



Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, March 13, 2023

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman C Arvilla Hunt and Councilman Donald Folks
Council Absent: Councilman Edward Simpson
Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Richard Troutman, Finance Department; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; 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 Councilman Edward Simpson would not be in attendance.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the February 27, 2023 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

Discussion Items

1. Washington Hose Company ALS (Advanced Life Support) Services

President Lavender Norris explained as we have no presentations, we will have up for discussion, Washington Hose Company and ALS services. I first want to give space to the President of the board of Washington Hose Company to define what the services are and exactly where we stand with regard to them right now. So, Mr. Norcini, if you would.

I know there's been a lot of concern lately with the ALS-- finding out that the ALS had left the Washington Hose Company. I am Dave Norcini. I'm the President of the Washington Hose Company for approximately 11 years. Actually, over 11 years. I've been a member of the Washington Hose Company and volunteer for 14 years. I'm also the deputy chief of EMS. Unfortunately, some things that happened recently which caused us to have a default in the ALS permits that we had started. Unfortunately, our EMS chief had some health issues he had to deal with and basically had to resign for health reasons. I was left with this last week 10 minutes before our fire company meeting. Unfortunately, it left me with all the problems to deal with and the questions concerned when I counted on one individual who did a beautiful job with it over the years to run the department and expand it to where it is today. Unfortunately, with him going, it also [inaudible] so it was hard for me to communicate.

Washington Hose Company's provided a service to this city which I've been in this city-- I'm a retired police officer here also. I've been around the whole time in this city. I had a business in the city and I always stay here because I love this. I love the residents in this town. I've been a volunteer for approximately 24 years. And I do this from the goodness of my heart because I love helping. Unfortunately, what happened is we started out with the ALS services in this city to help provide more ALS local services to the city residents. We covered Caln Township. We covered the city. We've covered backup for other departments and other townships at times where their ambulances and their trucks were tied up. Unfortunately, recently, Caln Township pulled our EMS services out of their township. Devastating. Devastating. Between losing the VA and losing Caln Township which was about 60% of our revenue, we lost over a million and a half. The volunteer service is basically something that has failed. I became a volunteer firefighter in 1986. The departments today, the training, the regulations today-- and it started out as something that was easy for somebody to do, now has become unbelievable. We started out here. Now, it's up here. Training as an EMT used to start out at about four and a half months. Now, it takes you six months to get through the EMT. Firefighting one used to be two weekends and four nights a week. Now, it's six months. To find volunteers to do this [inaudible] and have the heart to do it is real difficult when they can go out and spend six months in and Academy to become a police officer or a firefighter and be able to get paid while they're going there. And then when they get done, they're either receiving full salary or they're receiving half salary.

Unfortunately, we took on ALS as a thing to help. And unfortunately, it backfired on us when Caln Township pulled out. Caln Township gave us two weeks' notice. My EMS chief gave me 10 minutes' notice before our company meeting last week. Unfortunately, I don't blame him. He did an unbelievable job as a volunteer here. Was our career chief for five years. He did an exceptional job bringing the Washington Hose Company up to eight ambulances from two. We have provided a service to this city for the past 70 years without having to ask for a dime of money from the city to run the operation. Unfortunately, costs have gone up. Our payroll every two weeks was approximately \$52,000 when we had ALS. With losing \$1.6 million in our revenue, unfortunately, we weren't able to keep that and pay and keep the EMS system in the City of Coatesville. No matter who they would ever bring in here to replace us would still be a running problem. We respond to calls here-- about 80% of our calls end up being down right at the BLS. That's why we've had that. For the past 70 years, we've provided to the city. There were no changes. There was a change with the ALS with the medics for a short period of time. I understand that. And I apologize for that from the bottom of my heart. Nothing I ever wanted to see. Nothing I ever expected to see. It happened last minute. Could there have been a different way that it came down? Yes. But you can't blame somebody who's having health problems when they got to count on living themselves and taking care of themselves before taking care of other people. Which he'd been taking care of for umpteen years. Scott was a volunteer in the fire service and ambulance service for approximately 40 years at this time. Only in the last five did he turn to a career chief because of being so critical to keep the operation running that we ended up hiring him as a career chief. Scott put all his eggs in one basket. He was hard-headed, tried to do everything himself. Kept a lot of us out of the loop, which caused a challenge.

Now, that has changed. I have taken over and Steve Dobson who's the fire chief in the city is going to be taking care of the main operations. I'm the deputy chief and President. I'll be

working under him and keep him informed on everything that's going on with the department. I have delegated which wasn't done before. We have two people that we assigned to do the daily operations of the ambulance parts. Nothing will be changed here. You call for an ambulance, there will be an ambulance. Call for an ALS, there will be an ALS. 90% of your calls, an EMT can handle. What we do is we try to provide a service for-- what we do is get that person treated enough, get them to the hospital where they can do more and save the lives of them. In my years of service here, I've saved lives. I know a lot of people in our department that have saved lives. We are confident that Washington Hose Company will provide the same service we've been providing for 70-plus years without any downsides, without any downfall. We also do have IALS which is intermediate advanced life support. We have members of that which takes up the other 10% from the 80. So now we're at 90%. 10% of the time, you might need a paramedic to give drugs or do something that they can do in the realm that an IALS or an EMT cannot do. Believe me when I tell you, please from the bottom of my heart, there is no changes with the Washington Hose Company and the services for you guys. It was all over the weekend. We had two ambulances on, we missed one call. Another township had to come in and cover that call. One call all weekend. We're going to have ambulances on hospital unit 24 hours a day. You have my word. If any of you guys have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with me. I'm always at the fire company, obviously. Spending a lot more time now. And we are here to help. I would like to introduce Leo who ran Medic 93 for approximately 40 years. So he's going to explain the other things where he can explain more about the ALS and the IALS (Intermediate Advanced Life Services). So I would like to call Leo up to the stand for you guys.

Thanks, Dave. I am Leo Scatia. I worked for [inaudible] but I was up until 2020, and I retired as the Director of Paramedic Services at Brandywine. And as you all know, Brandywine Hospital, unfortunately, closed its doors last year which means-- well, I wasn't there but of the general of that time. But as much as it pained me to see that service had left the area, and then shortly after that in September, Medic 93 was dissolved from that area and the hardship for responding now came down-- for especially in ALS-- and I'll explain what those are. ALS fell to our friends at Westwood Fire Company and Downingtown Fire Company and a couple others that would come in maybe from Uwchlan, maybe from West Chester. Now it's [inaudible] about that. But if we'd known that. Washington Hose Company said, "Hey, we are a BLS unit," which means basic life support. There's nothing basic about it. They're professional folks but they're staffed by emergency medical technicians. Emergency medical technicians are trained to the level of care that those folks can provide. In the United States Department of Health-- I don't know in the United States but certainly in Pennsylvania, the Keystone of the person in the back of the ambulance is an EMT. All ambulance calls must have an EMT. EMTs are trained to handle 100% of the calls. Now, they may need some assistance and that's where the IALS person comes in which is relatively new in Pennsylvania but-- I was trained as an EMT back in 1982. But an IALS is an intermediate ALS provider. So you have the paramedic level training here. You have the EMT level training here, and you have the IALS level training here. At this day, the paramedic-level training is still here but our EMTs actually have gone up here. You have to be comfortable with that. Today's EMTs have defibrillators. They have epinephrine for allergic conditions. They have what's called a constant pressure of airway device which is CPAP which can help people if they're having trouble breathing. They can give nebulizer treatments. They can start [inaudible]. They can do many, many things. People say, "Well, what about childbirth?" Childbirth is an

EMT skill. When I was a paramedic, any time I had someone that was going to give birth, I would say, "EMT, come this way. They knew more about that." IALS is intermediate advance life. And once Medic 93 left on September 1st of last year, Washington Hose Company in a miraculous amount of time, put an IALS service in service at Washington Hose which means they can start intravenous. They can do different airway procedures. It's a little bit closer to that of a paramedic. And a paramedic does all of that plus certain medications, certain other skills, certain assessment types of ability that the EMT and the IALS person can do. But remember, the EMT does handle 100% of the calls and the IALS, right? It's real good if you have someone-- the main thing that paramedics can do, they give pain medicine and if you're having a heck of a lot of pain, it would be nice to have a narcotic and that's where the paramedic is handy. I'm not trying to downplay. I'm not trying to downplay but I want to assure you that in Chester County-- that's why I have to talk about Chester County. I came here in 1982. Was President of the EMS Council. I was involved in a lot of policy and procedures over those years-- being heavily involved. Our EMS system in Chester County and our fire, and most of our police-- got to give the sergeant of arms here. So, it's all put on [carousel]. 911 center is [carousel] anywhere else in the county. If you call 911, someone's coming no matter what. But it might not be a red ambulance. It might be a blue one. Might be an orange and white one. But someone's coming. In Chester County, even in a remote area, we can get an ambulance in the remote area of Chester County within 15 minutes-- actually 15 to 20 in the remote areas. In Coatesville city, it's probably five. I don't know the exacts but I can call on a couple of people in the audience who can give it a little bit better but it's certainly within a very short prescribed period of time. If you look at Coatesville, yes. But you go there, ALS now and it was only in service for 10 weeks and it's just a dollar and cents thing as Chief said. But understand that someone is still going to come and that person that arrives is someone who knows what the heck they're doing and they're someone that can take care of you. And if they're out on a call, we have what's called mutual aid. Mutual aid is the other ambulance services surrounding this area. I'll call out my chief friend in the back, Mr. McWilliams, who is from Westwood. And he's here because he's concerned about Coatesville also, right, because he borders us. He borders us. Downingtown and Modena or anything like that. So he's here as part and parcel to assure and ensure that Coatesville is still cared for moving forward. That's what we're looking at moving forward. And that's what we're looking at doing. So I wanted to assure you-- and again, you call 911, somebody will pick up. And same thing in Coatesville city, if the ambulance is not-- if the ambulance is busy, you call AVD, we'll come in from wherever they need to come in. Now, they may take longer but they'll come in.

Also remember, they have a fully trained fire department. They're well-trained. They're well-equipped. [inaudible], you'll see a fire truck coming in front of your house. Also, we have a very big Coatesville city-- very fabulous police department, highly trained, AEEs, Naloxone. What else? Tourniquets, all kinds of stuff that if you have an emergency-- and they'll even birth a baby or two that I've seen in my tenure that the police have done. But we want to make sure that you feel comfortable. My feel here-- I live in Lancaster and I love Coatesville. When I first moved to this area, I lived on the 500 block next to Benner schools. I'm a life member of Washington Hose Company so I am definitely involved with-- as they went to become a paramedic service, again, in a record amount of time, they put together a paramedic service. They put a record amount. Unfortunately, because of the evolution of the system, they're unable to provide it continually but they are still going to provide the service that you

come to understand. And remember, for 40 years, Medic 93 were always the paramedic service in Coatesville. And now it will come back down to our friends at Westwood or our friends at Downingtown which is not very far away. And that's basically the nuts and bolts of how an EMS system works. Very proud of it. You have to be very proud of it. There are some areas in the country that EMS is very, very scarce but not here. Not here. I don't know if I can field any questions. Not yet? I appreciate you and your presence. It's great to have a full room. I know you're all concerned. I know you're all afraid. I know you're all worried. We have work to do and we're going to make it as best as we can. And we're going to help coordinate with our regional partner and our county and our medical people and we're going to do the best we can. I don't think that even with the closing of the hospital that there's been a lot of pain out there because of not having the hospital because of the remarkable EMS system that our system has. I truly believe that. So you have a problem from 5th Avenue, 2nd Avenue, you're still going to get to the hospital probably within 20 minutes. right. So we'll talk about questions later when it's all over. But I'll always be available. I appreciate you being here because if this room wasn't full, I would be worried. Bless you all.

My name's Scott Kline. Like Leo, I've been in EMS for far more years than I care to admit. Started out working mainly [inaudible]. EMS has evolved. They ended up dropping that service. Eventually, I ended up working for Leo here at Brandywine. I covered 40 years in the city. Pretty much been around for about 20 years so I'm sure I've met a lot of you at one time or another. I know I've met several of you. At any rate, one of my points is that EMS is a business and anybody who's been in the business for any length of time recognizes that business has to evolve. Things change. Situations change. When COVID hit and-- there was a lot of changes in every business. EMS is not immune. Healthcare is not immune to that. So things have changed. We, of course, need to evolve. But the important thing is that there will be no less service for any of you. Anytime you call like David said, somebody will come. And any decision that we make, we do what we feel is in the best interest of the people we serve, not to serve us. We're a volunteer organization. We do the decisions that we feel in the long term will best serve you.

President Lavender Norris explained to Council, this is our discussion time. If you have any discussion, let me share with you how we're going to proceed from here. We have our discussion. If there's any Council members that would like to speak regarding this, it's fine. But as Council, we have no regular action items on our agenda so we'll close those. We'll move on to citizen's hearings and at that point, anyone that has questions, comments, or concerns, should sign up to speak. You have a three-minute time period to speak. I need you on that form to give your name, your address, and what you would like to speak with regard to. The public comment is open to residents, taxpayers, and business owners of the city of Coatesville. So please, if you want to speak, be sure that you sign up so that I can call you at the appropriate time. At this time, does Council members have any comments?

Ms. Al Amin stated I do. I would just like to state that all three of you guys-- Dave, I've known you forever and a day and I appreciate the other two gentlemen coming tonight. I would have to say, not just as a Council member but as a resident of the city of Coatesville because what affects you, affects all of us. My biggest issue with this is the fact that any-- I hear what you guys say and I understand that if there is an emergency, a neighboring municipality whether it's Westwood, whether an ambulance comes out of Downingtown,

somebody is going to come. And I also get what you say about EMS servicing Coatesville for the last 70 years. There's also a lot of things that have changed within the last 70 years. We once had a hospital at the top of the hill. At one point in time, it was a trauma center so it serviced everything. And is the ambulance going to get you to a hospital? Yes. Do I think the time factor may change some? I do. And I think that those that require the ALS service, aren't breathing, pain medication, the things that the EMSs, the ELS, they can't administer them. ALS can administer pain and heart medicine. So for me who has a sister-- I have a sister that's a three-time stroke survivor. The majority of the time that the ambulance is called for her, ALS is required. So for me, the matter of the differential of time could make a difference. And I do agree. I'm not trying to put the fear factor in anybody because if you call 911, somebody is definitely coming. However, the manner and the way that this took place, does not justify to our City Manager-- there was no respect paid to him. No respect paid as my fellow Council member said, as a governing body. And no respect for the residents of Coatesville. When Scott came to us in January to present-- and we had a contract at that point. When Scott came to us to present the ALS service-- because you were right here on Lincoln High, right? He gave you guys the opportunity. Five-year contract. He got two months and nobody from the company came to the City to say that there was some kind of financial issue. Nobody from the company went to Senator Comitta's office who gave you guys \$50,000 to buy the ALS equipment. Are we going to work through all these problems? Of course, we are. The manner in which it was dealt with to me, was totally unacceptable. And excuses don't resolve any of what happened. That's all.

Vice President Green welcomed everyone. I wish we would have had the opportunity to speak with Washington Hose before this became a public story. I think that some information got circulated that was just a little not true. And we just put fear in our community. Our community has been covered since September with ALS service. Now Washington Hose was not the company that we originally decided that we wanted to go with. We were originally going with Westwood who's been doing our ALS service for us. So to say that it was going to be too far, they're not going to get there, that's who we were going with from the very beginning. We did change. We had a conversation with Washington Hose. They came to us and said that they could supply it. The gentleman got up and said some issues came about. I really wish that they had been able to handle this a little bit better so that we could have had the conversation with them to get the facts before this became public and it seemed to have stirred up fear that we're not going to have coverage. We have had coverage and we will continue to have coverage. The problem here is that the information got put out to the community. I've seen a flyer that said that this could result in death. I've seen people talking about we don't have ambulance coverage. When the ambulance is called whether it's an ALS call or not, whenever an EMT comes-- their service is there first most of the time. But they're coming whether it's an ALS call or not. They don't do the ALS but they do the IALS. They do the regular EMT and-- what's the other thing? ELS. So the coverage is there. Right now, we just need to go back and have a meeting and figure out-- because we want a contract. We want to have a provider that we know specifically is going to come to the City. We don't want it to be open that we have to wait for somebody from Downingtown to come. So we have to get back and get another provider because they're unable to provide us the service. So I want the fear to be gone because Washington Hose is probably one company. The City of Coatesville Fire Department is not the Washington Hose Company. We don't own them. They're a private entity. But all of our paid firefighters, they're all EMTs also. So I just don't

want people to be fearful that we're not going to have coverage. Last Saturday, the City of Coatesville had an ALS call and it was responded to by Westwood in a very timely fashion. They had calls over the weekend. The calls are being answered. We will have coverage and we do have coverage. We right now have to sit back and renegotiate coverage that we were originally looking to go with. That's where we are now. But I just wish that these gentlemen who came to us would have-- we would have had the opportunity to meet with them first. Because I'm not for a bunch of reasons and excuses because this is about the safety of our community. But at the same time, I don't want to put out fear that we're not going to have-- you call an ambulance and nobody's going to show up. You call an ambulance and we're going to have to wait 15, 20 minutes for them to come from God knows where because that's absolutely not the truth. So we just have to wait down and come up as a Council-- we're going to have to negotiate because we need a contract. And I wish that the Washington Hose Company could have handled this a lot better, that they could have come to us and called a meeting, contacted our City Manager, and asked for a sit-down to say that they were unable to afford to provide this service before the service just went away. Because that's the issue here. That it just went away with no notice. So please, I guess when we have a chance to hear from you all and ask the questions-- but I do want us to know that it's not to come from a fearful place. That we do have coverage and we will have coverage.

Mr. Folks asked Mr. Scatia to tell the people they would have ambulance service? Tell them, would they have ambulance service tomorrow? Would they have that tomorrow? Would they have that next week? Mr. Scatia replied yes. Mr. Folks said thank you that's it.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. I come with real mixed emotions about what just happened and want to thank you. I don't have my mask so I don't want to talk with somebody else's mic. I have real mixed emotions about what has transpired here. I want to thank the gentlemen for coming and sharing their views with us. But at the same time, the disrespect level of the way this was handled is far beyond what I can even comprehend. I'm not talking about a candy store closing. We're not talking about a clothing store closing. We're talking about our advanced life support system being terminated. And yes, we don't want anyone-- and I think even when I did my live stream, we don't want you to think for one minute that we do not have ambulance service. We do have that. What we don't have is special needed things in case of an apparent heart attack. Something for excruciating pain. We're not under contract with anyone to provide those services for us at this moment. Yes, they can come from neighboring counties-- I mean neighboring communities and municipalities and they have done that. We received a letter dated March 1st which was presented to us on March 2nd stating that this was a 90-day notice of the termination of the services to the City. Within that same meeting, we were told that it would not be 90 days. That as of March 16th, we would not have ALS service here in the City. In that same conversation, it was said that on-- the weekend of March the third, we had an emergency here in the City that was covered by Westwood. So of course, if you don't ask certain questions, you don't get the answers. So the question now became, are you telling us that the service has already ended? And the answer was yes. So my belief is that at the time they wrote the letter and presented it to us, these services were already terminated. So that's the issue that-- we have to face the brass tacks of it. It's okay to come in and give us the history of the ambulance company. It's okay to give us the history of the paramedic services here. It's okay to give us the acronyms and the explanations behind what they mean, but what we need is action. We need services here in

our City. It was said that we'd just begun the ALS service two months ago. Over 70 years, we didn't have ALS service. We had basic life service. But we had a hospital within two minutes from us so the basic life support was sustained until we got there. Now you're talking 20, 25 minutes depending on traffic to get to a hospital. So those are the issues. Right now - and I'm speaking for me - I see our City as being in a position to declare a healthcare state of emergency. Will they give us the opportunity to reach out to our governors, to reach out to our state representatives, our Congresswoman. She comes here for everything else. [inaudible] fine, so we don't have to come out of the City. All of you living here in the City, do you know we have not raised taxes in-- how many years, five to six years. We don't want to have to raise taxes to cover emergency medical needs for our residents. You're already paying to be in the City. So I'm going to ask that our Manager - and I may be out of order and if so I'll stand corrected - to see what we can do to possibly declare us at this moment in a healthcare state of emergency. We don't have a hospital. We don't have an urgent care. The closest one is in Parkesburg at Walmart so that's a good 15, 18 minutes. They're closing down someone said. They close at 9:00. Okay, I'm sorry. So we don't have those services available to us. So I'm not trying to put a fear factor in anyone. It's just reality and we need to look at it. And we need to make informative decisions with the information that we have to do what's right to keep ALS service here in our City and protect all of us as residents of this City. I have a daughter that's a severe asthmatic and I've had to call for emergency many times. Dave, you've been to my house. I have a husband who's in stage five renal failure. And when I call for service, they have come. They have been there. But I need to know that if he needs more than basic life support, that will happen. Thank you.

President Lavender Norris stated when we were notified, I wasn't only struck with fear. I was struck with anger because I felt like we entrusted the Washington Hose Company to provide us ALS service. We didn't just say, "Okay," shake hands and this is the deal. We paid them to provide the services. Whatever came out on March 1st, services were initiated on January 1st. In order for the letter to come out on March 1st, you didn't take 90 days to see if this program would work. It was two months. We were not informed that our services hinged on another municipality-- --being one of the reasons why we were getting services. We were informed that we would have the service. And it wasn't just for this year. The presentation was for a five-year service. So we as Council, are we upset? Absolutely. Because we're residents before we're Councilors. And we're not guaranteed now. We're not guaranteed nothing. But we're doing everything we can to ensure should we need help, that help's available. Now, I appreciate and I'm grateful that we do have ambulance service right now. If something were to happen in this room, the ambulance would be here. They would begin whatever's necessary while we're waiting for ALS. When we were in need of ALS, Westwood graciously provided. Right now, we stand in a position that we don't want, "Oh, they're in need so we're going to help out." We want contracted ALS service. Yes, it's going to take planning. It's going to have to meeting and it's going to take some time. And I'm not talking months. No. We have to do this-- emergency service is what we need so we're going to have to rapidly work on it. There are already meetings being planned and scheduled to ensure that we get service. We don't know what it's going to cost. We do know that we did not budget for anything above what we paid to Washington. So there are going to be some other costs incurred and I for one can't tell you for a fact but I can tell you that the cost will not rest solely on the City of Coatesville. [inaudible] our part. We'll do our part but we're going to need you to step up and do your part too for certain. And I appreciate you gentlemen coming

out and just explaining the system. As we move forward, our residents are going to have questions and comments and I appreciate you for staying to answer their questions. Again, when you pose your question or your comment, just know that we will not be able to reply to your questions simply because of the number of people that want to speak. So again, you'll have three minutes to speak, communicate what you need to, and just know these three gentlemen that stood before you earlier will be here to answer your questions later. Okay? We're going to move forward.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens comments on regular actions only.

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

Regular Action Items

There were no regular action items at this time.

Vice President Green made a motion to close action items; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Good evening. I'm here on behalf of NAACP. Last Tuesday, March 7th I got a call from a Council member requesting that the Coatesville NAACP help it get out the Washington Hose Company ALS service being suspended. Wednesday morning, I immediately did that because that's what the NAACP does. We get the information out to the community. Who I sent it out? I sent it to our executive committee of 15 and to two Council members. One of the Council members said okay but she didn't see the entire flyer. Verbiage from the flyer that I put out was given to me by the Council member. Thursday, I received a call from Mr. Logan saying that the flyer had misinformation. We do not want to alarm the community is what he said and that we're working with the commissioners and that we must make sure the community receives accurate information. So we talked. And I'm standing here on behalf of the Coatesville area branch for the NAACP to say that the information I received was information that was requested for the NAACP chair. We were not trying to instill fear in a community but guess what? It's serious. It's still serious. And we're a volunteer organization. Everything we do, we do not sway for politicians, pastors, or people. We help the people here in this City. We have been trying to rebrand and rebuild ourself. So I just want to make sure that this is not a blemish on the NAACP. The information that I got came from Council. All right? So just understand that. So we just wanted to make sure that you understand I was not getting misinformation. We have tried our best. We're just starting to rebuild and [crosstalk]-- last year was 186. People were coming up to work on behalf of the people. We're here to work with the community. You see us in all the meetings. You see us at all the activities. We're not here to instill fear. I was just giving them information that was requested. And when something is given to the NAACP, we get it out there.

Nancy Wilson

I got here early. I thought it was a sign-in for the meeting. But now I'm going to speak. I'm a member of the NAACP and I am a member at the Chester County Association for the Blind and Vision-Impaired. We are right across the street. We have a dozen individuals, most of them elderly, who

come to work there every day and they have multiple health issues and I'll add it scared the hell out of me that we're not going to have all the resources. We've been sitting on pins and needles since we heard of the closure of the hospital. And now we have whatever we have. We really want you to develop the program that gives us a sense that we are fully covered. Thank you

Lyle Muhammed

Good evening. My name is Lyle Muhammad. I'm a member of the Nation of Islam, NAACP as well as-- the most important part is I'm a resident of Coatesville over the last 10 years. I actually have a background in healthcare, 36 years in healthcare and I like the information that you gentlemen gave in regards to difference between ALS and ELS. But I do share the belief of Councilwoman Hunt. I believe that she's 100% correct that this is a state of emergency. Because this is life and death. ELS is one level of service but ALS-- if you have a heart attack, time is muscle. That's the statement that's made inside the hospital-- those of us who work in healthcare. Time is muscle. The more time that you have to get that person the care that they need, and that includes the first responder. If they're ELS, they can't run a code so they can't run a code for a heart attack. They can't run a code for a [crosstalk]-- Anyway, just to keep it clear. For heart attacks, time is muscle. So the more time we have in any confusion waiting for ALS to show up, to have the advanced life support is critical to the person that had the heart attack. And then for strokes, time is brain so the more time you have where the brain is deprived of oxygen, you're losing function of your brain. So I'm not going to go into detail but these are some of the areas where as a concerned citizen-- like you say, we are not promised life tomorrow so if we have to call on this service, I think we all deserve and have a right to know that that service is going to be there and that that service will not only [crosstalk] but that that service will be the service we need for the care that we need at that time. So those are the comments that I wanted to make. That this is a very, very highly important issue to me as a resident of Coatesville and I'm happy to see so many people show up. And I know some of us didn't want it to be a fear factor, but it should be because this is life or death. Thank you.

Patricia Proctor

I am a property owner in Coatesville and also on the board of Valley Township where Westwood is our fire company. They have been in residence in Valley Township for our emergency services for the last few years. We've been through fire. We've been through ambulance and that was because we wanted that ALS service. I would have to tell you - and Mike McWilliams is here - that Westwood had broadened out into a lot of different areas for ALS service. So I'm being honest and upfront. And I hope Mike to be able to get up here and also-- and I think they're all [inaudible]. So I just think that-- really have to have a meeting, understand what services they can provide because Valley is being open what services they are also being provided. Thank you.

James Hill

Thank you. My name is James [Hills?]. I'm a life long resident in Coatesville. My concerns with the ALS system leaving is the time factor. When someone calls 911, they will give them a series of questions you have to answer so you have the timeline of that. Then after ambulance shows up, it's just basic life support. Once they get there, they determine if something else-- if ALS. Then dispatch-- are they calling for them? Second of all, what if there's already another call? How many ambulances do they have that system on in Westwood? And so we'll go to Downingtown? Again, when we had Coatesville Hospital, it was a lot quicker even though you had the basic life support system. Now, police can do that and most of them are trained the same as the ambulance are. So that's what you're going to get. You're going to get somebody with basic training to help out which--

it's always good to have someone there. But again, if you're calling for someone, once they get there, now they make a determination they need something else. How much longer is that going to go? Now you got to factor we got to go to West Chester or Paoli. So now you've added more time added on this. So it's a time issue here. If you had those issues right off the bat and ALS knows there's some problems, they can deal with those problems. So again, how much time is it going to take for another ambulance to get there-- for other people to get there for them to get help if it's a life-threatening situation? Thank you.

Harvel Brown

One of the things I'm looking at is something nobody mentioned. They put money on the 501C3 that was allocated for Coatesville for all that equipment that they have. And they've taken our equipment with them and when they come, give us some token service, they're going to use that equipment. They come and they give us token service. That don't work. And I've been here since 1952 so ain't nobody got more rank than me in this whole town. We have 5, 10 senior housing buildings here in Coatesville. I got 5,000 students because I'm on the board of directors of the school. You let these guys leave with our equipment and think it's not important?. This is [inaudible] and tell them put their nose to the fire because they can't take that equipment -- don't take that equipment. That's it.

Bill Pierce

You all [inaudible] a bunch of [inaudible] as I stand in front of you all tonight. It's like one of the first times I spoke to Council was when the City changed the name of Harmony Street to Martin Luther King without giving due notice to the county and threw the 911 system into a frenzy such that the ambulances in the City of Coatesville also were not familiar with where our property is. And now six years later, I stand before Council again at public notice given by members of this Council who caused fear among the citizenry before gathering all the facts that they needed to make a valid presentation. I have spent the last four days at work calming 225 people per day over the age of 60 wondering how their life is going to be saved should they drop and burn our building. I spent the entirety of my day today on the phone with the department of emergency services making sure that 911 knew how to find our building in the event that we don't have ambulance services because the communication from this Council was unclear. And I have heard acronyms. I have heard percentages. I have heard talks from both sides of the aisle. What I haven't heard is anybody-- there is no clarification from the City on this. We've blamed the NAACP for misinformation but there has been no apology in this room to this citizenry about the miscommunication that came out from members who sit in this room who didn't do their due diligence in my opinion, to collect the facts before they spoke. Is there a state of emergency? There's a health state of emergency but there's also a Council state of emergency. In my organization, the board takes a solemn vow that they don't talk about something that happened in a board meeting in a public setting that's not of consensus on facts. And I think it's time that this Council has a little more respect for all of us out here by doing the same. Thank you.

Ms. Allen made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items only; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to Council since the Council's last meeting. In coordination with the City engineer, I completed the county stormwater management forms on the City. I communicated with outside attorneys regarding tax assessment appeals. I communicated with the attorney general's office, the county of Chester, and the Opioid Trust regarding the opioid settlement funds. After those communications, I provided additional documents to the City to [inaudible] it. I provided an opinion regarding the Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act and [inaudible]. I received communications from the Commonwealth Board regarding a certain appeal. And I provided various opinions regarding emergency preparedness.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan explained he just has a short report this evening. Certainly, the topic of the hour has been healthcare. Last Friday, there was a legislative breakfast that was hosted by the Westford Chester County Chamber of Commerce. At that particular meeting, several of our elected officials were in attendance and they talked about a number of issues from childcare to sports development to healthcare. And as we talked about this ALS this evening, the State of the City, of course, is-- and the state of healthcare emergency as well as the region. One of the things that I commented on in that meeting was the fact that I really don't understand how one of the Wealthiest counties in the Commonwealth does not have a hospital. One of the so-called jewels of the County. And not pointing fingers - won't do that - but I just want everyone to look in this room and think about where that hospital is located and look at how it's placed in the region. The state has the opinion that its municipalities and-- we are and have been since [20?]. There's six, seven other municipalities within that zip code. It's the state's position - someone can correct me if I'm wrong - that it is the municipality's responsibility to shoulder what's happening with the hospital. I don't know where that's from. I totally disagree with it. My feeling is how can one or two municipalities shoulder the burden of the healthcare crisis when it serves multiple municipalities. The Tower Health or 911 Hospital Service of Coatesville serves Caln, serves parts of Thorndale, serves Valley, Coatesville South, Modena. So, it's not just a one-municipal, small issue. It's a regional issue and for no one to address this issue is not only shameful but it is disrespectful. I don't have the answers. I know that we are in talks with the Senator Representative, Dan Williams' office, with our commissioners, with our senators. And there hasn't really been an update on a possible suitor for the hospital but there are off-line talks with interested parties to come into this region and open up a hospital here. I wish I had more information on when that's going to happen. As you all know, this pretty much has been going on for a number of months-- more than a year now. I can't even tell you if we're getting closer because I really don't know. But it's just amazing to me that they'll bail out banks when the banks are hurting and can't bail out people and hospitals. And I just think that's a travesty. So, I'm going to keep having these meetings. I'm going to keep pushing for our community because I'm passionate about this community. I love this community. And we are going to investigate if we can in fact, declare a State of Emergency. Because I do think it's important. Maybe I'll be calling you tomorrow morning.

In addition to my reports, many of you will be experiencing a little bit of pain. We are beginning road repair work in the City of Coatesville. [BIV?] packets are being prepared right now so any of you who have complained and rightly so, about the streets being broken

and busted over a number of years, we are going to be starting repair work over the next two or three months. I also want to let you know that we continue to have conversations with PECO and American Water. These are our utility partners. American Water's doing a lot of work replacing old pipes and the disruptions in some of your communities. I hear that some of the residents are even talking to some of the guys that are out there doing the work and asking for better curb lines and things like that which they can't do. But there's nothing wrong with asking them. But again, these are things that we try to negotiate with our utility companies when they're doing the work to try to improve our roads to make it better for you all and of course, it saves money for the city too. In addition to that, many of you have heard of the restaurants that are opening up. I think this is all wonderful for the city itself in terms of its economic revitalization. But we also have to think about not so much what's happening on the downtown area. We need to pivot sometimes and we need to look east and see what's happening on the East End. The City of Coatesville has a lot of entrepreneurs here. There's a lot of minority-owned businesses here. Some people may even say there's more business transaction being done on the east end than there is on this end of town. And I think that's true. But one of the important things in order to restore and to rebuild our community, we have to keep our dollars here. And I know we like shopping in other places and certainly, that's great, but I challenge anyone in this room to at least spend \$25 here at home. If you already do it, then that's great. But there is an incubator program, it's over at the Old Navy store. It has six local business owners in there. A [bread?] shop. Has a [hot?] shop. [Head?] shop in there. There's tea. There's [inaudible], some [inaudible], candle and home decor. There're local artists there. These are all people from this community. They're business people. Jamoca, some of you know Jamoca. If you haven't tasted her pies, I don't know what you guys are waiting for. But again, we will survive if we support each other. So, spend your money here if you can when you can. We're working on farmers' markets. Going to be more complex. We have events going on throughout the year. And we just hope you guys continue to help us be better at what we're doing. We have-- let's see. Vince is here. Vince is going to give a short report on what he's working on. And our Assistant City Manager, she was unable to be here this evening but she will be reporting out to you all at the next council meeting.

3. Public Affairs Representative

Mr. Miles said why, hello, everybody. I am your Public Affairs Representative. One of the exciting projects that I'm currently working on now is starting up a Coatesville Brandywine Revival Garden which is a Stormwater Management solution. You guys have seen the flood and how Ida has affected us so we're working on ways to mediate that. Last night, actually, I just had a cool idea I thought I'll present to you all. We love ideas, right? But last night I was just meditating on our wards and our community engagement. And I feel like it would be cool if Council would have ward walks with the residents, scheduled times where we could come out into the communities and figure out what you guy's want/need whether it be infrastructure, [inaudible] issues, you just name it. To have the opportunity to walk with board members. Council President, she's ward 5. That's eastern area. Vice President Green, she's 4th ward and that's my ward I believe, yeah? I feel like if you guys had that opportunity to mingle with them a little bit and get to hear what's going on in the City, you'd be able to empower them, so. Ms. Hunt, you are the Third Ward, Mr. Folks, you are the 2nd ward and Mr. Edward Simpson, since he's absent, he is the 1st, At Large is Ms. Al Amin and Ms. Allen. But yeah, just the opportunity to really to engage with our Council members and see what

impact we could create together. We are Coatesville. Coatesville is rising but now is the opportunity for us all to rise together. So thank you and God bless you all.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete police packet is in your Council packets tonight. But just a few highlights that we normally do. Our 911 call service was 1,520 for the month of February. That's down from 1,731 in January. And our total calls which includes activity at our front desk was 2,625 for January. I'm sorry, for January which was-- February was 2,343 at least for the month of February. And then the next-- usually, what I report on next in police report is our NARCAN administration. But first, I'll just comment briefly on the topic you're here tonight to discuss and that's the level of ALS, ELS, and emergency response for ambulance calls. Police department, all officers are trained in advanced life support-- I'm sorry, advanced first aid, CPR, AED, administration of oxygen, administration of NARCAN Naloxone. So that level of training is consistent throughout the police service and all officers, part-time or full-time, here in the City are fully trained in those aspects of emergency care. Many times, we are the first ones on the scene so the police officer's the one that begins the critical care to get the patient to the hospital. And then, of course, we hand off to the ambulance whether they're the EMTs, the ELS. We hand off to the medics. But many times, we are the first ones there. We would prefer that the ambulance gets there first, I'm not going to lie to you on that. But many times, the police officers are the first level of care that arrives on the scene. So normally we talk about-- we had three NARCAN administrations for the month of February by the police department. Two of them were saved where the patient was revived through the administration of the Naloxone NARCAN. One, unfortunately, was a DOA-- was not able to be revived. So that's just an instance where the police actually get there first, provide the basic life support, administer the NARCAN. And many times, we are successful. We hand them over to the ELS who's usually the next on the scene. They may administer additional doses of NARCAN. And if the patient revives, that's great. If not, then, of course, the ALS service gets there and begins to provide the advanced life support. That's just sort of in a nutshell how the police department fits into the patient care here in the City of Coatesville. And we also had 15 car seat checks installed by our certified car seat technician so that's a good for us. We had Officer Joel Williams and Officer Malik Williams who were introduced last Council meeting Council and to the public. They continue their field training officer program. We did talk about hiring two additional part-time officers. They've been given conditional offers of employment. Unfortunately, one has already accepted a full-time position with another police department. So, we will have one additional part-time officer who is in the background stages of being hired. Our Coffee with the Chief was held at the Marriott for the month of March. February's Coffee with the Chief was held at the Bridge Academy. And the month of April is being held at the Salvation Army. So, they were all well-attended and we look forward to anybody that's here tonight that may not be familiar with the Coffee with the Chief program, it's the first Wednesday of every month. We rotate it around different locations within the City that are gracious enough to host us and it provides an opportunity for the community to meet with the police officers and the chief in a setting where we can engage in casual conversation and enjoy a good cup of coffee. So, if you follow us on Facebook, we always put out ahead of time where the next month's meeting will be. So, for those of you who would be available, it's April 5th at the Salvation Army. Salvation Army, they treat us right. They do a nice spread for us. [crosstalk] I would hope to see some new faces there. But thank you.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Folks thanked everyone for coming out tonight. It's my second term and this is probably the largest crowd we've had in five years. To me, let's get more involved in the City. This City is going for it. Train station's going to be really big for this City. If you got a business. I would love you to get on board and be downtown. I would love you to get on board and be downtown. I would love you to get on board and be at the west end. I would love to see more entrepreneurs to come into this City to promote their things. You see what's happening downtown. Restaurants are coming in and I want to keep them coming in. Get on board. Do something. Have fun. This is your town. And you are somebody. Never forget that. If we can help you, we will. If we can't, then we'll find somebody to help. We're here for you. I pray for you and your families. Have a good night. Be safe.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. I actually want to thank everyone for coming tonight and for being diligent and [inaudible]. I too am excited about what's going on here in our City though. But tonight, my hearts just more into what we are facing immediately with our ALS service. I was trying to toy with whether I wanted to address this or not and I think I am. I know Ms. Arthur said that if you feel like-- if you get slapped on the face you turn the other cheek. But sometimes I believe if you get slapped, then you need to slap somebody back. And to even have any type of implication that we didn't do our due diligence in making sure this information was disseminated to our community, that's just not true. We had our meeting. We discussed different ways that we could make sure that the community was informed about this meeting and I said in the meeting that I was going to go live which I did. And I tried to do it in a way to assure you that we would still have ambulance service but we would not have the advanced life care service. And I had over 100-- I think it was 139 people that joined into that live stream and I hope that that's the reason that some of you are here tonight. So yes, I take responsibility for putting the information out but I do believe it was done in good taste and with good intentions of making sure that you received the information that you needed. Also yes, I was the Council person that led the campaign to change Dr. Martin Luther King-- from Harmony Street to Martin Luther King because I felt that it was a worthy cause and it was needed as he was such an icon to this country and we were one of the only cities that didn't have anything representing him. Yes, it did cause a little heartache for the two or three businesses that were on Harmony Street due to the lack of leadership we had at the time in City management. Do I apologize for that? No, not at all, and I'm proud that I led that campaign. As well, I'm proud that I led that campaign to dedicate 10th Avenue, 11th Avenue in honor of Doris Spann, who fed this community out of her own house, out of her own pocket for many years when there was not a food cupboard. There was not a shelter to go and get clothes. And I felt she was worthy of that honor to be done at the place where she served. And I'm equally proud to say that I am now leading the campaign dedicating 8th Avenue to 9th Avenue on Chestnut Street in honor of Dr. Whittier Atkinson. He was brought to my attention by one of our citizens that we should look into that and I'm thankful for my Council persons and our management that is heading that up. So on Sunday, April 23rd, if you are not busy, come to the corner of Chestnut Street and 8th Avenue where the dedication will take place. It will be on Dr. Atkinson's birthday and he would have turned 130 years old on April 23rd. I take onus and I stand up. Yes, the ceremony will be from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and the rain date, Madame President, will be the next [crosstalk]—the following Sunday if there's a rain date. So again, I thank you for coming and I thank you for listening and I thank you for being here tonight. And your

presence here speaks volumes and I just want you to know and I want to assure you that the seven persons on this Council-- we are working on our behalf which means yours and ours because we are residents just like you are. We thank you for putting us in these positions. We look out for you. And as long as I'm here, that's what I will do. Thank you.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out. And at Council, we are doing our best to make sure that our residents have what they need to not be afraid to live their lives, to make sure that we put things in place so that you can feel comfortable knowing that if you do have an emergency, you will get the help that you need. So, I just want you tonight, guys, tonight to go home and think about that. I know that this City has been through some difficult times, but now we have a City Manager and we have City Council who puts our residents first. And by doing that, we put our communities first as well. I have a sick mother. Villa has a sick husband at home. So, we do what is needed for our families and in turn for your families because a lot of us grew up with each other. I can look out on this crowd and see a lot of people that I've known for over 20, 30 years. I wouldn't want anything bad to happen to anyone in your family as does as anyone else here on the Council. So, we are doing our best to ensure that our City is covered no matter what it takes. We're going to work until it is done. So, I just want to thank everyone for coming out, allowing these gentlemen to talk to you, to explain things that are happening and why maybe, and to get home safely. Good night.

Ms. Al Amin thanked folks for coming out. It really is wonderful to see so many people here. It's unfortunate that it took an unfortunate set of circumstances for so many people to come out. There are a couple things I'd like to address. Mr. Pierce, you made some comments and I'd like to address some of them. You mention that you sit on a board. So, for the rest of the residents here so that you understand how this board works. Nothing can happen, a yes or a no, without a quorum vote which means the majority vote. So, whether we're out here in public or we're inside that closed door, everything is discussed. And thank you, Mr. Logan, for elaborating on the fact that we met and we talked about this issue because we did. And we even had an emergency meeting because of it. So, when all the information was relayed to us, we collectively together asked multiple questions to get the most information that we could. And then we decided as a board, the members that were present that night, that we really should inform the public of what's going on. And it wasn't to put a fear factor into anyone. It was so the residents understood. Do we still have an ambulance? We absolutely do. Do we have an ALS? No, we don't. But with my colleagues live and with my personal comment on Facebook-- and we even discussed all that. It was stated that we have an ambulance service. We don't have ALS. And there were some residents that made some very strong comments. And I too have a sister who is a three-time stroke survivor. So, when it's a matter of a stroke, a heart attack, time is of the essence because the longer it takes, the more that patient can lose and not have the ability to regain back. So, we're not trying to fear anybody. We do want everybody to understand and we want to do the best that we can. It's like our Council President said, our City Manager said, we want to have a contract. Right now, we're relying on neighboring communities to come in. But we want to know that we have our own contract to service the residents of this City. Because guess what? We matter. You matter. We matter. And together, we're all residents. Coatesville has some really, really positive things going on, and Coatesville is rising, and we are moving forward. And I can assure you, the City Manager, us collectively as a Council, we will work very, very hard until this issue is resolved and we hope that we have a contract with a company. It's just unfortunate this set of circumstances, the way it happened. But I still believe we did the right thing by informing the residents because transparency is always the best for the residents. So, thank you all so much. Thank you for coming out. Safe travels home and have a good night.

Vice President Green thanked, and I appreciate you guys coming in and sitting here and taking the heat during the comments. I know that Mr. Pierce made a comment but Miss. Hunt, you did a wonderful job in your live in expressing to the public. However, a lot of fear did get out because of posts mentioning death and dying and things of that nature. And I think that what Mr. Pierce was alluding to because when you put things out on Facebook, the next thing you know, it's here, it's there, it's everywhere. And I think what you did on Wednesday was awesome. I watched your live. I participated I think in your live. I think the information that you put out there was very accurate. It was knowledgeable to the public to make them aware that this is going on right now. We had not met with Washington Hose yet at that time so we didn't have a lot of information. It was about being transparent and letting people know. And even though we were very confident that we were going to be covered, sometimes you just have to be careful because in the field that you're in at the senior center, you encounter a lot of senior citizens who have health issues. But I guess what they were fearful of-- because people don't hear everything. They hear, "We don't have an ambulance." They hear that nobody's going to come so there stands a chance that I can die. And I think that your live was very responsible for [this one?]. I just want to say, in putting things out, we just have to be careful in what we put out and the way that we put it out, and the terminology and wording that we use because of fearful people. Because of people misunderstanding. So I do thank you for coming and clarifying. Mr. Logan, we will have a follow-up meeting. So that we can address all the concerns I wrote down. All the questions for everyone that came to the podium so that we can follow up and get answers for everyone. We are working on going back and trying to get a contract. And hopefully, like Miss. Lavender-Norris said, we will have that very, very soon. Time is of the essence that we have to get these things done. So, prior to us signing this contract with Washington Hose, we were set to sign a contract with Westwood. Westwood is still a viable ALS service. We're going to have to work out the details. But I just think that we just have to make sure that we putting out the information, that we put it out in the proper way. That we're giving the correct information out. Because when you say you don't have service, people took it-- prior to me coming to the meeting, I got a notification on Facebook saying that we have these restaurants-- we have these upscale restaurants but we don't have a hospital and we don't have an ambulance. People didn't hear that we don't have ALS, that we have IALS, that we have EMT. They don't hear all of that. Because in listening, we're trained to listen. We know all of this stuff, but when people are afraid, they hear in a different type of way. They hear, "We don't have service." So it's real important how we put this information out here. And I can truly understand-- I don't think you were coming up from here to attack anyone, Mr. Pierce. I understood what you're saying because I know the audience of people that he serves. They're senior citizens. They're people that have medical problems. So all I would like to say is that we do have to be responsible. We do have to be accountable for how we send the information out there. And I'm just grateful that we had the opportunity-- I'm upset with Washington Hose. I'm upset with the way that they handled this whole thing. I was upset when I heard it. I'm even more upset now even after we talked to them because the way that it was handled was terrible. The City should have been given the opportunity. They should have contacted the City Manager immediately and said, "Look, can we have a sit-down? This is what's going on. We're not going to be able to provide ALS service for Caln so this is not going to be affordable to us." So if it's not going to be affordable, maybe we need to sit down and renegotiate money. Maybe we need to get in contact with our public officials to see if there is some way that we can raise up more money. But to terminate the service, that was irresponsible. We have to now because we didn't budget for the more expensive service now-- so now we've got to figure out who's going to pay for that? How do we get that additional money? We already did our budget. We did our budget before we did the contract

with you. We included your amount in our budget. What do we do now? Are you going to pay the difference? Can we force you to pay the difference? Those are the questions that I have. Because there is a difference in the amount that we're going to have to pay because we're going to need a service. We heard Patrice Proctor come up and not say, "She don't want her service. She don't want us using her service and not paying for it." That could be the thing which you [crosstalk]. So how do we pay for that? You know what I mean? Who's responsible for that? Those are the questions that need to be answered. Because we can go back and forth and back and forth but the bottom line is that we have to get ALS service. I do appreciate you guys coming out here and I know that we're going to have a follow-up meeting for everyone. Your questions will be answered. Like I said, I know Miss. Lavender-Norris, she writes down everything. I know she's got all your questions wrote down as well. We will get back and we will have answers for each and every one in the community regarding how we move forward. I thank you all for coming out. I mean, I appreciate like Mr. Folks said. We haven't had this many people in a long time. While we have you here, we want to tell you some great things. We have a lot of stuff going. There're 42 projects going on in the City of Coatesville. 42. The City has not had this much movement in God knows how long. People have fought for this train station for over 20 years and now we have a train station being built. Not repairing the old train station. We're building a whole, brand new train station. We had our street done on 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue. You notice how nice it is when you're coming down that street, how well-lit it is? We've done the improvement on Route 82. We've widened lanes and everything and it looks so great when you're driving down. You think that you're somewhere else. Downtown at night on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, it looks like another place when you see those restaurants all lit up. We now have a new restaurant. Iron Eagle has now opened as of yesterday. They will also be open from Wednesday to Sunday. There're some things that are going on in the City of Coatesville but we all know, as fast as we go up, here comes something to try and pull us back. But we are resilient. We're not taking that. We're not going backwards. I leave the Washington Hose the question of how do we pay. What do we do going forward? That has to be-- [inaudible]. Where do we go from here? How do we move forward because we can discuss how-- whether we should-- the information that went out, whether it did go out? But now we got to get additional service and they got to get paid. So, I need you guys to ponder on that so that we can figure that out. Because we signed the contract for 5 years. You can't just walk away from the contract. You just can't. So, I thank you all and I just-- excited again that you all came out tonight and I wish you all very safe home. Thank you.

President Lavender Norris stated I want to say now we know exactly what the problem is. What are we going to do about it? I know we as Council-- I know what we're doing along with the staff. But I want you as residents to know that if you don't play a major part in what happens in this City-- we have so many vacancies on our boards and commissions where you could step in and say, "No, we don't want that. Yes, we do want this." But for whatever reason, there's still vacancies. We need your help. This is one major issue that we're dealing with now but we have a lot of other things going on and we need your help. We want you to know that we value you. We value your opinion. We don't only want to see you come in when there's a dire emergency. We want you to come in and say, "Listen, this is what we're proposing." Do you think you can do it? Do you think we can do it? We're residents here just like you are. Anything we vote to say yes or no to affects us just like it affects you. So, when you feel like we're not doing the best we can, think about what you're doing to help us get it right. I'm not trying to deflect or make you feel bad about anything. I want you to understand that you move the City, you as residents move us. So please consider getting involved. Don't complain if you're not trying to help. That's how I got involved. There were things I didn't like. So I wrote my name in on a ballot. We moved into an area where there was no representation on Council at all. It

was already vacant when I moved into the area. I felt like I can't go unrepresented. But the representation wasn't only for me. It's for everybody in my ward first and then the entire City because again, any decision that's made involves everybody. So please consider supporting us. Get on a board. Get on a commission. They're all listed on our website. All you have to do is say you want to do it. That's all it takes. Some of them require you to be a resident. That's even better because you're living the issues. Consider it. Become a part of the solution. When somebody comes to you and says, "What's wrong," you'll be able to say so because you're on a board, you're on a commission and you're informed. We don't want information to go out ahead of what the truth is. So, you can stand flat-footed against any lie, any misunderstanding when you're involved and know for yourself. That's all we're asking. We're here to support you just like we want you to support us. I mean, we are one another's keepers from where I stand. We're one another's keepers. Let's keep each other. Let's help each other. Let's look out for one another. Mr. Logan talked about money circulating in the City. Our money in the City doesn't circulate one hour. Why not? Before, we didn't have anything to offer. Now, businesses are opening up. Come see what's going on. Invest a dollar or two, 20 or 40, whatever it takes. But allow the money to circulate. Once we get moving properly-- you complain about taxes. But I'm not saying anyone in particular because I complain about taxes too. But I also know that once we get things moving in the City, we can address the taxes. We haven't raised them in five years. Let the businesses come through. We'll be in a position where we can lower them. But again, let the money circulate in the City. We've got work to do. We certainly have work to do. I've raised my hand from the beginning and said, "I'll help," so I'm not going to complain. I'm going to do whatever I can, whenever, and however. I don't have anything to hide. I don't have anything to gain by trying to sidestep questions or anything. I'm an open book. Any questions, any comments, meet me up in a meeting. I'll talk with you. I'm a resident just like you. I'll talk to you. There're things I don't like about the City. I'll tell you. We don't walk on a bed of roses but we're going to make the best of what we have. You can count on that. Thank you all for coming out. I'm blessed again to let you know you filled the room. Like Mr. Folks said, it's been years since this room has been filled. I'm trusting God to fill this room on a regular basis because of things that are happening. So consider it. Please, consider it and any questions you have for the gentlemen from the Washington Hose Company, they remain because they want to tell you-- they want to give you answers. So at the end-- we're near the end. Once we vote to adjourn, you can talk to these gentlemen at your leisure as long as they are going to stay. Thank you so much. God bless you all. Please stay. Enjoy your evening, and thanks again for coming out.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.