



Minutes

City of Coatesville

Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA

Council Chambers

Monday, April 14, 2025

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

Council Absent: Councilwoman Charrisse Allen

Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Chief Peter Huf, Fire Department; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; and Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

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

President Lavender-Norris announced Councilwoman Allen would not be in attendance.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the March 24, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote.

Approval of Accounts Payables

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

Presentations

1. 2nd Century Alliance – Shakira Davis

Ms. Davis wished everyone a good evening. Thank you for taking the time to hear about an exciting initiative that will transform Coatesville's public spaces and improve the quality of life for everyone in our community. So we are planning on launching a Coatesville beautification plan, which is a collaborative effort that will revitalize courtyards, improve the downtown area, and engage local residents, business, and volunteers. This initiative aims to make Coatesville cleaner, greener, and more inviting for everyone who lives here, works here, or visits our city. Our vision is simple: to create spaces that inspire pride, foster community engagement, and reflect the beauty and potential of Coatesville. You can go to the next slide. Let's start by addressing the current state of our courtyards in downtown district. Currently, we face several challenges that need immediate attention. In the courtyard area, we have broken lights, faded features, and benches that are in disrepair. The grass in many areas is patchy, and some of the planters are being used as trash bins. While some planters are being taken care, others are often neglected, and this inconsistency impacts the overall appearance of our public spaces. In our downtown district, there is a noticeable issue with littering. A major contributor to this problem is the lack of trash cans near convenience stores and to-go restaurants. Without convenient places to dispose of waste, much of it ends up on the sidewalk, making our city look less cared for and less inviting. It's clear that we need more accessible trash cans in a better-maintained environment.

Move to the next one. We are not alone in this effort. Many key stakeholders have already shown their commitment to Coatesville's beautification. First, we are fortunate to have the expertise of Stephen Ward from Scranton Tomorrow, an organization that has successfully completed beautification projects in Scranton. Steve will help out our efforts with valuable insights and proven strategies. We also have the support of Jack Howell from [inaudible] Lancaster. Jack has worked on innovative projects in Lancaster, including the use of tiny trash cans, like this one here, which have proven effective in reducing litter in high-traffic areas. In addition, we have partnered with Ms. Beth Intoccia, who is here today. She is from Litter Lifters of West Vincent, and she has already helped us organize cleanup events in Coatesville. Together with the support of global businesses, residents, and organizations, we have the perfect foundation to make this project a success.

Move to the next one. So let's talk about our plans for beautification. We have a comprehensive strategy to address the current issues and enhance Coatesville's public spaces. We will begin by repairing and replacing broken lights, installing new energy-efficient lighting, and refreshing the landscaping with new grass, flowers, and trees in the courtyard area. We will replace damaged benches and introduce additional seating to create a more welcome environment. And we currently have two donations, one to the city and one to 2nd Century Alliance, from a local business, JohaCo, where they turn plastic items into benches. Planters will be revamped and maintained consistently, with volunteer groups taking charge of the upkeep. The Downtown Trash Can Initiative, so we will work to place more trash cans strategically in downtown Coatesville, especially near convenience stores and restaurants. Walt Disney found that implementing a 30-foot rule to ensure people are never too far from trash cans in his Disney world. Inspired by Jack Howell's Tiny Can Program, we will implement smaller trash cans in pedestrian-heavy areas to make waste disposal more convenient and reduce litter. So this right here is an example of what they do in Lancaster. It's called Tiny Cans. So each business and residence could take ownership of this. They would empty it. They would put new cans in. So they would be responsible for all of that. We would just provide the trash can. And we can personalize it for the block or street that it's on as well. And I've already kind of put this out there, and lots of residents were interested in having something like this. [inaudible]. And we are asking local businesses to sponsor or adopt trash cans with the goal of making Coatesville's downtown cleaner and more environmentally friendly.

Adopt-a-Highway program for Route 82. So Route 82 is a main road into our city and is in need of consistent maintenance. We propose an Adopt-a-Highway program where local businesses or organizations can take responsibility for sections of the highway. This initiative will ensure that the main gateway into Coatesville is always clean and well-maintained. You can go to the next one. This project is about more than just physical improvements. It's also about building a sense of community. Our beautification efforts will engage local youth, individuals with special needs, and volunteers of all ages. And here's how we're making it happen: youth and special needs involvement. We will partner with local schools and youth organizations to get students involved in planting, landscaping, and other beautification tasks. There will also be opportunities for individuals with special needs to participate in light gardening, trash collection, and art projects, giving everyone a chance to contribute. And I spoke with a person I used to work with. I worked at [inaudible] Services, who help with adults with special needs to integrate into the community. And they are interested in having their individuals come into Coatesville and help out with these efforts as well.

Volunteers and local businesses. So we will continue organizing community cleanups where residents, businesses, and organizations can volunteer to improve Coatesville's public spaces. Local business will have the chance to sponsor flower pots, trash cans, or even adopt sections of streets to ensure the long-term upkeep of these areas. Block by Block Coatesville is something that I recently released last week. It will play a key role where block captains will ensure that each neighborhood stays engaged and committed to keeping our city beautiful. You can go to the next one. So long-term sustainability and collaboration. The key to long-term success is sustainability. We are committed to keeping the momentum going beyond the initial beautification phase. Here's how we will ensure the long-term success of the Coatesville beautification plan. We will continue to organize quarterly cleanup events and maintenance days to ensure our improvements are maintained. We have a beautification advisory board to oversee ongoing projects and continue building community engagement. We will work with the City Council to secure funding and resources to support the continuation of this plan, and we are exploring potential grants and private funding to sustain this initiative and expand it over the years.

Ms. Al Amin said I have one. You said Route 82, but isn't Lincoln Highway-- I mean, that's all [crosstalk]. Ms. Davis said well, we adopted Lincoln Highway already, from bridge to bridge. Ms. Al Amin said from bridge to bridge? Ms. Davis said from 1st to 11th. Ms. Al Amin asked and so are you not going to adopt the rest of it? Ms. Davis replied no. Ms. Al Amin asked from 11th to 13th, and from 1st going westbound? Ms. Davis replied no. Ms. Al Amin asked and what is the reason for that? Ms. Davis explained well, I'm only one person in one organization. So we would hope that other organizations, businesses, people would adopt highways, because this is just one part of my many jobs that I do in this one position. Ms. Al Amin asked you're basically looking for a partnership in order to go from bridge to bridge, with you taking a big chunk of it from 1st to 11th? Ms. Davis said Yes. Ms. Scamuffa said but would you want to include it though, even though-- so you are asking for others to join in, giving them the opportunity to be able to select that area? Because we're talking West End of Coatesville is not included at all. Ms. Davis said yeah. And we have done cleanups in West End already, so. Any other questions? Vice President Green said I know that the-- [inaudible]. The block captains, that was very successful when we did that before, and going into the neighborhoods and putting up the signs. I don't know how many of you had your Yard of the Week-- --signs and stuff. But a lot of the residents were very, very happy with that, and they were excited to see their yard chosen as Yard of the Week. So some of us still do have our signs. I think that would be a great thing to bring back. Ms. Davis stated that's awesome. Yeah. So currently, we have a Porch Pride Challenge where people can decorate their porches for the spring. And then this is actually in partnership. Me and Roberta have been talking about having [inaudible] do something positive for people that are doing positive things versus the other side. So like a positive citation like the police do [inaudible]. Vice President Green said the only other part of that-- because I've seen that, and I agree with everything on there except for the block party part. Our ordinance says no block parties. So that's something that needs to be addressed, because we don't do block parties. I'm not saying that we won't ever do it again, but there's reasons why we stopped.

Mr. Logan explained the only comment I have, I think this is wonderful, but there hasn't been-- and correct me if I'm wrong, I don't see where the city is involved in some of this planning. And you have a wonderful strategic plan laid out, but I haven't seen it. And I can't

just approve anything because a lot of what you're doing is going to involve other resources here in the city. So what I would like to do is whoever is on that committee-- I don't know if Roberta's on that committee or not. Ms. Davis said she is. Mr. Logan stated but I would like to sit down with you and your committee and talk about what role is the city going to play in this. And you mentioned the city helping you with sponsorships and grants. That needs to be talked about before we just do it. Ms. Davis said right. That's why I'm here. Mr. Logan said okay. Well, I'm just saying that you have a plan done, but we haven't been involved in this plan. And so that's the only comment I would make. I think it's wonderful. Certainly, it would be great to do this. Your comment about trash cans on Lincoln Highway, part of the reason why we removed trash cans on Lincoln Highway is because of the residents or individuals that are using those cans as their personal dumpsters. So we removed them as a pilot program to see what the response would be. And actually, the response has been working. The city of Coatesville has a problem with trash, as you know. And I don't think there's one solution for it. I think we have to come up with a variety of things to make it work. In addition to the pots and sidewalks, I think 2nd Century is aware that we have two streetscape initiatives as planned for next year. So in terms of when you say take immediate repairs or replacement, we're not going to do that because there is a streetscape initiative.

Ms. Davis said well, that wasn't my expectation of repairing them, because I am aware of that. But their current state, some of them are pushed off. Some of them are taken care of well. Some of them aren't. So maybe we could have people come and paint them with Coatesville things, just to spruce them up until that happens, because I know a lot of people are like, "Well, when is this going to happen?" So maybe giving them something to look at until the big one comes. Vice President Green said I sort of agree a little bit with Mr. Logan on the community organizer position. We had a community organizer before. He worked with us a lot. But I came to one of your meetings I was invited to about a month or so ago. But prior to that, there's been no discussion. We've not met with you. We've not sat down with you. We don't know the things that you're planning until after their planed. We all represent a different neighborhood in the city. And I would just like to see more of that taking place, that we can have more discussions involving us to be able to assist and be able to help. But those things are not taking place right now, and that [crosstalk]. Ms. Davis said well, I've met with Roberta on several occasions. We actually meet monthly. I've met with James. I can meet with you. I don't have a problem with that. Vice President Green said yeah. I'm talking about City Council, not administration. Ms. Davis said I understand. I don't know that when there's an opportunity to, but I'm completely open. I do send you guys emails of things that I am doing, and invite you guys. So I can do more, but I am [inaudible]. Vice President Green said yeah. It's just like I said, you had said part of your presentation was about partnering with us. And I think most of us would love to do that, but we have not been involved in the processes going forward. And I explained to you, you did send me an email, and I did give you the correct email address to use for me, so I did get that one invite to that meeting. But I'm even talking about it like Mr. Logan was talking about the planning of stuff. You know what I mean? If we're going to partner, if we're going to be involved, we should be involved in the planning, too, because we do represent the neighborhoods in the city of Coatesville. There's seven of us, and we each represent a ward. So I think that we really need to do more of that. Okay? That's it for me.

Ms. Scamuffa stated have a question about the little cans. They're going to be stationed outside of businesses? Ms. Davis said they can. So, they can be attached to businesses -

there's a weight on the back that can do that - or residences. Ms. Scamuffa said gotcha. Okay. Because I was going to say, what's going to stop them from getting stolen? Ms. Davis said yeah. No, they won't. They're heavy, so I mean-- The people that have them, the homeowners or business owners. [crosstalk] Ms. Scamuffa said I realize that you're one person. And I had emailed you before that. And it's not just 2nd Century. I feel like the West End side gets forgotten quite often, as far as different things go. And I just want to make sure that somewhere in the back of people's minds that when things are being planned, maybe we take from this bridge to 3rd Avenue, and then another segment from 3rd Avenue down to 13th Avenue. We have to remember that it's approximately just shy of two miles from bridge to bridge that we have to take into consideration. And I think a lot of times, I mean, downtown gets a lot of attention. That's the biggest part of the business district. But I know residents feel like the West End gets slated a lot of times and not included in a lot of these different things. So I just want to put that out there when 2nd Century-- Vice President Green said the East End, too. President Lavender Norris explained the city center gets most of the attention because that's the largest business district. But there are still some in the West End as well. So just keep that in mind for 2nd Century, not as a reflection on you. Ms. Davis stated I think that our service area is that downtown business district. However, I do fan out to other areas. Like I said, we've done two or three cleanups in the West End already, as far as that. I did not adopt the West End because I had to keep it in the downtown business district. Vice President Green stated the Wells Fargo grant covered the entire city to be included. President Lavender Norris said It did not. Wells Fargo covers the community [inaudible], but 2nd Century's focus is the business district. Vice President Green asked So when we went and we've done surveys and door-to-door, and we went to West End and we went to the East End, those people-- Because the community coordinator is doing that. 2nd Century is supposed to be our economic development partner. They focus on the business of things. Shakira, in her position, is the community coordinator. She's focusing on the entire community, not just the business district.

Discussion Items

1. Street Dedications, Proclamations, and Letters of Recognition

Mr. Dinniman wished everyone a good evening. We're here just simply to make a request of the city, an easy request, we hope, and I've had an opportunity to discuss with a couple of you what we're trying to accomplish. You know in 2011, on August the 13th, a horrible lynching took place in Coatesville. The gentleman's name was Zachariah Walker. Part of that lynching involved burning him to death. He jumped out of the fire three times, and 5,000 people were in the crowd, and he was pushed back in. And all of those who were involved in the lynching, they were identified, the key people. And what happened is, just like in the South, the judge set them-- not the judge, but the jury set them free. This was outrageous. This is an example of the kind of violence that comes with racism and hatred. And Danny Williams, Representative Williams, and I put in a bill in my last year in the Senate - that would have been in 2020 - for a highway sign to be erected on Strode Avenue as you go down toward where the marker is. And the Republican senators blocked the bill. So the wonderful thing is I came into Coatesville one day, and that was for Mrs. Spann, the sign. And I looked and I said, "Coatesville has the answer." And then I checked in with PennDOT. And what you did for Dr. Atkinson and for your late husband, Mrs. Hunt---Mrs. Hunt, is a commemorative sign. And it's perfectly acceptable under PennDOT regulations for you to put a sign on Strode Avenue for Zachariah Walker. Now, we are approaching three townships, Valley, East Fallowfield. In fact, we're in Valley tomorrow night. And at least for initial discussions, the

cost is minimal, as you know. Now, what's going to happen on the 13th is three essential programs. And before I even get into that, I wanted to let you know that there are relatives of Zachariah Walker still living in the city of Coatesville. And one of them is Shawna. And I know, Linda, you know Shawna. And do you want to just please introduce yourself, Shawna, and tell why you've come back to Coatesville and why this is important?

Yes, good evening. First of all, it is really an honor to be back home after about 47 years. Born and raised here. Love the city. You can take me out of Coatesville, but you can't take the 'Ville out of me. Yeah. I served my country honorably for 23 years as a military police officer, and later an Army nurse registered counselor. I went to school here locally to Eastern University, first female to be commissioned at Valley Forge Military Academy and College. Went on to earn a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Washington, and a Master's in human relations. So if nothing else, I know that Uncle Zach, as his great niece, would be very proud of what Coatesville has since produced. When I found out about being a descendant of Zachariah Walker, I realized that I had a choice to make at that moment. I could live out the remainder of my life with a heart filled with hatred, resentment, wanting retaliation, or I can be determined to leave a legacy of love for my three daughters, my granddaughter, and the rest of my family. And I'm all about the love, because you know what? If you don't have anything else and you have love, you're very rich. You're very wealthy. And I believe that sometimes sacrifices are made not so that we can dwell on the past, but so that we have a chance to reframe obstacles as opportunities. And that's what we are asking. Please stand with us so we can begin the healing process, because it is real. We're not going to deny the pain. And I'm amazed that there are no tears flowing from my eyes right now. But I feel the love in here. And I want to thank everyone in advance for your cooperation, collaboration, love, and support because we're all in this to win it. So thank you.

Mr. Dinniman explained this is being co-sponsored by three groups. About four years ago, three years ago, actually, I established an endowment in Chester County to the Westchester University Foundation. I raised about 140,000 and gave money myself. And this foundation is called The Together Endowment. And every year we have a community gathering, 'and this year, the first tour at the university. The community gathering this year will be here in Coatesville as part of this-- as part of the remembrance ceremony for Zachariah Walker. We're in a situation in this nation right now where someone has to have the courage to speak up about what's going on. And I know that the people and the citizens of this city have that courage. And the other two co-sponsors are the ministerium under Pastor Bobby Duncan and the NAACP. And I want to-- please, Chardell.

Good evening, everyone. So for me, I call myself a transplant to my city-town here. And as I've been a part of the planning and learning, I am learning so much about the rich history of Coatesville, but certainly Mr. Zachariah Walker. I will say that for me, it has been the greatest privilege and honor as I continue to-- well, maybe I'm not a transplant that much anymore. This is my city-town, my home, the people that I love, this place, this space that I love. I've had the privilege and honor in the role that I am in as the president of the NAACP to be a part of the planning, to learn from the members and citizens of Coatesville, the rich history, and particularly, the history around Mr. Zachariah Walker. It's a history that when I first moved here, I learned dribs and drabs about it, and I heard it to be called, "Our great pain." That's what it was described to me as, something that continued to haunt the city, in a way. And I've had the privilege to work with a group of people that has been working on this

meaningful event that's being planned. And as Shawna said, it's not hatred. We sit in the meetings, and while we could be filled with hatred, it's not that at all. It is about moving forward. It is about healing. It is about love and honor and privilege, strengthening privilege and honor the way they've done, to be part of this and to have a small part, in partnering for that. Thank you.

Mr. Dinniman explained the NAACP had pointed out to me for young people to be involved. And I was able to arrange three honorariums of 250 each to be given, selected by the NAACP, for a young person to help us in the plan-- three young people to help us with the planning and to get young people out that day. And there's no individual who knows more about the history of Coatesville, especially African-Americans, than Pam [inaudible]. Let me tell you, she's taught me. And so I know, Pam, that you've been involved in this from the beginning, and please.

All right. Pam Depte, the tabernacle you know. Madam President, I love who I am. And I always say we all are part of a great puzzle of life. Each piece is significant. So we need to know where we came from to know where we're going. We need to heal, and knowledge is the key. It's nothing that is bad, but as long as we understand what the truth is, the truth definitely will set you free. And it's about respect. There is rich history at Coatesville. Our young people need to know that they have something to be proud of, that we stood when we needed to. You have to know where your roots are and how to stand on a foundation that is firm, something that is proud. So we are trying to-- we were first involved with Zachariah Walker and the digging of the dirt two years ago--- not to just cut it short. But what we're trying to do is to lay his spirit-- and being spiritual because he never had a funeral. But we want to lay his spirit to rest. And so we do plan on having a funeral service for him. We want to make it a whole day with children involved, and community. But for City Council, we are standing for the sign. And as the young lady before us, and I listened very well with the way that you presented to her, we would like to come on a quiet session with you just to let the city know what we're trying to do. We've been meeting for a while, but we want you in the mix because we're all in this together, and we want to make the wrongs right. We're even going to have the other victim, Mr. Rice's family, involved, because you know whenever there is a murder or anything that's a crime, there's two sides involved. The mother that's crying because her child is dead, and the family is crying because they have someone that's incarcerated. So we have to work it out together because the pain is real on both sides. So we just feel that at a time like this, when things are all over the place, to do something from the heart, something that is Godly right. We can lay things on an even keel, our young people can understand, and we can begin to heal things that may not have been exposed. So we just want things to be known. We want to have a day of recognition. Like I said, the roots are still here. And all of us come from those rich roots. So we want to pour into each other. And as we go through this year into next year, we want to be a stronger Coatesville that is East end, West end, downtown. We want to make Coatesville great again, as it always was. It was the hub. People came here. We were a boom town because of Worth steel mill, Lukens. And we have that still because it's in the ground and we want to rejuvenate. Coatesville pride. That's right.

Mr. Dinniman said to put all this in summation is we hope that Council will approve the replacing of signs, a couple of signs above the Strode Avenues. We're not replacing the name of an avenue. Similar to what they have in Philadelphia. Broad Street is called Avenue of the Arts, and they have the Avenue of the Arts above it, where Valley would do the same.

Remember, Zachariah Walker was dragged out of the old Coatesville Hospital in Valley, and then went to West Fallowfield. In West Fallowfield, I was talking with Wilson Lambert, the supervisor, chairman of the Supervisor of the Valley, and they're all going to try to do the same. It's up to Council for consideration. And I hope at your next meeting, you would attempt to formally approve this so that we can then say this is part of what we want to do, just as we're hoping Valley and East Fallowfield do the same, and I believe they will. Also, sometimes when you do this, you have resolutions, and that's what we've talked to Vince about it, who's doing a very fine job for you, by the way. And Vince would have to write that resolution, and you would approve it by a council.

But one other thing we should note, there was a second attempt at lynching as you might be aware of, in 1938. And at that lynching, the police chief was actually the hero, the police chief. At the first one, the police chief was miserable. He wouldn't move. He wouldn't help. And then the lynching took place. At this time, the police chief confronted the crowd. The Black community actually armed. And the NAACP came out of that incident. And if you look at the sign by Zion Church, you'll see it. By the way, another person related to her was a former associate pastor at Zion, Reverend Lorraine [inaudible], whose uncle is also. And what we're also going to be honoring that day is all of the relatives of people who are still here from 1938, who stood up then. And one of the real heroes that day was Mayor Jim Kennedy, when he was a young kid, a young person, when we all were young once. So anyway, so the request is that you just let us know that you'll do the signs at the next meeting, I haven't heard anyone opposed to it, that you know what we're doing. And Linda and Jackie were good enough to come to some of our meetings, and we hope the rest of you will. Ms. Scamuffa, Mr. Scamuffa, I know your family so well from my days as county commissioners. The Scamuffa family has been part and parcel of this city for so long. And I'm happy to see young people sitting here, also in Council.

So that's it. And I would end by reminding you what Maya Angelou said. She said that you can never undo history. But with courage, we can make sure that it doesn't happen again. And that's exactly what we're involved in. And that's exactly what we're asking you to do. And by the way, I want to thank Coatesville for putting up those signs, honoring your heroes, and people who have done so much. And I also want to say that I've never been in a community, in all my years as senator and commissioner, that has a religious spirit, the sense of faith, the sense of just understanding what love is all about and how to bring people together, than the city of Coatesville. And there's going to be a march that's going to take place on this day that starts with the burial. In the afternoon, we will have a forum. The forum will be at the Gateway Church up the road there, because we have the churches involved. And the forum is on hatred, racism, and violence, and what happens. And at the end of the day, Earl "Soup" Johnson-- one of the things in Coatesville when I first came into town, I would call people by the right names and not know there was a whole nother first names going on. It took me a while, but I learned. So the point is, and what we want to do with the signs is the march goes down and the ceremony will take place. It's in the evening. So people would come all day after work. We would unveil the signs of each township. The representatives of each township would say a few words. So that's the request. We hope you'll take it up at the next meeting. And all of us thank you, and God bless.

President Lavender Norris asked Mr. Dinniman, where are you requesting the sign be placed? Mr. Dinniman stated that's up to you. All we're asking each township to decide-- we're

suggesting two in a township. We suggested to Valley near the hospital, because that was where he was dragged from. It's up to you to decide. Now, if you really want to put this on the map, then you have a huge sign that says, "Strode Avenue." Is it Strode or Strode? . Strode Avenue, on the corner of Strode Avenue and Route 30, all right? But that's up to you. See, the whole idea is this. We want this to be a local initiative. I've come into town. I've tried to talk to everybody. But that's why the NAACP administrator, everything is important. That's why we're coming to you. You decide where you want the sign. The only expense you have is signs. And we're requesting they all be the same, saying Zachariah Walker. They'll all be blue background with white lettering. And they all lead down to the site. And as the march goes down, we'll put all this together with the ministers. And as the march goes down, each city would unveil one of its signs or both of them at the same time and greet the marchers and say something again. I believe this will put Coatesville on the map because I believe that this will be just-- economic revitalization is essential, but also human revitalization and healing and a statement of what we believe in this particular time based on our mutual faith is equally important. And both is what we're trying to do. So thank you so much.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens comments on regular action items only.

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

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion for a Resolution supporting the filing of a grant application with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, for a 2025 PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant Funds, consisting of the Citywide Stormwater Inlets Replacement Project.

Vice President Green motioned to approve a Resolution supporting the filing of a grant application with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, for a 2025 PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant Funds, consisting of the Citywide Stormwater Inlets Replacement Project; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Logan explained this is part of a series of grant submissions the city of Coatesville engages in every year. Councilmembers, you are aware that the city has been working on stormwater mitigation plans along with inlets. We've used our dollars for a number of our inlets. The CRP funding from the county will allow us to do more. So right now, we have approximately [inaudible] scheduled. With this funding, if awarded, we'll be able to add maybe 10 or 12 more. So this application is prepared, again, to cite all of the grant applications required for the resolution.

2. Receive and consider a motion for a Resolution establishing guidelines authorizing an arrest without warrant

Vice President Green motioned to approve a Resolution establishing guidelines authorizing an arrest without warrant; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1. Ms. Al Amin was the dissenting vote.

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. As Council is aware, in 2025, we have undertaken the process of getting the City of Coatesville Police Department accredited through the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, or PLEAC, which is run through the Chiefs of Police Association. So as part of that, we have contracted with Aspirant Consulting, which is the group that's helping us attain accreditation. And as part of that process and through the help of Ruthann doing the research, they identified that we never passed a resolution back in 1995, '96 that was required by the passing of Act 25 of 1995, signed into law by the governor back then. And that basic resolution just authorizes the city and the city's police department to exercise the authority to arrest without a warrant for certain summary offenses. And those summary offenses are enumerated as disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, obstructing highways, and underage drinking. And those situations arise where it's necessary to take somebody into custody. Typically, it's for their own protection if they're a danger to themselves or a danger to somebody else in the community, such as somebody that's extremely intoxicated. That's probably the most readily understandable offense which the police officer would take somebody into custody for a summary offense, which is usually just reserved for filing a citation. But there are instances for their own safety, if they're so intoxicated that they're dangerous to themselves or they're a danger to the community, where it's necessary for a police officer to take them into immediate custody. So that was a situation that this was meant to address back in 1995. And all of our research indicates that we never did pass an ordinance-- or not an ordinance, but a-- --resolution back then. So we're simply correcting that so that we have a resolution on file, and that is required for us to attain accreditation through PLEAC. If there's any questions, I'd be happy to answer.

Ms. Al Amin stated I have two questions, Chief. If it's a state law, what would require us to have a resolution? We've been doing this since 1995, and there's not been any issues. And you said underage drinking, but that is not the way this reads. It says, "18 Pa. C.S. 3608. Purchase, consumption, possession, or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages." It says nothing about underage. So I think before anything is even voted on, it needs to have the correct language in there. Chief Laufer said I'll let our solicitor address that. Section 6308 Pa. Consolidated Statute Title 18 is the underage drinking citation. Ms. Al Amin said but that's not what it says here. That's all I'm saying, and I'm reading it right. Mr. Jefferson replied no, and I can help out. The title of the statute is Purchased consumption, possession, or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages. The specific offense, subsection A, is a person commits a summary offense if he being less than 21 years of age. So the casual way that we speak, we call it underage drinking, but the way that the law specifically entitles it is the purchase, consumption, and possession, that really long, drawn-out phrase. But the way that we would casually say it is that it's underage drinking. And then you asked about why we're doing this now. So the third whereas paragraph, you'll see there's 42 Pa. C.S. 8902-B. That's the state law that required this to be passed. So why we're doing it now is to bring it into compliance so that we can become accredited. That is my understanding. But if you read that subsection of the statute, it'll say that the governing body has to pass this. So that's where that came from. And then that's why the statute is written the way it is. Pennsylvania state statutes are not written the way you would casually speak.

Ms. Al Amin said okay. But the way this is written, the 18 Pa. C.S. 6308, regardless of what you're reading, the way this is written for the resolution to be passed, nowhere does it say underage drinking. Mr. Jefferson explained So the crime itself is defined within the

subsections. So, the same sort of thing with public drunkenness. If you go to 5505, you'll find the specific language within there that says a person-- like, "We shall not blah, blah, blah, blah." It's just the way that we casually say it versus-- we didn't list out the-- so I can say this. We didn't list out the content of the specific statute. We just listed the statute's section within the crimes code and the title of it. Ms. Al Amin said okay. So why can't it say in there, after what it currently says, whatever, definition, underage drinking. Nowhere in here does it say that this is for the purpose of covering underage drinking. Mr. Jefferson said that's just that one part, which is subsection (a)(4). I get what you're saying. You're saying that you wish that the definitions of those crimes were within the resolution. I would say that they're in the crimes code already, so they're already state law. We can go back and add those if you want, but. Ms. Al Amin asked can you add the words underage drinking? Mr. Jefferson said I mean, it's already there. It's just going to be a copy-and-paste job. Ms. Al Amin said but the way the chief explained it was simply underage drinking. Mr. Jefferson said I think that's the way we would casually speak to one another versus-- What it actually says is purchase consumption. So again, sometimes I abbreviate with decimal points, and they say 1.1, and it's actually 1.157, blah, blah, blah. I round. I estimate. I think when we casually speak, we're more general and try to get to the point to convey it. So I'm comfortable with it the way it's listed.

Ms. Scamuffa asked so to clarify, then, this is not written by us. This is written--? Mr. Jefferson stated the resolution is written by us. We wrote this resolution. The 42 Pa. C.S. 8902, that's a state law. So if you go down to section (1)(a), all of those things listed in 18 Pa. C.S., whatever, Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, those are all state laws. Ms. Scamuffa stated so this is just a little blurb that we added so that we understand in layman's terms what those statutes are referring to. Mr. Jefferson stated this is specifically required within-- Ms. Scamuffa said right. But in the parentheses, that's layman's terms, explanations to tell us. [crosstalk]. Mr. Jefferson stated those are the titles of the crimes. Ms. Scamuffa said those are the actual titles in the-- Mr. Jefferson stated in the state law. Ms. Scamuffa said in the state law. That's how they reference it. Mr. Jefferson replied correct. Casually speaking, I would say underage drinking. Ms. Al Amin asked why can't we reference it like that on the resolution so it's understood? The average person is not going to understand that 18 Pa. C.S. 6308-- I would have never known that that meant underage drinking until the chief said it. So why can't it be-- since we're the ones that wrote the resolution - you said this is our resolution - why can't it be specifically stated in there that this addresses underage drinking? Vice President Green stated it's more than just underage drinking. It's a whole bunch of stuff. It's other stuff too. President Lavender Norris stated it encompasses several things. Does this have to get passed today? No? So, if we take a look, might add some stuff to it [crosstalk]? So, at the end of it all-- at the end of the day-- But I don't know [crosstalk]. --if you were in court, you wouldn't be saying somebody's underage drinking. You would quote that statute, right? Chief replied yeah. If we charge somebody under that offense, you cite the section, 6308. Purchase, consumption, possession. You don't say anything about underage. That's just our shorthand reference to the-- But when you write the citation, that's exactly how the citation would read: "6308. Purchase, consumption, possession, or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverage."

3. Receive and consider a motion for First Reading and advertisement an Ordinance amending part II, General Legislation, Chapter 218, Vehicles and Traffic, Part 1, General Regulations, Article II, Parking Regulations, of the Code of the City of Coatesville by adding New §214-.4

Entitles “Blocking or Saving Parking Spaces Prohibited” and amending in its entirety §218-8 “Violations and Penalties.”

Mrs. Hunt motioned to approve First Reading and advertisement an Ordinance amending part II, General Legislation, Chapter 218, Vehicles and Traffic, Part 1, General Regulations, Article II, Parking Regulations, of the Code of the City of Coatesville by adding New §214-.4 Entitles “Blocking or Saving Parking Spaces Prohibited” and amending in its entirety §218-8 “Violations and Penalties.” ; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Scamuffa asked so in the middle of a snowstorm, we're saying that I can't put-- I shoveled out 18 inches of snow from my house, and the lazy person coming home from work doesn't want to shovel their snow. They tired. Said the tired person. [laughter] The lucky person [laughter] can take my space, and I have to go shovel another 18 inches. Is that what we're saying here? Mr. Jefferson said and so I would not say the lazy person, but [laughter] yes, this is an ordinance designed to prevent people from putting traffic cones or other sort of objects into parking spaces, sort of saving them or reserving them. And I am glad that you asked that question and made it-- so it is something that we have debated amongst ourselves. Lieutenant Ollis and I talked about this one at length. And there's still some maybe tweaks that have to come down the pipe, but the answer is, yes, this would prohibit that conduct by any person.

Ms. Scamuffa said and the churches that have no parking and insubstantial parking, that I need to go to breakfast and I come back, and everybody's parked in front of my house. I have nowhere to park. Mr. Jefferson explained at this point, as written-- and again, this is the first reading and introduction, so. Ms. Scamuffa said I'm just saying, it's a problem all over the city. Mr. Jefferson said no, you're asking great questions.[crosstalk]. Ms. Scamuffa said I understand. [laughter] I mean, look, hey, I have to be honest. I got to support the people of the city. I mean, parking is a problem. Vice President Green said it is. Ms. Scamuffa said I don't have a driveway. [crosstalk]. I'm just saying. [crosstalk]. If you and me, generically speaking-- I want someplace to park. Mr. Jefferson replied no, and as written right now, there are no sort of exceptions for the Sunday service or other things. So right now, it's a blanket prohibition. I don't know that-- if Council doesn't feel comfortable with the way it's currently written, we could table it, take it back, try to work on it, get some feedback. This is the-- President Lavender Norris stated this is already established. [crosstalk]. Ms. Scamuffa said it's coming back up. [laughter] Vice President Green asked are you going to take care of the street? Are you going to pave it? Are you going to do stuff to the curb if that's going to be your spot? No. Ms. Scamuffa said yeah. The sidewalk parking was out [crosstalk]. Vice President Green said I'm talking about the spot, the street, where you park. Ms. Scamuffa explained I'm just saying, parking is a premium in the city of Coatesville, and I can understand why people put the stuff down. I'm not just speaking on my behalf, I'm speaking on behalf of all the residents. President Lavender Norris asked what if you come home from work and all your neighbors already shoveled? So where do you go?

Ms. Scamuffa said well, then I got a shovel too. President Lavender Norris asked where? Ms. Scamuffa asked what do you mean? President Lavender Norris asked if they shovel all in the whole line there, where are you going to go? Where are you going? Ms. Scamuffa explained well, see, I grew up in a different area. I'm being serious. Here's the problem, and I know we're laughing and trying to [crosstalk]. You have 35 people living in one house in the city of Coatesville, and each of them has a car. I own my home. I want a parking in front of my

house, whether it be one spot, two spots in my property line. When I grew up, we respected our neighbors, and we did that. Today, we don't have that mutual respect anymore in the community. I mean, it's just a fact. So that's why I said, I mean, it was normal. The neighbors on our block, for example, they respect each other. I mean, the church has no parking. You come here sometimes, and you got a park down the street. They're leaving. But I'm just saying, the residents-- and I've always had an issue with this. I had cones down years ago with a big blizzard. And [crosstalk] took my cones. Vice President Green asked but your neighbor who doesn't own-- what about your neighbor who doesn't own their house? Should they have their spot too? They don't own it. They rent. Ms. Scamuffa said yeah, they should definitely have their spot. Respectfully park there. I'm talking about residents that are running a boarding house under the radar. And they have, like I said, five, six, seven, eight cars, and they take up an entire city block, which is unfair to their neighbors. I have a problem with this, and I'm just being truthful. I have a problem with this being sighted and all of this other stuff, when somebody's just trying to come home and park. That's just my feeling. Ms. Turner-Green said no, I think I agree with you on that. And I am a personal [inaudible]. But I know that it is an issue. And is there a way to put some sort of exceptions within that, situational exceptions? Like she talked about the snow, or if you have a home having kind of - like she said, there should be a respect of, okay, this person has their parking spot.

Ms. Scamuffa said I support parking permits in the city. Maybe we should put that on as a discussion, of parking permits. Can we do that for the next meeting, put parking permits on? I don't know how you ladies feel about it. [inaudible]. Mr. Logan said we can. [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt said put it on. Put it on. President Lavender Norris made a recommendation. I tried it in my ward, and it worked out really well with regard to snow. I went to the churches and asked them if they would allow the residents to park in their lots to allow the plow to get through and properly plow the street. Then once the street was plowed, if the residents come move their cars off the lot, we'll clean it up because the cars will be there, so it won't be a whole bunch of snow. But they move their cars off the church lot. We clean it up. Now, their lot's fine, and our streets are as well. I did that a couple of years in my ward, and it worked out very well. So you may want to consider that, going to the churches for permission. Ms. Scamuffa explained one church has no lot. The other one is [crosstalk]. Yeah, that's what I'm saying. It's a problem. Let's put it up for discussion.

Ms. Al Amin explained well, on the PennDOT streets, there's an issue because-- and you know I've said this every year, and I have pictures. You shovel your sidewalk, right? And then PennDOT comes down, and they take the snow from the street and put it back. They come down so fast. And the way they have the plow turned, they put it back on your sidewalk. But at that point, the snow is so heavy because it's coming from the street and the salt and the-- you can't even shovel it. One year - and I think last time I mentioned this, Mr. Molly was here and he confirmed it - my neighbor-- because like you, Fran, we did neighborly things; if it was too much snow, whoever had the snow blowers, they did the whole block. And he was out there, and the plow came down so forceful and so fast, it knocked him right down to the ground because it blew the snow on him. And it was so heavy and forceful, it knocked him to the ground. It's dangerous. Mrs. Hunt stated we do have parking issues in the city of Coatesville. It's not just [inaudible]. It's on the daily. We need to find something because you guys know I've talked about it a million times. They'll pull up in front of my driveway, in front of my garage, and don't move. So we do need to find something to make parking a little bit easier all the way around. [inaudible] telling me that it's

really not a nice atmosphere. So I can imagine shoveling out snow and then somebody taking your spot. That can be dangerous and life-threatening. So we need to have a decent talk about it. Okay? Ms. Scamuffa said okay. Perfect. That's all I have. Vice President Green said [crosstalk] a parking study. I mean, they're working on it. So this thing regarding permits, I mean, that's something that's not going to happen right now.

Mr. Jefferson said that's okay. I just want to see if I'm getting the room right. It sounds like we're going to try to table this one and maybe provide comments or feedback to what was written to Mr. Logan by the end of the week or early next week, just so that he knows what to incorporate into the new resolution, and we can kind of work together. Does that sound like a plan? If you had it-- Mr. Jefferson said well, yeah. And I'm not talking about the parking permits. I think that's just a discussion. Vice President Green said yeah. You're right. Excuse me. But this is already on the books already, or most of it. Mrs. Hunt said yeah. We know it is. Vice President Green said it's already there. I don't even know why we're putting that. It's there. Mrs. Hunt said I think we can move forward if we just have a contingent plan to maybe have a discussion [crosstalk]. President Lavender Norris said we don't have to table it. We can vote on it because the ordinance-- Vice President Green said because this is the ordinance that's already-- Ms. Al Amin asked and why are we voting on it again? Isn't there already an ordinance that already exists?

Chief Laufer explained the problem is the way the ordinance is currently written, there's an inference, but it's not spelled out clearly that you're not allowed to place lawn chairs, picnic tables, trash cans, everything you can think of, in the street to save parking spots. Ms. Al Amin explained public works in years prior during the time I've been on Council, they come in-- if you have a chair, a cone, a truck, they come and take them. Now, what they do with them, I don't know, but I know they take them. Ms. Scamuffa said they take it down to the public works building. I came down that year [inaudible]. Mr. Jefferson explained there are several options based on what I'm hearing. You can vote yes or no. You can make a subsidiary motion to table it. Even if you voted down this time as it's currently written, we can always amend it and come back and try to work on it and introduce a new ordinance, should you choose to. So I don't want to say it's-- I mean, if you don't want it, you don't want it, and it can be essentially dead. But just because you vote no to this ordinance as it's currently written doesn't mean that it's necessarily dead forever. [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt asked if we are looking at accepting the Ordinance as it's written, or are we voting to table? That's my question. Vice President Green said as it's written. As it's written [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt said so we're voting [crosstalk] remain as is. [crosstalk].

Mr. Jefferson asked may I interrupt for just one second? I apologize. I think, based on the feedback that I heard, I'm confused by the vote, and I want to make sure that the vote captures what you actually want. The motion was for first reading and advertisement as it's currently written. So you wanted to proceed forward with the way it's currently written, or did you want to table it? Vice President Green said it's already written, right? Mr. Jefferson said okay. Okay. All right. Just want to make sure. Vice President Green said we're going to put it on discussion, though, for another time because there is some parking studies and stuff being worked on, right? So we can't change it-- we shouldn't change it until after that's all done. Mr. Logan said you may choose to approve it as well to get it approved, and then you can [crosstalk]. Vice President Green said yeah, because it's already on the books. And amended. And once the parking study and stuff is completed, we probably would be able to

change it at that time, because we would now be able to offer people permits and long-term [inaudible]. Mr. Hunt asked okay. Because with this being the first reading, it's going to come back to us again. Whatever amendments we do in between, it should reflect on the next reading. Am I correct? Yeah. Mr. Jefferson said so maybe delaying the second reading so that we have a discussion about it, and we get the parking study that you're talking about. Vice President Green said the parking study itself, we haven't talked about that. Mr. Logan said yeah. The parking study has been [crosstalk]. Vice President Green said so, I mean, what we're going to do, we had a study done, but the discussion about how we're going to implement. Mr. Logan said no, we haven't strategized that. But the parking study does reveal, from the residents here in Coatesville, whether they agree or disagree with them, and then it also talks about what those permit fees should be. So there's a lot of-- it's going to take some time to make this happen. And then you roll it out. Do you do a blanket permit on the entire city, or do you roll it out per ward first? So there's a lot [crosstalk]. Ms. Scamuffa asked is the study available to Council? Can we get an email of that for review? Mr. Logan replied yes, He will email to Council.

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

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he have provided a more detailed attorney-client privileged report to Council. Since Council's last meeting; communicated and continue to communicate with outside counsel regarding various litigation matters; drafted a resolution regarding police matters; drafted an ordinance that was considered tonight for first reading; communicated and continue to communicate with outside counsel regarding land transfers; provided an opinion regarding masks; communicated with Carroll Engineering regarding a known property; communicated with the Clymer Law Firm regarding a municipal lien matter; I and my office worked on a Right-to-Know matter and reviewed a police mutual aid plan.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan thanked Madam President. I provided comments on real estate and personnel matters early in executive this evening. Before I get into the body of the report, I would like to kind of comment on the recent concerns related to budget cuts, nonprofit organization programs, and senior and VA benefits, and other concerns residents have expressed to me in the wake of the city government changes. My comments here are no reflections of the Council. These are my particular comments made with conversations I've had with residents. Like many organizations, residents and stakeholders here in the city of Coatesville have reached out with a grave concern of what's going on with cuts and the fate of one of our seniors, as well as members of the VA or VA hospital. And it's unfortunate that I don't have an answer. It's unfortunate that maybe some of our elected officials here don't have an answer, because a lot of these changes are out of our hands. These are changes that are made on a federal level. And one of the unfortunate things we can't do is we can't really prevent these changes from happening. But we are working and listening to representatives from both sides of the line to gather information that may impact the city and the surrounding area. This administration doesn't have-- as I mentioned, we don't have the answers to the cut reductions. But we will continue to share the information with the community once we receive it. We have talked to our state representatives. We've talked to the Congress representatives. We've

talked to our senators. And everyone is working to get a little bit more information to what the fate is of a lot of these programs. But again, these are all made on the federal level, and there's just very little we can actually say at this particular time.

On another related note, you may have heard of the set of proposals to cut regional services by as much as 45%. This will impact the city of Coatesville if a budget isn't passed to support something. Any disruption to the regional rail service will have a devastating impact on the city of Coatesville residents, our stakeholders, and neighboring communities. And one of the things that it's important for us to understand is as we may not use regional rail service or we may not commute, there are people in our families, there are friends that do commute. And when you guys are looking at Business 30 in the morning, you see all of those cars on Business 30. They're either going to Thorndale, Exton, and some are staying on the road. A number of them are pulling off to jump on a regional rail to get into Philly or get into other areas like Chester County. It is critical that we reach out. And again, these are not comments of the Council. But I do think it's important, and I would like to make a suggestion to inform your public and your elected officials of what's going on and the importance of keeping regional rail throughout our region here. There are impact studies. I think I sent Council members a few numbers to look at. There is a map in the body of that email. You can go on those links that I shared with you, just the economic impact alone if this does not get passed in the state, can have years of [inaudible]. So again, I encourage you all to reach out to your constituents, have them write to their elected officials. And hopefully, Harrisburg and the governing parties will see the importance of keeping the head funding in place to keep [inaudible].

Onto my next item, HBO filming has been completed. I just want to thank the city of Coatesville residents for their support and patience. Thanks to HBO's location team and production group; they all were very positive and very professional. They worked with our fire department, police department, and public works. And hopefully, they come back and shoot the next series, or another series, in the near future. The last two items I have is grant submission. Earlier, we talked about one of the resolutions we have for the Pennsylvania DCED. That was the small water and sewer programs under replacement of decaying and damaged inlets. E-comm partners continues to assist the city with grant sourcing and submissions. Our next area of focus will be the proposed public works facility and additional management funding. The last item I have is the city of Coatesville presented a citation to Lieutenant Colonel Paige Thomas for her 25 years of service in the United States Marine Corps. Lieutenant Paige Thomas is a product of Coatesville. Her family resides here in Coatesville. Mrs. Thomas, Crystal Thomas, as you know, and Shannon Thomas. And a couple of weekends ago, her family, along with the United States Marine Corps members, paid respect for her years of decorated and dedicated 25 years to the Marine Corps. There's a picture in there with the presentation. And hopefully, Paige will come back to our community, now that she's retired, and share some of her love and her leadership here in this community. Thank you.

3. Assistant City Manager

There was no Assistant City Manager report at this time.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. The complete report is in your packet tonight. Just a couple of our key highlights: for the month of March, we responded to 2,440 calls generated through Chester County 911 Center. That was up slightly from 2,175 for the month of February. And then calls generated through our front desk for the month of March was 1,158, up slightly from 971 for the month of February. Some other highlights: we had one Narcan administration. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful, resulting in a death. We had eight car seat checks and installations provided by our certified car seat technicians. We had our Coffee with the Chief. Sue Springsteen was gracious enough to host us at the Nth Innovation Center on March the 5th. Thank you, Sue. And then we also had our Coffee with the Chief just this past month on April 2nd, which was hosted by 2nd Century. And after that one, we did put the ribbons out on Lincoln Highway to mark the observance of April, which is Sexual Assault Violence Awareness Month. So, we did put the ribbons out after that Coffee with the Chief. And you may have seen them on Lincoln Highway for the month of April. And our next Coffee with the Chief will be hosted by CYWA, and that will be on-- excuse me, on May the 7th. We'll be at the CYWA. And also, for the month of April is DEA Take Back Month on April 26th, for our prescription drug take back boxes. So that will be highlighted on our website, on our Facebook page. And that is Saturday, April 26th. And Lieutenant Ollis will coordinate that, and he'll have a report for us with how much we have surrendered to DEA for destruction. And Madam President, that is my report unless there are any questions. Ms. Scamuffa asked do you think that you'll ever do Coffee with the Chief after 5 o'clock again? I know you guys did it that one time. Chief Laufer replied yes. In fact, Rodger has been coordinating with Shakira to do an evening Coffee with the Chief again. So we are booked now through the summer, so probably, it would be this fall. Yep. Because we normally take July and August off just because of vacation. Everybody's so busy in the middle of the summer. So when we resume in September, we'll be looking at that.

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

There were no citizens comments on non-agenda items.

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

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Ms. Scamuffa thanked everybody for coming out. I hope you have a safe trip home, and we'll see you in two weeks.

Ms. Turner-Green thanked everyone for coming out today. And I'm so upset that Mr. Dinniman left. I wanted to thank him because when you're 38, aggressively turning 39, it's really nice to be called young. [laughter] Because my kids think I'm the oldest person in the universe. Have a good evening.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone as good evening, everyone. As my colleagues said, we thank you for coming out and spending the evening with us, and hopefully, you were informed of some things that can help you as we try to move our city forward. As always, I want to thank our staff for the tremendous job you do; one of the other reasons to keep the city going. And as we look at the news every day and we see these planes just falling out the sky, and then I turned around when I came in. I

was working all day when I came in, saw where our governor's mansion was just burned down in arson. We are in a bad state. And I just pray that we can keep our minds where they need to be, and that we truly acknowledge that regardless, God is in control of it all. So, I really want to say a special prayer for our governor and his family and all of those that have been affected by the planes. And another plane fell out of the sky today, killing six Swarthmore College graduates, so I just pray for them, pray for their families. And I'm excited about the city moving forward and us working together to get the city beautified where we need to be. And again, I just thank you all for coming and look forward to seeing you in two weeks. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out, and I hope you can continue to come. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues. And thank you to our staff, and everybody have a good night and get home safe.

Vice President Green Just repeating what they said, we're just so happy that everybody comes out to our meetings. It's so nice to be able to talk to the residents, talk to the people that we're here to represent. But like Ms. Hunt said, my heart goes out to Governor Shapiro, and thank God for the-- I'm so grateful to the state police for all that they've done, capturing someone. Thank God that no one was hurt, none of his children were injured. We just have to continuously pray for this country, just for the people. So much is going on. So much sadness with all the plane crashes and things like that. I would like to-- on a different note, Jubilee Ministries is going to be honoring three women pastors in our community, one of them being Ms. Minnie McNeil. One being Ms. Minnie McNeil, Ms. Joyce Stonewall, and Ms. [inaudible]. And they asked if the city would issue them a citation or something, a certificate of service. However, Ms. Minnie is also getting special recognition from the state. And I think that with all the things that Ms. Minnie did, I can't even recall her being honored in our community for everything that she's done since the inception of opening up Atkinson's mini shelter. Her and her husband, it was a tremendous sacrifice for them when they opened up the Atkinson's mini shelter. Once she opened up the mini shelter, she then opened up the apartments, that there would be a transition for some of the men to move into these apartments. Again, a sacrifice that her and her husband were willing to make and put in the hard work and time. And now, she has a couple of these transitional houses. And she sought out all this funding. She just could get people wrapped around her finger-- --so that they would do whatever it is that she needs done. And so I would like, on her behalf, to have a special recognition. I'm asking for a proclamation for Ms. Minnie McNeil. She's been servicing our community for-- I'm going to say Atkinson, I can't even remember. [crosstalk] Before Atkinson, just the community at large within her church. So I think that she's so deserving. And I just feel that people should have their flowers while they can still smell them. And so I would like to have a special recognition for her. And it's not coinciding the other two because she's being honored for something different. And also, they are going to be acknowledging a lot of the other women because it was Women's Month this month, even though their event is May 10th. But these are the three that they're actually going to be honoring. And they did ask if Council would like to come out and to anticipate and to assist in the presentations. So I told them that I would present. Mrs. Hunt stated I think it's a great thing. I don't know if this is something we do collectively out here, but is it appropriate that we did a table at the event and a presentation physically to support somebody of that stature being honored for the work that she has put into this community for so long? So I guess that's something we can talk about and make sure it's in line with what we can do. So thanks for bringing that up. President Green said on a more negative, bad note, I'm not really sure what's going on with the younger people in our community. I had an incident involving my grandson. But two days later, a lady contacted me at work. She lives at the top of Oak Street and 3rd-- or 4th Avenue. And she had 10 little boys come and try to fight or jump on her son. I'm not too sure what

their reasoning is. They're giving up gang signs, and they're using this gang reference. But I don't know what we can do and how we can handle it. On my way here to Council, I came to the [inaudible] where the boarding school is, in the park, the basketball court. I observed the bleachers back there. There was about 15 kids sitting there, all with black hoodies, and they had the black things. They didn't have them all the way up, but you could see them. But they were all just lined up on the bleachers. And from what I understand from the gentleman that intervened with my grandson, said some of them had black masks on their face. Yeah. And it's just a shame, but I know that this is not something-- I said, "Oh, I'm so glad I wasn't at home or I wasn't right there because Chief would have had to arrest me." [laughter] You would have been arresting me, Chief. I'm so sorry. But I just hope that we can just pay attention to these things because this is something that is going to-- and it's not even a summer yet. But my coworker had called me a couple of Sundays ago. Her and her children came from South Coatesville to Ash Park. And she called me because she was packing her kids up because of the basketball court and all of these bullies that were there. And they had the hoodies. They had the masks on their faces, and just really rough-housing really bad. And she has [inaudible], and she was a little scared. She didn't know what to do when she left. And she called me. She called to the station just to report it. But I just think it's something that we have to stay on top of. Mrs. Hunt said I don't think I was sharing with you guys a little earlier, but the kids were in the Verizon lot across from the funeral home. And I know they're at least 50 thick. It is so many of them, they just about covered the whole parking lot. And people walking down the street, they'll walk close up to them and then take off running. And it's bad, so. Vice President Green wished everyone a good night.

President Lavender Norris thanked everyone for coming out, thank God for keeping you all safe, and I also thank him for allowing you all to make it home and find your homes in the same state it was when you left. God bless you all. Thank you.

President Lavender-Norris announced Council will adjourn the public meeting and continue their executive session in the next room.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.