



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, August 28, 2023

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

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

President Lavender Norris announced Councilwoman Charrisse Allen and Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin would not be in attendance

### Approved Minutes

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes; Councilwoman Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### Approval of Accounts Payables

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### Presentations

#### 1. Mark Friese Rep'd

I'm actually Mike Bommel. Mark Freeze, good news, the COO of the company that I'm the CEO of, he had his baby. Him and his wife had their baby two days ago, so he is unable to make it today. So, I'm standing in for him. So just a little celebratory moment for him and his family. But I wanted to say thank you so much for giving me the opportunity today. I also want to thank Roberta for allowing and recommending jumping in to the city council meeting. So, thank you for the time. I will be quick and provide a little bit of context on who I am, would love to briefly show you what I'm doing, and hopefully, it could be helpful for the city. So just wanted to say thank you and start with a moment of appreciation. So I'm Mike Bommel. I'm the CEO and co-founder of a company called REPT. It's short for represented. We're the first company to create an on-demand town hall platform. And the quick background is that Mark and myself worked at Twitter for 15-plus years, all pre-Elon. And we saw firsthand how difficult it was to have civil conversations with communities without there being sort of a lead to mistrust in false information. So we built REPT as a way to combat that and to create a purpose-built platform to allow for residents to engage with the city and for the city to respond back with video-- answers, sorry. So I'm going to show my screen very briefly so you get a sense of how it works. But feel free to jump right in if there are any questions. All right. So I'll do that now. I'm assuming everybody can see my screen.

Perfect. Okay. So I'll be very brief here. There are two sides to the REPT platform. There's a public-facing side and a private side for the city. The public side is we build a custom page for all of our cities. The idea is that this is not an app. We know apps are very difficult for the rest of the residents to download, especially for older residents. So we built this dynamic web page and customized for every city we work with. And the idea is that it's incredibly simple. A resident can come to the custom page for the city, click this Post New Question button, ask any question they'd like, select a category that the city has chosen and input some personal information. Or they can upvote another resident's question by clicking this little upvote button right here. And instead of the city getting 22, for example, phone calls, emails, the same question over and over and over again, we batch questions from residents under the same and make it really easy for city officials and leaders to respond with 30 seconds or less - sorry, 30-second or 2-minute video answers. So if I upvote this question from Barbara and the answer is provided in 30 seconds, I and 22 other people will automatically receive an email notification sent to our inbox saying, "Congrats. The question has been answered. Come check it out." So this ends up becoming a trending feed of what your residents care about in real time. And as a resident, I can also watch passed answers that the city has provided this far. It becomes a video library of answers the city has given. We also make it really easy. Similar to Google, if I were to ask the question about federal funding, but the question has already been answered on the platform, REPT will show me that answer and direct me to the person who answered the question.

The idea here with REPT is that we want residents to see the people who are answering the questions and get really familiar with the leaders in city hall. The idea is to build trust. And you can see your question answered by a person who's leading the charge on the back end. Just to move forward quickly, the back end is also designed to be really, really simple. So every question that gets posted on REPT has to be approved by the city first to make sure that there aren't any inappropriate questions. One thing you may have noticed is that we have tried to make this as troll-proof as possible, so there's no comment functionality on REPT. You can only ask a question and receive a video response. We also allow the city to review the questions here. But once the question has been approved and the city is ready to answer a question, we make it really simple. Click this Answer button. You can upload a video recording very easily or even easier. You can record on REPT. We have this thing called teleprompter mode where you can input a script or notes, you can double them as subtitles, and click Lets Record. And as you record your video answer, the notes move up like a teleprompter mode, making it really easy for city officials to respond to common questions on one take instead of 10 in a couple of minutes or less. We also make it easy for the city to share. So let's say the communications department wants-- a question comes in and I may not be the best person to answer it, but Roberta is, I can share a question with Roberta, put her email address in and Roberta never has to log in to the back end of the platform. She can just answer the question via her email. And then automatically, the answer is submitted back to REPT to be reviewed before it is posted publicly.

And the final thing that I'll mention here is that REPT was designed for the city to reactively respond at scale to resonant inbound questions, make it easy to respond with one 30-second video answer to 50 people who have the same question. But we also made it really easy to create answers without waiting for a question to come in and proactively tell the community about progress the city is making, updates, maybe there's a heat wave that's going on and you want to tell people how to stay safe. We make it really easy to do so. We have this little Send

button here. You can record a quick answer in 30 seconds. All you have to do is input some form fields about who you're sending it to, the subject line, and then you choose the list of residents that we store on REPT and you press Send. And within 30 seconds, you can ship out a proactive video response to everybody in the community, telling them about some infrastructure projects that are going on, some great highlights of the last city council meeting, or ways to stay safe with the current heat wave. All designs to do it within 30 seconds or less. The last thing I'll mention here, this is designed to build trust with the community. We want people to know who the people are making decisions on the city's behalf, and to give you all a platform to tell everybody about the great work and the progress that you're making. So that is the REPT platform in a very, very fast overview. I hope that was helpful, and I'm here to take any questions for the couple of minutes that I have left. But thank you again for the time and giving me the forum to present that.

Vice President Green asked in the beginning, you said that this is like a town hall meeting, we are broken down by wards, could we host a town hall meeting on this app-- on this program, rather? Mr. Brommel replied this isn't to replace this meeting that we're having now. We called it an on-demand town hall, but really it's an asynchronous platform, meaning it's available for any resident at 7 o'clock at night or 6:00 in the morning to click a button and ask a question, step up to the microphone, and also at any point for the city to respond with a short video response. We call it on-demand town hall; that is a little confusing. But it's really just a live button for people to press. So for example, one of our cities in Illinois called Broadview Illinois. So we're similar to the size of your city. They have an Ask Broadview button in the corner of their city website. So at any time, a resident can go to the city website, click Ask Broadview, and this page opens up for them to ask a question or upvote another residence question and get a personalized response maybe a couple of days later. So it's really designed to sort of be this forum and empower them to ask a question and be a part of the process at any point and for the city to respond and sort of tell the story when they're ready and have the time. But we could use it in a ward capacity. But it really is designed to empower residents to engage with the city and be a part of the process and feel connected to those that are making decisions on their behalf. Thank you for your question. Anything else I can do? And I don't want to take up any more time than I'm allotted. So I'm happy to follow up after this, but I just wanted to say thank you again for giving me the form to do this. It means a lot.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. SPCA**

Vice President Green asked so, before we call, there's an overabundance of Cats everywhere. Who do we call to be told that SPCA or do we call you? Chief Laufer explained the current contract with the SPCA does not provide for them to come out and trap animals. So, it really would be-- we would find that there was an issue with a rabid animal or something like that. you'd have to get a private citizen to do it, or as we've done in the past, contract with an outside entity. Vice President Green stated we had one because we did have a-- one of the neighbors, she caught five kittens, and she took them to the SPCA. Now, they're bringing them back. So they do whatever they do, spay them, give them shots I think, and then they bring them back. But there's just so many cats. I mean, they're just everywhere. What do we do about it? Chief Laufer explained we would have to explore an option with an outside contractor. I know we did the one out of Delaware. I'm trying to think of what the name of

that organization was when Mr. Kirby. Vice President Green stated I think we can find out. She is a member of COG. She of course, obviously takes in the cats, but it's a big problem.

Mr. Logan explained we wanted to bring this to everyone's attention because the invoice-- I don't know if you saw the last in our payables package file. It's getting up there because it's over \$6,000. So certainly, we know that there's an issue in the community. If you are a pet owner, please get your pets spayed and neutered. Take care of them. If there are on the loose. SPCA will pick them up. In terms of to start our relationship with SPCA and the fact that we have an overabundance of cats—Vice President Green stated that's been the bulk of the expenses and everybody's feeding them so they stay around. Mr. Logan stated we'll continue to do our best and get back to you all. There is a contract that we'll be reviewing soon with SPCA and the letter you see that fees increased. We don't know what that fee is going to be at this time. Vice President Green said if we locate or make contact with this lady, get our information from COG, maybe she can come and do a presentation because she does take the cats, right? Chief Laufer replied yeah. Back then, they clicked over here so that they would be readily identifiable as already having been trapped. So, they were neutered and returned. But they didn't return them. Mrs. Hunt asked the put them back in the area and back to the street. Chief replied yes, back to the street in the area where they trapped them. Mrs. Hunt said I'm not an animal lover, but that's cruel. Vice President Green said yeah, because they're running around and doing damage everywhere.

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

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

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund

Mr. Bookman made a motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Troutman explained to Council, what you have in front of you are going to be three motions. The MMO to the pension plans, and it's for the 2024 mandatory pension required by the Pennsylvania law. And so each one is voted on a separate vote, whether basically the same thing. And the amounts will differ based on the number of people who are participating, the prior number of retirees, the guaranteed amount of payment - there's an employee participation rate factored in - and then it's the ages, the salaries, and the investment performance of the actual plan. All those factors go into determining this. That's calculated by the actuaries. And even though 2022 had terrible investment year, there was enough investment captured in the plants. And coupled with the 1.2 million that was invested as extra funds last year, that combination means that the amounts that you see in front of you, roughly \$200,000-plus, and what they would have been without those factors going in. So it's \$200,000-plus. And what that point would be is Pennsylvania contributes in our case a little over \$400,000 for the total cost, primarily for the sworn officers for police and fire, unless you think that would be the base for the request.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension

Vice President Green a motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Receive and consider a motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Firemen's Pension Fund

Mrs. Hunt made motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Firemen's Pension Fund; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close action items; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

## Reports

1. Solicitor

There was no solicitor report at this time.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced during our executive meeting, I provided real estate and personal updates to members of our City Council. I just have three items for public. Once again, I made this announcement at the last meeting, the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum will be hosting a community service from 8:30 to 10:30 on Monday, September 11th. This is in remembrance to the 9/11 events. Service will take place at Steelworkers Memorial on the grounds of the museum right down the street here in Coatesville.

Last two items I have are Sounds of Summer music series continues. The next few days that we have are September 8th, 22nd, and we're adding two more in October. And then, of course, Grand Prix, which is coming for September 16 with the cruise in night on September 15. That is a Friday evening. It's starting roughly around 6 o'clock, and then it goes into the main event, which is September 16th, which we hope to see everyone here and your friends come out to the Grand Prix, Saturday, September, 16th. This year, we've added a car show to the event that will be on the corner of first and Lincoln Highway. There's partnering with a long-time enthusiast and owner of the event. And we're very excited that the auto show has been added to the City.

One other thing I just want to add is just that we always talk about the economic development to the city. Oftentimes, residents are curious to hear what's going on. These development discussions often take 6 months, 8 months, 18 months to fully kind of materialize. So if you don't hear about a particular project that I may have mentioned a few months ago, it doesn't mean that it's dead. This means that it's going through the process of vetting, identifying, funding for some of these projects, and working with our developers. But I'm happy to say that the interests of the community continue to rise. We have a grocery store that's going to be opening soon right between 3rd and 2nd Avenue. Actually, it's next to the flower shop. Very excited about the owners of grocery store. And for those of you who have lived in the City of Coatesville, you know that Coatesville has been a food desert for many, many years. So this is something that I hope all of the residents will embrace, have a grocery store with fresh produce right in your own community, and we are looking for that grocery store to open either Q4 or the first quarter of 2024. That's my report, obviously.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino stated to begin, I'd like to remind the council that if any Spanish speaker or speakers or other non-English speakers need assistance in matters, we are here to help as best we can. We're working to ensure everyone's been shared our questions and concerns. *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.* As you know, I like to give Codes update at the beginning of the month and Public Works update at the end of the month. So right now, just a few things about our Public Works Department. As Mr. Logan mentioned, we had several events over the summer, and I just wanted to take a moment to thank our Public Works Department for all of their work this summer with the several events like Sounds of Summer, our first Friday events as well. Without them, these events really wouldn't be able to happen. So, their work and care for the city is very much appreciated. And I just wanted to put that out there. Our Public Works Department continues to kick off our yard waste every two weeks. And just as a reminder, to call the city if you want, excuse me, your yard waste picked up.

Also an update, the splash pads will be turned off as of Sunday, September 17th this year. That's the Sunday immediately following the event. Also, very soon, the Public Works Department is going to be taking an inventory of our signage throughout the city. Our street signs, we have many that are missing throughout the city. Just wanted to let everyone know that is something we are aware of. We obviously cannot replace all of them all at once, but we will be working towards a plan on that.

A few other updates, I attended a municipal recycling meeting this month, and I just thought it was interesting. Some data was shared, and Coatesville's average pounds of recyclables per household per month were shared in comparison to every other township at the meeting. And it turns out that Coatesville Households are about middle of the road in terms of the number of pounds of recycling that they're picking up at each household. So we're not the lowest, but we're also not the highest. There's a lot of reasons for that disparity, but it's good to know that we're doing well. But we can continue to do even better with our recycling. Also, there are other hazardous waste disposal sites, events happening, and there are other opportunities for recycling things like bicycles, refrigerators, tires, that sort of thing. The Chester County Solid Waste Authority website is actually a whole lot of good information. And we can link that information on our website as well. But just be aware: if you're trying to get rid of anything, there are opportunities out there. Also, just a quick thing. I've mentioned over the past several months about our road repairs. The final phase of the road repairs will be starting hopefully next week, trending any weather. And that is the end of my report. Thank you.

4. Finance Department

Mr. Troutman explained the monthly update for what we call the circle square of the report, which is in [inaudible] couple of brief comments. We are now over half of the year, seven-twelfths the way through. Things are starting to solidify. And there's a lot of good efforts going into trying everything possible to save on the expenditures. You can see that with 53.8% of the budget and expenses versus 58% of the year. We're saving at a better rate than what the portion of the year would suggest. So of course, as we talked about in the past

month, we need to continue to keep doing that because we're anticipating at least one major shortfall on the revenue side. This is why we're stockpiling what's in the \$427,000 favorable to date. It looks good on the favorable side with tracking toward more. We need to make budget for your end. But when we get through September, we're going to see that that 400,000 is going to get offset because that's when the budgeted revenue was projected to happen. So, we're doing fine, just not there yet. The budget schedule should've been circulated. It hasn't changed from what was projected. And I believe that was in the last packet package. But we can certainly research a little bit. But it's the same schedule for those of you who have been here. And we'll go through more detail.

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

Mr. Lamb stated he lives on Pennsylvania Avenue. Actually, I came here to address the Codes department, but I see there weren't nobody here in Codes department. So, I guess I have to invest in the City Council I'm here because I'm seeing a change in my city to where I see a lot of trash. And I see over trash bags not being picked up by the trash people. Weeds and grass up to someone's almost your elbow. And we have an abundance of overgrown weeds in our city. Even when it comes down to driving down the street, we have the car hitting weeds coming out of people's backyards. I don't understand it. I don't know what the city. I don't know how many Codes officers they have in the street doing their job. I do it from my understanding, maybe they're one. Maybe he Codes for the whole city. That's impossible. I don't understand it. How many fines and citations is he writing to these homeowners, and property owners? That's an [inaudible]. See dumpsters in our city overrun with trash on the ground. All they do is bring rodents. Rodents. And if you decide to put them-- or somebody had a catch them cats, don't bring them in my neighborhood. Let the cats stay because I've killed rats in my backyard. And I've never killed rats in my-- oh God. I got the pictures in my phone anyway. Kill it with my BB gun. Trash? Our trash day is only on Friday, but it don't get picked up on Friday. How come? Can anybody answer that? My trash day is only Friday. My paper trash would be picked up. I was going to be picked up one day. And I said, "Well, we picked up." Does anybody else care? So imagine-- Mr. Logan replied yeah. We can certainly talk to you how to you after the meeting, and we have had challenges with our haulers. And we are addressing that particular issue at this time. Mr. Lamb asked if he could get a refund of some sort and then I'll get my trash out? Mr. Logan replied fortunately, we can't issue refunds. We pay the hauler to provide the service[crosstalk]. Mr. Lamb asked if don't pay what will happen to me? Mr. Logan replied your trash won't get picked up. Mr. Lamb said my trash won't get picked up. Mr. Logan stated we're working on it thus far. It's an ongoing problem not only in the City of Coatesville but throughout. Mr. Lamb asked who's responsible for the weeds. Mr. Logan explained weeds are the homeowner's responsibility. Mr. Lamb asked if he could get a job. Mr. Logan said you can see us after the meeting, yes. Mr. Lamb said well, I've seen you already. You turned me down. Yes. You don't remember me. Mr. Logan said I remember you. So you remember me. You turned me down. I'm a ex-Codesl officer. This is the reason why I'm here because when I ride through the city, you see mattresses alongside of buildings, been out there for weeks, maybe months on at a time. When I worked with city-- when I worked for the City for Chief Pilotti a lot of that didn't happen. And the courthouse was built inside [inaudible] from people not doing what they supposed to do. I don't know. I don't know how many citations are being written, but I 'ma find out.

Rick Saha

Mr. Saha explained he has a little bit of a problem on the 600th and 700th block of Lumber Street. I usually get metal come in on a flatbed overnight truck. And since they're so long, they have to come

down 6th Avenue to come down Lumber Street because if they try to do it on 7th, they're going to hit the buildings. There's just no way they can do it. So anyway, what's happening is on both of these streets, the trees have grown down way below the 14 feet. And a lot of the trucks that come have a new rollback park trailers, so they don't have to put a tarp at the top of their metal and stuff. They just pull them back. But anyway, what's happening now is they've got to come up on 7th Ave there. We got to load on 7th Ave. I tried it off both sides and as you know, there's a radius on each end of it where it slows down at the curve. And when you're trying to use a forklift to get the metal out, which is in the middle of the drop, using extensions, a lot of times, depending on which side you're doing it, you can either pick up the metal-- or it's hard to pick up the metal or it's hard to move. And it's hard to move the metal back. One time we did drop one of the scariest and luckily, they didn't break open a lot. But it's a lot dangerous for us to do it across the traffic on the side of the street, and it was really bad. And I don't like traffic on there. If I don't do it in my place on Lumber Street, I have a little lock that I can use for a good thing and we can just pull it over to the side and cars can go by if they want. But we're working on the opposite side, so. But I'm afraid that it's going to get dangerous or one of my coils opened up that would be a mess, not to mention its kind of dangerous, but. So, I would wonder if we could see-- I know you're busy now, but I would like to see the trees get cut down a little bit, so like the 14 feet. Like I said, a lot of the trucks don't want to come down. I mean, even the UPS driver hits branches.

Vice President Green made a motion to close non-agenda items; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Vice President Green stated I'm glad to be back. It seemed like a long time. We've been off for a month anyway. But I had already had a special counsel regarding the trash. To track people about an issue that's unique to the city is something that's going on out all throughout Chester County. For [inaudible], I guess it's a monopoly, or now the one owner owned most of the companies, right? So they're having some difficulty. And Roberta and James are amazing. But this is an issue that's not just limited to the City. It's going on everywhere. But we have one more weekend, right, of first Friday. Friday. I tell you, they've done an excellent job with the way the first Fridays have been going so far. I've missed most of them. I'll try to be there in this Friday. I know Miss Hunt is going to be there, and I'll let you talk about your event. I'm just excited for everything that's going on in the city that we had a great music in the Parks for Summer Series on Friday. One of the wonderful things about it was such a wonderful night; people didn't want to go home. They wanted to hang out and stay out. It was very, very nice. So, I'm just happy and excited. We got the Grand Prix coming up. The city has been wonderful this past summer with entertainment for the residents. We decided to continuously pray for our city and just pray for the safety and pray for our young people so much that's going on. It makes my heart sad, and also it's rising. And I'm just excited. I'm really saying I do have one thing maybe you can help me with. I'm not getting emails. And I was wondering why I wasn't getting the emails for the train station. But Roberta's been sending out emails. I guess they're not going to remember my Coatesville.org, it does not work. And it's full of porn. Oh, I don't even know [inaudible]. But all over my email, it was being forwarded to me like an email, if you can look into that. Thank you, everyone, for coming out tonight, and have a safe trip home.



Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. Thank you all for coming and spending the evening with us. I just have a few [inaudible] with the comments concerning the activities that have been going on in the city. We're trying hard to make sure our residents are taken care of in every aspect. It may sometimes seem like things are going unnoticed, but they're not because it's just like we sit here to government. We also live here. And trash has been a major issue, but it is being worked on by the city management. So hopefully it won't be as long as it has been before the problem is rectified. Like it or not, it doesn't matter. Shake your head. I'm just telling you like it is. I'm shaking my head. If you're talking to me, I'm shaking my head. [crosstalk]. But again, to all of our citizens, trash issues are being taken care of by our capable staff. I just want to thank you for attending our first Fridays. Thank you to the committee that [inaudible] for us. And this Friday, my women's ministry Destined for Change will be in attendance for you to do a back-to-school giveaway. We're not so much focused in on book bags, but they have been plentiful throughout the city this year. But we're focusing on putting stuff in the bags. We will also have a nursing student administer back-to-school physicals if any students are in need as well as COVID vaccines and boosters. All of that will be on hand. We were blessed to be able to partner with some of the churches and organizations and you'll see we'll be back in the gazebos and you'll see the different ones set up that are partnering with us to make sure that our students are seen. Also want to make a happy announcement. My son, Emmett Jr., will be inducted into the Coatesville Sports Hall of Fame on October 21st. In 2012, 2013, he was the quarterback that took the school to its first and only state championship. Thoughts, but we went to the state championship. He, along with his receiver, Chris Jones, they will be two of the inductees on October 21st. I do have tickets if anyone is interested. I have tickets. So again, our youth are still doing things in the communities and the community [inaudible] always. And we're going to thank our staff for the great job that you do. Sometimes it seems like a thankless job, but just know that we appreciate all that you do. Thank you to the Chief, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and of course, our financial director. Thank you so much. Everybody, have a good night, and we'll see you Friday.

Mrs. Turner-Green thanked everyone for being here. Mr. Lamb, essentially, I would like to say that trash is the constant conversation, so don't think that that's not helping us. I'd say the trash conversation is definitely on our top pretty much. I don't think that's something that's not been thought about [inaudible] you don't see the results immediately. But there are processes and procedures, and [inaudible]. Secondly, I hope that anybody got an opportunity to go to Sundays in the park in August. We had our last one this past Sunday at Ash Park. And this is my last time in the Sunday in the Park with Parks and Rec Commission, so it was a little bit-- it was a little emotional. And then I'm excited about, of course, first Fridays, Sounds of Summer, to be honest--

Mr. Bookman stated I don't really have too much to say tonight. Just thank everybody's coming out and discussing what is a big problem in the city as far as regards to trash. And some debris, that's growing out of the charts also. Mr. Saha and thank you for sharing that, and hopefully, we'll be able to get those things done also. But I mean, just like fellow Council and everybody that's watching. Thank you to the police for responding to situations in the city also. Just wanted to say thank you for that. And have a blessed night.

President Lavender Norris echoed her colleagues. And I must say, recent shootings, the violence that's going on in our community has to stop. I know a lot of the people involved that have lost their children, and I have to sympathize with them because I cannot empathize with them. I thank God I have not been there. But nonetheless, it hurts. And I care. I need to say that- excuse me. That's one thing [inaudible] understands that there are actions does not only affect them and the intended, but it

affects everybody. It may not be your family or my family, but it is certainly one of our close friends or one of our relatives' friends. We all grew up in this city together. We're at the grandparent age now, so we're seeing things from a different point of view than our youth. It just comes down to how do we reach them. How do we encourage them to stand still, think before you move? I don't know what the answer is. I don't know how to get there. But I have hope. I have faith. And I trust God to move and eradicate this because it's unnecessary. It's hurting our community in so many ways. I'm saying all that pretty much to say pray for our community. Pray for our youth and their minds, their train of thought. And also pray for the parents because they're hurting as well. And this stuff that is happening is out of their control. I love you and I pray all day. I don't just pray at night on my knees or in the morning when I wake up. I'm in constant communication with the God I serve. So yes, I just ask to join our community in prayer because we need them. Justice has to rain in our community. It has to. I thank you all for coming out. I thank you all for tuning in. And I think we had another opportunity to come together and discuss our city. Be safe on your way home. God bless you and have a good night.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Bookman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.