



Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, August 14, 2023

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

President Lavender Norris announced an Executive Session was held earlier this evening to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters.

President Lavender Norris announced Vice President Carmen Green would not be in attendance

Approved Minutes

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023 and July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

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

Presentations

1. Swear in City Council

Ms. Tiniera Turner-Green was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines as Gavyn and Gavriella Green held the bible.

Mr. James Bookman was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines as Zada and Darlene Bookman held the bible.

2. Swear in Part-time Fire Police

Mr. Joseph Rizzo was sworn in as Fire Police by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines as Mr. Daggett held the bible.

3. Natural Lands Trust Award

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you tonight. I'm Ann Hutchinson with Natural Lands. And on your agenda, you have a recommendation to award a contract to a consulting engineer. This is due to a January 2022 master plan for Ash Park the council adopted in order to see the park built. We need to hire a consultant to prepare construction drawings and stormwater permit, bid manual, and provide construction oversight. Due to phenomenal funding success, via the City of Coatesville that has raised over \$3 million to date, we're pretty confident that you'll be able to construct both phases one and two of the

Ash Park master plan, which will include new restrooms, a Sprayground, entry, events area, pavilion with a misting station, lighted basketball courts with bleachers and benches, a horseshoe area, landscaping, fencing, and a playground. The city received five excellent proposals from consulting engineers. Those proposals were evaluated by a seven-member committee that included representatives from city staff, the parks and recreation department, ECON Partners, and Natural Lands. The request for proposal included criteria that were used which related to technical expertise, experience with similar work, and sustainable stormwater management. We'd like to alleviate the flooding problems in the park. Also looked at the procedures and attention to cost, the schedule, and whether or not the firm was a disadvantaged business enterprise. The committee recommends that the awarded contract go to Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, otherwise known as JMT, with Meliora Design for stormwater management design. And the total cost of that contract would be \$275,738 to be paid for by a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. I'm happy to answer any questions.

4. DEPG – Jim DePetrìs

Mr. DePetrìs stated we came tonight to talk about [inaudible] and proud to be here. It's been a long haul. We all appreciate very much the warm comments we received about the Iron Eagle. We wanted to be part of the revitalization story of Coatesville for a long time. I think we're finally starting to get there, but the best is yet to come. We asked to be on the agenda this evening to talk about our future plans. We hired a consultant named CJ Romero who is in the performing arts business. Very, very talented. And unfortunately, she got held up. She went to [Dell?] the City of Philadelphia, and they had an issue down here to deal with, but she'll be back here next month to talk in detail about her background and what her plans are for rebuilding. But she was part of the reason that we're going to take that to a higher level in Brandywine Valley, and it's a great fit for the restaurant. It's a great fit, too. So we'll be talking again in the future about that. But very proud also to introduce you to my wife, Mary DePetrìs. Mary's a part of the Iron Eagle. We are very excited about being a part of this.

Mrs. DePetrìs announced I came on board about, I guess, a month and a half ago, and it's been very exciting. We've had some great customer feedback, a lot of customers that come in from Coatesville, and so far, so good. Most of the people enjoy the food, enjoy to the atmosphere, and going forward with that, learning, listening to customers, we have reviews and we read them all, and we reply online to them, and we get some feedback. A lot of feedback was the fact that everybody was looking for a brunch place. So starting next Sunday, we're opening for brunch. Instead of opening for dinner, which was a little slow, we're going to be open for brunch until 4:00. So that was a lot of feedback from a lot of people in Coatesville. And it's pretty exciting. We've got a great menu coming up, and it should be great. Most of our employees, I would say 80% of them, come from Coatesville. [inaudible] all Coatesville residents, and they're doing well. They're excited, enjoying the restaurant. Let's see. We just opened our outdoor space last weekend. We didn't really have any advertisement for that. We just wanted to see how the flow of the outside would go with all the servers, and it was great. We had our first customer, they got free dessert, so it was pretty exciting. And we have a great chef who's also very versatile. He is doing new things each week. He has specials each week that are different from the menu, which I think will enhance the dining experience. So far, so good. I'm looking forward to continuing, and we have a lot of people that have a lot of ideas that come in and talk about the extra space and what they could come in for, and we may want to do a book club there. The space is huge, so

we're anxious to get some things going in second area. So thanks for having us. President Lavender stated I just want to say I have frequented the establishment several times, and I've been very well pleased each time. So thank you. Mrs. DePetrus stated it's really exciting, I love hearing all the stories, and there's so many people that come in and have such wonderful stories about themselves and their parents, or just back in the day and what the place was used for and how the community was. And it's just, wow, really a nice feeling that people getting chat.

Discussion Items

1. Martin Luther King Boulevard One-Way

Mr. Logan explained this has been on the books for the city for some time now. There has been discussion of when Martin Luther King is going to be designated as a one-way. It falls in line with the recent parking study that was funded by the RDA to identify parking enhancements. The reconfiguration from a two-way to a one-way to allow additional parking on MLK, that would be heading eastbound starting First Avenue. We talked to the police department, and we talked to the fire department. Of course, emergency services, they can go any way they want to go. But we do feel that this would be a tremendous benefit to the community, especially as the downtown area continues to grow. So, I just wanted to kind of bring this back to council's attention. We're working with Cedarville Engineering to identify the line of site as they call it, to make sure that the vehicles that will be coming up and down the street will be at the appropriate speed. The Chief will be part of that discussion with Cedarville on signage. We'll be also looking at wayfinding signs pretty soon. People come into the city are aware of where parking areas are whether it's on MLK or private as well. So, as we are progressing in the community, things are starting to get a little bit crowded, so we have to identify various [inaudible] of our parking areas. In addition to that, there have been some recommendations for [inaudible] to partner with private homes. We have the VFW, one of our neighbors, one of our local business, and it's going to be partnering with them as well as the Houston Foundation. Everyone is working together to come up with solutions for some of the partnerships. Chief, do you want to add anything about the parking on MLK? Chief Laufer explained we've looked at it from the safety aspect. We feel with the roadway, it can be safely accomplished. We did have a discussion with our current liaison with our meter enforcement company that we contract with regard to using the smart meters and the different ways in which the recommendations would be to meter the diagonal space kiosks. We've had that discussion, and we're ready to go to that diagonal parking to place a kiosk which would service those spots. It also would be available in the future to service the spots in our municipal lot here, too, City Hall. So, everything will come together once we decide to make it happen. Mr. Bookman asked what about the lighting on MLK? Will there be additional lighting MLK up a little better than what it is? Like on the avenues of like-- we have here Third Avenue down at Fourth Avenue, lighting that is there is very bright. Just wanted to ask, would it be additional lighting for that street? Chief Laufer replied yeah, I don't know about additional lighting because the way that the lighting is pretty much designed is to accommodate kind of what's happening on MLK. I know that when you get closer to First and MLK, there's this little patch there that's a little dark, it's in that crosswalk area, and I complain about that one. we can certainly reach out to I guess PennDOT, we'd have to notify them if we want to put another pole [inaudible] out there. We can certainly look into that. There may be an opportunity in your future for additional streetscapes money, which may enable us to make it look more like, you're saying, Third and Fourth. The nicer lamp post lighting, make it more inviting there.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens hearings on regular action items only at this time.

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

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to award Ash Park engineering, permitting, bidding, and construction observation services contract for Phases 1 and 2

Mr. Jefferson explained and just to be clear for the meeting minutes purposes, the motion was written without specifically listing an engineering entity because I didn't know who council would ultimately go with. So the motion is actually going to have to include some sort of component to either go with the city staff's recommendation or some other entity, but there does need to be a specific engineering firm identified.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to award Ash Park engineering, permitting, bidding, and construction observation services contract for Phases 1 and 2 to Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT) for a total amount not to exceed \$275,738.00; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Part-time Police Department Eligibility List

Ms. Al Amin made the motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Part-time Police Department Eligibility List; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Receive and consider a motion to approve conditional offers from the Part-time Police Officers Civil Service Eligibility List

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve David Reeves, Jeffrey L. Shumate, Joshua D. Fox, and Francis C. Collier, be appointed as a part-time Patrol Officers in the City Police Department subject to successful completion of a background check, physical and psychological examination; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Chief Laufer explained the civil service test was given back in July, on July 12th, and the results were certified by our Civil Service Commission, signed all four. There were four individuals that took the test - David Reeves, Jeffrey Shumate, Joshua Fox, and Francis Collier - all four passed on their low score. This will allow us to proceed to the background investigation, the psychological, the physical, and at that point, the decision would be made and would be referred to Civil Service Commission for actual hiring as part-time officer. The conditional offer allows us to commence the background and the next steps in our hiring process. Currently, we only have one part-time officer that is working for the police department. Ideally, we would like to have 8 to 10, and that's what has been budgeted with Mr. Troutman. But unfortunately, we're like most of the other departments really across the country. We're struggling to recruit struggling, to attract anybody that even would like to consider being a police officer and participate in the testing process. We will move forward with these four. We'll see how many make it through the next stage. And then at that point, hopefully maybe in another two, three months, they would be able to actually take the street as part-time.

President Lavender Norris stated so these would backfill, so to speak. Chief Laufer replied yes, these were backfill. We should be with 8 to 10 part-time officers; we currently have one. Even with these 4-- if all 4 were to make it as part-time officers, we would still be another 4 to 6 short. And we will continue to advertise and we've done with Pennsylvania Chiefs, which is where pretty much all-- anybody who wants to be a police officer in Pennsylvania knows you go to the PA Chiefs website to look for all the vacancies across the Commonwealth. We continue to advertise there as well as on our Facebook page, and by word of mouth. We are not unique in the struggles of trying to hire part-time more full-time officers. All the departments are facing the same problems.

4. Receive and consider a motion to approve a purchase of a Trackless Sidewalk Tractor through Costars @ \$154,410 from U.S. Municipal to be financed over 10 years
Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve a purchase of a Trackless Sidewalk Tractor through Costars @ \$154,410 from U.S. Municipal to be financed over 10 years; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Cosentino announced in your packets, you have a summary of the reasoning for the purchase and then also the quote U.S. Municipal. Just briefly, our current trackless machine is a 1993 machine. So, it's 30 years old. It is no longer functioning. The U.S. Municipal has actually been a long-time vendor of ours and helps to maintain some of our equipment currently. We've gotten an estimate on repairs for our current machine to be anywhere between 17 to 60 thousand dollars, but that is very much a rough estimate and it still would be a 30-year-old machine. We use the trackless to do snow plowing on our sidewalks. For as snow blower, we have several attachments that are snowplows, snow blower, a salt spreader for, again, for the sidewalks, primarily, and also to do our flail mowing. These are really key things that our machine can do and without them, it makes things slightly more challenging. So as I mentioned, we not only looked at potentially repairing our 30-year-old machine, but looking at other machinery as well. We consulted with other public works departments, worked extensively with our current crew leader, Julius, who you all know, who has a lot of experience with this machine, and it really is highly recommended that we purchase a new one and, hopefully, we'll get another 30 years out of it. It's currently in stock at U.S. Municipal, so we would be able to get it fairly quickly. We should note, we did also try to find a used machine, and we weren't able to find one. It is more cost effective than to get the new. President Lavender Norris asked if we still have the old attachments. And if so, will they fit the new machine? Ms. Cosentino replied good question. We do have the old attachments, and we're sure that at least three of them are going to work with a new machine. The flail mower is the only attachment that we are unsure of because it's currently not functioning, and the only way to test it is to attach it to the machine. We're confident that some repairs might be needed, and hopefully then it'll work. But that's the only question mark, is the flail mower.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson welcomed the new council members. I look forward to working with you guys. Since Council's last meeting, I have communicated and continue to communicate with outside counsel regarding certain litigation matters. I continue to provide advice regarding land development matters. I communicated with Chester County voter services regarding the

upcoming election. I reviewed the [ESCO?] agreement for the [western wall?] of the cultural society building and provided some guidance. I conducted research regarding bidding and rebidding. I have communicated with the city's labor attorneys regarding a personnel matter. I, and my office, have worked on the Right to Know matters coming from the police department. And just by way of, nothing that we didn't necessarily for the city, but on July 12th of 2023, the Housing Partnership of Chester County purchased 1225 Walnut Street in Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Somebody that I work with is on their board. From my understanding, the Housing Partnership sort of purchases properties, and then works to rehabilitate them, and then to get individuals into the specific house who may not otherwise be able to get into a house. So I can tell you that they're already here. They're potentially a good resource.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan explained during our executive meeting, I assisted in providing real estate and personnel updates to members of city council. As far as public updates, recently members of the community, some members of our city council, community stakeholders, and friends attended a, as we call it, an ACE summit. That's our Annual Coatesville Economic Forum. This was the first, or I should say, our first year. We had over 100 in attendance that day. We covered a little bit of what's going on in the City of Coatesville, a number of our projects. We have more than 40-plus projects totaling over \$250 million in economic development. Some of the projects have been completed, some of the projects are ongoing, and some are soon, let's just say, vastly emerging. But it was a wonderful half-day event. We had two breakout sessions. One was led by Roberta, our Assistant City Manager and the other was led by Vincent Miles, Public Affairs Representative. They talk about small business development, they talk about trades, we talked about the trend of what's happening in the western region, and it was just a very rich and full day of conversation and also just listening to people talk about the change that's happening here in Coatesville. So, we are very pleased with the turnout. We hope to bring this to the Coatesville region every year kind of like our [G6 or T8?]. And I want to thank the setting sponsor, which is Pennsylvania American Water, Cleveland-Cliffs, that was another sponsor, and Meridian Bank for their support for this event. Our partners included the Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce and the Chester County Economic Development Council, which they also provided assistance with our breakout session. So, it was great. There's going to be a short video that we will post on our website, kind of give you guys a little flavor of what took place that day. Hopefully, you'll all be able to attend next year.

Moving on, the VPP, the County reviewed the letter regarding our zoning amendments, which a few of you worked on to amend some of the ordinances, including the Overlay and the Downtown District and some of the banners and signage. This concludes phase one of what we're calling a multi-phase amendments to our ordinances. Phase two may consist of additional ordinance amendments or we may concentrate on the City's comprehensive plan for the city. This is something that Roberta and I, Rich, we've been talking about the City's comp plan. It's nearing its 10th year, so it's right about time to start with a new one. Those of you who have been witnessing the revitalization of the City of Coatesville for 10 years but more so over the last 6 years, you all will know that we have a lot to say in the city comp plan. We have the parks that have been that led by the leadership of Natural Lands. We have some of the new buildings that are emerging, we have the opportunity zones, we have [inaudible]; there's so many wonderful things that are happening here that's going to build our

comp plan in addition to what the residents are looking for. So, we expect some of you in the audience this evening, when we roll out the request for volunteers to help us with putting together our comp plan, I hope to see some of the faces in this audience to come out and help us build that plan and make it a living document. Comp plan, in my opinion, shouldn't be a rigid document. It should be a living document that allows the city to move and to grow and adapt. So, I invite you all to come out when we start these workshops and be part of our comp plan.

On to the train station, construction work continues. According to some rumors, some people say that it's behind schedule, some say it's ahead of schedule. Depending on what side of the fence or the railroad tracks you're on, I think it's going to be on schedule. It's rain delays. You're going to typically have that, but for the most part, we anticipate the train station to be completed in 2025, and we're just going to continue to move forward on that project. We are also working on streetscape extension plans. Right now, we have streetscape funding for First to Third, we have recently submitted an application to extend that to Fourth. That will entail sidewalk improvements, lighting improvements. Mr. Bookman, you mentioned lighting MLK. So, a lot of that lighting's going to take place on Lincoln Highway on up to Fourth Ave. So yes, we might be able to, and Chief mentioned, get some additional funding for some streetscape improvements on MLK as well. Grand Prix preparations are continuing. For some of our vendors who have not turned in your applications, we're looking for more food vendors. The deadline for that, I think it's going to be September 9th. Is that correct? All right. We also have sponsorships available. If you are interested in looking into becoming a Grand Prix sponsor, you can go to www.coatesvillegrandprix.com. There's a little video there to kind of get you excited, and hopefully you become a sponsor, a vendor, or a volunteer. It's one of our premier events in the year. We have a little more than four to five thousand people that attend that event, and we're very excited to have a beer and wine garden this year along with some other activities for our young kids.

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum will hold a community service from 8:30 to 10:30 on Monday, September 11th, remembering the events of 9/11/2001. The service will take place at the Steelworkers' Memorial on the grounds of the museum. It's right around the corner, across the street. The memorial is a 30-foot steel column of the World Trade Center. Some of you may have been over there. I think there are three or two triads there on display. The commemoration will be at the museum, which is located at 50 South First Avenue, Coatesville, in the rear parking lot. I think you can contact the museum for more details on that, or go to their website. Last two items I have, one's the outdoor fitness center. Vincent Miles is coordinating the efforts for the National Fitness Center. That particular outdoor free fitness center is going to be in Abdala Park. It's a 38x38 slab with jump boxes, full bars, a lot of different exercise stations, and it's targeted to be completed sometime in October. One of the things that we're trying to do in addition to the part revitalizations is to improve traffic in our parks. I see Ajené in the audience there. Ajené's our chairperson for the parks and rec. He's been doing tremendous work with the parks with weekend events and events for our young people. So now Ajené, you're going to have another playground to play on. The outdoor fitness center is going to be coordinated with some of our local sports centers, whether it's Planet Fitness, some of our private sports centers will be partnering with those instructors to come out and teach people how to use it. We have a number of sports teams here. That would be a great resource for them as well as residents that live here in the community. We are awaiting confirmation on the grading. We have the concrete that's been

donated to us by Delaware Valley Concrete. Very excited about that. Cedarville has donated some of their engineering services, and Jason Bond of Bond Construction has donated some of his construction services.

But we are very excited about that. And then the last item I have is Sounds of Summer. Many of you have been free to attend the Sounds of Summer. These are free concerts, every other Friday. We move them from Abdala Park to Gateway Park. The next event is going to be August 25th. These outdoor free concerts start at 7:00 PM till about 9:30, 10:00-ish. We have August 25th, September 8th, September 22nd, and it looks like we may add another one on October 6th. So please come out, support your local community, and I think that's about it. How many of you attended, or have attended, the First Fridays? Yeah. Come out First Fridays, I think we have couple of more. I think we have two more, is that right? One more? You keep I think we're going to get Amber to add another one. So we have one more on the calendar, but we may sneak another one in. But if you haven't come out-- to the First Fridays, they're great. The streets are packed, and thanks to 2nd Century Alliance and Amber, who've done a great job on that. That concludes my report. Thank you.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino announced in executive session, I gave Council some staffing updates. And to begin, I'd like to remind the City of Coatesville that if any Spanish speakers and other non-English speakers need assistance with city matters, we are here to help as best we can. We are working to ensure everyone can share their questions or concerns with the city. *Me gustaría recordarle a la Ciudad de Coatesville que si alguna persona que hable español u otra persona que no hable inglés necesita ayuda con los asuntos de la Ciudad, estamos aquí para ayudar lo mejor que podamos. Estamos trabajando para garantizar que todos puedan compartir sus preguntas e inquietudes.* A brief update from the codes department. In July, we had 52 warnings or violations and 14 of those were abated. So that's about 27% of what we are issuing warnings and violations for, those issues were fixed. We issued 43 building permits and a 128 licenses and inspections, 88 of those were rental inspections. Our codes department is working hard to get rental properties throughout the city up to date on inspections, and we are also continuing to meet and have productive pre-planning meetings with developers to help that process move along smoothly. As Mr. Logan mentioned, the ACE Forum was a great opportunity to share more about our little city with the larger community. The conclusion of the breakout session that I had the privilege to lead was that there really is more collaboration and follow-up in regards to workforce and talent in the city and beyond, and so I'm looking forward to helping to move that conversation along.

The city continues to hold monthly safety committee meetings with a cross section of staff in city. As a result, we've made some progress on updating our safety trainings and documenting areas to address within our facilities and with our equipment. We continue to work on ordinance updates, address light, and addressing property owners who are delinquent in taxes and solid waste payments. Another big project we have going on in the city is our Millview Basin project. It has been rebid, and we're hoping to have a good update for you in our next meeting. Our roadwork repairs throughout the city continue to move forward, and we're hoping those will be completed in the next several weeks. Our website, I haven't mentioned in a little bit because between vacations and some other things, it has been delayed, but I'm hoping by the end of the month, we'll be able to see the launch of our new website. I've also had the pleasure to attend our 2nd Century Alliance board meetings last few

months, and hopefully to be a little bit more involved with Amber as she's taking on her new role and working together to address things together and collaboratively in the city. And last but not least, I just thought I would mention that communication continues on a daily basis with Eagle Disposal, and we do continue to ask that residents contact us when their trash if not being picked up on their regular day. The sooner we know, the better.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete statistical report is in your packet tonight, just a couple of key highlights. General calls for service generated through the Chester County 911 system month of July were 2,080. Up slightly from 2038 in June. When you throw in our front desk, increases our general calls for service for the month of July to 2,752. Down slightly from June, which was 3,000. Some other highlights, we had six Narcan administrations by the Police Department in the month of July, and we did seven car seat checks with installations of car seats provided by our certified technicians.

We are excited to announce the resumption of our Coffee with the Chief coming up in September, on September the 6th, first Wednesday of each month. So, September the 6th, we will be at Brandywine Valley Active Aging to begin our Coffee with the Chief. Yes, sir? Mr. Logan asked if it is on your website now, or not? Has the video been posted? Chief Laufer stated usually, we wait until a little closer before we put out the announcement, but relatively shortly. And we're going to tie it into the release of the video to sort of kick off the-- Mr. Logan's referring to we did a video which we actually premiered at the ACE conference, which kind of highlights our Coffee with the Chief program, professionally done, and we'll incorporate that with the next reception Coffee with the Chief in September on our Facebook page, excited about that too. So that will be at the Brandywine Valley Active Aging for anybody that can attend, and that's from 8:30 to 10:00 the first Wednesday of each month.

I'd like to just mention an issue that is impacting a number of residents here in the city. Miss Al Amin and I had a discussion this morning about it on the phone, and that is this sort of scourge, if you will, social media generated break-ins and theft of Kia's and Hyundai vehicles. It has come to the City of Coatesville, unfortunately. In the last 30 days, we have had approximately 50 incidents involving either thefts of vehicles, attempted thefts of vehicles, or criminal mischief, which probably were attempted theft of vehicles, of Kia and Hyundai sedans and SUVs. Just to put it in perspective, we have a 13-year-old female who admitted to stealing two. All because of this pressure from social media that shows them how to do it, and then it's there as almost a fun game, if you will. And obviously, for the people that own these vehicles and incur the losses, it's a lot of money, even if you have insurance, even with good insurance, you're going to have a deductible for comprehensive or for any type of damage or the theft of the vehicle. So it is something that we're trying to address. Miss Al Amin and I had a conversation this morning. There are some City of Philadelphia officers, and just working with different entities to provide Clubs for people that own Kia's and Hyundais. We're currently working with an entity to provide those at no cost to us, so we can then provide to owners of those vehicles that reside within the city the means in which to hopefully discourage somebody from-- if they see the Club on the steering wheel, then maybe they won't break the glass and try to steal it. So discourage maybe even an attempt at that point. For those that can afford it, you can purchase your own anti-theft device anywhere from 25 to 30 dollars at Kmart or on Amazon, but we are

working to get a supply that we could hand out to members of the community that have those [vehicles?]. So other than that, we just ask people to be alert in the neighborhood, call in any suspicious activity that you might observe, particularly if you have or your neighbors have those types of vehicles. But it's become a problem in the last 30 days, last month or so, month and a half here in the city.

President Lavender Norris stated I asked you this morning because, honestly, when I got the call, it was the first that I ever heard of it. I heard that people steal the catalytic converters, but when I had a conversation with you this morning, when I asked you a question about what a lady called me and told me, that folks are actually stealing the airbags now because they're-- what did you say [crosstalk]-- Chief Laufer replied they're very expensive, but there are places that will buy them just like the junkyard will buy the catalytic converters. Unscrupulous body shop will purchase airbag assemblies that are taken out of steering wheel. They will purchase them from people that steal them. So as Miss Al Amin indicated, she spoke with somebody that had an airbag stolen from their vehicle, and it's not unusual. It is a part that they can readily sell it if they know a body shop, they'll take it in the back door and sell it out the front door, then they can make money.

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

John Sly

Good evening, Madam President, Council and new members of Council. For those who don't know me, those in the community, I'm John Sly, President of Westwood Fire Company and EMS. Don't know me, some may say that's a good thing. I just want to provide the council an update, as I did promise, on advanced life support here in the city. We do serve 16 municipalities now, and soon Coatesville will be part of our family. And so, it's difficult for me to be in 16 places at once. So I can get here as much as I can, but it's usually every quarter or so. Excuse me, an update, through the end of July, in the City of Coatesville, Westwood has responded to 632 calls made in the City of Coatesville. And the fact that we provide the advanced life support with our colleagues at Washington Hose providing the basic life support, that generally means that there are a lot of serious calls. These are calls that are usually traumatic, cardiac related, pediatric emergencies, or things that need to be handled at the advanced life support level with a paramedic. It's very busy, and it's very busy for our service, it's very busy here in the city, city being one of our largest users of the service. So far the last month, service-wide, we had 581 calls. And that's in one month, so that's about 19 a day. And if you do the math on the fact that we don't have a hospital anywhere in this region, we're going for roughly two to three hours each call. So if you do the math, having 19 calls day, you can understand the strain that our personnel are under. Much like Chief Laufer said, we are certainly not flourishing with paramedics and EMT. It's a challenge for us to keep enough people on the staff, but we are doing that, and obviously, to be able to serve the city for the needs that you have. You had a 101 calls from our service last month. So we've only been providing the advanced life support since March. We do back up basic life support when the Washington's not available, but 101 calls on average is going to put you at about 1,200 for us next year, and that's in addition to what the Washington's doing. So I just want to provide Council with that update, and I'll answer any questions you might have, but I just want to thank you for your ongoing support. Mr. Logan had just a question, so we have received, I think, our ACE summit as well as some other opportunities to hear from town commissioners of what's happening with the VA and with Penn Medicine. Going to be a tremendous relief for this community. How do you see not only Westwood, but the two of our firefighters here in the audience, is that going to improve some of the time that you guys have heading to West Chester or do you see nothing happening until another year or two? Mr. Sly

explained there's probably 135,000 residents that are looking forward to that hospital unit. I mean, it's on the list, and I can't wait for it to reopen because it's going to take a tremendous strain off of us. We're optimistic. We obviously don't know some of the details, but we're optimistic that they're going to open some sort of emergency room as the first priority. If that does that, it's going to take a huge strain off of us. It's going to take a financial strain off of us. It's going to take a strain off of our personnel, who are doing these two- to three-hour trips. I know we were at Chester County earlier. It was an hour and 40-minute wait to even get out of an ambulance. So, it's going to take a tremendous strain off of the entire EMS system, I think, county-wide. What's happening now, we went from five hospitals to three. And you just figure out how that works when you have 555,000 residents in the county. So yes, we're very, very excited and optimistic to see the hospital reopen. Obviously, it's not going to be overnight. But we put an average of 10,000 miles per month on our vehicles. And if that continues, we're in a real world of hurt because it takes an average of three years now to get a new ambulance from the time you order it until the time it's available. So three years would be 360,000 miles on a vehicle. Not going to make it too long. So yeah, the news was very good. Obviously, that news came out since the last time I was here. We're just kind of sitting back, fingers crossed. I've spoken to some of the commissioners myself, and we'll wait and see what the folks at Penn Medicine and the VA come up with. Mr. Logan explained to those of you in the audience, there was a recent town hall meeting with Chrissy Houlahan, and she had representatives of the VA and Penn Medicine there. Mike Duncan who's the president of West Chester Hospital, he was there. There was a partnership that's being developed between the VA and Penn Medicine reopen here in our City of Coatesville, but in this region, and will be a behavioral health kind of I should say rooms or facility there as well. So still in the early stages of development, but they're getting through the paperwork and working through it. Hopefully, we'll see something at the end of this year. I'm not sure, but that's what everyone's hoping.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizen's hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Special Events

President Lavender Norris stated on to our special events, just for your knowledge, our calendar on our website, any events that are submitted will appear on our website for public knowledge. If anybody or whatever calls to see what's going on in the city, look on the website, look at our calendar, our events on there. I'm mentioning that because on the 18th, there will be a book bag giveaway back-to-school event at Bridge Academy, let me see, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, they're making it a block party and a community event. So for your information. That's pretty much it for our special events, and we're on now to our council comments.

Council Comments

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out, and I want to welcome our two new council members. I look forward to working with both of you. There's a lot of exciting things happening in the city, and so lots going on. And it's nice to see additional folks in the audience today, and be sure you come back again. And I just want to wish everybody safe travels home. And next council meeting, I will not be here because my children gifted me a vacation for Mother's Day. So I'm going to venture back in to traveling for the first time since COVID.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out, and get home safely. I heard the rain out there is pretty bad. And have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. I, too, want to thank you for coming and spending the evening with us again. I want to acknowledge Mr. DePetrus and the restaurant, and want to thank you for not giving up. It's been a long haul, and you have not always received good vibes from me as a councilperson. But I want to say I'm thankful that you turned that around. I have not had the opportunity to dine there yet, but I will make sure I do that in the very near future. Again, I thank you and your wife. And the corner, it looks beautiful-- --come into the city. Glad you're here tonight, and [inaudible]. So thank you for you've done to enhance the city. I, too, want to thank our staff for all they do daily to make the city run. [inaudible] what you're doing always and everything, and I just encourage you to continue to do the thing that you're doing to make our city what it is. But First Friday is coming again, and I'm excited because we will be a part of it this month, Women Destined for Change. Again, we'll have a back-to-school products giveaway. Not so much to book bags because they have been in an abundance in the city, which is a good thing, but we will have supplies to replenish the book bags. We'll have laptops, and we're excited to have a medical staff that will be on hand to give back-to-school physicals, give your children physicals. We'll have a medical staff on hand, as well as COVID vaccines and boosters will be available. And I received a call from a young lady today to let me know as well, they will have baby products, formulas and diaper, anything that you can need, it will be available. It will be set up by the gazebos from 5:00 to 8:00. I'm excited to partner with Amber on doing this for the first Friday in September, which will be September 1st. I'm excited about Ash Park. I'm excited about the Grand Prix and all that goes into that to make our city [inaudible]. So again, I'm just grateful. Thank you, Roberta for the update about the Codes office, as well as the trash pickup because I know Cedar Street had been hit hard with trash not being picked up. So I just have been in touch with one of the residents there, and she said, so far, it has been good since the last report. So glad to hear it. And thank you. Have a good evening. Look forward to seeing-- oh, I'm sorry. To our new councilpersons, thank you so much for joining us. Excited to work along you. Okay. So good evening.

Miss Turner-Green thanked everyone, for coming out tonight. And additionally, for the DePetrus family, I grew up going in and out of that building, so I'm really excited to see the things that you do there. The additional space in the back, it's near and dear to my heart, and I'm pretty sure a lot of other people as well. Good afternoon. Have a good evening, and drive safe.

Mr. Bookman thanked everyone that is here at the council meeting and emergency Fire and Police personnel that came out, and I just would like to say thank you for the job you're doing. It sounds like your hands is pretty full. I really appreciate what you all do. Everyone that's here, just thank you for coming out and being supportive. We got a lot going on in the city. Just hearing a lot, but thank you all the investors for even taking the time and focusing. I appreciate it, and I just want to say thank you, God bless, and have a safe home drive. We'll see you another time.

President Lavender Norris stated I just want to echo my colleagues thanking everyone for coming out. ACE forum was amazing. I'm still hearing wonderful feedback regarding it. Sounds of Summer, awesome. I don't know how many of you have been able to attend, but it's been an awesome time for the park. It's really great to just see Coatesville alive again. The parks are alive again. It's awesome. And saying that I want to acknowledge our Police Department and our Fire Departments. Mainly, excuse me, I'm highlighting them because they have been at every event. Not just standing around. They've been a part of every event. The Police with the water ice, and the interactions with the youth, and also the Firefighters. Even I had an opportunity to buy a Coatesville Fire t-shirt. So just for your information, they are now selling t-shirts. Fundraiser, so consider. They're the ones running in when we're running out. So support them. Our Police and our Fire, I greatly appreciate you both, hands

down. Excuse me. I have one really special shout-out here now. Today marks our City manager's five-year anniversary. Mr. Logan has actually turned our city around. If you look at the majority of the changes that are going on in the city now, to count back to when they started, [guy?] was standing there when they started. And today, seeing some of them having already come to fruition and others in the process, I just wanted to acknowledge and show my appreciation, and let you know I'm still watching [inaudible]. Mr. Logan thanked President Lavender Norris. I appreciate that. And if I could just say, it's been wonderful to work here for five years. I didn't know today was the day, but Coatesville is a city that's near and dear to me. It reminds me of my hometown. I'm sure you guys are tired of hearing me say it, but everything and every reason I came here was because of what I learned [inaudible] Bay Area, and if the Bay Area can change to do the great things that the City of Oakland is doing, I know Coatesville can do it even better. So for me, it's not work. Because they say when you love doing something, it doesn't feel like work. I've enjoyed working with everyone from our council members to our staff. So to our new staff and our new council members, to a number of you out there, you have made-- my five years, even though it doesn't seem like a long time, sometimes it is. You have made it very pleasurable. I really do appreciate it, and I feel that this is kind of my groove right now. So hopefully, you'll keep me here-- new contract, [laughter] you'll keep me here a little longer. But I really appreciate it. Thank you. President Lavender Norris stated and I also want to say to Mrs. Turner-Green and Mr. Bookman, thank you, thank you, thank you. We have not had a seven-member council for a minute, and I so appreciate two of you balancing us out. So thank you. Look forward to working with you both, working to bring the city forward. And seeing you, our residents, those of you out here, you look wonderful in these seats. Don't let nobody take your seat. Come back. Make sure you're here on time so nobody gets your seat next week. Thank you all for coming out. God bless you all. Have a safe trip home.

Adjournment

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