



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

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

Council Absent:

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.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Turner-Green motioned to approve the February 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Ms. Al Amin was not present for the vote.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Ms. Al Amin was not present for the vote.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Discussion Items

1. CYWA

President Lavender Norris announced we have for discussion, a letter from the CYWA. I don't know if anybody's doing that. However, they're asking for street closure on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 2:30. That is the time they do the food distribution. And it has been really busy there, people lining up in the alley, cars blocking the alley, people unintentionally, but I'm sure it's done, defacing property. And with the current climate that we're in now, I'm sure the distribution will get even busier. And full disclosure, I'm the board president there. That's why I can give you a little more detail than what's in the letter. But I'm sure it's going to get busier. It's going to be more people. The lines now come out of the alley and go up the street. And it's just not a safe or productive process right now. We need to firm it up better, do better with it. But that's the discussion item. Vice President Green asked is there a reason why they did not come and make the request? President Lavender Norris could not say. I think the attempt was to come to the next meeting, their meeting, with intent, but the letter preceded that. See right over there. I see [inaudible].

Ms. Scamuffa asked the Chief, what is your thoughts on that closure? I mean, that's on a regular basis. Chief Laufer explained the police department can support whatever the decision of council might be, but I just would like to point out some things for consideration, if you would. The city is closing the street, so therefore, there is liability when we close the street. So we have to keep that in mind. How are we going to effectively close it as public work is going to be required to drop off and pick up barricades for either end of the street two days a week. There are people that live on that street that have parking for apartments on that street, so how are they going to come and go? Are they going to go against the flow of traffic on a one-way alley because they can't get past what's going on at the CYWA, so they would have to then leave against the flow of one-way traffic to come out onto Fourth. And there are issues. So they need to be addressed and should be thought about prior to making any decision.

Mrs. Hunt stated I have issues there because, of course, that's my business. And at any moment, I need to come out of that garage. I need to come out. I try on a daily, because of the distribution, not to use that garage which is the main garage for what I do. So to have that street blocked off, then deliveries to me can't be maybe brought in time. And to have to use my front garages on Fifth Avenue for certain deliveries that I have to receive is just not good. I have tried and have talked with President Lavender Norris and Carmen many times to see if there's some type of way we can reroute that distribution daily because it becomes a hardship for the businesses and the people that live there. And you guys know I'm 100% for helping and trying to make sure people have what they need, but we can't do it at the expense of jeopardizing the business anymore. And I've had my garages knocked in, bent in because people just, they put their chairs. They lean up against the garage doors. They run into the garage doors. They back into them and don't come and tell you that it's done. And then I go try to put the garage door up and now I can't put it up again. So I just wish there was some other way that the CYWA could find to have that distribution other than in that alley. Your director had talked to me once, and I had put out a suggestion, and I don't even know if it's feasible to do, maybe set up appointments. Who basically come on a regular, set up appointments, and then maybe they could just come in-site and get their food to whatever. And then you're going to always have some that come that's not a regularly [inaudible]. You can let them know, "From now on, this is your appointment time to come." And it would break up that big mass of people. Because even now, they come as early as 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning and set their carts out. And then they come back so they can have a space in the line. So it really becomes-- it's unsafe, for one, because some of them have their children out in the yard-- I mean, out-- --in the alley, running around. And then I think I told you guys that one day I came out and one of the young ladies had her baby on the hood of my car, changing a diaper. So we have to find a better way to try and manage that without causing hardship to those that are in need.

Ms. Al Amin said so I have a question too. Years ago, the line would start-- when I ran the shelter, so it's been years, but the line would start out of the gymnasium and go through the

big room, whatever it's called, that room right there. Harden Lounge. And then out the side door and across the patio, and it would go down the—sidewalk and then the ramp. The ramp and then they could go down the sidewalk. And so then you didn't have to close anything off. No street was in jeopardy. And even if it went around, it was still on the sidewalk. It wasn't in an alley. It wasn't where cars travel. And everybody was able to get the food distribution that they needed because I do agree with Mrs. Hunt. It's very important for us to service-- well, not us, but the CYWA, with Rogers Food Bank Program, to service the people. But I mean, that would be an alternative where it wouldn't cause any street closure, and you could still have access for your deliveries, and they'd be able to have the line, and it wouldn't--

Ms. Allen stated well, I know I had suggested the street closure for Mrs. Hunt. And it would be where her spot is, that's where the barrier would be, at the end of where you are. So your garage and stuff, you have access to. The barrier will start there. And that line will go down the street instead of up around OIC. It would go down towards [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt asked but that's a one-way. That's a one-way. So if they're coming to deliver to me, how do they--? Ms. Allen explained because they will be able to just back up to your place right there. Ms. Allen said we are just trying to [crosstalk]--

Mrs. Hunt explained it's a one-way street. It's a one-way street. And you have to respect that as a daily thoroughway. So just, for instance, one day the casket company came and somebody out there told them to go in the Verizon lot. And I just happened to look out the door and I see them pushing the casket across the street. I'm like, "What in the Sam Hill is happening here?" And that's when he told me. So that's when I came over there and raised sand that day. No. Are you serious? Yes, I did raise sand. I did, in a mean voice. [laughter] But like I said-- --I just think that there's a better way to do it. Ms. Allen asked you don't think the street closure is good? Mrs. Hunt replied no, I don't. No. Vice President Green stated I don't. David DeSimone, I talked to him about it, and he wasn't really for it either because his biggest complaint for the tenants that live right there is of getting out. But there were already having complaints. They've already called the police trying to get out of their parking spots in that apartment. I think that the best solution would be from the Harlan Lounge, from the patio that way, because closing the street is going to be a problem. President Lavender Norris stated the Harlan Lounge, right now as it stands, probation meets with their clients in the Harlan Lounge. So they're utilizing the Harlan Lounge. Ms. Al Amin suggested they change their dates or a different office anywhere, like down in the basement or the conference room up front, or? Yeah. But the way you guys are going in and out, it's not conducive. President Lavender Norris stated right. It's not a conference room. It's an office.

Mrs. Hunt asked is it a possibility to think about the appointments and just have everything inside if you have a list of all the families that continuously come? President Lavender Norris explained what I can do is-- I took note of all the bullet points, and I will take this back, and we will flesh this out as much as possible. They will. I'll give it to them and allow them to see if they can come up with a different scenario. Vice President Green asked is there another

way? Yeah. Those apartment buildings that David owns, is there another way to Chestnut Street or 4th Avenue from there? Chief stated I don't believe there is. Yeah. Once you're in the alley, you're in the alley. And OIC also, their parking lot is one way, and it comes out on the diamond, which causes issues also. It's a one-way. [crosstalk]. President Lavender Norris stated okay. And I think that was good discussion. We definitely want to figure out some kind of way to get this resolved.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

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

Ms. Al Amin motioned to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion for a Resolution establishing the process of citizen input and comments at City Council meetings

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve a Resolution establishing the process of citizen input and comments at City Council meetings; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Receive and consider a motion for the transition of part-time officers, Demetrius Burkenstock and Nicholas Fernandez, to fulltime officer.

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the transition of part-time officers, Demetrius Burkenstock and Nicholas Fernandez to fulltime officer; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Chief Laufer explained currently, the department has four vacancies for full-time officers, three of which are existing, and the fourth is the COPS grant that we approved most recently. So that gives us four vacancies that need to be filled with full-time officers. These two have been part-time with us. They've been through their field training officer program, and we're successful. We're excited about promoting them from part-time to full-time. So that would cover two of the four. And then next week-- or excuse me, next council meeting, we will have two additional, which will be two full-time candidates off of our current list that we would just hire full-time instead of hiring part-time and then promoting full-time. So these two are existing officers that will fill two of the positions.

And then at the next council meeting, we'll have Judge Hines here to swear those two officially before council if they can introduce themselves. And then we'll also have the two that are going to be hired right from our existing list to be hired in full-time capacity, which the third one will fill the third full-time vacancy, and then the fourth one will be the COPS grant hire. So our hope is that next council meeting will be able to be fully staffed with our full-time-- still leaves us short part-time officers. There are two names that remain on the

current list after the promotions that we envision. One is interested in part-time. One is only interested in full-time, so he may not elect to come with us part-time. So we still are actively trying to recruit for additional part-time officers because where we are with our part-time hires, we should be around six to eight part-time officers. And after this, we will be in one part-time officer.

Ms. Al Amin asked the individual that you spoke of that is only interested in full-time and not part-time? Chief Laufer replied yes. Ms. Al Amin asked are they one of the candidates that are being considered off the street for the full-time position? Chief Laufer replied no. Ms. Al Amin stated I know for that it goes by the ranking and there's more. Chief Laufer replied yes. right. Exactly, so-- Ms. Al Amin asked and so will be one of the two? Chief Laufer replied no, because they're ranked the number three. Ms. Al Amin said okay. And the two part-time people, how long have they been with us? Chief Laufer stated they've been with us roughly six months, it takes them to complete their field training program. Ms. Al Amin said okay. So when they become full-time and the other two become full-time, how many full-time officers will that take us to? Chief Laufer explained that will be 31 plus the COPS grant. Ms. Al Amin asked and the current union contract says we have to have how many full-time? Chief Laufer explained it doesn't specify the number total. It just says you can't go below 25. Ms. Al Amin asked we're actually going to be six above what we can't go to though? Chief Laufer replied yes. Ms. Al Amin said okay. That's it.

3. Receive and consider a motion authorizing City Management to enter discussions with the Estate of Horwitz

Vice President Green motioned approve the City Management to enter discussion with the Estate of Horwitz; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council. Since council's last meeting, I have some values. On March 6th of 2025, the deed to Bang, the Community Center located at 99 North, 9th Avenue, was recorded. So, the property is back in the possession of the city. Additionally, due to Mr. Logan's good advocacy for the city, there's also a \$5,000 payment coming back to the city to reimburse the city for some of the costs. So, I know that that check is in the mail and is coming back to the city, but that was specifically negotiated by Mr. Logan. So, a good job there, and that'll be hopefully back to the city soon. I continue to work with the city and Cleveland Cliffs attorney to get close to the closing on the Naval Avenue parcels. There has been a little hiccup with the property descriptions, but nothing insurmountable.

I attended district court on behalf of the city with Ms. Cosentino and Ms. Smith in the prosecution against the Regency Apartments, and we received a favorable outcome. Just want

to give kudos to where it's deserved. I had two attorneys come outside of the district court after me and speak to the professionalism of your staff. You should be very proud. They commended both Ms. Cosentino and Ms. Smith, so I just wanted to pass along good news, and we get it. I edited the proposed public comment resolution. I communicated and continued to communicate with outside council regarding various litigation matters. I communicated and continued to communicate with attorneys regarding land development matters. I reviewed Tokyo Marine's coverage letter and communicated with the insurance provider regarding the same. I provided a summary regarding the general zoning amendment process. I provided an opinion regarding medical marijuana, and I provided a sample ordinance regarding the same. And finally, I attended coffee with the chief, and it was awesome. So thank you. And that is my report unless there are any questions.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced there are a few items for public, but an objective I've provided updates on some real estate matters as well as personnel matters in regards to public comments or updates. Just a quick follow-up on the meeting that I shared with you all with Delta Delaware County Community College. We met with them again last week to confirm training sites for what we anticipated would be the launch of the trades program here in the City of Coatesville. We're very excited to be working with them and potential partners there, which partners include OIC, New Heritage, Richard Campbell, and City of Coatesville. So we are looking forward to working with them in the National Trades Program to be available for adult learners as well as some student learners. Lincoln University, Sean Carter Foundation, MCDC, and City of Coatesville will host a two-day wealth management workshop starting Friday, March 21st, and Saturday morning, March 22nd. I passed on the flyers. You may have already received them. Fonz will be conducting a show tomorrow evening on his city-town talk, interviewing members of the Sean Carter Foundation and Lincoln University to get more details on this workshop. This wealth management of wealth building workshop is designed to help individuals here in the city, whether you're young or old, to create generational wealth. And if you are interested, I would say sign up. There's a QR code on the flyer. Click on that. It takes you to the back right, and you can sign up for the workshop. It's a free workshop. A light meal will be provided both Friday and Saturday. And there's only space for 25. And right now, we have 16 registered at this time. So we will bring it back to you. You don't have to get a seat the fiscal round. We'll bring it back in a couple of months.

The city continues to monitor new trash receptacle changes and removal along the highway. There's been some comment about some areas and continue to work through this kind of pilot program. But we are also very happy with some of the results that we're seeing. And we'll continue to keep you all monitored on that. In terms of some of our partnerships in the community, we continue to partner with OIC. As a matter of fact, today they had a wonderful ceremony graduating approximately seven students in their solar energy program. These individuals will be working alongside a company. I think it's called Solar States out of Philadelphia. It's an opportunity for them to move on and just get some great jobs moving forward. And hopefully, they'll be able to share some of their experiences with others to encourage enrollment in the OIC program.

In addition to that, OIC has two new employees, one in their finance department, his name is Rashad Thompson, and the other is I think it's pronounced [Selica?] White. And he's the new workforce development and career coach. So if you haven't met him, please go over and say hello and introduce yourselves, and welcome them to our community. We also met with members of the Western Chester County Chamber Planning Committee and provided a city-wide update. And it's a monthly meeting basically includes what's happening on our development projects, the train station, flats, parking garage, street safety programs. That is an arm of the chamber that basically looks at some of the planning initiatives throughout the city. Last week, I attended the Alliance for Health Equity. And many of you know that the Alliance, in partnership with The Union Community Care, they had a meet-and-greet last week at the building, which was supposed to [inaudible] down on 7th. Unity Community Care is our new healthcare provider here in the city. And then we just wanted to thank you and wish the best to both Community Care and Alliance for bringing that to the city closely.

A few items in relation to a few things on miscellaneous. We talked to Comcast regarding Channel 66. And for those of you who are familiar with the City of Coatesville, once upon a time, Channel 66 provided public service announcements and other things, just alerting the community of what was going on. It was a static page, a static channel. But because we have so much new technology, conversation with Comcast with very few municipalities or townships because everyone is live streaming [inaudible] streaming channel. We have equipment here that is more than 10 years old. It would cost upwards of \$10,000 to upgrade. The last time the city had content on this particular channel was more than five years ago. So in a very candid conversation with Comcast, they recommend that you just don't upgrade, save the money, and use our YouTube channel as well as live streaming. And you all know that a lot of folks here in Coatesville use Facebook, so we'll just step up our efforts in terms of live streaming. We also encourage the people to go to Ready ChesCo, sign up for that too. A lot of the emergency information can be had on that and of course, our website, and as I said, our YouTube channel as well.

Let's see. In addition to that, Vincent Miles is not here, but he did provide me with a report. So if I may just give you a brief update on what he's working on. Vince is working with Rob on the convenience store ordinance. I think that's something that you all are aware of. What we're trying to do is amend our ordinance for convenience stores here in the City of Coatesville. And I think right now, we're just kind of finishing up some areas to make sure that we can get it to in front of a council so we can take an action on that. Let's see. In addition to that, which I did share with you this evening, Vince was able to create a map to determine the concentration points of some of the convenience stores. So that has been completed. And you will notice on that map where the concentration of those stores are. The biggest concentration, as I shared with you earlier, is found on the east end between 6th and 10th. And the overall amount of convenience stores in our 1.9 square miles is 21.

The next area that Vince is working on is blight. Once again, he is working and coordinating his efforts with our solicitor. And they will be documenting all vacant properties within the center of-- excuse me, the city limits, and so more information to come on that. In addition to that, Vince is working on the onslaught of skills in the city with the help of Casey Arthur and our Coatesville departments. They'll be able to nail down and record-- or they were able to nail down and record 19 locations of where these particular [inaudible] devices are. So Vince has been very active and very busy on a number of fronts and we hope continues to work with Rob and the Codes department to amend and revise some of the things that we need to in the City of Coatesville.

The last item I have is just a report on the PELRAS conference that I attended a couple of weeks ago. That is a conference that is designed to help city managers, police and fire, along with department heads on labor issues and labor laws. There's a lot of things coming down the pipe in the future related to everything from overtime to FMLA and lead time and things like that. So it's always nice to meet other municipal managers through the discussions from the legal eagles that are there. We're very privileged to have one of our legal teams that basically manage that entire conference as John McLaughlin and his group. And they always provide wonderful information. There were some great things shared about what elected officials can and cannot do. And I thought you all were going to be there. Pretty enlightening and somewhat amusing. So I'm more than happy to copy that and share it with folks. And with that, I think that's all I have. Thank you.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. To begin, 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]. In your packet this month, you'll see the code report for February. I'll take you through it just briefly. Page one of the reports has a summary, but if you go down to page three and take a look at rental licenses, you'll see that as of February, we had issued about 49% of the licenses. Now, in this case, rental licenses are either paid or unpaid. It does not mean that they were issued. Some are still waiting for inspections to be completed. So I just wanted to clarify that. The rental licenses will be delinquent as of April 1st, and property owners will be getting a newsletter, and also a letter reminding them of that as well because as soon as April 1st hits, we will be going through the process of issuing state citations as needed at that point. Also, inspections have gone up. Again, this is February. We see that in February, we had about just over 150 inspections. So that puts us at 227 for the year, which is a great number. It's a great start to the year. We have been seeing a lot of landlords coming in, which is great. This number does represent a significant increase over last year at this time, so we're happy to see that. Business privilege is also coming up due. And again, property owners will get-- business owners will get a reminder letter about that, and we'll go through that process again. One thing that has increased as of February, and we're seeing that increase, as we always do

in the spring, as permits are up. So we're seeing more activity in the city with improvements on properties, building, that kind of thing. We also saw an increase in UR inspections. So that means that properties are being sold and we're going in there and doing inspections. One thing that you'll see at the end of-- after the code report I put in a sample of a new letter that we're sending out to new property owners. So for anyone who's purchasing a property and it's transferred to a new owner that month, they'll receive a letter from the city, welcoming them as a property owner in the city, sending them important trash and recycling information, sending them information about doing a UR inspection, and just some other various things about owning a property in the city. So yeah, I'm very glad to see that start to happen. Just really trying to increase communication, in general, with everybody. And to go back just a little bit, you'll see code enforcement has also been doing really well, especially with compliance. We really appreciate when people come in, whether they're happy or not about-- well, they're usually not happy about getting citations from our code enforcement department, but we're always glad when people communicate with us and work with us to address the issues at their properties. Whether it's trash, property maintenance, or abandoned vehicles. As you know, we had kind of focused in on abandoned vehicles in January, and you'll see a large percentage of our code enforcement cases were, in fact, abandoned vehicles in February, along with snow and trash and property maintenance as usual. So our code enforcement has been very busy but doing well. You said you had a question, [inaudible]? Ms. Allen asked yes. We're reading over the letter. Some of the things that are in there, I wanted to know if those would be on the city's website. Sometimes you might see your mail and you got out of the city or something. But will you have some of those things posted like you say? If your property is not going to-- if it's [inaudible] after 90 days, you need to do this. Just certain things need to be listed on the website so that the residents or the property owners can go and find it easily. Because I did think that was a great one. I read it. I thought it was very excellent and better. Ms. Cosentino said Great. Yeah. That's a good point. We can make sure that that information is out there. Yeah. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin asked So for the rental licenses, the unpaid ones, what is the time frame that is allotted between you ensuring that the owner has been notified or received a notice to the point where they receive a state citation because we're in March and that's 47% unpaid still? And are they not supposed to-- what's the cutoff date for them to be paid? Ms. Cosentino replied I believe it's the end of March is when they have to pay them. They're technically due January 1st. Ms. Cosentino explained with the notices that have gone out and the reminder letters that have gone out, we'll be issuing notices of violations to him. Ms. Al Amin asked in the violation, is that just a letter stating they're in violation of not having their renter's license? Is there interest or some type of fee that goes along with them not paying in a timely manner? And then what's the timeframe before their renter license would be suspended? Ms. Cosentino explained the notice of violation is effectively a warning letter that cites our ordinances. And then that then goes to a state citation that would then come with a fine that would be determined by the district court judge. We recommend a fine. We usually recommend the maximum fine. And I'm sorry, off the top of my head, I can't remember what

that is right now in our ordinance. But that's all spelled out in our ordinance. I believe it's chapter 136. Ms. Al Amin asked so how-- I mean, at some point in time, would their renter license be suspended? Ms. Cosentino replied potentially. We try not to get to that point. We try to work with our property owners. But yes, that is a potential outcome. Did you have any other questions? Ms. Al Amin replied no.

Ms. Cosentino stated also, I just wanted to note, on the code report, we have a few meetings just to keep on your radar. There has been a change as today to the agenda for Wednesday's Planning Commission meeting. So I just want to give you a heads up for that. We have reposted the agenda today with the update. Moving on, just a few other things. The Brandywine Conservancy held a public meeting here on February 25th on the Flood Study report that they've issued. I just want to note here, the information that they shared was really helpful and informative. We'll be seeing some Coatesville-specific recommendations coming out of that study. But I just want to share that if anyone would like to look at that draft report, they're still accepting public comment on it, and it is available on their website. I would recommend looking at it because Coatesville was so impacted by Hurricane Ida. Of course, there's a lot of information there about Coatesville and about our surrounding areas and how we all impact each other. So it's an interesting report to read and just some important findings that came from it. Also, as you probably remember from one of our recent meetings, you all approved a proposal from our engineers on some MS4 reporting. Part of that report was that the city of Coatesville was chosen for an inspection by the DEP. [laughter] We're very lucky to be chosen. [laughter] And I'm very happy to report that we had that inspection, and we passed with no violations. Yes. Very good. Also, I wanted to share that later this month-- actually, tomorrow, we'll be meeting with the county to discuss the upcoming VPP grant deadline, which is March 21st. We are considering an application for the VPP grant. We're looking at a potential project that's creating an official map. So I just wanted to put that on your radar. We will be, like I said, meeting with them tomorrow. March 21st is the deadline for the VPP for now.

I ran into Beth from the Litter Lifters of West Vincent County who's been working with Shakira Davis from 2nd Century Alliance to help plan the cleanups here in the city. I actually ran into her at coffee with the chief, and she handed me the certificate that was given to the city of Coatesville for the planning and executing of our fall cleanup specifically. So she was very happy to share that. She asked me specifically to share it with the council. Shakira and Beth have been absolutely instrumental in getting us connected with Keep Pennsylvania beautiful and doing these cleanups. There is another cleanup scheduled for March 29th at 10:00 AM. There's a link to the sign-up form on our website, on our community calendar on the 2nd Century Alliance website as well. I really encourage everyone to participate. If you've never done a cleanup before, they're actually kind of fun. You get a lot of satisfaction from seeing the section of the roadway that you've actually cleaned, and the difference that it makes, and the thank yous that you get from people walking by. And it seems like a strange thing to actually enjoy, but once you're out there, and hopefully it's going to be a beautiful

day-- I just really recommend getting out there. March 29th. It's a Saturday, and it starts at 10:00 AM. President Lavender Norris stated she also met Beth, as well. And she was informing us of that. And I've asked her if she would be able to do it weekdays because she was saying Saturday and Sunday, but not everybody's available. And she says she's going to look into it. So that would be a real possibility as well.

Ms. Cosentino announced last but not least, I want to share something else fun with you. We are moving along with the Ash Park project, and we've received an updated project schedule from our engineers. We do expect the bids for the construction of Ash Park to go out May 12th. And we expect to have recommendations ready for city council towards the end of the May-- towards the end of May. It will be a tight construction schedule, but our engineers have provided us with a visual. This is the world premiere of the Ash Park design. So Ruthann has it queued up here if you want to play it, Ruthann. This is a visual from 3rd towards 4th. Ms. Turner-Green asked is that the official artwork? Ms. Cosentino stated that is the artwork design that's planned for the basketball courts. So what you'll see is, as you're coming from 3rd where the swimming pool was, will be this beautiful splash pad with some seeding around it. Obviously, there's new trees that will be planted. There's some stormwater management that you don't see that's happening underground. And then a little further up, if you want to play it a little bit, and then pause it again, Ruthann. Here, if you pause it here, you'll see that there's a new building. There's going to be six restrooms in there. There's a little pavilion with some more tables. Beautiful sort of copper roof on that building. And there's going to be drinking water stations in there as well. And then, if you play it again, Ruthann, moving forward, you've got these three now, basketball courts. As you can see, they've been oriented in the north-south direction rather than east-west. And bleachers. Mr. Logan explained that white area above the bleachers, that's actually Kersey Street. So across the street there would be-- --Gordon Elementary, so that whole wall is going to be redone. That whole retention wall there. Vice President Green asked the other part, is that where the horseshoes--? Mr. Logan replied yes, on the far right. Vice President Green asked the other part, is that where the horseshoes--? Mr. Logan replied yes, on the far right. Vice President Green asked the other part, is that where the horseshoes--? Mr. Logan replied yes, on the far right. Ms. Allen asked is there soccer and a baseball field? Correct me if I'm just [inaudible]. What's going to be up top, where hockey was? Mr. Logan explained we're using some of that for vegetation and stormwater management and an amphitheater, I think, [inaudible]. Ms. Cosentino explained the master plan for Ash Park that Natural Lands did back in 2021 is available on our website if anyone wants to take a look at it. Ms. Al Amin asked and what's the completion date? We said it was 5 [26?]? Ms. Cosentino asked for phase one and two? Ms. Al Amin said no, for the whole park. When will it be completely finished? Mr. Logan explained that's going to be hard to practically [crosstalk] determine. Yeah. There's weather factors, there's materials. Ms. Al Amin asked when will one and two be finished? Ms. Cosentino said so right now, phase one and two are scheduled to be finished in early 2026. [crosstalk]. Ruthann, if you want to play that second video. You can see a little bit better from this video what it would look like coming from Fourth and going west. So this new

walkway would take you around, and then the horseshoe pits are still there. Another little pavilion. Drinking stations. And you may remember the artist that designed the artwork on the basketball court. His name is [Calo Rosa?]. He's from Philadelphia. He's done several outdoor basketball courts. His signature is just those beautiful colors. And so he came to Coatesville and met with some of our youth and some of our players who use the courts all the time and with them, kind of came up with this design for the basketball courts. [crosstalk]. Ms. Scamuffa asked and there is still open space, right, while this is all being done? And the only reason I ask is because in a community, they don't want to lose their soccer. Ms. Cosentino stated the soccer field will still be accessible even during construction. Ms. Scamuffa said Beautiful. Ms. Scamuffa said it's kind of hard to envision. There's so much going on there, and it's so pretty.

Ms. Al Amin asked if we have a tentative date for the streetsweeper yet? Or I don't know. Do we have a tentative date plan this week where we'll start back up? Thank you. Ms. Cosentino replied It should be very soon. I know that they've taken it out already a couple of times. Ms. Al Amin said I mean regular. Ms. Cosentino replied regularly, yes. I'll take [these?] the dates. Ms. Al Amin asked Chief And then when it first starts regular, for the first week, you don't actually ticket it. You give notices saying, "Street sweeper has started again." Chief Laufer replied that's correct. We'll have it out on our Facebook page and social media even before the effective date. And then once the effective date occurs for the first week, we just put warning. So to look like a warning notice, not a ticket on windshields. And so then another grace period after that. Ms. Al Amin said okay, thank you. [crosstalk]. That's why I asked what the date was because they have been asked. So I didn't know if it was a [steady?] out or just one of these days or some people have been asking, "Do I have to move my car now if I'm getting a ticket?" So I started [inaudible]. Ms. Allen said regarding the streetsweeper, and it's just my personal opinion. The handicapped people, they get like an hour. But for my block, street, it's from 10:00 to 12:30. No, 12:30 to 2:00. But handicapped people don't move their cars. By time the [inaudible] guy comes and they don't get tickets, but they still don't move it. So the street sweeper can't do our street fully because they have to go around these people's cars. I want to know what can be done about that because I want my street-- I want my total street clean. Chief replied Yeah. There's nothing that permits us to tow a vehicle. It's just simply a ticket. So we can ticket it them [crosstalk]-- Ms. Allen said they won't get a ticket because they handicapped, because they're quote-unquote "handicapped." Chief replied right. Yeah. It's in the law that they get a grace period, which it then exceeds the period that the street sweeper is posted for. So it's unenforceable for handicapped. [crosstalk]

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete report is in your packet tonight. Just some highlights for the month of February. We had Chester County 911 Center, 2,175 calls. And that was down slightly from January where we saw 2,244. And then calls received through the front desk for the month of February was 971. That was up slightly from 938 for the month of January. Also, we had two Narcan saves for the month of February performed by the police

department. We also did seven car seat checks, installations, and provided car seats to residents of the city. We had officer participation in Coffee with the Chief at the Neighborhood Center on February 5th. And then we also just most recently had our Coffee with the Chief last Wednesday at 190. Thank you, Sue Springsteen, for being such a gracious host. It was well attended. I think you had a little bit to do with that. But I know many members of council were there. And so it was a good day. A lot of great conversations were had. Upcoming Coffee with the Chief is at 2nd Century Alliance on April the 2nd. And after that, we will be doing-- Rodger.

It is the Crime Victims Center's annual-- it's sexual abuse awareness month. So we'll be putting information cards and ribbons along the business district. So anybody comes to Coffee with the Chief and would like to help, many hands make life work. Wednesday, April 2nd. At 10 o'clock, that's when we would go out and [crosstalk] the information. And then for our next council meeting, the second meeting in March, we will be having some recognitions for police officers for awards. In the past, we have gone maybe two years, sometimes three years, and then had an award ceremony. And it just wasn't timely. So we're going to try something a little different this year. Just a couple of times throughout the year we're going to have presentations of the officers at City Council. Shouldn't take much more than 10 minutes. Just recognize the officers. It's more timely, and I think it's something different. Not everybody can make the award ceremonies. And I thought in front of council, just take 10 minutes a couple of times throughout the year and recognize the officers for some of the different things that they do each and every day. So that will be at the next council meeting, something to look forward to.

President Lavender Norris asked Chief Huf, did you have a report you wanted to give or a statement? Chief Huf replied Madam President, I do not tonight. I believe I'm supposed to be doing every other meeting. I'm here if there's any questions. President Lavender Norris asked does anybody have any questions for Chief Huff? Vice President Green stated I just want to say how nice it is to see you attend our city council meeting.

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

Rick Saha

Richard Saha. What's my address? 717 East Chestnut Street. I got this citation. I talked to the assistant city manager. Quite nice conversation. She calmed me down. And I talked to the code officer that wrote this. The main reason why I was mad is a couple of things. One, a long time ago, my father used to get similar things. There were basically notices first with a warning citation if you don't do it within 10 or 15 days. This does not have that on there. It was for abandoned cars, and it's also trash now. The code officer that wrote this said the reason why the check mark for trash and rubbish was because of abandoned cars. There was no check mark for the box for abandoned cars or nothing, so I should put it under trash, so. And that's one of the things that got me really mad because I mean, I try to keep my place fairly clean with the cold and everything. I get to send my guys out all the time to clean up around the area because it was very cold for a while. And the thing is, some of

my trash has only been there for, well, I think it was for a month or so, maybe two months that was there. And I got trash around the area that's been there for 10 years in other lots and stuff, and some places even less than that. And the cars weren't mine either. And they used to put Abandoned stickers on the cars saying you had to move the cars and everything. I was made to go basically to the houses that own the car, and I had to confront the people about it, and they didn't like it, especially one gentleman. On Friday, I thought I talked to somebody in the-- well, I definitely talked to somebody in the house last Wednesday, I think it was. And I told him, "I'm trying to work with the city. I'm trying to work with you guys. I just want to get your cars out of there. Try to throw your cars out before I had to at your expense." And the one guy that I talked to, he was all right with it; no problem. The other house that had the two cars, I had a hard time getting anybody in there. I had to go three nights and knock on their doors. The first time that the owner talked to me, she said that they weren't her cars, and she didn't want to do nothing, which I can see that. It was dark out. I was waiting until they got home from work. But anyway, basically what happened was on Friday. I put a note on the door that I was going to tow the cars. Well, the gentleman came out, and he was yelling at me, screaming at me. He threatened me one time, and one time he tried to turn it into a racial thing. I said, "Don't even go there." I said, "This is the city." I said, "It doesn't have nothing to do with that." And then he tried to say that ever since Donald Trump was in office-- I said, "Well, Donald Trump doesn't care about your cars." I mean, it got really heated. He wanted to see the citation. I gave him a copy of it. And I told him, "If you want to fight Coatesville, you fight Coatesville. I don't care." And I said, "I'm not going to argue with you anymore." But the thing was, it did get very heated, and I shouldn't have been put in that position. Like I said, abandoned sticker should've been on there first. President Lavender Norris asked Mr. Saha so you said you did have the conversation with [crosstalk]. Mr. Saha replied oh, yes, I did. And the citation was taken care of and everything. I took care of everything. All the cars were moved. Now, the cars are parked across the alley in another vacant lot. I don't know who owns that lot, but the one car may be legal. The other car definitely isn't. The other car that was on the lot, the guy put it in the back of this house, which is behind Merchant Street, but he just moved it up. So everything was taken care of. I cleaned up all the trash. But I just think the old way was a lot better. For one thing, you had notices and you had 10 days to clean it up. This one makes it sound like you got to do 25-- you got to pay the fee right away. Also, if you want to appeal it, you've got to pay another \$50 [crosstalk]. President Lavender Norris told Mr. Saha, your time is up here. Thank you. And I'm glad you were able to get it rectified without an incident. Thank God. But unfortunately, your time is up. I'm going to have to ask you-- Mr. Saha said all right. I think you've got a look at the citations before you hand them out first. I understand. President Lavender Norris said thank you so much. And-- --then we'll take that into consideration.

Ms. Al Amin motioned to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Ms. Turner-Green thanked everyone for coming out. Go home safely, and have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. Again, thank you all for coming and spending the evening with us. It's always good to see our residents come out and be formalized [inaudible]. Again, as always, I want to thank our staff for the great job that you do daily to make the city [inaudible]. Appreciate all that you do. And again, spending time with your colleagues as we do our best to try to make good decisions [inaudible], it's just good to be here. You guys have a good night and be safe going home. Thank you.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out. I just want to say thanks.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. I see some new faces in the audience. Thank you guys for coming out. I hope you continue to come out. For our fire chief, I too would like to thank you. It's very nice that you come and attend each meeting even when you don't have a report to get. That's something new, so I really appreciate that. And thank you to our staff and my colleagues. And no football tonight guys [inaudible]. Everybody have a good night and get home safe.

Ms. Scamuffa thanked everybody for coming out. It's always nice to see all the new faces, the loyal ones that come out every meeting. I appreciate that. Sue, thank you for my book again. And I'm enjoying reading it thus far. I also wanted to mention the Youth Advocacy Scholarship. The Western Chester County Council of Governments is helping to send the next generation of leaders to college. There is a scholarship available. The requirements are they demonstrate the attributes of leadership, integrity drive, and citizenship within the communities and schools have proficient academic performance, and active participation in school government or pursuits of a two-year degree or four-year degree in public administration, political science, or urban planning. You can download the application at wccog.com. And the application has to be submitted by April 20th this year. So hopefully, we have some students or you know somebody who have interest. And if I may, give this to you to maybe share on our principal website, that would be awesome; or the link for it, that would be great. I think that is it. I appreciate all of you, and I hope you have a great night. Thank you.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. Good to see you, Ricky. Just trying to get used to this time change. Kind of had me a little sluggish today. But I appreciate the staff and my colleagues. This is the National Women. And I've seen the very nice newsletter that Mr. Logan did and our picture. And I had the opportunity-- I don't get that many opportunities, but I was able to attend a Coffee with the Chief. It was very well attended. I've seen a few of my colleagues there, a lot

of people. So Chief, I was listening. I think that you have this set of trends because Norristown and all these little communities all have-- I've never heard of it until we started [inaudible]. So I know they caught me. So I just wanted to acknowledge---our police department. You're just a great work. Thank you all and have a good night.

President Lavender Norris echoed her colleagues' sentiments. I'm just grateful for another day along this journey. I'm excited about the direction of the city and the weather changing. The spring's coming, praise God, hallelujah, because I was running from that cold like crazy, but I can slow down. I can walk now. I don't have to run anymore. But thank you to our staff. Thank you so much. You're so appreciated for all you do, even the things we don't know y'all are doing, making us look good. Thank you. And to all the women in the room, congratulations and Happy Women's Month. The whole month, we got to celebrate. We got to do something. I thank God for you all being able to come out, for keeping you, blessing you, and allowing us to be in your presence. We see you; we thank you. And please keep our city in your prayers. [crosstalk].

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.