



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, October 9, 2023

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Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, and Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green, Councilwoman Villa Hunt, Councilman James Bookman

Council Absent:

Staff Present Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Robert Jefferson, City Solicitor; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Richard Troutman, Finance Director; Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

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

### Approve Minutes

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the September 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### Presentations

#### 1. Vincent Miles

Mr. Miles thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to present this and let you guys know what's happening in the world of public affairs. First and foremost, Tiniera and Mr. Bookman, it is great to see you both on the other side of the table. The last time I presented here, you guys were in the crowd getting voted on. It's good to see y'all in the seats. So, I'm going to keep it real brief because that's what y'all asked. Here's just an overview of what I'm going to cover. I'm going to go over the website design. I'm going to talk about our mission to Bring Back Brotherhood in the City of Coatesville. I'm going to touch up on the Historic Commission and their archival work. I wanted to give you guys updates on the National Fitness Campaign and then hopefully have a conversation with you all regarding the board walks and then just give a snapshot of the different events that's happening throughout the month.

All righty. So, onto the website. Since about mid-July, we've been working back and forth with a Coatesville native by the name of Dwayne Halliger to reconstruct our website and create a smoother user experience for our residents and visitors. On this slide, this is a current view of our website. Residents have complained. They complained and complained about it being difficult to access certain pages. Dwayne pointed out that there was about 82 pages, and a lot of them had missing content, the links were broken, and so forth. But with his new design, which is here, he was able to condense a lot of that information and pretty much, again, create that smooth user experience. This is just the landing page here. It's not finalized.

He's going to touch up on some more on the landing page to make sure that things are running smoothly. He's also going to plug in a feature that makes it ADA-accessible for people who are colorblind, maybe hearing impaired, and so forth. So that's all going to be included. We made sure we got it all in there. Here's another snapshot. I believe this is our residents' page just scrolling down throughout it. Hopefully, our residents and visitors and people who visit the website are able to easily go through the pages and so forth. So kudos to Dwayne. You guys are going to be well pleased with what he's done. Vice President Green said we need new pictures. Mr. Miles sated that's another thing. So sometime, probably, obviously, not today, but whenever we're all together again, maybe behind the backdrop out there or right here, you can all get profile shots.

On to Bring Back Brotherhood. So, you mentioned graphics and stuff like that. This is one of the designs that I put together. Me and Mr. Logan have been sitting on this idea for months, and we've been waiting for the best time to get this thing going. And because of the uptick in violence happening in and around the City, we decided that now would be the best time to mobilize the men in our community and - excuse me - pretty much bring action to the impact that we can make together for our youth. So the vision for this is pretty simple, is to revive the sense of brotherhood within the City of Coatesville, to bridge generational gaps, and unite men to foster stronger, more supportive, and thriving community together. Next slide, we have our, well, Mr. Fonz, City Town Talk. This was pretty much the beginning of the conversation just to get it brewing. We had Fonz, Tuti, Mr. Anthony Hogar, myself, Mike Boykin, Mr. Logan, Pastor Eric Robinson, Ricky Campbell, Steve Kirk, Josh Crans, and also Dave Phillips. So that's just a few of the pillars that we have in the community who were able to make it that night. But from that conversation, last Thursday, we decided to have a spaghetti night. And each of the men that was on the virtual call, they were tasked to bring two young men into this format here, the spaghetti night. And this is just a photo of that. Fonz is up taking a picture. Here's a photo of some of the kids that made it through. Other shot. So right now, we're currently planning our next powwow. So if y'all know any brothers or any man that's in the community, let them know what's going on. Let them know that we're getting together to Bring Back Brotherhood in our community. Vice President Green stated I like the graphics on that sweatshirt. I think it just speaks volumes. I knew you were going to put together something nice. I told them. Mr. Miles stated yeah, I have a couple in the talk that I'm discussing.

We have the Historic Commission archival work. Every now and then, I pop into one of their monthly meetings, and every time I'm just blown away about what Coatesville used to be. [Is to?] tell that very few people in the community know of and it's well worth the attention of all of you here tonight. The Commission is doing one heck of a job collecting valuable documents and storing them down at the Made in Coatesville Incubator, or the Second-Century location, which was the Old Army and Navy. Also, as you see on the agenda, you guys are going to do a vote regarding Ms. Lisa Doan-Harley. And after meeting her for the first time, it's a no-brainer to have her on board with the Commission. She will play a tremendous role in organizing the many historic documents downstairs in the archive room. And on top of that, her experience in the core Coatesville's history is unmatched. She also was a teacher over at the high school, and she's done a lot with the kids over there, giving them tours and different things like that in the city. So she's a great fit. A lot of these documents that you see here on the screen was from a job that was done back in I think it was 1984. A lady went downtown and she pretty much collected a lot of the documents dealing

with, I guess, the-- I forget the name of the one where you have small images here. What's it say? So it's just historic resource surveys forms, but she pretty much conducted a whole research on it. And Mr. Jeff Deacon, who's the President of the Commission, he got a hold of it, and he's like, "Man, we need to do something with this stuff." So bringing that to the table and letting you all know that that's something that they're working on, and them wanting to get down in the archive room, the approval of Chief and you all to get that project rolling. It's going to tell the story of what Coatesville was and where we're going for the future. So hopefully, we can get the ball rolling with that. That's going to be a fun one. I love Coatesville's hip history again after hearing it.

So next up, we have the National Fitness Campaign. I don't have too much to add on this project except for concrete donations that we received from Delaware Valley Concrete Company. They were willing to give us and they still are willing to give us 20 yards of concrete to lay the foundation of the fitness court. But unfortunately, back in September, the initial contractor that we went with to pour the concrete has been MIA since we got the news about the donation. So I had to wait until about spring until the NFC team comes around and gets us back on their schedule to get this done. So yeah, we're going to try to get that going as well. This is from my last presentation. Just to show you guys what the fitness court will look like, it's a 38 x 38-foot slab, and it raises about six and a half feet off the ground. And this is an image of what's going to be on the front side of the wall where people will be working out. And this here is just an updated imprint of a dollar part. So again, we're looking to just have a chalk on the field for flag football or any rugby teams that comes through. We made the field of ADA-accessible, and we're going to redo the baseball diamond. All right. I'll do this. Vice President Green stated we really need to do the kiddy area. The kiddy area is so old. President Lavender Norris stated Carmen's grandson. I try to take them over there, but they're like, "No, mom, that park's great. Something we can work on."

The Ward Walks, just opening the floor for conversation on this. I just wanted to get your guys' thoughts on how to go about it, the different paths we can walk, we want to get involved, to spread awareness on this, and so forth. I talked to Mary Kyle earlier, and she mentioned how beneficial it would be to have Codes along with you guys on these walks to try to find if there's any violations or improvements that we work on. And of course, all of you guys have been in attendance, that too would be awesome, so. When I first came up with the idea, I was hoping in the spring because it's going to be warmer. I don't want you guys out there cold. Right. So yeah, I mean, as soon as possible, since it's still nice out, we still have to plan it. Vice President Green stated I think it's a great idea because we don't really have a newsletter to give out to the residents. So, we really want the residents to know what is going on. And it's just very difficult. I try to put stuff in that Lincoln neighbor. But since we don't have a newsletter that we're sending out, I think the board walks is great. But we really need to get started with them. Mr. Miles stated hopefully we can align our schedules and start with Ward 1 over in the West End. I think that that would be great. Mary also said that it would be cool to have like a coffee, a place to meet, which would obviously be a Little Chef then. Then we could start walking throughout the community and addressing certain issues.

Mrs. Hunt asked to go back to the BBB program. If there are some young men that would like to come. What is the procedure or what are you looking for as far as becoming a part of it? Mr. Miles said come, show up, that's just it. Mrs. Hunt asked if they have a schedule for the next meetings? Mr. Miles replied not right now. Me and Mr. Logan were pretty much

thinking about coming up with the next schedule or rolling within the next couple of months, but it's really on his timing. Mrs. Hunt asked is this strictly for men? No women are involved. Mr. Miles replied yes.

Vice President Green stated I have one more comment on the Historical Commission. It is a wealth of knowledge and information that they have. There should be some activities or events. There's so much. And I remember when we first started sharing stuff on Facebook. Remember how everybody was commenting, remembering them-- thank you. Mr. Bookman stated you got one [crosstalk]. Vice President Green stated thank you, Pooh. But I think that if there was more events, I think even more people in the city would get involved, because there's so much information and history is so big and wonderful. You know what I mean? That if we about it, it's something to have all this stuff in the archives and nobody ever sees it. They got a great, beautiful building over here. I think that even if they did something quarterly or semi-annually that they can bring people in, bring residents in, have some type of event that people can go and understand and get to know the history of the city. Mr. Miles stated yeah, my question is, when did they open up the historic commission again? Vice President said I thought they-- did they stop? Mr. Miles said no, it's open. I was just curious. Vice President Green explained the Historical Commission has been in existence. I don't think they ever really stopped. But there's nothing since the centennial. They had the centennial celebration. I think that they were involved a lot. But since then, there's been nothing. And I think that in order for people to understand the community of Coatesville, they just opened up and had more things and events that people can come and see because they have a lot of information. A lot of beautiful pictures, a lot of artifact stuff. I mean, I think it would be great, but to harbor it in the basement or somewhere, nobody gets to see it. I think people need to see it or want to see it. President Lavender Norris stated I don't know if they still have it there. Over at the OIC building, they have the history of a mural on the wall over there with the dates and the different things that were going on. And prior to Ms. Flamer passing, I had been in communication with her and-- I can't think of the lady's name that used to be over there when it was the senior center. But I was in communication with them to see if Ms. Flamer could have come down and kind of filled in different slots in the time frame. But she's gone now. Maybe there's another senior you could reach out to, to come in and fill it in. Mr. Miles explained that his conversations with Jeff, I mean, along the lines of that, was he was having troubles really getting people on board the commission and getting the projects up and going. So it's pretty much my knowledge on it. Vice President Green asked for members, they don't have members anymore? Mr. Miles replied they do have I want to say it's about four or five that consistently goes to the meeting. But we need more within the community. Vice President Green said we should post it on the website. President Lavender Norris said we should post all Boards and Commission vacancies as well. Mrs. Hunt suggested Jay Byerly. Mr. Miles stated Jays on the Commission. He's been helpful too. He is a wealth of information and everything.

Mr. Miles announced the upcoming events. We have the Light the Night for Hope and Healing with the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. This is tomorrow at 6:45. They'll be down at the gazebo between 2nd and 3rd. On Friday, we are going to have the last showing of our Sounds of Summer Music series, excuse me, featuring Man-Child on October 13th. Next, we have Triple C's and Second Century Alliance having a downtown Coatesville cleanup on October 14th at 10:00 AM. And then on Sunday, we are going to-- well, not we, but I and my cousin and my father, we're hosting a documentary that we're doing along with

Mr. Harry Lewis in his career and his life. That's going to be a good one. That's going to be over at Cash Auditorium at 3:00 PM, free to attend to celebrate his life and his accomplishments. I was the host of that one. We did that back with COVID, so that was a good project to work on back then. We have Chester County Bridges Coalition and Senator Carolyn Comitta. They'll be in town doing a Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop on October 26th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. And then on October 28th, from 12:00 to 3:00, we're going to have a fall fest with the Coatesville Youth Initiative.

### **Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items at this time.

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

There were no citizens comments on regular action items only..

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens hearing on regular action items; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion to authorize the advertisement for the special meetings and work session for the 2024 Budget

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to authorize the advertisement for the special meetings and work session for the 2024 Budget; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Receive and consider a motion to appoint Lisa Doan-Harley to the Historical Commission for the term 2023-2025

Ms. Allen made a motion to appoint Lisa Doan-Harley to the Historical Commission for the term 2023-2025; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider a Resolution appointing Tax Collection Committee Delegates

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve a Resolution appointing Tax Collection Committee Delegates; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Receive and consider motion authorizing the City Manager, President and Vice President to sign on new bank account at Presence Bank.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to authorize the City Manager, President and Vice President to sign on new bank account at Presence Bank; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Receive and consider for first reading and advertisement an Ordinance authorizing the City of Coatesville to temporarily acquire UPI No. 16-4-4.1b, from the 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 one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200).

Vice President Green made a motion to approve first reading and advertisement an Ordinance authorizing the City of Coatesville to temporarily acquire UPI No. 16-4-4.1b, from the 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 one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200); Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close action items; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

## Reports

### 1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council. Since council's last meeting, I have communicated and continued to communicate with outside council regarding certain litigation matters; continued to provide advice regarding land development matters; reviewed an agreement between city and natural lands; continued to work with the city on Millview Basin; communicated with attorney regarding the loan; participated in a telephone call meeting regarding the Coatesville Youth Initiative; provided a conclusion on a tax matter, and attended the Western Chester County Chamber annual meeting.

### 2. City Manager

There was no City Manager report at this time.

### 3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino stated to begin, I'd like to again remind the City of Coatesville that if any Spanish speakers or other non-English group need assistance with city matters, we are here to help as best we can, and we are working to ensure that everyone can share their questions and concerns with the city. [foreign]. In executive session, I provided legal, real estate, and personal updates to council. For you this month, we have an updated codes report. It's in your packet. Our new code status specialist, Casey Arthur, created this report for you. And in addition to giving you a summary of numbers in the report, he also is providing a little bit more detail to explain the reasoning behind the numbers. And we're looking forward to seeing these numbers change as we make additional changes in the department. But as you'll see, in September, we processed about eight rental licenses. We're coming towards the end of those. 68 inspections were conducted. We had some businesses, about 12 additional ones coming in for their business privilege licenses. We approved 47 permits. We had 46 code enforcement cases and 47 contractor registrations. So you'll note that there's been an increase in rental inspections because of some of the changes that we've made, which we're happy to see. As I mentioned, rental licenses and business privilege were due a while ago. So those are still trickling in, but that's why those numbers are lower. And in terms of code enforcement, you all know we have one and a half code of compliance officers right now, and our one full-time was away for two weeks this month. So that's why those numbers dipped a little bit. But feel free to peruse the report. Let me know if you've got questions or would like to see any changes.

We also received a report from the Chester County Health Department. The health department comes into the city once a month throughout the summer months, May to October. And they do routine mosquito testing and surveillance. And that includes the collection and testing of adult mosquitoes. And in September, I just wanted to note that they did report a rise in the number of mosquitoes in the city and reported one positive case of West Nile virus. So it's just important for everyone to remember that mosquitoes can hatch in nearly any amount of standing water. And it's important to remove that standing water if possible.

In addition, in this past month, I met with Caln Township to discuss some road repairs in conjunction with Caln and the work that they're doing. I attended the Brandywine Blood Study Advisory Committee meeting. That was the first meeting of its kind. And that's in collaboration with the Brandywine Conservancy and the University of Delaware and kicking off their large study of the Brandywine watershed. I also attended the Western Chester County annual meeting. I met with Second Century Alliance to discuss downtown projects and improvements. Second Century provided a report to council today, and they continue to assist with cleaning trash at sidewalks in the downtown area. They're planning events like First Fridays and awarding downtown facade improvement grants to our downtown businesses. Along with operating the main code skill small business incubator, Second Century has submitted a grant for community development programming. And they also have invited council and the community to their annual partner appreciation reception on November 14th from 5:30 to 7:30. I also met with Natural Lands and our public works crew leader to discuss some repairs at Palmer Park. Some areas of Palmer Park need some attention. So [inaudible] and potentially find some funding for it as well. Mr. Logan and I continued to meet with developers and investors regarding new and continuing projects. We are still interviewing for a public works labor position and a codes compliance officer, and those applications are available on our website or in our lobby. We did have initial planning meetings for Ash Park, and we look forward to that project progressing as time goes on. And we have one additional sounds of summer concert, as Vince mentioned at the end of this week. The response from the community this year has been fabulous at our events. And we're looking forward to seeing everyone out at our additional fall and winter events as those happen.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer explained the complete statistical report is in your package tonight. Just a couple of key highlights [inaudible]. For the month of September, we did 2,049 calls generated to the 911 center. That was down from the month of August where we saw 2,298. That's consistent with the way our statistics usually run with the kids back in school and fall months. And total calls, which include those generated front desk at the police station for the month of September, is 3,100 calls. That was down once again, 3,297 per month. So that's consistent. Some additional statistics that we'd like to review. We had three Narcan administrations by the police department for the month of September. 12 car seat checks and car seats provided and installed by our certified technicians in September.

We had our Coffee with the Chief resuming after taking July and August off for the summer. We resumed on September the 6th that the Brandywine Valley Active Aging was well attended and good to see everybody and get back in our regular routine for the rest of the year. We just had our latest one, October 4th, and that was hosted by the Marriott. They did a very nice job providing a nice spread for everybody, Coffee with the Chief at the Marriott. And the upcoming one is actually going to be held here at City Hall. So we're going to have it here at City Hall on November the 1st. First Wednesday happens to be the first in November. And that is being-- we are hosting it here, but the funding is being provided through Chester County Department of Highway Safety. They have a grant that has enabled them to support our Coffee with the Chief Program. They actually purchased a nice sandwich board sign for us. Those that attended the Marriott saw it for the first time. That's just something that we can have as we travel around the city and have our achievement venues just kind of announces

what's going on in those venues. So that was nice. And they're also providing the refreshments for November's meeting here. So that will be November the 1st, 8:30 to 10:00.

And once again, this is October. Every October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. You may have seen us after coffee with the chief. We met on Lincoln Highway, and I'd like to thank-- Vincent was out. And Councilwoman Allen was out and helped us put the purple ribbons on signs on Lincoln Highway. And just trying to bring awareness to the fact that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the different events that are going on. You'll see we have the magnetic purple ribbons on our vehicles, on our marked cars, just trying to bring some public awareness to that. Along the same line, we do have and I think Vincent mentioned it in his presentation tomorrow night at 7 o'clock in the gazebo late tonight for open healing, Domestic Violence Awareness Month event. And on the calendar, it starts at 6:45. Welcome, 7 o'clock moment of silence. Opening remarks provided by Joseph Henson. Presentations are provided by Representative Dan Williams, Chess County Commissioner Josh Maxwell, Debbie Bookman Prothonotary, and Lieutenant Roger Ollis, Coatesville Police Department. And then closing your remarks and call to action participants. So that's tomorrow night starting at 6:45.

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

There were no citizens comments on non-agenda items.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearing on non-agenda items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

#### **Council Comments**

Ms. Turner-Green stated I don't really have any comments. Thank you all for coming out. Get home safe and have a good night.

Mr. Bookman asked for prayer for our city and our president and also for what is happening over in Israel right now. Pray for them. I want to thank everybody here that is doing a fantastic job. [inaudible]. I want to say thank you. Have a good night.

Ms. Al Amin stated Ajené, our faithful diehard right there. Thank you so much. You never miss a meeting. Lieutenant Ollis, nor do you. Thank you to all of our staff for all the hard work that you do and to my colleagues for all the work that you do and safe travels home for everybody.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out and [source?] that. Get home safe. Have a good night.

Mr. Hunt said I too want to thank everyone for coming and spending the evening with us. As always, thank you to our great staff for all that you do. Colleagues, as always, for your hard work. Thank you, Roberta[inaudible] for the absence of our city manager. We want to keep him in prayer on the amends and healthy and back. Everybody have a good night. Be reminded of all the events that are taking place and hopefully we can support things that are going on within our city. Thank you so much.



Vice President Green just wanted to say-- so grateful for everyone and Rich, the Finance Office, you guys are doing such an amazing job. And just thank you for all your work and dedication that you have put into the city, all the departments. Chief, I haven't called you lately, I'm going to call me tomorrow. Vincent, I appreciate you and what you bring to the community [inaudible] here to the ground and bring back a perspective that you may be missing, especially with this brotherhood. And I think that that's such an excellent thing with all the things that are going on and the violence that has started to build up again in the city. I know that they Chief, they appreciate those type of efforts, but anything that we can do to combat that and turn it around. So I appreciate all your work and your commitment to that. Ruthann, Rob, Roberta, all you guys are just a wonder. I'm just trying to take more than 30 seconds because Ms. Al Amin, so very adamant. But I am grateful. And I like to thank my colleagues. Everybody just has their own thing and everybody puts in their time. And Charrisse, you don't say much, but you do a lot. You do a lot around the city. I think you're trying to save Mr. Folk place. You do a lot. And I appreciate you. Thank you all. And everyone have a goodnight.

President Lavender Norris stated I echo all my colleagues. I appreciate you all. On Saturday night in Coatesville I was at an establishment after 9 o'clock. No problems. Everybody had a wonderful time. Was able to enjoy fellowship, food, and fun in the city. It was such a wonderful time at Iron Eagle. First time there's been a restaurant and entertainment area opened that time of night for quite some time now. And according to the proprietor, it will not be the last time. So that was awesome. Raiders and the packers started at 8 o'clock at 8:19. I love you all. God bless you all.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.