



City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, February 10, 2025

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman Fran Scamuffa, Councilwoman Villa Hunt
Council Absent: Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green
Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Chief Peter Huf, Fire Department; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; and 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 Tiniera Turner-Green would not be in attendance this evening.

Approved Minutes

Vice President Green motioned to approve the January 27, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1. Ms. Scamuffa abstained due to her absence from the meeting.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0

Presentations

1. Rob Malone

Thank you, Council, for having me here tonight. My name is Robert Malone. I am here on behalf to represent the Housing Partnership of Chester County. In front of everyone, I dropped a folder with some background information about us as an organization, along with my card. Please don't hesitate, if you're doing that, to reach out to me with any questions on anything that we do. Tonight, I'm here to talk about conservatorship, which is just one of the many things that we do, but we also, as a nonprofit, have a lot of other services as well. With me is Kim Venzie, who we are working with as our legal representation. So if there's any tough questions, I will be bailing out, and she will be answering them for me. So what I wanted to do is just start with, why conservatorship? Conservatorship is a tool to look at and address blight in a community. It is something that we at the Housing Partnership have started in Chester County. We're really proud that we are the first organization to take a conservatorship case to the courts and be approved as conservator. So we are pioneering this in the county, and I really appreciate the opportunity to be in front of you tonight to tell you a little bit more about it. So I do believe that you received some slides, some background information on it. I don't want to take up too much time going over it, but there are a couple of pieces that I do want to address.

So first off, who can be a conservator? So a conservator has to meet one of these four different criteria. A lien holder or a secured creditor, a resident or business owner within 2,000 feet of property, a nonprofit corporation, or municipality or school district. Maybe I should actually back up a couple more steps and just say what a conservator is. So a conservator, if they are granted that through the courts, they do not own the property, but they are tasked with getting it up to code, getting it safe, secure, and addressing the blight concerns of the unit. So the one thing I want to be very clear about with conservatorship is this will never displace an individual in a property. There are strict criteria that it needs to meet. And one of them, then the foremost one, is that the property needs to be abandoned. Along with that, the property needs to be or not be actively marketed for sale within the past 60 days. It cannot be a public housing unit. It needs to be vacant for more than a year. Cannot be owned. The current owner needs to have owned it at least for six months. It cannot be in foreclosure and not be owned by someone who is absent in active military service.

So then once the property meets all of those eligibility requirements, it then needs to meet three of the nine criteria for blight. I'll go over these real quick, but when we're looking at it, we would look to have it reach more than just three of the nine criteria and shoot for around five. So as we take this through the court system, it's always decided by the judge, we really want to prove that this property has been an issue for the municipal codes department and for their surrounding neighbors. So it needs to be considered a public nuisance in need of substantial rehabilitation. It needs to be unfit for human habitation, occupancy reuse. The vacant building materially increases the risk of fire to the buildings and adjacent properties. The building is subject to unauthorized entry, which may pose potential health and safety risks. The building is considered an unattractive nuisance to children, the presence of vermin, or the accumulation of debris, uncut vegetation, or physical deterioration of the structure. The dilapidated appearance and other condition of the building negatively affects the economic well-being of residents and businesses near the building, and the property is considered an unattractive nuisance for illicit purposes. I appreciate the chance to go over a little bit of the background. This is something that I'm still very much learning on a day-to-day basis. It can be a little intense for what we're doing. This is why we have Kim to help shepherd us through those moments. The thing about conservatorship is it's all very transparent. It's all going through the court system. Anyone that is involved or has some stake in the property will be notified at different points so that they might decide that they would like to address the blight. So for the first property that we were able to get approval as conservator for, there was 16 heirs. Yeah. So we did a lot of due diligence, making sure that the heirs received all the information. They were contacted early and informed every step of the way.

So the way we've designed our program at The Housing Partnership is we want to work hand-in-hand with municipality. We do not want anyone in this room to be caught by surprise by any of the actions we're taking, and so that starts with an MOU between us as an organization and the governing body. Currently, we have MOUs with Valley and Oxford, and that really starts the dialogue. Then we work outside in addressing where the properties are that need this type of help, and that's really involving the code enforcement officials. They're the ones who get the calls on a weekly basis and really know the community. As a nonprofit, we could petition and ask ourselves to be the conservator as well. But really, we want to do this in partnership with the municipality to really just show that we're not trying to just come in, take over someone's property, and we're really trying to just focus on the blight, first and foremost. And then our reuse plan is around creating affordable housing if no heirs or owners

of the property do come forth and want to handle it themselves. And again, always keeping them in.

So as I stated a little bit ago, we are moving through this process. We are in, now, the construction phase for a property in Oxford. The construction is-- actually, I think the demo starts tomorrow. And it's a unit that has been abandoned for over 10 years, so that means-- I think it's pretty much a frozen lake in the bottom of the basement. The stairs are broken. Pretty much, we'll end up replacing everything in that unit to make it something that's safe and secure for the next homeowner. Also, as I'm sure you could guess, the neighbors have been very disappointed that this home has sat, gotten worse over the years, and things like that. So that's why we really want to, again, focus on all the key stakeholders for any of it and involve them throughout the entire process as well. So yeah, I do want to just be conscious of time. Is there any questions on what I've covered so far, or the uses of it?

President Lavender Norris stated I don't have any questions. I just find it interesting, the program itself. I did note where the reimbursement, you said in here [inaudible]. But the reimbursement, how are the owners expected to pay that? Upfront, payments, or how does that go? Because I noticed it says that you could sell the property and get your money back that way. Mr. Malone explained as conservators, what our focus is as a nonprofit is we're pretty much aware that any of these properties that we get involved with, the rehabilitation work is going to end up being more than what the home is appraised for at the end. So for the current property, we have all the fees that go into it. So the lawyer fees, the rehabilitation costs, the taxes, all the things along those lines. So we will spend that money for that property. And then at the end of the process, we'll get another appraisal done and then show to the court that we've spent more than what the current market is even asking for it, with the focus that once we obtain the property, we're looking to sell it to a qualified and first-time home buyer. And so that's our reuse plan. And the grants that we secured to do this allow us to kind of take that hit on the property and allow us to go in and fix these properties where no one in the private sector are going to get involved because of how expensive it is to rehab it. President Lavender Norris asked I'm not quite clear. Will the homeowner be in a position to make-- I'm looking at it as though the repairs were not done because of financial reasons. So if you come in and you repair it, it's reassessed high-value, I get that. Does the homeowner have the opportunity--to keep the place? And if so, will they be paying monthly payments or are you expecting them to get a loan to-- Mr. Malone explained I'm not 100% sure because we've never had that-- we're still in the construction phase of it. I think that would end up being decided by the courts. Yeah. I mean, typically, the court would-- if a homeowner wanted to step back in and kind of claim the property, the court would look at that and make sure that that homeowner has the financial ability to start contributing to the rehab. So once you gain conservator, we have control of the property, and we're bringing it through the whole process. Unless the homeowner can step in and say, "Wait a minute, this is our property," we're going to show you that we ourselves are going to be able to bring this property back up to code. Because these properties, they've not been-- the ones we're identifying, haven't been compliant in 10 years. Often, the person that owned the property is deceased. Those are the ones that seem-- that the person's deceased, maybe their first line of children's also deceased. So the property's just sitting there. And often the grandchildren-- the one property we had, the grandchildren had absolutely no interest in the property. They were in different areas of the country. So they left the property go to ruin, which is why the housing partnership steps in and brings it back to life, essentially.

President Lavender Norris asked so anytime a homeowner steps in-- where the property owner does step in and decide, you guys would not help them any further. Is that what you're saying with the rehab and all of that? Mr. Malone explained I guess it depends on when they would step in in the process because, again, they have the ability to come to the court at any point. There was a pre-hearing first, which we alerted and sent all of the pre-hearing plan. It might not be the technical term, I'm sorry. And then they had 30 days to reach out for that period first. And then it was the getting the approval of the final plan. So there's all these different benchmarks that are built into the court-related process to make sure that people have ample opportunity to be able to come up at different times. Yeah, I think it sounds like you're alluding to-- maybe you've got a property owner that hasn't been able to maintain the property in years. I think that the housing partnership has other programs that can help those property owners that are different, that are also amazing. And so they've got different ways of facilitating. The conservatorship is when we're kind of well past that stage, in my mind. And also, no one's in the home, too. Again, this can never be used if someone is living in the property, which I think is-- I just want to reinforce that. These are for the homes that have just sat there getting worse and worse. And this isn't a full-solve to affordable housing by any stretch of the imagination. It's really just part of a multi-pronged approach for specific properties that have caused the city issues after issues, and no one has stepped up to be able to do it. So for example, in Oxford, they knew the home has been abandoned for so long, and they knew the people on the title were passed away. And they're like, "Well, who do we even send the letters to?" And then it turns out all of their children were also passed away. How do you find that in the [inaudible]? And that took a lot of our hours to find the heirs, contact them again at all these different benchmarks, to make sure that we're not doing that. And also, just historically speaking, the housing partnership has purchased and rehabbed homes to sell to first-time home buyers in the past. We've never purchased a home that had someone living in it. So we've never gone in, bought a home that had renters, get the renters out. No, that defeats the purpose. We've only purchased homes at maybe an estate sale or when people were planning on moving, because we don't want to create more issues for the process. President Lavender Norris asked this isn't a program that's designed to help homeowners that are actively involved with the property or living there to rehabilitate their homes they have. It's not that. This is-- Mr. Malone replied It's not that. But if you take a look at our different programs, we have a lot of ones that can [crosstalk]-- No, absolutely not. This is, first and foremost, to combat blight. It's first and foremost to say, "These people have not been good stewards of the property." Or maybe they just have, unfortunately, passed away, and they're just not there anymore. And again, definitely cannot be used for anything with someone living in there. It has to be abandoned, and abandoned for over a year.

2. 2nd Century Alliance Strawberry Festival – Amber Turner

Thank you. Good evening, Madam President, Council. My name is Amber Little-Turner. I'm the executive director of Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance. I also have my friend, Greg, here from Coatesville Rotary. And we just wanted to take a couple of minutes to share with you all that our upcoming First Friday series is amongst us, if you will. So we have two different permit applications in. But for the June 1st Friday, we're partnering with the Rotary Club to bring back a mini Strawberry Festival concept with, of course, your approval. And we wanted to answer any questions. We did put in your packet just kind of a breakdown of where we're at. There's still some planning that needs to take place. But again, we wanted to share this idea with you. So it'll be similar to our First Friday. We'll be hosting this event on

Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th. Friday will be from 5:00 to 9:00, and Saturday will be from 12:00 to 9:00 PM. We are requesting through PennDOT that the road from 1st to 3rd Avenue on East Lincoln Highway be closed. We do understand the challenges around that and that we could potentially not get approval for that. And we're prepared to work around that challenge if we do not get approval.

Aside from your regular First Friday festivities, we'll have rides from Majestic Midway, which will be located on the lot near Iron Eagle, along with other festival-type of activities along East Lincoln Highway from 1st to 3rd Avenue. Food trucks, vendors, and then, of course, all of our downtown business shops will be open like they normally are. Of course, the Strawberry Festival, as we all know, is an extremely big undertaking and really big event and we're hoping that this can kind of bring back some of those festivities. I know most of us here have participated in the Strawberry Festival. We'd love to see it come back to its fullest extent, but we're hoping that this can kind of be a start and see where it goes from there. Greg, did I miss anything? Greg replied I don't think so. No. We just want to try to keep the Strawberry Festival thing moving, and we thought this would be a good way to highlight the city, bring something into town to help the city, and also help the Strawberry Festival continue to be something in the area that people can [inaudible].

Vice President Green asked So you're saying the lot next to the Iron Eagle. About how many rides are you thinking of putting in there? Mrs. Turner explained yeah, They came out and kind of looked at the spot. We've had a meeting with them, seen their contract. The lot itself, he says, is not a problem. He's got plenty of room to do 8 to 10 rides. He's thinking a Ferris wheel, so a lot of visual kind of good looks. And then he'll have some miscellaneous food vendors and games and those sort of carnival-type games mixed in with the rides. Sort of what you saw at the Strawberry Festival, but scaled down in some ways. Vice President Green asked so would Gateway Park be a better option for the rides? Mrs. Turner replied we kind of played around with kind of the layout. It'll really just depended on what we're able to do with closing Lincoln Highway from 1st to 3rd Avenue. Originally, we were going to do rides at both locations, but the ride company feels as though it would be better at one location versus trying to navigate two. The other thing too, is we would need crossing guards and things of that nature if we're doing both downtown activities as well as something over at Gateway versus doing it this way. Then we could potentially use Gateway, with approval, for parking and then all of your other festivities a little bit further up. And then we're also looking into a strawberry drop. Do you want to explain kind of what that is?—[crosstalk] then traffic that flows down 1st Avenue could go west instead of coming into the city. We also would like to do-- and this is in the works right now if we can get approval to do the event. We call it a strawberry drop. They did it in Westchester once. The Rotary Club in Westchester gave up the chili cook-off there. I'm sure you guys are familiar with that. And they did a chili drop, I think it was. And basically, you buy the stress ball kind of squeezey things, and we're going to buy strawberries. They'll all be numbered. We'll sell a chance. All the strawberries go into a big tarp and it's hoisted up like Santa's sack, up onto a fire truck ladder however many feet in the air. And then it's opened up, and whoever lands closest to the target is the winner of the prize. And the prize, we're thinking the prize will probably be half of the money collected from the sales of the store. And we're thinking that may be right across from the gazebo right at Main Street. If we can't get 1st through 3rd closed, we'll have to kind of refigure that a little bit. But that's our vision right now.

Discussion Items

1. Consideration for New and Amended Ordinances

Mr. Logan explained the discussion item will be moved to next meeting.

Vice President Green sked Mr. Jefferson if Council could receive a copy of the Ordinance a little bit in advance between the meetings? Mr. Jefferson replied of course. That's fine. And then I was going to add, samples from the proposed resolution for public comment were provided and receiving feedback. If you have not provided that feedback yet, could you please do so soon so that we can compile what seems to be the most popular provisions, and then ultimately we'll present a draft to city council so that it can be reviewed and then ultimately voted upon and any other comments just to make sure-- you may not get everything that you want, but I think that's the most fair. We got it from a bunch of counties, so I feel confident in terms of what they put in there. We sent the information to Council. We received two responses. And then we took Councilwoman Scamuffa's comments and put them into samples. And we'll have that kind of as a [inaudible]. But again, we only got two, so. President Lavender Norris asked how soon do you need that? Mr. Jefferson replied the sooner the better, just because it may take some time to compile it. So the sooner the better is my answer. And again, you can underline, highlight. It doesn't have to be super detailed. President Lavender Norris stated and have it to Mr. Logan by Friday, in order for them to compile them all and see what goes in there. Mr. Logan explained Councilwoman Scamuffa, what she did, she just provided numbers. For example, hers came back as Berks County number 6, 8, 12, 14. And then she had a comment, and then Montgomery County 1, 2, 3, 4.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

President Lavender Norris announced we're on to our citizen's hearings on regular action items only. That is a three-minute qualifier. When you come to the podium, I ask that you give your name and your address. Know that you have three minutes to speak. You'll hear the buzzer. Once you hear the buzzer, then I expect you to leave the podium, take your seat, so we can move along. Council comments are open to city residents. I'm sorry. Forgive me. Citizens hearings are open to city residents and business owners. And please know that this is your opportunity to express yourself. It will not be a Q&A. If there's something that you need to discuss with Council, you can have your-- you could contact Council either after the meeting or call and make arrangements to speak with Council and set up a meeting, okay?

Jonathan Long

So my name is Jonathan Long. I represent Munchies Deli on East Lincoln Avenue. We have a pending Zoning Hearing Board application, which is going to be heard next week, and we're going to go to the Planning Commission on Wednesday. I understand you're here tonight, and you're going to be considering whether or not to oppose it, take no position, or support it. So I'm just here to give you an overview of our case and kind of what our concerns are. Basically, it boils down to my client's submitted zoning and permit applications in March of this past year. In the application, there was no place to put any kind of narrative as to what they were doing at the property. Their plan all along for their lease was to do a convenience store and a market deli. They went through the process. They got various building permits. They submitted drawings of the building, etc. They received permits for it. In June, they submitted a sign application. The sign application contained a drawing which on the sign said all the different things that they were looking to do and sell at the store. That sign application was reviewed and approved by the city in August, and they subsequently put up the sign shortly thereafter.

And then in October, they were getting ready to get their final use in occupancy. They bought products, and they believed everything along the way that they were doing was allowed. They brought in products, stocked the shelves at the store. And in October, they had an inspection with Mr. Hofner, the zoning officer, at which point he then told them, "You can't sell most of the stuff that you have on your shelves. You have a deli license. That's all we're giving you." And they ended up having to take off thousands of dollars worth of goods off the shelf, some of which is tobacco products, but there's also grocery items, cleaning supplies, other things like that, dog food, whatnot. So our application is essentially what we would call an estoppel argument, that all along the way, they jumped through all the hoops that they were asked to jump through, believed what they were doing was allowed, relying on the fact that nobody at any point was telling them until basically, they were about to open their doors. What they were doing wasn't allowed. And now, they're to the detriment of business. So that's what we're asking for from the Zoning Hearing Board. If you'd like to take a look, I'm happy to hand up their petition of support from a lot of people in their neighborhood that would really like to see them be able to open and have basically a mini grocery store there for them, as well as pictures of the signs if you want to see what they were looking-- what they submitted. We weren't hiding what we were trying to do.

Mrs. Hunt said thank you, sir. I would like if I could have a copy, if you're able to give it to me, of what they submitted to the city that was approved for them to sell all the items that they were now, as you say, denied. Do you have that that I could see? Mr. Long replied yeah, I have a copy of our application. I don't have every single document. But in here, there's a-- that's the permit application that they were asked to file. Mr. Logan stated Councilwoman, you can also find the application and some associated documents in your packet. Mrs. Hunt said right. I just wanted to see if he had something different or in addition to what we had because based on what he was saying, I didn't see all that. So I wanted to see if I could actually see where they had listed, as you said, the items that they wanted to sell and then were denied. Mr. Long said let me find it. And this is a smaller packet of just select items. The second one here, these are the drawings that they submitted with their sign application. And you can see there on the sign application on the drawing for the sign-- it's kind of hard because it's small. [inaudible]. If you flip another couple of pages, it'll show you the actual sign that they ended up getting the property [inaudible]. Mrs. Hunt stated yeah. I see the sign and all of-- that's not what I'm asking for. I'm asking for the application that you said the city-approved listing all of the items that they were going to sell in addition to just deli items. That's what I'm asking for, and you said you had that. Mr. Long replied no. My argument is that they submitted a zoning application. The zoning application that the city-- that gave them to fill out, the zoning and permit application, doesn't contain a place to list what you're going to do on the property. That's one of the-- Mrs. Hunt said okay. That's not what you said. And if we can go back, if we can review what you said, you said you had a signed application that they submitted, listing what they were going to sell. And you even mentioned dog food. So I'm just going back on what you just said at the podium. Mr. Long replied if it came off that way, that's not what I was saying. Mrs. Hunt stated that's what you said. So okay. So you do not have a signed anything from the city, anything that the city approved for them to sell in addition to deli items. So you do not have anything signed from the city giving that approval. Is that what I'm understanding now? Because that's not what I heard you say first. Mr. Long replied my argument and our argument is that, normally, in my experience with a municipality, when you submit a zoning permit application, there's a place on it where you fill out a narrative stating, "This is what I'm going to do with the property." The zoning and building permit application that my clients were given by the city to fill out does not have a place to list what they're going to do with the property.

President Lavender Norris asked can I interrupt for a second? Because now is not-- will we have time after the meeting. Per the discussion regarding it. But right now is the three-minute period.

Vice President Green motioned to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to reappoint: Jose Rios to the Civil Service Commission for the term 2025-2028 and Shaun Brown to the Zoning Hearing Board for the term 2023-2025

My name is Shaun Brown. My name is Shaun Brown, I've been a resident of this county for 35 years, Coatesville for about 23. I went from a renter to a homeowner to a landlord. And a couple of my renters encouraged me to get involved with any work that's in the city. So when this position came up, I suppose I wanted to see what was going on. I've been in construction for 33 years. I've been in labor for 27 years. So I've been in and around the business of buildings and all that stuff. I'm interested in finding out how everything works for the city.

Vice President Green motion to appoint Shaun Brown to the Zoning Hearing Board for the term 2023-2025; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Council thanked Mr. Brown.

2. Receive and consider a motion for First Reading and advertisement an Ordinance amending Chapter 218, vehicle and Traffic, Article III, No Parking on Certain Streets, §218-11 Schedule of Parking Prohibited at all times on certain streets, by adding certain portions of Concord Street for the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Ms. Scamuffa asked how did this come to be? Is there a specific issue that came up for these particular streets? Lieutenant Ollis explained pardon my appearance [crosstalk]. We were looking in the codes for other parking regulations. We just happened to notice that Concord Street is nowhere within the code. And looking at that area, it was not signed as no parking between South Church and Plum, I believe, right? And it's essentially an alley. It needs space for emergency response, fire trucks especially. So we thought it would be prudent to add it so it could remain clear and then enforceable.

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve First Reading and advertisement an Ordinance amending Chapter 218, vehicle and Traffic, Article III, No Parking on Certain Streets, §218-11 Schedule of Parking Prohibited at all times on certain streets, by adding certain portions of Concord Street for the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Receive and consider a motion to approve the Proposal to support 2024 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit activities from Cedarville Engineering

Ms. Cosentino explained Cedarville Engineering has been our stormwater and engineer for several years. We do have an NPDES permit that is in its final year. And the MS4 requirements are something that's required by all municipalities. We do have certain requirements like public education, inspections, that sort of thing that we are required to do. Cedarville will help us achieve all of those requirements, and then they also submit our MS4 report for us in June. So that will also be completed as part of this proposal.

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the Proposal to support 2024 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit activities from Cedarville Engineering; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Receive and consider a motion to grant an extension of the 90-day recording period for the conditionally approved subdivision and land development plan for the NSEC Sports Complex through June 30, 2025

Mr. Jefferson announced on January 22nd of this year, the city received a letter from Mr. Gill, Esquire. He is the applicant's developer-- sorry. He is the council for the developer. They received conditional approval from City Council in December of 2024. Per the city code, the subdivision and land development ordinance, they have to record the final plan within 90 days of that approval. Otherwise, their approval is rescinded. They are diligently working on revising the plan, from my understanding. They have PennDOT hold-ups, from my understanding as well. So they're not going to be able to meet that deadline of the 90 days from December, so they're asking for another 90 days. I can tell you that they made the same exact request in Valley Township. And a letter dated today, Valley Township approved the extension for another 90 days through June 30th of 2025. So that is what they're requesting, and they've already done it at Valley, and then they're requesting it at the city as well. President Lavender Norris asked the only change is the date? Mr. Jefferson replied the only change that they're requesting is the date by which they have to report the final plan. That is correct. Everything else remains the same

Vice President Green motioned to grant an extension of the 90-day recording period for the conditionally approved subdivision and land development plan for the NSEC Sports Complex through June 30, 2025; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Receive and consider a motion to either (1) recommend approval of, (2) recommend denial of, or (3) take no position in the Zoning Hearing Board Application of Munchies Deli

Vice President Green motioned to recommend denial of the Zoning Hearing Board Application of Munchies Deli; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Al Amim stated I do have questions. I have a couple just because I want to make sure that the individuals in the audience that are here for this, that they actually understand this process as a whole and what took place. So the owner of Munchies, the gentleman that is renting that portion of that property, the delicatessen, when he originally applied for an application, that application was for the purposes of a deli only. Is that correct? Ms. Cosentino replied correct. Ms. Al Amin asked okay. And so at no point in time did the city code-- it was never threatened of the potential shutdown of that business, correct? Ms. Cosentino replied no. They did not threaten them. Ms. Al Amin stated the issue was when they went to open, when they went to get their final U&O, there were items inside of the store that they had not applied to sell. They did not apply to be a convenience store. They applied only to be a deli. Ms. Cosentino replied Correct. And a convenience store is not allowable in that zoning district, so they wouldn't have received that zoning. They would have always been denied that zoning, if it had been made clear from the start that they were applying to be a convenience store. So in your packet, you can see that there was also a letter dated August 6th, where this letter was actually requested by our co-department, our co-

director at the time, requested in writing what the intention for Munchies was. And the letter says, "My name is" - I'm sorry, I'm going to mispronounce this - "Malin Alshami, the owner of Munchies Deli Market, located at 708 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320. I'm writing this letter to confirm what I'm selling in my store. The items are listed below: grocery, cold-cut meats, cold and hot sandwiches, breads, beverage." And it's signed by Mr. Alshami. And so when Munchies Deli opened and we did our final inspection and saw the items like tobacco products and other convenience store items, we did ask them to remove those from their shelves. Ms. Al Amin said right. But they didn't have permission to have those things in there in the first place because that's not what they applied for. They did not apply for a convenience store. They applied for a deli. And it's like you said, that particular district right there, convenience stores are not permissible. Okay. I just want to make sure that everybody understands that the city was not, at any point in time, ever trying to shut Munchies down. And what Munchies originally applied for, Munchies was approved for without any issues. Ms. Cosentino stated absolutely. And I will say that our staff went above and beyond to communicate all of this and had a lot of back-and-forth with Mr. Alshami, visited the store several times. So, at no point were we trying to close the store down. I think we actually went above and beyond to try to keep them open and to stay compliant.

Mrs. Hunt explained that's why I was concerned when the attorney stood up and said that he had a document that listed everything they were going to sell and that it was approved, because I didn't recall seeing that. And I just wanted to-- because I, too, want to make an informed decision. I'm very progressive. I love to see things happening in the city, people being able to open their businesses and be productive. But we have to do it within the ordinances and the codes and the zoning that's set up for that property. When things come out on Facebook, we really make the council look bad, like we just want to close this store down. And that is not the case. But no matter who you are, no matter where you are positioned in the city, if you were to own a business, then you have to comply with the zoning, the planning commission, what ordinances, whatever you have to go through, and you're given a guideline to apply when you must do that. So that's why it struck me when Attorney Long said what he said. And I do apologize to Council that I intervened at that moment, but it was just like hot-off-the-press. So I had to make sure that I did address that. And also, as Councilwoman Al Amin said, we want to make sure that everybody here that's representing Munchies understands the position of council and that we did not at any time in any way try to take any action to close them down or tell them that they could not operate, because that's not what we want to see. All we want to see is that you come in compliance with what you applied to be.

Vice President Green asked when did the store open? Mrs. Hunt said nobody knows. [crosstalk]. Mr. Long asked Can I talk at this point? President Lavender Norris explained you may speak if we address you. [crosstalk] Mr. Logan-- or, Roberta, when did they open? Ms. Cosentino replied I want to say it was October of 2024. Does that sound accurate? I'm sorry, I don't know the exact date, but I think it is. Vice President Green explained so, the thing is, the reason I'm asking is because in November is when they resubmitted and it's [inaudible] current delicatessen to include other things. So it was submitted after they were approved and those things were not allowed to be sold, is when they submitted the new application. But the store already opened it. The [inaudible] opened because those new items were not to be included. So once they found-- once that happened, then they resubmitted another

application, looks like November 7-- Ms. Al Amin said yeah, November 7th. Vice President Green explained --to include a convenience store, which it was not-- a convenience store was not included the first time. So they came to include the convenience store on November 7th, which offers a product mix. And then they attached a separate paper, I guess, listing the other things. But that was well after the opening, well after the approval, not during the approval process, not being misled. Because like Roberta said, they would have been advised at the time that that area was not zoned for that particular kind of store. So the paperwork was submitted well after they've already opened. Now they want to include because we can't have these items in our store. So I just wanted to be clear too, because this is the first time that it's come before us. Mr. Long asked can we comment on that, or? President Lavender Norris said No. Mr. Long said oh, okay. Because that's not true, but okay. Vice President Green stated well, I'm looking at the paperwork here in black in white. I mean, I'm looking at paperwork that's timestamped and everything.

Ms. Al Amin explained and this is the actual-- the paperwork that we have is the actual paperwork that was submitted by the gentleman that actually owns the establishment called Munchies. I don't know if he owns the building or if he's renting this store, but this stuff comes from the owner of Munchies establishment, right? Ms. Cosentino replied yes. President Lavender Norris said If you're through with your comments, then yes. Mrs. Hunt said yeah. I'm confused as with the owner, because I thought the owner of Munchies was Angie. Mr. Thomas asked ma'am, I'd like to speak? To satisfy something for her. Mrs. Hunt explained no. No, you're not. Not at this point. President Lavender Norris explained there's a form over there that has to be signed in order for you to be able to come to the podium. [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt said I thought the owner was Angie. Ms. Al Amin said look at your application. It was on it. Mrs. Hunt stated I'm looking at the application, but I guess I'm referring to all of the Facebook things that I've seen. It says the owner, Angie. So Angie is not the owner. I wasn't sure if Mr. Ashami was the landlord and maybe she was renting from him. So that's why I didn't understand. Vice President Green state she's listed as the project manager. Mrs. Hunt asked is she here? Is Angie here? Vice President Green replied she is. Yeah. but I believe the gentleman sitting next to Mr. Long is his client. I'm not 100% sure of that. Mr. Long explained There's a partnership. So Mr. Alshami is overseas right now dealing with getting a visa for his wife and child to come over. This is Samir. He's one of his partners. And Angela is part of the partnership as well. Vice President said Oh, okay. I've just seen it on here as project manager. Mr. Long said yeah. Mr. Alshami was the one who primarily did most of it and we put his name on [crosstalk]. Mr. Thomas asked may I address the council? [crosstalk]. President Lavender Norris stated we're not there yet, sir. We'll get there after we've done this. Vice President Green asked did you sign the paper to speak? Mr. Thomas replied I did. President Lavender Norris stated you can speak at that point when it comes. Mr. Thomas said okay. Thank you. Ms. Al Amin explained according to the applications and stuff, Mr. Long, it doesn't show that there's multiple ownership. It shows that there is one owner and that Mrs. Hunter is a project manager. It doesn't show that there's a partnership in ownership. The gentleman that you're talking about shows as the owner, he's the one that signed the paperwork. He lists Angela as a project manager, not as a partner or owner. Mr. Long said okay. All right. Understood. Sorry.

Ms. Al Amin motioned to close action items; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he continues to work with the city and Cleveland Cliffs' attorney to get closer to closing on the parcels, and the title commitment from Land Services just came through earlier today; received the communication from the Keller Law Group regarding the Verizon Cable franchise agreement, and I expect that we'll be getting updates soon from the [inaudible] group; received IDG Development's completed 15-day conditional approval letter. It's fully executed and signed, so that is a good thing; provided sample public comment policies and they were distributed for feedback. And as soon as you guys get them back to us, we'll be moving that along; continue to work with the city to consummate the closing on the community center. I believe we're just one payment away, so that's a good thing as well; continue to work with outside counsel regarding various litigation matters; completed the 2025 municipal primary election form; and provided an opinion regarding the Pennsylvania opioid misuse and addiction trust reporting requirement.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced earlier this evening, I provided information on real estate and personnel issues in Executive.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. To start off, I just want to share that, of course, the city is proud of the diversity of its residents, property owners, and business owners, and we welcome any non-English speakers to contact the city as needed, either in person, on the phone, or via our website. We welcome any opportunity to communicate, answer questions, and resolve issues. [foreign]. Earlier, I provided the monthly codes report for council. That's the report for January. As you'll see on page two of the report, the pie chart that's on the bottom shows that over a third of rental licenses have been issued. And on page three, you'll see that we completed 227 inspections in January. That's a significant increase than we've seen in the past several months. And I think it's fair to say that due to increased communication, improved billing, and most importantly, improved internal processes, that's all led to some pretty major improvements. Code enforcement has issued also notices of violation for vacant properties, as discussed previously. Those properties would either pose health and safety risks or they're not registered vacant properties or they have property maintenance issues. So you can see on the last two pages of the code enforcement report the types of cases that we've been seeing this past month. Of course, a large percentage of those are snow removal. We do have quite a few areas that are getting ticketed for snow removal. We do have a pending snowstorm tomorrow. So just another reminder that snow does need to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after snowfall, otherwise you may be ticketed. Also, I just wanted to share with council that the Brandywine Conservancy is planning on a public meeting right here in this room next Tuesday. I'm sorry. Is it next Tuesday, the 25th? In two weeks. So that's Tuesday, February 25th in the evening at 6:00 PM. They'll be sharing their public report of their study, the year-long Brandywine watershed study that they've been doing, and they'll be sharing that. So we would love for people from Coatesville to come and hear what they've found. Last but not least, just a quick update regarding Ash Park. The Ash Park project is still under review by the DEP. And once that review is back and in the hands of our engineers, that project will be moving forward to go out to public bid. And that is my report.

Mr. Logan announced there is one item, that tomorrow morning, the Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry will host the Youth Leadership Program here in [inaudible]. And this is the program that the chamber puts on for the young people of the county. There are three students that will be here from Coatesville High School. And it's kind of a government municipal day, really. So we'll have some of our staff members just educating them on what we do here [inaudible]. Tomorrow, from 9:00 to 2:00.

4. Police Department

Chief thanked Madam President. The complete report is in your packet tonight. Just a couple of key highlights for the month of January, calls generated through the Chester County 911 Center was 2,244. And that was up slightly from the month of December, where we saw 2,156. Calls received through our front desk for the month of January was 938, and that was down slightly from the month of December, where we saw 1,051. Some other statistics that we normally cover, we had two Narcan administrations for the month of January, and we did six car seat checks and installations provided by our certified car seat technicians. And those car seats were provided at no cost to our residents. We also had Officer-- we were in attendance at the Chester County District Attorney's Office award ceremony in January. And I'd just like to mention that the police department was recognized by the district attorney's office for our investigative efforts in one of our homicides that was successfully cleared and prosecuted through a jury trial, so. It was nice to see that public recognition from the district attorney's office. And then also we had Coffee with the Chief. There was nothing for the month of January to report because the first Wednesday fell on New Year's Day. So we did have Coffee with the Chief this past Wednesday, which was hosted at the Neighborhood Center on Lincoln Highway, was well attended. And the next Coffee with the Chief, I don't know who the host might be, but she might be in the room here tonight. But Sue Springsteen has graciously agreed to host us again for Coffee with the Chief. So that will be on March the 5th, the upcoming Coffee with the Chief. So thank you, Sue.

Also, Mr. Logan brought this to our attention. He received an email from Amanda Winkey for the Domestic Violence Center in Chester County. And sort of what prompted the email from Amanda was an email from Dr. Dolly Wideman, also from Domestic Violence Center. And they were bringing to the attention of our city manager, the participation of the police department for the past 12 years in the lethality assessment program. And basically, in 2012, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, PCADV, funded the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County for commencement of a pilot program involving the lethality assessment program, or LAP program. And the City of Coatesville was selected along with Oxford Borough. The City of Coatesville really took the lead on this program for the county, thanks to Lieutenant Roger Ollis, who back then-- were you even a sergeant in 2012? I don't believe you were. I think you were an I think you were an officer in 2012. Officer Ollie certainly took the program under his wing and really put the City of Coatesville on the map for being at the forefront of domestic violence issues in the county, and in particular here in the City of Coatesville. So, over the last 12 years, there's been 20,327 in Chester County that sought service under the LAP program. And the City of Coatesville has played a big part in that. And just another statistic, in 2024, the Coatesville Police Department responded to 850 domestic disturbances in the City of Coatesville. Of those calls, 81 were designated for actual LAP screening, which are lethality assessment protocols. So those that are at a high propensity for violence. Unfortunately, we consistently, each quarter-- the Domestic Violence Center puts out the statistics, and each quarter the City of Coatesville

leads Chester County in the number of lethality assessments that are completed. Certainly not something that we are proud of, but we are certainly proud of the Police Department for bringing that program to the residents here in the city, as it's much needed.

So, it was nice to be recognized by both Amanda and Dr. Wyatt Scott. And obviously, we will continue to participate in the program. Lieutenant Ollis is recognized as one of their key and lead instructors. He does travel, actually, all over the Commonwealth to some of the nicer areas of the Commonwealth, wherever there might be a Motel 6 or a Red Roof Inn. But no, he is recognized as one of the lead instructors for the Commonwealth in the Lethality Assessment Program. And the Pennsylvania State Police have been looking at implementing the program. It's a little more in-depth for them, simply because they got 4,600 and some-odd troopers to train and to get into the program. But when they were looking at instituting the program for the Pennsylvania State Police, the commissioner called me and he said, "Who's this Ollis guy?" So yeah, Roger has made quite the name for himself in the Commonwealth for the Lethality Assessment Program. So, it was nice to see that recognition. And thank you, James, for requesting that we bring that to the attention of the council.

5. Fire Department

Thank you. Good evening, members of City Council. My first report. I provided a information that should be in your packets for the run totals for the month of January, and also, the different types of calls that the fire department went on, as well as the mutual aid calls that we responded on outside of the city to assist our neighbors. I'm going to be providing that monthly to you, and also a year-end report that will have those totals, as well as any other involvement of the fire department. A couple of other items I'd like to highlight. We did have a fire on January 27th up at the Regency Park Apartments. And we're looking into-- I had the Chester County Fire Marshall's office, they're doing the investigation right now, but we're looking into whether there's a problem with defective bathroom exhaust fans there. So the information has been turned over to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and they're investigating whether we may have a problem with that. In the meantime, the Chester County Fire Marshal's Office has reached out to management there to notify them of the potential problem, and maintenance has been checking the exhaust fans to see if there's any other obvious problems. We really won't know until the Consumer Product Safety Commission gives us additional information. Also, I met with our city manager. We have three shifts in the fire department. Two shifts have officers, one a battalion chief, the other shift has an acting battalion chief. And my recommendation was to appoint on the third shift an acting battalion chief as well. That would give continuity of an officer on each shift a responsible person that would report to me, that I would send directives and information back down, if you would, the chain of command. And the city manager approved that today. It's cost-negligent because somebody's being paid in that position on a regular basis anyway, but this would give me continuity to somebody that I would work with on a regular basis. And lastly, I'd like to publicly thank Lieutenant Ollis for graciously taking me on a tour of the city last week. We were together for a few hours. I had a tour of the police department and a tour of the city. Public safety, it's very important for police and fire departments to work hand in hand. So I was very graciously welcomed into the police station and look forward to a very close relationship with our police officers as well. Thank you. Vice President Green asked how severe was that fire damage? Was it very--? Chief Huf explained the firefighters did an excellent job. As you are aware, it's a very labor-intense operation. They were able to get up there, realized where the fire was - it was a lot of smoke - and were able to catch the fire, if

you will, before it got up into the loft. One of the most dangerous areas for a fire is if it gets up into a common area of an apartment or a row of row homes into what's called either the cockloft or the attic. So, they cut that off up there. There was smoke and water damage in the neighborhood of \$10,000 because it was on the second floor. So obviously, the damage from water will run down into the first floor as well. But it was excellently stopped by the fire department.

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

President Lavender Norris announced again, you have three minutes at the podium. When you hear the timer, I ask that you complete your sentence and return to your seat. When you approach the podium, I need your name and your address.

John Hashem

Most of you know who I am, I believe. I'm a landlord in the city, own multiple properties. I want to commend the city on making some changes recently, namely on the inspection fee for rental properties. You've increased the fee to \$105 from \$80 and included a reinspection, which I think is fantastic. I know it's going to cost me more money, but it removes any motivation or misconception of an inspector wanting or being told to fail the property on the first inspection and then having to pay a whole nother fee. So that was a great move. I think it's awesome. Also, I believe I heard it through Vincent Miles, Jr., that there was some synergy going on between the city and the Housing Authority on inspections. I'm sorry if I'm directing any of this over here because I know at least the focus of inspections, I think that's fantastic. And I think we need to do more on that. As a landlord, having experienced other people coming to us from rundown properties-- and that's the politest way I can say it. The true word is slum lord properties. I've heard horror stories of people not having heat, no hot water. And property across the street from you on the corner in West 5th, the people living there had no hot water for, I don't know how long, and they were coming down the road to one of my tenants on Madison to take showers. They just had a fire at that property, recently. Okay? I have another person who's kind of pretty active in the community. She's pretty well-known. She just came to me a couple of days ago. She's living over on Glendale. I'm not going to call out the house number because it's recorded. But she went and spent-- her and her boyfriend spent \$4,000 last year to put in a new heating system because the landlord wouldn't put it in. And then she ended up saying, "Enough is enough," and stopped paying the rent. We need to get rid of the slum lords in Coatesville, plain and simple. We need to nail them down. We need to get inspections, particularly as it relates to the Housing Authority. I think you need to expand inspections, that checklist. I think one of those requirements should be the inspector checks that there's heat, checks that there's hot water running in the unit. And basically, there's basic amenities that people should have, need to be handled and addressed, and they need to be recognized. And I think another thing might be a good idea is when there's a complaint from a tenant to Housing Authority that triggers a reinspection, that also triggers notification to the city to do another inspection on the unit as well.

Brian Thomas

Mr. Thomas stated all right. So, since you have already made your decision-- I wanted to provide insight, but since you have already made your decision, I don't think my comments are applicable anymore. President Lavender Norris stated please, share them anyway. Mr. Thomas replied okay. So, I own the property at [inaudible] East Lincoln Highway. This is why I wanted to speak up at the time you were asking for clarification on the ownership. Right. Now, I detected some undercurrent, but I don't know exactly what's going on. I'm just the owner, all right? When they did sign the lease, the lease does say a deli and convenience store. Now, the truth is, English is not his first language. I'm

not making an excuse. I'm just giving it from my perspective. And I don't know what transpired between the signing of the lease and his application to the city, but it is possible - I somewhat agree with the lawyer. I'm meeting him for the first time tonight - in the sense that maybe his intentions were absolutely pure. But somewhere, things got lost. And apparently, it's based on what's been here. It seems a bit messy right now. But what I can say is that when he signed the lease with me, the lease did say deli and convenience store. Vice President Green said yeah. But that's your lease between you and him, as the landlord. Not here. Mr. Thomas stated I agree. I don't know exactly what transpired between him and the city, all right? So I'm not here defending him or I'm not here defending you. I'm just making my position here. Mrs. Hunt asked who drew up the lease? Mr. Thomas replied I drew up the lease. Mrs. Hunt asked okay. So why would you draw a lease for a deli and convenience store and not check with the codes or zoning to see if that was permissible? Mr. Thomas replied that's a fair question. The use and occupancy for the business that he wants to run has to come from the city. I would rent him the space. If he can get the zoning for that, then he can have that in the store. If he can't get the zoning, then I'm just renting the space. Vice President Green said thank you. And I was referring to the owner though. I was talking about the owner of the business.

Ms. Al Amin motioned to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Logan announced Ms. Allen excused herself from the meeting during the comments.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. It's good to see you all. It's good to have a good conversation and hopefully good outcomes for everybody. Mr. Logan Is the Black History Program still on for this Saturday? Mr. Logan replied yes. This Saturday, 10:00 AM to 1 o'clock. That's their book reading and pancake breakfast. Mrs. Hun thanked Mr. Logan, So, all of you are invited to bring your children out to hear some of our fabulous readers and songs and have a great pancake breakfast with the city. There's good things happening in the city, and I wanted to share one on March 20th. It's a Thursday. Women Destined for Change along with the First Baptist Church of Passtown, we are bringing the world-renowned Morehouse College Glee Club to the city. It will be at the high school starting at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. We are soliciting sponsors. There's three levels of sponsorships, and I'm sharing this with the community. There's silver, gold, and platinum sponsorships, and I can give you more information on what's included in that. As well as [inaudible], and this is something that has never happened in our city, just as many other things are becoming the first things for our city. And I'm just happy to be a part of this. My church, which is First Baptist Church of Passtown, we are in a building project for building what our pastor has deemed as the Hope Center right up in Valley Township or the property that's connected to the church. So we're looking to build that as well as reinvesting for change. We're looking to give a scholarship this year to a music student. And so through this project of bringing the Morehouse Glee Cub, we hope to be able to accomplish those things. So I'm asking for not just your prayers, we need funds to make sure this can happen. So if you're interested, if you have a business or just a personal sponsorship or what have you, we would appreciate that. As always, I want to give recognition to our staff for the great job that you do throughout the week and to our new fire chief. It's a pleasure to hear your report tonight. Thank you so much. To all of our colleagues, it's good to be with you again. And reluctantly, I say congratulations to the Eagles. Have a good night.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out and joining us tonight. I conquer with my colleague, Councilwoman Hunt, there's so many things happening in the City of Coatesville. There are additional things that we are working on for 2025 to keep moving our city forward and positive. I'll keep it short and hope everybody has a safe trip home. Be very safe tomorrow. We're expecting some bad weather. I guess good weather for those that like snow. But I've had enough for this season. And I want to thank my colleagues always, and all of the members of our staff for everybody's hard work. And let's just keep moving forward. Have a good night.

Ms. Scamuffa [crosstalk]? I thought there were more people. So I'm gathering my thoughts. First and foremost, I have to extend my appreciation to you, Chief, and extend a great welcome to the City of Coatesville. Unfortunately, I was not here at the last meeting and I missed you being sworn in, and I was just crushed by that. But welcome. Thank you. I appreciate the report. I look forward to receiving them every month. Just little baby steps I see already, just in one meeting that you're taking a step in a great direction. And I appreciate that for the fire department. So thank you for that. Also, the city is moving forward. We didn't get here overnight. Unfortunately, it took a lot of time, a lot of years for things to get where they are. But don't be concerned with the direction that we're heading. It's going to take us time to get to where we need to be. But we are making strides. They're going to be-- we just have to move slow and steady, like the tortoise and the hare. The tortoise will get there. But it's going to happen, and it's going to take time to really see the benefit of the changes that are going to take place with the direction here. We have staff that are doing a great job, and we're just going to keep plugging away. I thank everybody, the entire staff, everybody for what they're doing. Please be careful in this weather that's impending. I was a little saddened to see some areas that did not get shoveled according to the code, the last storm that we had. That was a little disappointing. But avoid the fines. Make sure you take care of your pavements. Make it so that you can walk through. Nobody wants somebody getting hurt on your sidewalks or your drives or your property. So please be careful. Drive safely, and have a wonderful evening. Thank you.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming. So grateful to staff for all of their reports. Be safe. I shared the comments of all of my colleagues here, so I'm not going to repeat that. But the city is moving forward. And I think it's really important that-- I love the City of Coatesville, and I just want the city to have the right things in it for our residents. And it's really important that we pay attention to things because everything is not very [inaudible]. And things that appear good are not always good. And I look at-- I talk to a lot of people all the time, and it concerns me when our residents are not being treated the way that they should be treated. When there's things that are just so unfair, when you go into areas that are, "poorer areas," people want to take advantage of the folks that live in these areas. And I just vowed to not see that happen. If I have anything to say or do regarding it, I think that we deserve so much more. I think that our residents deserve so much more. And I think that if we just hold on and continuing the direction that we're going. And with all the partners that we have working with us and for us, 2nd Century, doing the things that they're doing, the city of Coatesville, our great city managers. We have a great management team here between Henry and Roberta as our manager and our assistant manager. A lot is going on. Our police department is making such-- you're leaders. We have other police departments picking after us and emulating programs that we're doing and starting out. You're so modest. Lieutenant, I'm so sorry. You're so modest on what you do for the city of Coatesville. But it's just amazing. And under the leadership of Chief Laufer, we've done a lot. We were so unsuccessful in bringing community policing to Coatesville for so many years. When I served on the council back in the early 2000s, this couldn't seem to master it. This wasn't working. And I'm just so grateful for your leadership that

we've accomplished that. And our children are not afraid of the cops. Our kids feel comfortable. They're coming to the station. They're participating in things. They see you. Everybody knows who. Everybody knows you. The young lady, I heard her in the back. I'm going to tell my kids that I spoke with you. [laughter] So that kind of stuff that makes me feel good. And that's why I know the city is thriving, and we just have to expect more. So thank you all and have a good night.

President Lavender Norris echoed her colleagues in appreciation. We had our Together We Stand project, and we had the Selma March reenactment. And I want to express my appreciation and my thanks to you, Chief Huf and to you, Chief Laufer, for your leadership and instruction. To you, Lieutenant Ollis, you gentlemen did a wonderful job. It was greatly appreciated. I just want to say thank you. The event was wonderful. There were no issues. There's a lot of pictures and all that good stuff that we'll be able to share with you. It was just a wonderful time for our community. And so I appreciate and I thank you all for that. Shakira had a community meeting. I was able to attend the meeting. There was some information set for the community regarding just help within our community. That is wonderful. Thank you so much for that as well. Our community is a community, and I'm so grateful for that. We look out for one another. We don't agree on everything. But when times get hard, the rubber meets the road, we're all right there together. So I thank you all for that. We're not here for hardships. We are here to ensure the process is properly moving forward. So any questions with regard to how business is supposed to operate in the city, if you call City Hall, it's there for you. Mr. Logan and Ms. Cosentino, they can answer any of your questions better than any of us as council members. They're the ones with all the knowledge. So call them, question them, not us because you might not get the right stuff. But I just say that to say-- right. But I said that to say when we make a decision, we like to make informed decisions, and we get our information from our staff, our extremely qualified staff. So when we make those decisions, we're comfortable with them.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.