



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, March 24, 2025

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Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green, Councilwoman Villa Hunt (phone) and Councilwoman Fran Scamuffa  
Council Absent: Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin  
Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Chief Peter Huf, Fire Department; Jessica Arthur, Finance Manager; 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 Hunt is attending by phone and Vice President Green and Councilwoman Al Amin would not be in attendance.

### Approved Minutes

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve the March 10, 2025 Council Meeting minutes; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Allen motioned to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### Presentations

1. Officer Swearing In - Officers Demetrius Burkenstock, Nicholas Fernandez, and Kyle Youssi

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. Tonight, for the first part of our presentations, we have three officers that we are going to swear in officially as full-time police officers in the City of Coatesville. Originally, we were supposed to have four, but we no longer have a fourth applicant that is willing to consider a full-time position. So we have three here tonight, two of which have been part-time officers with us, which we have elected to promote them to full-time based upon their performance in their FTO program. And then we have a third officer who was hired directly off of our standing list as a full-time officer based upon his qualifications. So, I will ask Officer Burkenstock to please come forward.

Officer Demetrius Burkenstock grew up in the borough of Westchester with his parents, Kevin and Lola Burkenstock. Officer Burkenstock graduated from Henderson High School in 2013, later graduated from the Delaware County Community College Police Academy in December of 2020. Officer Burkenstock joined the Delaware County Park Police in April of 2021. In late 2022, he had his first daughter, Charlie Noel Burkenstock, with his girlfriend, Samantha Cross. He then joined the Eastland Police Department as a part-time officer. In late 2024, he joined the City of Coatesville

Police Department as a part-time police officer, and shortly thereafter had his second daughter, Faye Violet Burkenstock. During his free time he enjoys going to the gym, hanging out with his family, and joining the adult leagues at USTC. Officer Burkenstock hopes that in his 20-year career with the City of Coatesville Police, he will have a positive impact on the community. At this time, could I have Judge Hines come forward, and you're welcome to bring your family up.

Officer Demetrius Burkenstock was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines as his family held the Bible

Chief asked for Officer Fernandez to come to the podium, please? Officer Nicholas Fernandez grew up right outside the City of Coatesville, Navarro, Medina, his parents, Luiz and Angela Fernandez and six sisters. That's not a typo. [laughter] Well, I would think that would prepare him well for anything he's going to face here in the City of Coatesville and give him patience. But he is married to-- and I-- --Jaxeri Versailles who is his driving force to strive for excellence in his life. Officer Fernandez studied criminal justice at Central Penn College and graduated from the Delaware County Community College Police Academy at the top of his class with a 99% academic average in June of '24. Officer Fernandez was immediately employed as a deputy sheriff for the Chester County Sheriff's Office where he served for nine months. He joined the City of Coatesville Police Department as a part-time officer in October of 2024. During his free time, you can find Officer Fernandez throughout the community spending time with friends and family, attending church, or at the gym. Officer Fernandez has a genuine desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others and looks forward to being an asset to the City of Coatesville Police Department in service to the city for years to come. Judge Hines.

Officer Nicholas Fernandez was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines as his family held the Bible.

Chief asked Officer Youssi to come forward, please. Officer Kyle Youssi grew up in Southern Chester County and graduated from Oxford Area School District in 2014. In 2018, Kyle graduated from Westchester University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's of science in criminal justice. He completed a full-time internship with Westchester Borough Police in the summer of 2018 prior to attending the Delaware County Community College Municipal Police Academy. In June of 2019, Kyle graduated the Municipal Police Academy, where he was awarded the Physical Fitness Award. Kyle worked part-time at the Upland Borough Police Department briefly before accepting a full-time position at Northern York County Regional Police Department. In 2020, Kyle enlisted in the United States Army. After completing basic training, he attended Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, where he was selected to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment out of Fort Benning, Georgia. During his service, his military education included one station unit infantry training, Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, Airborne School, and Small Unit Ranger Tactics. His awards include the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon Parachuters Badge, and Expert Marksman Badge. Kyle is married to Melissa and has two young children, Jack and Payton, who are

two and six. His hobbies are physical fitness and outdoor activities with his family. He looks forward to a rewarding career serving the citizens of the City of Coatesville. Judge?

Officer Kyle Youssi was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines as his family held the Bible

Council congratulated the Full-time Officers and welcomed them to the City of Coatesville.

2. Police Department Awards and Recognition.

Chief Laufer announced that was part one of our presentations here tonight. Part two is our awards and recognition ceremony. In the past, what we've done is we've let several years go by and sort of the awards to accumulate. And it just wasn't timely. We wanted to do something that would keep them a little more timely with following a significant event that officers would receive recognition. We're trying to make it a little smaller, and that way, we can have it in front of council as opposed to a separate date that a lot of people sometimes have conflict in their schedule and can't attend. We will move through this quickly tonight. We're not going to actually present the officers with the awards, so we'll get them back downstairs. But as I announce each award and the officers who are receiving it, they'll come up front and standing to either side of me while I read the general recognition letter for what they're being honored for.

At this time, these following officers are receiving commendatory lifesaving and recognition of their fine police work in the administration of Narcan. Could I have Officer Bochanski, Bogan, Burkenstock, Detective Delligatti, Corporal Earle, Corporal Guyer, Officer Lutte, Officer Mack, Officer Marvel, Corporal McCarthy, Lieutenant Ollis, Officer Ortiz, Officer Schreiber, Corporal Snyder, Officer Thorburn, and Officer Williams. Now, some of these officers have administered Narcan more than once during their recognition period. So some of them, it's a multiple award. But since the commencement of Chester County's Project Narcan, each of you has played an important role in preventing an overdose death resulting from a community member's ingestion of an opiate. Upon arriving at a scene, you utilize your training experience on occasions in the year of 2024 to recognize the signs of an opiate overdose. You acted quickly with professionalism and calm and administered the lifesaving medication. Your commendatory actions reversed the opiate overdose and ensured a more favorable outcome. Because of your commendable efforts and the performance of your duties, you have reflected great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. A notation of commendatory commendation will appear on your official record. Thank you. [applause]

For merit, can I have Corporal Antonucci, Officer Bogan, Officer Bochanski, Officer Bruchstein, Detective Corcoran and Detective Dowds, Detective Sergeant Harris, Sergeant Ingemie, Chief Laufer, Corporal McCarthy, Detective Mollichella, Lieutenant Ollis, Officer Ortiz, Detective Thompson, Officer Williams. These are for merit. In recognition of your fine police work, you are officially commended. On February 10th, 2023, our agency received information regarding a federally wanted subject that had ties to the Coatesville area. The subject was known to have a

violent history, recently committed attempted homicide, and made threats of harming law enforcement. On February 14th, 2023, by utilizing the criminal justice systems and effective patrol, Officer Bogan located the vehicle of interest parked in the west end of the city. Detectives were notified and Lieutenant Ollis, Detective Sergeant Harris, Detective Corporal Dowds, Detective Corporal Thompson, Detective Mollichella, Detective Corcoran, Officer Bogan, Officer Bruchstein were strategically placed in various locations to conduct surveillance. The subject was observed entering the vehicle with another male subject and began to leave the area. Shortly thereafter, the subject forced the other male out of the vehicle, struck an unmarked police unit operated by Sergeant Ingemie and Corporal McCarthy and fled the scene. An attempt to stop the vehicle was unsuccessful and a pursuit commenced. Chief Laufer assumed incident command and Lieutenant Ollis, Detective Sergeant Harris, Sergeant Ingemie, Corporal McCarthy, Corporal Antonucci, Corporal Dowds, Detective Corporal Thompson, Detective Mollichella, Detective Corcoran, Officer Williams and Officer Ortiz, Officer Bochanski, and Officer Bruchstein pursued the desperate and dangerous subject that presumably would not stop and who was placing many innocent motorists and pedestrians at risk of death or serious violent injury. The pursuit spanned several miles in multiple jurisdictions coming to an end at the farmland after Detective Corcoran was able to disable the subject's vehicle by maneuvering his patrol unit in a way that brought closure to the pursuit. Because of your commendable efforts in the performance of your duties, you have reflected great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. A notation of merit accommodation will appear on your official record. Thank you. [applause]

Could I have Officer Marvill, Officer Fox, Corporal Guyer, Officer Mack, and Officer Williams? In recognition of your fine police work, you are officially commended. On January 31st, 2024, at 20:15 hours, Chester County police radio dispatched our agency to a house fire reported at 236 Charles Street. Officer Marvill was first on the scene, communicating via radio that the home was fully engulfed. After assessing the scene and learning that a disabled woman was inside the home, Officer Marvill acted courageously and without regard for his own safety, went inside, located the woman and carried her outside to safety. Upon arrival and observing the fire was spreading to additional homes, Corporal Guyer, Officer Williams, Officer Mack, and Officer Fox acted professionally and quickly to notify occupants of adjoining homes and ensuring that they were safely evacuated. All officers remained on scene assisting the fire department as needed and ensured that community members were safe and offered valuable resources. Because of your commendable efforts and the performance of your duties, we're reflecting great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. A notation of heroism and merit commendation will appear on your official record. Thank you. [applause]

Officer Kemmerle, Officer Bogan, Detective Corcoran, and Officer Fox, in recognition of your fine police work, you are officially commended. On February 2nd, 2024, at 23:30 hours, our department was requested to assist West 41 Township Police Department. An active burglary was reported, where an assault took place, a firearm was stolen, and a subject fled into a wooded area. Along with other officers from various agencies, Detective Corcoran, Officer Lutte, Officer Bogan, Officer Fox, and Officer Kemmerle responded. A skirmish line was coordinated, and the search was initiated.

During the search, the subject pointed the stolen firearm at an officer from East Fallowfield and then continued to flee in an attempt to avoid apprehension. Officer Kemmerle, without hesitation, gave chase and was able to apprehend the subject who resisted arrest. As a result of the effective coordination of the search and the courageous efforts, the dangerous subject will be held accountable for their actions. Because of your commendable efforts and the performance of your duties, you have reflected great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. A notation of bravery and merit commendation will appear on your official police record. [applause]

Corporal Davis, Officer Kemmerle, Officer Mack, Officer Schreiber, in recognition of your fine police work, you are officially commended. On August 2nd, 2024, at 19:55 hours, Chester County Police radio dispatched our agency to a home on Strode Avenue for a domestic violence incident involving aggravated assault and threats pertaining to the use of a firearm. Corporal Davis, Officer Schreiber, Officer Mack, and Officer Kemmerle responded to the scene. After receiving updated information provided by Chester County Police radio, which included the presence of a seven-year-old child in the home and several firearms available to the aggressor, the platoon efficiently and effectively coordinated their response. A perimeter was established by officers, eliminated an opportunity to escape. The female victim was instructed to exit the residence and was immediately taken to safety and interview. Traffic in the area was shut down and redirected to reduce potential injury to community members. When commands were given and ignored by the subject, Corporal Davis set up negotiation via phone. A safe home exit plan beginning with the child was established. After approximately 30 minutes of dialogue, the suspect exited the home, was taken into custody and was held accountable for his actions. The professional response and exceptional teamwork resulted in a favorable outcome. Several firearms were recovered from the scene. And the victims were offered a variety of valuable resources. Because of your commendable efforts in the performance of your duties, you will reflect a great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. A notation of merit commendation will appear on your official record. [applause]

For merit, Officer Bogan, Corporal Earle, Detective Mollichella, and Officer Thorburn. In recognition of your fine police work, you are officially commended. On August 24th, 2024, at 21:59 hours, Chester County Police Radio dispatched our agency's call involving a female subject threatening suicide at the Coatesville Train Station. Corporal Earle, Detective Mollichella, Officer Bogan, Officer Thorburn responded to the area. Upon arrival, the female subject was found standing in the middle of the railroad tracks. Amtrak was promptly contacted by Corporal Earle, ensuring that oncoming trains were paused. Employing sensitivity and compassion, Officer Bogan and Officer Thorburn spent time with family at the scene in an effort to keep them calm and to obtain valuable information that could be used to help resolve the situation. Detective Mollichella, with professionalism and a sense of care, quickly built a rapport with the emotionally distraught subject and was eventually able to convince her to leave the tracks and seek mental health services. A favorable outcome was a result of exceptional teamwork and a commitment to the well-being of others. Because of your commendable efforts in the performance of your duties, you have reflected great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. The notation of merit foundation will be under official record. [applause]

Officer Bochanski, Officer Burkenstock, Corporal Davis, Officer Mack. On December 8th, 2024, at 1602 hours, Chester County Police Radio dispatched our agency to an emotional disorder at the Marriott Hotel. Corporal Davis, Officer Bochanski, Officer Burkenstock, and Officer Mack responded to the scene. While in route, Chester County Police Radio provided an update indicating that the subject was suicidal and had a knife in his possession. Upon arrival, officers were met with the family of the subject outside of the hotel room. The subject was on a speaker phone with a family member, and he was heard stating, "Once I see the police, it would be over." Entry was made into the room and the subject had a knife in his hand and several suicide notes were located. Officers were able to quickly build rapport, acknowledge his emotional state of mind, and have him drop the knife without the use of force. The subject was taken for emotional health services by EMS responders. The favorable outcome was a result of exceptional teamwork, situational awareness, and a sense of care. Because of your commendable efforts in the performance of your duties, you reflected great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. Thank you. [applause]

For bravery, Corporal Guyer, Officer Thorburn. In recognition of fine police work, you are officially commended. On December 14th, 2024, at 04:45 hours, Chester County Police Radio dispatched our agency to assist Pennsylvania State Police with a robbery in progress call since PSP Henryville was covering South Coatesville Borough. But they didn't have a car in the immediate area. Chester County Police Radio provided updated information indicating that a male subject was being beaten and robbed by multiple males with guns. Corporal Guyer was first to respond and observe males exiting a vehicle, one of them covered in blood, presumably having been pistol whipped and screaming for help. Three other males exited and fled from the scene. Corporal Guyer commenced his foot pursuit in the 600 block of South First Avenue. And Officer Thorburn arrived and joined the pursuit. The subject was apprehended by Corporal Guyer and Officer Thorburn. A bloody handgun utilized in the assault and robbery was recovered from the suspect. Additional investigation revealed the identities of the other two males that fled from the scene, and that information was shared with the Pennsylvania State Police investigators. A favorable outcome was a result of the quick response, courageous actions, and teamwork exhibited by Corporal Guyer and Officer Thorburn. Because of your commendable efforts in the performance of your duties, you have reflected great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. A notation of bravery commendation will appear on your official police record. [applause]

And last tonight for merit, Corporal Davis, Officer Lutte, and Officer Williams. In recognition of your fine police work, you are officially commended. On December 28th, 2024, at 0150 hours, Chester County Police Radio dispatched Southern Chester County Regional Police Department to a burglary at a vape shop. Corporal Davis, Officer Lutte, and Officer Williams were on duty and heard the broadcast. Being familiar with recent burglaries of several vape shops, various local suspect identifications, and the use of stolen vehicles out of the Coatesville area or left in Coatesville, they used their knowledge, intuition, and criminal justice systems to assist in the apprehension of the suspects. Information was received that the vehicle used in the commission of the burglary was a blue Hyundai Sonata. Officers strategically set up in multiple locations awaiting a possible entry into

the City of Coatesville. Once the vehicle was spotted, an attempt to conduct a traffic stop was initiated, but the vehicle failed to stop and avoided apprehension by increasing speed and making evasive maneuvers. The operator lost control of the vehicle and crashed. The four occupants attempted to flee on foot. Three were immediately apprehended. The fourth occupant escaped apprehension but was later identified and charged. A favorable outcome was a result of exceptional teamwork, situational awareness, and a commitment to the community they serve. Because of your commendable efforts in the performance of your duties, you have reflected great credit on the entire police department and the City of Coatesville. A notation of mayor commendation will appear on your official record. Thank you, gentlemen. [applause]

I thank everyone for their time here tonight. I know we kind of maybe speed-read through a lot of that, but these are just some of the incidents. The City of Coatesville Police Department is recognized in Chester County as one of the busiest departments in the county. You can hear us on the radio every night, just the amount of radio traffic that is generated by a 911 call center for one-sixth units, which are Coatesville units is really unbelievable. And these are only some of the incidents that were put forward for recognition. These officers pretty much routinely every shift are doing something that in a lot of other police departments would be recognized at their award ceremony. But it's because our guys do it day in and day out that some of those smaller calls go-- well, I won't say go unnoticed. They may go unrecognized at the awards ceremony, but they don't go unnoticed by the police department and I think by the citizens of Coatesville also. The council, I think you can be very proud of your police department.

Mr. Logan stated before you leave. I just want to, again, just add a comment. A lot of times, our residents, some of the stakeholders in this community investors, they don't know the level of protection and safety that you all provide. And I just want to say, as the city manager here, I've worked with you, Chief, for six and a half years now, there are just some amazing things in terms of your leadership, what you have been able to do with the City of Coatesville. And I think your leadership is absorbed and it's transferred into these young men and women that you command, if you will. And what's important to me is that they always say that a leader is someone who empowers others to lead. And I think, Chief, you are certainly the epitome of that. We see what the officers on all levels-- they're not only doing their work in this community, but they're also making friends, making connections, building the trust in this community, which I think is important. Especially when you look at all of the things that are happening today in this world, I think we should be grateful for the service that you guys provide. Thank you.

### 3. PennDOT Train Station

I'm Angela Watson. I've spoken with you in the past. I'm the director for the Bureau of Rail, Freight, Ports & Waterways at PennDOT, and I'm based out of Harrisburg Central Office. And with me is Pat Gardner from Michael Baker International. And they are the construction managers for the Coatesville station. And we wanted to just provide you an update of the project, including some traffic detours that are associated with our construction, and to answer any questions that you have today. So I'm going to actually pass it over to Pat, who will do most of the talking, but I'm here to

help with any answers or anything to take back to my office. So I'll just go ahead and let Pat run the show here.

Mr. Gardiner wished everyone a good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here. We're going to talk about the current construction status and the detours. We'll get the work and the detours first. There's a lot of activity going on in the area right now, and we're looking at the red area here between Harlan and Third. And we're doing a daytime one-lane traffic from 7:00 till 3:30, and that will go through March and April. And also, the orange area between Harlan and a little bit past Fourth Avenue, we're going to build retaining walls along here. And our original plan was made through June, but we're trying to see what we can do to expedite and get extra work in here to expedite the construction as much as possible. So this is generally what we're looking at. In each one of these detours, I'm going to show you the construction activity going on. Again, here, we're from Fleetwood on Third Avenue going down around the corner and up to Harlan. This is temporarily closed. We're going to be doing some work in here for one lane with [flyers?]. And basically, this is the work that's going on right now. Where I have sheet piles driven in here, we're putting foundation matting in. We're going to pour concrete on top of that and get these retaining walls to hold the track up and provide a safe area for the platforms. And as you can see, we have fencing and a temporary barrier here at Coates and Third Avenue is right down here at the bottom. And we're coming up the hills towards Harlan. So seeing the detour and seeing the work lets you know that to do this work, it certainly wouldn't be a safe environment to try to have two-way traffic going on when this is occurring. And then we have temporary closure from Harlan to a little bit past Fourth Avenue. We're looking down to extend May through June. And basically, this is going to be here. And we're going to be putting concrete retaining walls in on the other side of the tracks, and we have heavy foundations to hold everything up. And then the platforms are going to be up here. So again, this is the area in-- we had caissons put in underneath all this to-- extra strong foundations holding everything up.

So here, we're going to move forward to progression of the work so we can show a little bit of progress for those who haven't been able to see the activities out on site. Again, as we're talking, we have these temporary retaining walls in, and we're digging out the footers, the excavations on Coates Street. Here, we're putting block walls. You can see that the wall's coming up where-- this will be on the south side close to Fourth. This is where we're going to have the elevator tower and stairways to get up to the platform. And we have bricklayers here laying the brick so we can get the rest of the structure in place. Again, here's the progress about a week later. And we see the scaffold up, and we have walls coming out. These are the retaining walls I was talking about that we're going to be building on the north side, and while all the walls are complete, the only thing we need to do is stairways here. But we got a lot of work going on for the stair tower here. And here's a view looking towards the east of that, so a lot of progress happening in this area.

Now, here's Coates rated fourth. And we're drilling caissons in here to provide anchorage for the foundations. And these are a three-foot diameter concrete, I'm going to say heavy feet. They're probably 40 feet down is the typical depth. So these are very, very strong foundations to hold the



track up. And then we have the temporary shoring here. And this is where we're going to be putting the platforms. It's going to be the front place of platform. And if we look across the track, these green pipes are actually foundations holding up the front face. And you can see them over here where we have the platforms on the south side of the track. So we're trying to progress the work here on the north side for this. This was the framing for those concrete beams to hold the platforms up. And here you can see the finished beam on the foundation. And we're welding on-- this is called a whaler to provide extra support. And we're going to have racing on this as we dig the earth down to build the actual foundation. We need temporary supports to hold this up to make sure that the pressures from the train don't push the metal out. So it's very stable and we need to make sure that we're providing structural integrity for all the work that we're doing.

And again, as we have this spokes excavated here, getting ready for putting the foundations in, this is-- Fourth Avenue is right here around the corner. And we're going to be putting the bracing. We're going to put some anchor blocks down here and bracing have to hold this up while we excavate and put those foundations in. And we've had problems with, let's say, the drainage at Third and down the coast. And we did some additional storm cleaning. And this was done probably about 10 days ago. And we're looking at realigning the pipes for a part of the area and possibly replacing the pipe down under the track. We were planning to come all the way up and replace the entire piping, but the impact of having the road closed is very deep at this point. The trench would need to be 16 to 18 feet deep to replace the pipe. And there's no way to have alternate traffic going by an excavation at deep. But we're looking to see what we can do to align the pipes to, let's say, reinvigorate the pipes for another 50 years of life and then tie that in with new pipe down by the trap to improve the drainage prominence right there because we don't want to open up a station and have all those other problems that would be associated with some drainage issues.

So upcoming construction activities as we want to complete the south stairways and the south elevator towers. And we're going to put canopies on the platform. So they'll be coming up here in the near future. On the north side, we're going to be excavating for the foundations with the hill blocks and rakers providing that support and then the actual foundations on the north side. And I know that we've had a lot of coordination with the city regarding the condition of Coates Street. And we're anticipating that that being in the fall after we're completed with the work on the north side and likewise, maybe at Third Avenue from Coates up to Fleetwood for that one area that didn't get done with previous work. So if anybody has any questions, we'll be happy to address them.

President Lavender Norris asked and made a comment at the same time. We were having train station meetings monthly in person. And I don't think we've had one since Jen Granger was there. Is there a possibility for us to come together for an in-person update meeting? Ms. Watson replied yeah. Yeah. I mean, we could certainly do that. I think, now that we've moved into construction, we felt that there probably wasn't a lot of information to get together in person to talk through the construction activities. But if there is interest in an in-person meeting, I can certainly discuss that with our deputy secretary and others that would be part of that. President Lavender Norris said I think that would be awesome. Ms. Watson said okay. So is there an interest in discussing more than

the station, or I guess, maybe we can talk about what agenda items we could include? President Lavender Norris replied the station and other items. Ms. Watson said okay. All right. I'll take that back, and I'll reach out to James to discuss that further. President Lavender Norris thanked Ms. Watson. [inaudible].

Ms. Allen asked if it was possible for us to go and see, in person, the work progress, the work site. We haven't seen it, really-- --construction site upfront in over a year. Mr. Logan asked Ms. Watson to address that in terms of having visitors on an active construction site. Ms. Allen said I'm sorry. I didn't mean tomorrow or next week, but in the future, will we be able-- because we did before, we went toward it and stuff. So, I was just curious as to is there going to be another time where we would be able to visit to see the progress? Ms. Watson replied yeah, we can consider that. I think we'll have to time it appropriately so that we're not, obviously, in danger or in the way of the contractors. But I can talk more with Pat and his team to see if sometime in the future would be most appropriate, when there's not so much activity prior to it being fully complete. Maybe we can maybe match that up with an in-person meeting. Maybe we can do kind of both at the same time. Ms. Allen said I mean, because I see the progress in here, and it's wonderful. I used to be an avid train rider on the train station. I just would like to see it to see-- because I was affected when the train station closed over almost 30 years ago now. I was just like to see it. Ms. Watson said yeah. Maybe later in the nice weather, when it's not too hot out. But we have some nicer weather in the next few months, and we have a nice time window where we won't be in the way. And maybe we can do that as well, an in-person meeting there at the city hall. So I'll work with James on that to see how that can work. President Lavender Norris said I pretty much drive by that area every day, and I just want to say you're making great progress and it's extremely exciting to see you come to fruition. That's why I want to see it.

Mr. Logan asked Angela or Pat, has anything changed in terms of the projected completion date? Mr. Gardiner explained we're still scheduled for the completion date for early next year. Ms. Watson said yeah. We're working with the contractor to try to expedite a few items to keep us on schedule. So that's always a challenge with a large project like this, but we are continuing to work with them on that. Mr. Gardiner said and the other thing I wanted to thank for the opportunity of working with James and the borough team. They've been very cooperative and helpful in expediting the work. Sometimes, things pop up and were unanticipated, but we've worked through different issues and we just want to say thank you for your cooperation and help in all the activities and then the detours going on. So thank you so much. Ms. Watson said yeah. It's a great partnership, so it really does help move things along. So yeah, thanks for bringing that up, Pat. Mr. Logan said thank you, guys. We look forward to the ribbon cutting in 2026. Ms. Allen said so, James, I have a question for you about the transition, except that is going to come. Have we gotten their partner to talk since [inaudible] that they will come to Coatesville? Mr. Logan said we haven't gotten as far into the discussion yet. But there is a plan for them to restore service, but it's not there yet [crosstalk].

4. Planning Commission Annual Review – Bill Shaw, Chair

Mr. Shaw thanked Council for having him tonight, Ms. Lavender Norris, and each of the members of the council. Thank you for the opportunity to just fill you in on what's occurring with the Planning Commission. I believe you've received the written report in a packet and hopefully had a chance to review that. I would like to take any questions you might have about that report, as well as any of the activities, any of our planning activities, anything that might be of interest to you while I'm here and have occasion to speak. And I would mention that I'm here on behalf of the commission, which is composed of four other members, including myself. A total of five wonderful citizens that you've all appointed. And they are wonderful members of the commission. And one more point before I ask or take any questions.

I would just point out my own personal observation is that, and you've probably seen it yourself, that the city administration has done a very good job of improving their processes and their ability to accomplish things throughout 2024 and into 2025. I've witnessed that as a member not only of the community, but as a planning commission member. And so I just think that they deserve some recognition that I know is important to hear when you're doing the kind of hard work that Planning Commission is. And I would especially point out someone who's not here tonight, is Stacia James, who has taken the initiative to also get specific training on planning and then to put that effort into practice as she's been helping us as a support to the commission. I think there's some great progress happening internally. And just like that train station, I think you'll see the external progress as these things continue to come along. So that's my personal observation. Thank you. President Lavender Norris thanked Mr. Shaw his service. You and your partners, much appreciated. Mr. Shaw commented I'm glad to take that back to them. Thank you. Appreciate all of your assistance.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Street Dedications, Proclamations, and Letters of Recognition**

Mr. Logan explained a couple of years ago, council had asked me to create a guideline for proclamations and letters of recognition. And what I did was I kind of did a little research on other municipalities and townships and kind of the copied a little bit of each of them and put together what you all see on the second or third page that's listed on the proclamations and letters of recognition. There is a difference between a proclamation and a letter of recognition. And I'll just read the first two lines. Proclamations, they are a ceremonial document signed by the city manager and the city council president can issue four. And then there's six bullets after that, things from public awareness, special events, charitable fundraising campaigns, arts and cultural celebrations, special honors, recommendation of the city council and state management. So we already have a kind of a guideline, if you will, of proclamation and letters. And the letter recommendation are welcome or congratulations that are reserved to celebrate community achievements, contributions by residents, youth, stakeholders, investors, if you like, birthday celebrations and milestones, special events, recreational events, and conferences. Once again, these are letters of recommendation.

Because we tend to get an influx of requests for proclamations, letter of certifications, or letters of recognition. We should be going to what the guidelines are. The new item that's been popular lately are requests for street dedications. We continue to get requests for street dedications and renaming of

streets. The renaming of streets is a little bit more difficult than a street dedication, whereas a street dedication is affixing a person, an organization, or something above an existing street sign, it's not renaming the street. It is exactly what it says, streets dedicated to an individual or an organization. It is not easy to rename and establish for an existing street that has been approved by a governing body or entity. Street dedication signs are affixed as an addition to the street name sign. So just to kind of give you an idea of what the street dedication sign should represent, it's honoring the deceased. Streets are sometimes named after individuals who have made significant contributions to the community or have otherwise left a lasting legacy. Commemorating historical figures, streets can be renamed, or I should say to commemorate a person who lived or worked in the area or to associate a prominent street with an admired historical figure.

And the last, a community identity, street names, street dedication can reflect the values and history of place and the naming of streets or dedication of streets, in this case, after residents, and foster a sense of community [inaudible]. So those are some of the reasons or suggested dialogues on why street dedication should be considered. I bring this up again because lately, we've seen a lot of street dedications, and it's going to come down to council members to decide how we follow these guidelines. We don't have any wiggle room. My suggestion or recommendation is if these guidelines are acceptable or if you want to add something to them, please feel free to send me an email with additional comments or recommendations. We try to stay within the framework of what's allowable. Sometimes there's some legal kind of attachments to things like this. But in short, guidelines for the street dedication is on the opposite page, page two there. That's kind of the breakdown of it. Do we have a question on that?

President Lavender Norris stated so, my thought is renaming the streets should be relegated to the local government decision when we deem it necessary. Street dedications are different because they're not changing the name, if you will. But even with regard to that, I don't want to get into a position where we're just dedicating street after streets to the extent that it lessens the value and meaning of dedications. We don't want to just haphazardly dedicate a street. Just, "Oh, they had a basketball team for three years in the Summer League. They deserve a dedication." No, no, no. It has to have more meat on that bone. You know what I mean? [crosstalk]. I just think we should really look at that and be mindful. Even with regard to how many-- I think I was reading something that said we could only do a certain number within a year. I think that all works together. Ms. Allen stated I think that they should be-- the person who we're actually to be dedicating that street to be significant in their contribution to the City.

President Lavender Norris said correct. We don't want them to just put their name on there. Ms. Allen agreed. I think the proclamations and letters of rec, we can, you know what I mean, [inaudible] them down. Yeah, I think we should go over it a little finer-- --because just heavily saying, "Oh, yeah, sure," like [inaudible] said, it takes the value away from things. It doesn't make it special. And we want to continue to be able to make things special and make people feel like this is something good to have, not just, "Oh, yeah, I got that." So, I do agree, and I just would like to have a chance to go over it and talk with you about some of the changes that I would want to make. Ms. Scamuffa said

and for me, [inaudible], short one or two sets of paragraphs, I think, it needs to be, like you said, a little beefier because I mean, I'd like to have a street-dedicated [inaudible] member that, I think, would be worthy of it. Second paragraph is why I think they should. And what they put into the city. So, I do agree with President Lavender Norris. It needs to be a little beefier as far as putting one of those together.

Mrs. Hunt replied I do have an opinion on it, but I want to be very careful in how I say things because I don't want to seem like I'm being partial in the fact that, of course, my husband was the last street that was dedicated. But I just feel that I think it goes back - I'm not sure if James said it or Linda - that it's more than just saying, "Okay. I have a business in the city. I've had a business in the city for however long." But in having that business in the city, what did your business contribute to the community? Yes, I put a team in the Little League and things like that, but how much of that was really from you? And I think it goes way more than just saying, "Because I did this," or, "Because I did that." There has to be some legacy that goes with it. And so I'm not opposed to listening to what anyone say because everybody feels the way they feel about their family member and why they would want to have a street dedication, a conservation, a letter of recognition, but I just think everything has value. And a personal value to me may not be acceptable for the whole community. So I just think when we start getting into things like this, the person that we want to recognize need to have had impact on the community. Not just in the area that they live, but the community as a whole. So that's my opinion on it. I think maybe we need to have more conversation and even put a few more parameters in there to make sure that we're doing the right thing and that we just don't write down Lincoln Highway or West End and we say, "Charrisse Street, Linda Street, and Theresa Street." Mr. Logan thanked Council for their feedback.

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

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

Ms. Turner-Green motioned to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion for a Resolution supporting the filing of a grant application with the Chester County Department of Community Development, for 2025-2026 Chester County Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds, City of Coatesville consisting of the Citywide Stormwater Inlets and ADA Ramps Replacement Project.

Ms. Allen motioned to approve a Resolution supporting the filing of a grant application with the Chester County Department of Community Development, for 2025-2026 Chester County Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds, City of Coatesville consisting of the Citywide Stormwater Inlets and ADA Ramps Replacement Project; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Receive three-year contract agreement renewal for Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer Services from LTL Consultants, LTD

Ms. Turner-Green motioned to approve a three-year contract agreement renewal for Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer Services from LTL Consultants, LTD; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1. Ms. Allen abstained from the vote.

Ms. Cosentino explained we've been working with LTL for six years now. This contract will extend that work for another three years. As described in the letter that you see, there will be a small increase in their fees over the next three years. It's 3% in the first year, and then 2% and 1%. It is in line with what our expected rate changes were for the fee schedule. So there's no surprises here. This is what we had discussed. Our current contract does end in April. Ms. Allen asked did we look at any other companies besides them or we just stick with them for six years? Mr. Logan replied well, I'll answer that. I don't have any reason to look at another company. LTL has worked here for six years. I think they're one of the best, at least, in the city or in the region. We have looked at other companies that provide maybe some of the services at LTL. But they are a full-service company providing not only commercial inspections but also residential, and they have the other services and zoning. So over the years, we've added a little bit more to the outer park, if you will. And I just think that right now, they're the best, and I don't see any reason why we should change them. We negotiate rates with them. They understand what our particular growth objectives are. So we communicate with them really well. This increase here, as Roberta mentioned, kind of falls in line with all of the projections we have and changes that may need to be scheduled. Ms. Allen stated I wasn't concerned about that. I was just concerned about other things with them, but. Okay. Mr. Logan stated we haven't had complaints in terms of their deliverables or anything like that. Ms. Allen explained her concern is more or less with-- but I guess what I'm talking about is actually with the Codes department and going through changes they had to go through and things weren't being done. If we were in partnership with them or if they were working for us, they should've been able to pick up some of that or do some of that work that the Coates wasn't able to do or get done. So that was why I asked. Mr. Logan explained the goal-- or my objective has always been to eventually wean them off with a lot of projects that we're working on. So as we are staffing up our own department, the future, we'd be lessening their services. So that, we'll do a lot of in-house. We might have to use third parties sporadically.

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to close action items; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

## Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege to report to the council. Since the council's last meeting, I continued to work with outside counsel regarding land development matters; worked on condemnation matters; worked on the citation matter; provided an opinion regarding PECO tree work; provided prior HBO contracts to city management; reviewed and analyzed certain opioid information; continued to work with the city and Cleveland-Cliffs attorney to get closer to the closing on the Maple Avenue parcels; provided an opinion regarding the civil

service regulations; provided a sample ordinance regarding traffic cones obstructing parking spaces; provided an opinion regarding Regency Apartment; communicated with Andrew Meers today regarding Ash Park; and communicated and continue to communicate with Mr. Hatchett regarding certain litigation matters. That is my report unless there are any questions.

## 2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced he provided personnel and real estate updates to the council and executive for the public meeting. We continue to work with PennDOT on the [inaudible] project. This is the project that will include parts of Second all the way to Fourth Avenue. We're in the process and design phase for Second and Third at this particular time. We are in the early stages of design right now with JMT, is also the company that's providing services for the Ash Park project. The process has taken a little bit longer than we anticipated due to cost estimates and funding, but we feel that we will get back on track and start seeing the actual approval a little bit later this year and the actual construction in 2026. I was contacted by Remington & Vernick Engineers to approve the final design for the crosswalk located in PennDOT right of way. This is the crosswalk that's right in front of [inaudible]. A lot of folks don't really pay attention to the sign that's there. So PennDOT has contracted Remington & Vernick to install not only signals for that area, but it's going to be a raised type of crosswalk, if you will. Not very high. I have to kind of slow people down. And that's going to be taking place by spring of 2026- [It's?] 2025.

Ms. Allen asked Is that crosswalk there because of the geriatric home across the street, the [inaudible] place? Why is that crosswalk there? Mr. Logan replied that I don't know. I don't know why that crosswalk is in that specific location. Ms. Allen asked okay. I mean, I'm just like, why put a bump right there in the middle of town? Can we find out why that's there first before we can decide? Mr. Logan said well, the bump is there for safety. So it's designed to identify-- now, we now identify there's a crosswalk here, where it provides [inaudible]. Ms. Allen said okay. We have a light at Fourth, a light at Third. We have a crosswalk right in the middle. So there is little bump is going to go there. I just want to know [inaudible] first before I go back in and put the bump there. And then when traffic-- I mean, when people walk across it, it's-- I mean, yeah, can we find out why it's there first? Mr. Logan said well, I would imagine that part of the reason why it's there is because of the number of people in the senior building that go across arriving to get their medication. Ms. Allen explained there's a senior building down the street. There's no crosswalk there, so. Ms. Scamuffa said they're not on the main thoroughfare. [crosstalk]-- Mr. Logan said right. I will do some research and find out. I'm sure it's in the ordinance somewhere that we can find out. Ms. Allen explained because if we want-- honestly, if we gone put one there for them-- it's a pharmacy across the street. I don't know if it's still open, but it's a small one. But if we have one there specifically for them, for City Clock, we need to have one. For the other place, we need the city plan because it's not fair that you all got a crosswalk. We didn't have a crosswalk. And we walk across the street.

Ms. Cosentino explained I'm not an expert in mid-block crosswalks, but I do know that mid-block crosswalks are fairly common, especially in urban areas where people can cross the street randomly. Typically, when they do them, there's been some sort of pedestrian study, a traffic and pedestrian

study to determine where they should be. And this is a PennDOT Road, so the city doesn't decide. Never did. It would have been PennDOT that decided where it should be. Ms. Allen asked so we will talk to PennDOT? I don't mind talking to PennDOT and finding out why. Because I think, for me, it's only fair. If we have what they call a senior building right there and it's in the middle of the block, just like City Clock apartments, it's in the middle. And if we're going to have one crosswalk for this senior living, we need to have it for that one. Ms. Turner-Green said and not just senior living. I think further up is a lot more traffic going across---the streets because there's so many businesses on either side. So that's a good [crosstalk]. Maybe they should do another study. Ms. Allen suggested we have it, too, because if we're projecting our city to grow and we get more businesses, that's going to come down to effect soon anyway because there's going to be more traffic. And right now, especially with the grocery store, like she was just saying, they parked across the street and go to the grocery store. And there's business is on the other side of the street. We got the nail shop over there, the furniture store, the Texas Treats is over there where those people who live in that senior living can go across the street. So they got to walk to the corner of third to go there. When the people, the people that asked you to do them, they just kind of [inaudible], so I think we need to look into that. Mr. Logan said I will ask them what is the reason we put the crosswalk there. Ms. Allen said thank you.

Ms. Scamuffa questioned It's going to be raised. We are going to have seniors crossing the highway. On a raised bump in the middle of the road. Who is going to be liable for when somebody suddenly slips off of that? Mr. Logan said I have the designs for the-- when I say raised, it's not a speed bump or anything. Slightly raised. And I'll be more than happy to share what the construction plans look like. But there's a reason why they raised it, and it's a lift of the sidewalk. It's not like a little plank or anything like that. It's wide enough for—walkers. Ms. Scamuffa said right. Right. But nobody walks where they're supposed to walk anyway. They walk off to the side, especially when you're senior or you have that disability--[crosstalk]. --sometimes you may-- I just want to make sure that the city's not going to be liable for that, whether it's this big or this big. Ms. Allen said -raised bumps across the yellow stripes. Probably, it's going to be them who'll raise the bumps across those stripes. Probably won't be too much. [inaudible] when they go across [inaudible]. Mr. Logan said he'd be more than happy to get the information for you all. Ms. Scamuffa said that'd be lovely.

Mr. Logan continued on - I'm still on the Managers Report - after a recent review of the 2021 parking study sponsored by the Coatesville RDA, I'd like to begin planning for the road change of MLK from a two-way vehicle lane to a one-way vehicle lane going in the eastbound direction. This particular parking study was done to identify some of our assets. It was revealed that if we change that to a one-way, we can add additional parking spaces for both residents and businesses on MLK. Talked to the police department and the fire department. And it would mean of areas to them because they are fire and police, so they can down to a one-way street [inaudible] at once. Ms. Allen said yeah, but I can't. Mr. Logan replied no, you can't. So again, we'll be looking at that and at some point, figure out the best time to make that change based on the [inaudible]. Ms. Allen asked how would that work for the senior center? Would they have to change? Mr. Logan replied I'm sure they would. Yeah.



Mr. Logan announced we have a follow-up meeting, or we had a follow-up meeting with DelCo for a-- we met with them in reference to the TRACE program. I mentioned that to you a couple of meetings ago. The representatives from DelCo, they have gone out, and they look for three sites. And they're going to be narrowing down the selections of the sites you actually host the trades workshop. They're looking to launch in August of this year. We're very excited about that partnership. Last Friday and over the weekend, Lincoln University, of the Sean Park Foundation and MCDC and the City of Coatesville collaborated to host a two-day wealth management workshop. It was sold out at 25 seats. The turnout and individuals that participated in the management training and probably received some great information to help them with their future goals and objectives helping them [inaudible] Lincoln University would like to return to the City of Coatesville in November for another workshop. And we would be happy to work with them on that. And then the last item is, the city continues to monitor the new trash receptacle changes and removal on Lincoln Highway. I think we're seeing some positive returns from that. There are still some individuals who would like for us to put a can back here or there, but I would just say allow us to continue with this pilot to see what the results are. And I don't know if you guys were out about last week, but I drove up and down the highway a couple days in a row. And I have to say I've never seen it as clean as I saw it last week, so.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino announced I wanted to provide you with a quick update on the PA-American Charles Street Water Main project. I know we've had council members as well as residents reach out to us about this specific project. This information is coming from our city engineers. There's a 16-inch water main installation that is continuing in the 300 block of Charles Street, just east of Cove Avenue heading east towards Strode Avenue. Work will continue down Charles Street and across Strode Avenue, which will tie into the new main that was installed previously on Charles Street. Work will then continue from the intersection of Charles Street and South Church Street across Lincoln Highway and then finish at the top of North Church Street. The crew will be installing a water main access both at Strode Avenue and Charles Street. And the work is being coordinated with PennDOT. And they'll be using daily lane closures and flagging operations. We do not yet have an exact date for what the timeline will be, but we will post it to our website as soon as we do have that timeline. So just keep that in mind. That is the main project that's going on over there.

Another major project of ours is Ash Park, of course. That bid package will be public as of next week. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be here in this room on April 22nd, and bids will be due on May 12th. So that project is moving along. Also, a couple of other updates. Rental licenses are due no later than March 31st. That is coming up next week. If those are not in or paid for, there will be late fees applied. Also, similarly, on April 1st business privilege licenses are due. Folks will be getting letters about that as well. And there is a grace period, but they do start as of April 1st. Also, I wanted to let you know that Public Works is officially starting the street sweeper schedule as of April 1st. You've probably seen it out here and there already, but they will be on schedule as of April 1st. Also, on Saturday, March 29th, 2nd Century Alliance is leading a litter cleanup throughout the city. I would encourage everyone to please go to their website and sign up. It's going to be a great turnout. Hopefully, it's going to be beautiful weather. And like I say, in the springtime, there's really nothing

better that you can do as a cleanup in your community because you get to see the benefits of that right away. And even though Lincoln Highway has been looking good, we do have side streets that are not looking so good.

We have spring cleanouts happening. We have people moving, lots of mattresses out. We really need to get into the side streets, get into the alleyways, and do some cleanup. Our trash company at Public Works can't do it alone. Every little bit of help is great. So that'll be Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 AM. Also, since one of our action items tonight was the CRP grant-- very excited. We are applying for a significant amount of dollars to address stormwater infrastructure in the city. That will be a major change for us in the coming year. We're hoping that that funding comes through and we'll be able to do some very significant projects for stormwater.

I did attend a PennDOT transportation update hosted by TMAcc. It was actually really helpful. Angela Watson was there as well as a couple of others from PennDOT. There's a lot of projects being planned in this area, especially around transportation, public transportation, and the train network. I'd highly recommend kind of looking at what's being planned in our area and in our region. In the next 10 to 15 years, we'll be seeing a lot of changes that are really exciting. Coatesville is just the beginning, but it will kind of impact the regions more west of us. And also, there's going to be an update in downtown as well. It's going to be a really great thing for Coatesville overall. And there was discussion about SEPTA as well. It's a really great question. More updates to come, I'm sure, but it is on everyone's radar to get set up back into the city. That's it. That's my report.

#### 4. Finance Department

Mrs. Arthur wished everyone a good evening, council. I would like to give you a few updates from the Finance Department. I would like to start with the solid waste. A little over a week ago, the unpaid solid waste was turned over to our collection firm after holding it here in the city for a couple of months. The number of properties that took advantage of this was down some from the average of previous years. That also coincides with the amount turned over by Keystone at the end of the year being down slightly from previous years. Overall, if you look at from the time the city started this process of allowing homeowners to come pay at the city before the collection process, the amount of properties going to collections has dropped by almost 20%. This effort has saved homeowners a lot in collection fees. I also want to remind homeowners that the discount period for this year's taxes is approaching fast with the last day of being able to receive the discount on March 31st. On April 1st, the taxes will be at face value until May 31st. After that, the penalties will be added. So I would like to encourage homeowners to please try and take advantage of the discount period. I also wanted to update you and let you know that the auditors have started the '24 audit earlier this month. Everything looks to be running smoothly with no changes so far. For '25, it is a little early in the year to get a great sense of where we are regarding the financials, so I will be providing the circle square report that everyone loves to you in the very near future. That will conclude my report for you.

#### 5. Fire Department

Chief Huf addressed Madam President, members of city council, thanks for the opportunity to give a report. You should have received a written report in your packet. Again, this is an overview of what the fire department types of calls and the number of calls that we responded to for the month of February. One of the highlights I would show is the amount of emergency medical service calls that we are handling. Kind of unique to the City of Coatesville is all the fire personnel are trained as EMTs, which is a bonus as the amount of EMS calls has risen and the return time from the hospital has increased. The fire department has been able to plug those gaps and be able to provide the services to the citizens here. So it's working out very well. We did have a few calls outside of town, which we call mutual aid. We responded about four times outside. The one highlight was to Sadsbury Township, and that was a rather large house. It was actually almost a complete loss. But our fire department personnel were there assisting as well. If anybody has any questions with the report at any time, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Also, I'd like to highlight the fact that we did have a major fire on Friday over on New Street. I'm proud to say that there were no injuries, that all the civilians were able to get out of the dwellings. There were three houses that were actually involved. One is a major fire location and then it extended in both directions.

One of the biggest challenges of a fire department is when there are no firewalls or fire breaks between buildings. And I'm being told as a new member here that that's probably one of the most difficult blocks to fight fire in the city. So when you get up into the cockloft or the attic, you can go all the way down the block. So I'm very proud of what my members did with being able to execute stops in both directions, and we were able to hold it to the three homes. We did have power lines that the fire burned through and live wires dropped into the rear alley, so we have a lot of obstacles that were handled. The mutual aid that came from outside of town, as I'm learning, has been very beneficial. Everybody works very well together. So again, there was no fire injuries, there were no civilian injuries, and we're able to put a stop to the fire. The fire is under investigation with the Chester County Fire Marshal's Office, and I'm sure that there'll be a report forthcoming pretty soon.

Ms. Allen stated the fire was on First Avenue, not New Street. Was the hydrant that you probably tapped into [inaudible] First Avenue. And were the residents, they got hooked up with the Red Cross? Chief Huf replied that's correct. The Red Cross, we notified right away. They came out. I did talk to one of the family members from the actual fire building today. They came into City Hall and she said that the Red Cross has been very helpful in helping them get situated. So that process has worked as well. Ms. Allen said And those wires that came down, that's PECO that has to come out and fix that? Was that a PECO wire, cable wire, [crosstalk]? Chief Huf explained Oh, that? That was electric, so the actual wires that supply the electricity or energy to the home. So as the fire came out, it impinged on the wires and bumped through them, and they dropped. So when they dropped down the alley where it connects back to the system, obviously, they're live wires. So PECO was notified right away. They made a quick response, and they were able to secure the electric in all those dwellings there, as well as the gas to the properties.

Ms. Allen asked I just have one more question. All the trees and stuff back there on top of that wall, does that play a part in being able to get to the properties, or more of a fire hazard for the back of

those homes? Chief Huf explained not for what we encountered. So the biggest thing, the obstacles for us would be wires that are in the way for the aerial devices to go up, which the guys were able to maneuver between those lines that were running across that rear alley. The front is a challenge in itself with the high elevation on the steps. So the ladders from the joining communities were placed up in the front to access the roof there. Trees, if there was a tree in the way, in the backup on that hill, wouldn't have affected any of our operations. No. And it wasn't very cold, thank God, so we didn't have to worry about anything freezing up.

President Lavender Norris asked with regard to the firewall situation, I know we can't tear down and rebuild. I know that's not an answer. But like you said, up in the crawl space area where you could see all the way through, is it possible that we can require when and if they want to rent one of those houses out, can we require that they put a firewall up in that crawl space area prior to renting it out again, renting those places out? Chief Huf said the solicitor would have a better answer for that and maybe have to research. My understanding in my past experience is that we can't mandate anything that was up to code at the time of construction. I don't know for sure of the others that were built in the 1920s when there was very little code available. So there are some different state statutes that were enacted. One was the 1964 Fire Act that kind of protected property owners from somebody coming in many years later and forcing these updates to that. Now, the only time that that can happen, and again, I'm not overly familiar with the code here yet, is when renovations occur. So if there's major renovations, that's the time normally that the updated enhanced fire codes can be added and enforced, but not arbitrarily to just the residence. President Lavender Norris said we really just need to sell them on, "This is to your benefit. This is for your good more than it is ours." You know what I mean? --the houses that were damaged, they're going to need to come to the city to get a permit to fix those houses up, right? So when that happens, can we have some language that says, "This is what needs to be done. You need firewalls." Can we do that? Chief Huf replied I think we can. Ms. Cosentino said we can certainly be prepared to have a conversation and use the resources available.

Chief Huf said I will tell you, to comfort you a little bit, is that the members of the fire department, there's a lot of experience, and they knew exactly what the challenge posed to them was with the fire being there and advised me. Again, being new, I wouldn't have been aware of that. So they know exactly where these locations are, and that changes our tactics. So we were aggressive to that to keep that to just the three homes. Ms. Allen said and that's how a lot of the homes are probably within the city limits. Chief Huf said It's not that uncommon with the older homes, to be honest with you. Ms. Allen said we have a lot of older homes. So most of them are-- they don't have firewalls.

Ms. Scamuffa thanked the Chief, first, for the report-- --it was wonderful to have it in the packet. So thank you for that. And more importantly, for the job well done over there, the fact that there were no injuries. Because the fire was really ugly, and there were no injuries to any of the residents nor any of the emergency responders. And I heard quite a few of the people that were there commenting as to how friendly and helpful the guys were with and to them. So again, thank you for the [crosstalk]-- Chief Huf said you're welcome. And we instill that. I mean, to me, the citizens of Coatesville are our

customers. So it's a customer-based service. That was initiated many years ago by a famous chief out in Arizona, Phoenix to be precise. And it has worked well. It's very well received by the citizens, yeah, around here, yeah, that we do that. Ms. Scamuffa said you implement it really well. So job very well done.

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

There were no comments on citizens hearings on non-agenda items.

Ms. Allen motioned to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. Good to be on the call and talk with everyone. Congratulations to all of our officers and their positions. And have a good night.

Ms. Turner Green congratulated the officers tonight, as well as just a huge thank you to our police department and the work they do also to the fire department and the work that they do, and the really wonderful leadership that they have that we have in place here. Thank you to, of course, the city staff. You guys are always amazing to my colleagues. Everyone, gave a good evening and be safe.

Ms. Allen thanked the Police Department because I've been having trouble on my block, and I've been calling them, especially Ollis. He's like, "Listen, call this number. Stop calling me." So I do have to remember to let Chief know that your officers have been very good, and I want to say thank you. And that fire wasn't very good on Friday. Everybody was worried calling because it was on the block that I lived on making sure. So when I got home from having my mom out and I was able to let everybody know that we were all safe and stuff. And I said James, I don't see any fire hydrants on my street. I want extra fire. I shouldn't like that. [laughter] But yeah, I was really like-- I mean, that was the first time we had a fire on our block in a very long time. I don't remember a fire ever on that block. So to have one on there and to have it handled in there, that it was very good. And I did walk around and make sure I found all the fire hydrants that were on our block so I could make sure that those residents over there on my block [to see?]. But yeah, thank you everyone. Get home safe. Good night.

Ms. Scamuffa stood well, I wish I was still talking to the filled room that we had a little while ago. This moment is supposed to be for the good of the city. So first and foremost, I have to all of the police officers, fire departments, and their families, respectively, for sharing them with us because you've got to take the bad with the good, and they really put their lives on the line. You never know every day what you're going to run into. So I am thankful for that. They do a phenomenal job. Both of the Chiefs, you guys are doing a great job. So thank you. I appreciate both of the departments very much. I had an interesting conversation the other night when I went home and I took a drive from Parkesburg all the way out to Downingtown, Business

Route 30 remind you all. And I have to tell you, although the household trash from being put in place in the cans out front, that may have improved. But I can tell you how disappointing it is to travel all those miles and then drive down Business Route 30 through the City of Coatesville, city proper, and the amount of trash that was in the streets. That's just the main street. And it's just people just dumping, don't care, just dump it out your car window. The residents here keep saying they want so much more. They want better. We have to do this. We have to do that. Where is the residents' accountability? Business owners, I can't blame them. I mean, they're inside working, handling their business. But who's going to want to come into your business when you drive through and you see it like this? So the household trash may have improved from those cans. But then as soon as you get out of the city proper, you see a complete different change all the way down through Downingtown extant city is an eyesore when it comes to trash. The back streets, I can't even describe to you. Everybody sees it outside their back door. I wish there were more people in here to hear this. We really have to do better. If we want better, we have to do better. And you may not like what I have to say, but it's a fact. And it's very sad to see. So hopefully, as things improve, maybe some people will take a different attitude come this spring and summer and maybe try to make a change within their own communities because we all want to change for the better. Aside from that, I'm thankful for all my fellow council persons, the staff. You guys are amazing. I know we're going to pull through everything together. I'm just glad that everybody was safe through the fire and got things figured out. But one thing I would like to look into possibly is maybe-- you mentioned mattresses and so forth. They're supposed to be bagged. People don't bag them. They don't know they're supposed to bag them. They're not going to the website. I really think we should maybe look at putting out a quarterly one-page newsletter, "This is what's coming up." I think it might be helpful to the residents of the city to see it. And then there's no excuse when you start getting hammered with fines when you didn't do something the way you're supposed to. You've been put on notice. So that's it. I am going to continue to keep my chin up, stay positive, but I have to call things the way I see them. I thank you all, and I hope you have a wonderful, safe night, safe trip home.

President Lavender Norris echoed her colleagues. I thank you all. And I'm just grateful. Our city is so much safer after having sat and witnessed the honorees, all the good work the police officers have done, and then the fire department. We're so much safer. We're so much better for you. We're just grateful, thankful for you. I just want to say that I pray for all of you. Stay safe. Excuse me. I'm looking forward. Spring is creeping in by the grace of God. The cold weather is leaving. And it's going to get busy. I know I was here earlier this afternoon, and when I left to go home, I was going across Cedar Street. And I actually had to literally pull over three times because of the vehicles coming down the one way toward you. The wrong way. And as I said before, I had done that myself and that one time. However, I did it. And to literally see the cars coming at you just put a different light on it. And like I said, three times from-- I mean, one right after the other. And the third one was like mad at me because I wasn't going fast enough. But I was going slow intentionally because they didn't have no business coming down. But you might want to look at that because we did have residents complaining about it. And I don't want them to think just because he came in one time, he came out, and it's done. I would rather look into it deeper. And I promise you won't catch me. [laughter] But thank you. And God bless you all. Please, have a safe night. And God willing, we'll see you at our next council meetings. Because we do need y'all to come out. The majority of us are either council members or staff. So for those of you who are not, who knows? Yes. Thanks for coming out.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.