup. So all in all, things are starting to pan out pretty well. We

just had to lock into our bands and get quotes from them. And other than that, we should be good to roll. So I'm confident that this will be an excellent follow-up to Unity Day last weekend. So save the dates and remember to bring in lawn chairs and get your blankets out. That's--

Next stop is the National Fitness Campaign fitness sports, which should be coming to Abdala sometime later on this year. Hopefully, by October, fingers crossed. I've been in meetings with the NFC team at least once a month to get this project up and running. They've been a tremendous help and making sure that all the materials are in order for installation. And in fact, earlier on this week, I met with Kyle Turner and Jason Borne down at Abdala just to get a clear understanding of what we plan to do. I guess right now, we're looking to lay the concrete down. I'm looking all over for contracting to get that done. So yeah, [inaudible] to the next slide that we're-- Ms. Al Amin asked with the National Fitness Center and the concrete being laid, I knew there was some discussion of changing the Sounds of Summer to 1st Avenue. Do you know if it's going to be at Abdala or will it be moved? Mr. Miles stated thank you for that. I actually made this presentation before that all was made. So I think it is going to move to Gateway Park, so it's too late for that. It's going to be at [Gateway Park?]. Thank you for that correction, Ms. Al Amin. This is pretty much the feel of Abdala Park. I drew this plan up and sent it over to Kyle. As you see-- I don't know if anybody's been at Abdala recently, but the baseball field needs to be done. I actually drew up a little league flag football field, which is about 80 yards to go in the field. Let me get the laser pointer so you guys can see it. All right, so the initial plan for the fitness court was going to go around this area. This is the concrete pathway right here, which Jason Borne, he told me that we should phase out the project. So kind of where this marker is on the edge of the wall here, that's going to be the first phase. So now with the concrete I'm talking about, it's going to go all the way up and then in here for the first phase. Second phase, we're looking on doing this part right here, which is going to extend down to the gate. We're looking to do a patio in front of the field house out there. Then these three will go pretty much all the way up to Scott.

So I decided in this plan to move the fitness court closer to the field house to pretty much complement the field house so it's not too much of a far cry outside of it. So that's why we ended up moving it and, again, why it's taken a little bit of time to get this up and going because Kyle had to go out and recreate the field for that location. So nonetheless, there's progress being made on this fashion. And I've been working on it the whole time, so good at least. Let's go to the next slide. This is what the fitness court is going to look like. It's a 38x38 foot splat that raises about six and a half feet off the ground. Customizations can be made to this design to fit the personality of our city, but it will require an additional fee to that. That's what the NFC team told me when I last talked to her. I would recommend taking that course of action out. It would add flavor to the courts and the location of the field, and complement our plans to beautify our parks. So that's why, again, I decided to move it closer to the field house. I'm thinking Coatesville colors as [crosstalk]. I was also thinking where you guys see the fitness court-- so this is a updated plan. This part is the rear elevation, which will be on the back wall. The Alliance for Health Equity actually was a title sponsor for this project, so that's why they get pretty much the whole back wall. And I've been in contact with Nick Torres over there to pretty much plan how we want this design to look like. So it would just look spectacular out there [inaudible]. So that's the back wall there. And on the front wall, pretty much, it has the directions of what the [surface?] is going to look like from the court. So that's that. She just sent that in a few weeks ago. So here, we have our Friends at a Park

great opportunity. So just like Roberta mentioned earlier on, we've been in collaboration with the Alliance for Health Equity. We have established a fund to support projects and activities that engage our community, are also beautifying our city parks. Our parks are pretty much like the lungs of our community, so it provides space for recreation, relaxation, and community building. So this grant opportunity is pretty much designed to empower local groups and organizations to become active contributors to public [inaudible] system. So, the city has been awarded \$11,000 from the Alliance to get this initiative up and running. So, the cool part about this grant is that for applicants, they don't have to be a 501(c) to apply. They just need to have a clear plan for volunteers, a description of the proposed project or program that they want to run, a budget, and a list of allowable expenditures or needs. Requirements for applicants to maintain funding include at least two park cleanups, at least one activity or program for children, and at least one program or activity open to the surrounding community. I made a little bit of edits to this too. So instead of just children, it could be children and seniors as well. That's fine. Yeah, absolutely. Mr. Logan's not here [inaudible]. We're going to adjust the RFP for that. I placed the updated-- it's a little outdated from the timeline. We're going to push it back probably to mid-August to do a workshop for people who want to take advantage of the grant.

Next up, this one right here, this is my baby. So ever since I took this project at Facebook for the first time, I was able to get around 65 people to volunteer within the first 24 hours of it. So with all the projects that I've posted on Facebook, this one was the one that got the most response, I believe. So the next steps for this is to plan a meet-and-greet. So I want to pretty much get all of our city officials together to see if we could go down there and just talk about sustainability. Let's talk about green activity and just thinking cleaner with our environment. So next up, I want to get approvals for our murals. I was in contact with Ron Suber. I believe his sister owns [crosstalk]. Thank you. So I'm going to be in contact with them sometime later on this month to see if we can get the final okay, painting murals on their wall. So after that, of course, contact with a muralist and then begin phase one, which I'm going to show you in a little bit. So this is the location. You just mentioned to me to illustrate. I said that we just got the deed for the property here. So yeah, this is right across the street. For anybody out there who don't know, this is right across the street from the ChesPenn building. Yeah, so this is pretty much a before picture of it and this is the after. This would be phase one. So I plan on putting the gate in first. And then, of course, we contact the muralist and get the murals in. And the whole back wall for the Suber's building, I'm going to contact the East Side-- or East Side Deli to do their whole wall and just have it look nice and clean, get some new seedlings in there to freshen the grass, then they get that project rolling. So on the backside of the East Side Deli, you have a gate back there. So I'm pretty much going to leave this open for phase one because we don't know yet what we're going to bring into it. So probably phase two, we'll close it out and get some blocks of different things just to keep it secure. And then phase three, mining and all the finishing touches. That's the plan for the Brandywine Revival Gardens.

So, Ward Walks. Here we are. You guys can read the four points here. But-- the Ward Walks Initiative, that pretty much had the idea of-- was to get you guys out of this building and start walking in each ward, to know who your residents are, know their problems and needs, and to strengthen those connections between them. So on the left-hand side, you have one, two, down to five. And I created walking routes for you guys. So I know it's hot out. Vice President Green stated the 4<sup>th</sup> ward is only 1 not 2. There are two precincts for voting but just

one ward. It encompasses both. Mr. Miles stated so, just a few points up here. So striking a connection between council members and a community by facilitating open and direct communication, encouraging active participation of community members at each of the neighborhoods, supporting local businesses through showcasing their products. This is creating [working?] opportunities and promoting economic development and growth in the area. Another point to this project or initiative is enhancing collaboration between the school district. So one thing that I feel we really need to do is to get in contact with them and work on some synergy there. The streets don't know who their Council members are. Right. So also, council members in the community, that's point four. Addressing safety, infrastructure, and environmental concerns by involving state staff, law enforcement, and environmental [inaudible]. Six, celebrating Coatesville's diverse culture and artistic heritage, enhancing media visibility and public awareness of local issues, successes, and ongoing initiatives by involving journalists or media outlets to the Ward Walks. And pretty much improving the overall well-being of the community. So just for you guys being out in the open and rubbing shoulders with the community, it's what's going to set this to take off. So I'm imagining cameras out there, recording, just collecting data. I mean, I'm not saying just for the photo ops or anything like that, but just to really get the record down and make sure that we're on top of our game. President Lavender Norris stated because we're of a certain age here, having the youth's point of view really makes a difference.

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

#### **James Bookman**

My name is James Bookman. I live at 361 Charles Street, City of Coatesville. I just want to say thank you for the seat, and thank you to everyone that's here, and to the community and everyone else that's serving. I really just want to say thank you to Vincent Miles on just a fabulous presentation from what I just saw. I've just had discussions about things like that, but I've always had discussions like that because traveling to other cities and seeing what they have been doing. But you are putting that model right now in the City of Coatesville and moving forward with it. Thank you. So just want to say thank you because I know it's going to look great. I know it's going to look great. And you're doing a fabulous job, and whatever we can to help you out. Thank you.

#### **Tiniera Turner-Green**

I'm Tiniera Green. I live on 401 Colina Lane. Of course, I'm going to [inaudible] sentiment of just gratitude. Thank you so much for this opportunity to be able to serve my community next to you all. And also, regardless of the controversy, I want to say to Mr. Bookman, I personally want to thank you because you've volunteered your time to the city with Parks and Rec. And I personally know how heavy a lift that is. So regardless of what anyone says, I think [inaudible]. Thank you so much.

### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Ms. Allen stated well, I just want to thank everyone for coming out, and to Tiniera and James, I thank you for putting your hat in and willing and putting forth the effort to help us help the city and our own residents. This process to me was weird because of Monday night. I quite didn't approve of how things went. We're all adults. We all know how to act civil, and that was not carried out in a manner, which was quite embarrassing for me to be on council, to be in the public eye, for any grown-up to act in the manner in which they acted, both council members and public figure, I mean, and their own

residents. We all know that we serve a diverse community and we all know what is going on in our community. So we as council have the power to vote who we think will fit best in these seats to move our city forward in the manner that our city manager is putting forth to get it done. And we appreciate all that our city manager is doing for the city. Yes, he's doing a great job and we back him. We want people on city council who will check him but also support him in all that he's doing. So I do think you two, Tiniera Green being young, she will bring a great atmosphere to the council. She's young. She could get the young people. And James being a man, he will be able to bring that aspect to council with the young boys and young men. So, I really want to say thank you all. As far as Unity Day, I'm talking-- As far as Unity Day, this is my second time ever going, and I'm telling y'all, I tell them all the time, don't do [inaudible]. I came out 10 o'clock Saturday morning and didn't leave till it was over. I had my family come out. My uncle brought his four kids up from West Chester. They played. They helped. At the end of the night, they said, "This was one of the best scenes of my life." So Unity Day was great, so I just want to thank everyone who came out, everyone who participated, everyone who rolled up their sleeves. I think I did the best job ever. [laughter] But it was good, so I just want to thank you all. Everyone, get home safely.

Ms. Al Amin wished everyone a good evening. I want to thank everybody for coming. Vincent, thank you for that wonderful display. Chief, thank you for what you and your department do. I want to welcome the two council members. And again, I apologize, because if it was explained to me on Monday, I would not have left. When it was explained today, I came. I will, however, not apologize for what I said on Monday and for saying that I think that the process was not fair to the public, nor as a council member did I understand what was going on because the website did say July 5th at 4:30 PM, and it said that when I was speaking in council on Monday. It was not taken down until after that meeting. I have no issues with any of the individuals that applied, and I would have voted for any of them because I think they are all qualified. I abstained because of the flaws in the process. And I'm going to always stand on my beliefs and what I think is best for the residents for as long as I sit in this seat. I hope everybody has safe travels home, and have a good night.

Vice President Green welcomed Mr. Bookman and Ms. Green to city council. I'm excited to have you both fill the vacant seats. I think that you both bring some unique things to the table. And I hope that you both are planning on running in November to secure the seats. It's really important, and there's a lot going on in the city. And I tell you as Ms. Allen said, I think that you both will bring different perspectives to the table, so I'm excited. Unity Day was fantastic. I had a great time. The people that I invited had a great time. It was different this year. It was real family kind of oriented with the sack races and things like that. We didn't have a lot of-- we didn't have any rides and stuff like that like a carnival, and it was really fun. Tiniera did a spoken word on Saturday at Unity Day, and it's just wonderful, so I'm just grateful. Vince, your presentation was amazing. Mr. Bookman, you said that you travel and see other cities, but Vince does his research. That's what he does. He travels around, and he looks at other places and he looks at things, and he brings them back to our city. And I look at his Instagram because he's always in a meeting somewhere or a meeting with a group, I mean, outside of the city, going to these seminars and learning and bringing that information, what he has obtained back to the city. And I think that's awesome. And so I'm just excited for the project. I'm excited for you [inaudible], and I can't wait to see. And so whatever help you need, Jerry Suber is one of my best friends, so I'll talk to him. [laughter] So I will see to that. And so thanks, everyone, for coming out, and have a safe ride home, and enjoy the rest of your evening. Thank you.

President Lavender Norris stated I want to speak to our basic [inaudible] because after that meeting Monday night, my thought was, "What must developers, what must investors, and most of all, what must our residents think is going on?" I want to do my best to explain what's going on. Our first board representative resigned his seat because he moved out of the city. When we moved to appoint Mr. Brown to the seat, he informed us that he had some personal things going on and that he wouldn't be able to fill the seat, which until today, left the seat open. Thank God we now have an appointment to that seat. Thank you, Mr. Bookman for Ward Two. Mr. Folks, for personal reasons again, resigned his seat. In full disclosure, I need to let you know, I reached out to someone to ask them if they would be interested in running for the seat in the Second Ward. They agreed. They're like, "I don't know. Why me?" Then, "Well, yeah, I'll do it." And that was probably almost two weeks into no one having signed up or submitting any interest. When I was made aware that there were others, I again reached out to that person to inform them that they were not the only one interested in the seat because I didn't want them to come in and think they were being appointed. Because I'm not the only one on council, so I wanted them to know that I didn't know how council would vote. I don't want you to be blindsided or discouraged. And they replied to me and said they would not be discouraged. They appreciated the consideration for them to fill a seat. And thank you to Ms. Tiniera for filling the seat. Now, with all the ruckus with regard to our appointment, I need you to understand that our Charter gives us 30 days to appoint someone to the seat. To Mr. Bookman's point, there is a lot of family in Coatesville. Had you been from Coatesville, you would know. There's probably five large families, which kind of makes almost everybody in Coatesville related. And the ones that I'm not biologically related to, I call them my sisters and brothers anyway because I love my community and everyone in it. And ain't nothing they can do about it because that's my love. I love them whether they love me or not. However. That's what I need, anybody that saw all the stuff that went on Monday night, I need you to know, it has absolutely nothing to do with the city business, moving forward. I sit here and dare to tell you that we on council have integrity. And as a result of that, we'll walk it out. We will definitely walk it out. And by the grace of God, you will see for yourself. I'm not going to try to make you believe anything. I want you to see for yourself. And I'm not even going to ask you to say, "Oh, I saw. Thank you. I realize now." No. Just accept what's right and move forward because that's what we're going to do with this city, what's right and then move forward. Thank you all so very much for coming out tonight. God bless you all. Stay safe. And if it be His will, I'll see you at our next meeting. Enjoy your evening. Thanks.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.