



City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, January 8, 2024

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

Council Absent:

Staff Present James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Richard Troutman, Finance Director; Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

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

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the December 11, 2023 and January 2, 2024 meeting minutes; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Ms. Scamuffa abstained from the vote.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. MS. Scamuffa was the dissenting vote.

Ms. Scamuffa stated her first question would be on page 3 of 85. Payment to terminate contact. Did we break even on that? Ms. Cosentino replied we did break the contract with Aramark, and it was in the December 11th packets. The savings from Aramark to change to Clemens amounts to over \$10,000 in one year. Ms. Scamuffa asked on page 5 of 85, Elevator inspections. How many times a year do they get done since there were two done in July, in 10 days of one another? It is National Elevator Inspection. It's in the middle of the page. Ms. Cosentino. Troutman explained sometimes the inspections are done when there's an issue. Sometimes we get notices. They need to be inspected, so it can vary. Mr. Troutman explained we are on a scheduled monthly process. Ms. Scamuffa asked on page 9 of the 85. It may coincide with our invoices, pages 44 through 47. The travel times for both parks. We're getting hit with major travel billing. Page 16. Well, this one here is for the River Walk. We have \$1,348.75 travel May 16th. And then also, for Palmer Park on May 16th, there's charges. They're sending out two different crews, and we have multiple-- October 5th and October 6th for both parks. The same dates. We're just getting hammered with travel time. Is that standard? Have we looked at-- where are they coming from? For Palmer Park, it's \$520 just for travel time, and River Walk was the biggest one. Ms. Logan stated yes, it is pretty standard. I don't know if we've looked or shopped around since we've been using this company. I think going back to 9 of 85, that's the type of winterization charge. Vice President Green stated and it's a six-month period, so or five-month period. Mr. Logan said right, the first charge there, that you're looking at 8,200 and change --that's when it was issued. Ms. Scamuffa stated right. But your invoicing from May-- according to this, from May to October. My concern is the travel time. I mean, on October 9th, we have two mechanics, 4.25 hours in travel time at \$65 an hour. And then they sent out-- on October 5th and 6th, it looks like they sent out two different crews from parks. I just don't know where they're coming from to charge this much in travel time. Mr. Logan stated they are from Birchrunville. Ms. Scamuffa

said that's down over by the Kimberton area. I mean, I just think it's something that we-- Mr. Logan said unless they're dispatched from somewhere else. But we can look into it. Ms. Scamuffa asked that we look at that because that's \$2,000 in travel alone. Mr. Logan replied we can do that. Ms. Scamuffa asked and the storage containers on page 9 of 85, the monthly charges for storage container, Rental charges for storage containers. What do we store? Mr. Logan explained we store our archives. Ms. Scamuffa asked is there any way we can do some digitizing at some point to cut that expense out? Mr. Logan stated we can look into that. Page 10 of 85, the driver training services for CDL. The new certifications for the drivers, are they required to stay a certain amount of time with the city to cover those charges? Ms. Cosentino replied that's all in their contract. Ms. Scamuffa asked on page 17 of 85 down at the bottom. Towing the two vehicles. Did we get reimbursed for those? Chief Laufer explained if it's related to arrest, yes. If it's related to an investigation, no. Yep. Ms. Scamuffa asked on page 22 of 85, the tire drop off. I know where the tires are being collected from. I know we're disposing of them. But do we get reimbursed from the property owner or either they've been dumped or whatever the situation may be? Mr. Logan explained we do it as a cleanup. We like to keep our cities clean. Vice President Green stated most of the time people are dumping their tires. Ms. Scamuffa stated I think that's all I have as far as the payables.

Ms. Al Amin stated I have one and it's a question actually. It's on page 17 of 85. Fran asked most of the ones that I had marked. For the portable restrooms for the winterization, it's on page 17 of 85, the first invoice is 160586. The first invoice number is 160586. So, for the winterization of the porta potties, would it be more cost-effective for us to remove them for the winter and bring them back in the spring as opposed to winterizing them and paying the monthly fee, or is there a-- I mean, the parks aren't really used during the winter, so is there a reason that we leave them during the winter and don't have them removed and then brought back in spring? Mr. Logan replied well, yeah. I mean, that makes sense, but we really haven't had a winter. So people are still in the parks. Mrs. Hunt asked then what would be the cost to move them and then have them brought back as opposed to just winterizing and then keeping them there? Because people aren't-- you have the snow. People are in the parks making snowmans and—sledding--all of those. It's not like they don't utilize them during the winter. It may not be as much, but is it going to balance the cost to move them, then have them brought back, as opposed to just winterizing them in the park? Ms. Al Amin asked is there a fee to actually pick them up? I thought the fees were included. When they drop them off, it's in the monthly fee. And when they pick them up, they pick them up. That's what I was looking for. Mr. Logan stated I don't think they charge us pickup fee, do they Rich. Mr. Troutman replied I don't have a recollection. Mr. Logan said I don't think they do. I think [inaudible]. But again, because we do get people still in the parks, we leave them in the parks. And when they're not there, then people complain that they're not there.

Presentations

1. Parks and Recreation – Grand Prix

Mr. Logan stated at this time, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite to the podium, Mr. Ajené Livingston. Mr. Crosby Wood. Ms. Lisa Thomas. Ms. Charrisse Allen. Is there anyone else in here that's on the Grand Prix committee? If you are on the Grand Prix committee, could you please join us up front? If not, all right. Well, Roberta and I will do this in here. As you all know, last year was our seventh annual Grand Prix here in the city of Coatesville. We had a wonderful turnout. Our numbers continue to go up. And part of the Grand Prix efforts is to not only showcase the city of Coatesville but also to, by way of some of the proceeds, improve the quality of life and some of the activities that go on in our parks. Ajené Livingston is the chairperson for our Parks and Rec. And 2022, they were the recipient of a

\$10,000 check from the Grand Prix committee and team members. And this year, I'm pleased to say that on behalf of the Coatesville Grand Prix committee, we would like to present a full check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Parks and Rec.

Mr. Livingston said thank you. As we put forth the effort to raise, rebrand, and reimagine our beloved city. Parks and Recreation plays its part by providing free accessible enrichment programs for all its residents. From our signature program, Sundays in the Park, with yoga, theater, craft-making, and adult and family fitness, to our celebrations spanning the year like Earth Day, Juneteenth, and our annual pancake benefits, just to name a few. These initiatives we lead, but there are many more that we partner. This year, we were able to not only maintain the momentum of our programming but also add some opportunities like three lunch programs in Ash Park with daily drawing and painting instructions, and free youth intramurals at Ellis Park and Abdala Park as well. This would not be possible without these generous donations, and also our community partners like United States Air Force, Chester County OIC, 2nd Century Alliance, the Alliance for Health Equity, Penn State Master Gardeners, Lane 1 YMCA, Coatesville Youth Initiative, Unique Fitness, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and many, many more. Also, the outstanding community members like Jacqueline Rose, Crystal Arnold, and our Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green. So we are grateful for this-- what should I call this? Mr. Logan said big check. Mr. Livingston said it's more than a check. It really symbolizes the value, the recognition of the importance of the work that we do in the community and for the community to offer these free programs to the community. This will go a long way. So once again, thank you all.

Mr. Wood stated I wouldn't admit it typically, but I miss this each year, so I'm glad to be here. My name is Crosby. I remember the first year, if I can reminisce for a second, and there's a number of folks down in the old city hall kind of meeting space just to the left as we walked in and some rumor about we're going to have this race. And I guess, not really being a big-- I have appreciation for cars, but I think the message was, "If you're going to do it, we're going to do it-- we got to do it so it's successful. We can't do it and then have it fall apart. We got to make this happen." And so whatever it is, I would say, whether it be racing elephants down the street or racing cars or displaying speed or however we connotate it, it was always about the impact on the downtown. We had this kind of little bit of, "Oh, the drive's about the cars. It's their experience. But no, it's about the residents and their experience, and not only entertainment. So, get used to it." So, it's been a journey. And I think that it's kind of amazing to watch it just kind of grow organically to the point where in year one, the neighbors are like, "Gah, what is this?" And it's absolutely crazy. In year two is like, "We like this." And three, and now all of a sudden, it has grown its leg of its own and everybody's excited about it. I'm just glad to be a part of it, and I appreciate the time. Thank you very much for putting up with my piece, whatever I do.

Ms. Thomas stated I just want to say for the last three years, I've been proud of everybody's efforts working together to really grow the event. And coming to the event three years ago and seeing where it's gotten to now, I'm more-- specifically with the area industries and the people that back the event, the enthusiasm for the city, been a real pleasure working with everyone. And I'm also very excited for me having a purpose. So Parks and Rec. Because I'm someone who lives just outside the City of Coatesville. And I appreciate the money that's being raised for open space in Coatesville because it's so important for everybody to have

space [inaudible]. Because that make sense to me. And I'd love for us to get together for a photo so I could post it tomorrow as well to social media.

2. 2nd Century Alliance – Amber Little-Turner

President Lavender Norris announced Ms. Little-Turner is not here for the 2nd Century Alliance report. However, Ms. Cosentino, Assistant City Manager, has the report. Ms. Cosentino said thank you, Madam President. In front of you, you have the report from Ms. Little-Turner. Just a few points from it that I think important to know are that the 2nd Century Alliance did receive the Growing Greener grant that they applied for, which is significant. It allows for them to hire a community liaison. So that's a really exciting thing for the city. She also mentioned the holiday market over the holiday season. I have an extra copy if you guys want to-- I'll bring it over to you. The holiday market went really well. There was a lot of positive feedback about that. There is a new business that's opening on Lincoln Highway. Or I'm sorry, that did open. Boutique, right, that opened. And also, she mentions that First Fridays will be starting again. They're aiming for May through October. So we should be seeing that permit applications And also, there's a business showcase and art show on Saturday, February 17th.

Discussion Items

1. Council Meetings work session meeting/Action meeting

President Lavender Norris stated work session meetings. I put on the table during our re-organizational meeting, just the discussion just to consider a work session and then an actual voting session with our two council meetings. Just trying to get a little more organized and give us more opportunity to read over, absorb, and think on the information that's set before us. Because we have been - excuse me - having some changes to our ordinances, and really looking for a really fruitful and busy year. With that being said, I want us to be able to have a little more time to look over the information that is set before us to give us a firmer understanding what it is and our consideration with regard to how we want to move going forward. At this point, open for discussion. Are there opinions?

Ms. Al Amin stated well, I personally think the meetings should stay the way they are just because of particular time restraints and first readings and second readings during budget time and for contractual agreements, if we have to meet a particular deadline for the second reading. And so, I would actually like the meetings to stay how they are now and do the voting sessions and vote for things. Ms. Allen stated I'm okay with however we do it because you can always ask questions if we want. However, it's ironic that this is on the table because this week, our packet was full of a lot of changes and things. And I actually personally need more time to look over everything and be able to get my tabs out and ask questions. So, I'm actually in favor of a voting week and give us more time to go over everything. So that way, if some of us do have 15 questions they want to ask, we can ask them without feeling like, "Oh, I didn't get a chance to look over-- inspecting everything." So, I'm in favor of a working session. Vice President Green stated I'm also in favor of a work session. I just want to make sure that it'll work out the way that it's intended. I don't want to support behind on action items. But again, I think it would give us more time. And I'm saying that because we receive our packets on Friday. And we have from Friday to Monday. And for those of us that work and have long hours, it's kind of rushed sometimes. And I'm spending all day Sunday reviewing my packet, trying to crash-course it. Ms. Turner-Green stated I agree with splitting the sessions up, sectionally. With having a full-time career as well as having small children,

sometimes, it doesn't give me enough time to really read through it thoroughly. I understand maybe there might be some items you can put in terms of priority for the meetings to act on. Mrs. Hunt said I'm still on the fence with it as I was when we talked at the rework meeting. Is there any way that we could possibly get action items emailed or something to us prior to us getting our packets on Friday before the meeting, to give us more time to look over and get a clear understanding? My concern is still making sure we're giving enough weight to each agenda item that's on the agenda they were looking at. Say if this was the work session today. We would just look at these action items that we have. We would discuss them. But there's no action taken on it until another time. Where does that put that-- it was something that really needs to be voted on and taken care of? And how do we-- if we're going to prioritize, how do we prioritize and say, "This has more weight to it than that"? I just want to make sure that we're not setting ourselves up for something that could come back and hurt us as opposed to us receiving action items earlier than we receive our four packets. Is something like that possible? Just a thought. Mr. Logan answered the questions on action items-- and Roberta and Rob chime in. So sometimes, they're based on the business during the week or the month. And it really depends on if something comes to administration and we have to take action on it, be it ordinance, be it resolution, be part of a zoning or planning kind of [inaudible]. So, what we try to do is we try to put on the agenda according to some timetables or time constraints that we have. Sometimes, we have to do things within 30 days, every [inaudible]. So it really kind of depends. But there are certain action items that we are able to maybe put on the second meeting rather than the first. But it is a timing issue also.

President Lavender Norris explained the logistics of it still has to be worked out. So whatever questions, concerns, or what have you, we're not looking to change it in February. We're just right now looking into it, trying to frame it and see if we could actually do it. Because we could come to a point where we can do it. Or we could kind of manipulate the whole process to a point where we can do some. I don't know. I don't know how it works. But again, the good part about it is because there are our meetings, we get to determine how they're arranged. That's the best part.

Mr. Jefferson explained my firm represents several municipalities, and some municipalities do have workshop sessions. It's largely a function of the agenda and what's there and a priority. As has already been stated, sometimes you're dealing with deadlines where you have to act within a certain time. And I'm thinking most recently to support for a grant that we had to get done rather quickly. So just going back, really quick thinking about that. The good thing is that these meetings are full-blown meetings under the Sunshine Act, meaning we can still take action at both. I think what you're saying is that we're going to try to prioritize or put more discussion items in the first one, and then in the second one, have action on it. But that's just more of a function of putting things on the agenda in the way that you want. Hypothetically, if you wanted to talk about Parks and Recreation as a discussion item, you could do that in the first meeting of the month, and then come back and act on it. And it's just a function of how you create the agenda, which like you said, you create. But sometimes you will be dealing with schedules and deadlines where you do have to act. I think a lot of municipalities do try to schedule presentations in the first one to try to get all those out and then have full discussions about a certain issue, and then try to act on it in a second, recognizing that sometimes you will have deadlines that you just have to reach. But they are full meetings under the Sunshine Act, so you can.

President Lavender Norris asked Mr. Jefferson to explain, if you could, the consent vote. Mr. Jefferson explained how West Chester Borough does the consent agenda. What they do is they have a workshop session where they discuss a specific item on the list of agenda items. And then if it's agreed upon, then ultimately it will be worked into what's called the consent agenda, so that when you get to the action meeting, it's all in one thing. If you just wrote all this as a consent item, all those things that are in that consent are acted upon in a single vote. So, it just moves that along. But you're still having the discussion about those, just in an earlier public meeting. You're just not acting on it at that time.

2. Executive Meeting Times

Ms. Al Amin explained that's actually an item that I asked to be put on for discussion. Executive meetings are supposed to start at 6:00 pm, and I have no problems with that whatsoever because I always arrived before 6:00. But in 2023, our meetings didn't generally start until at least 6:30. And so I just wanted to see how everybody felt that if the meetings aren't going to start until 6:30, why don't we make the meetings at 6:30? Because I think we have to be respectful of everybody's time. And I know that things happen sometimes, so a few minutes late here or there is one thing. But for an entire year for the meetings to start at 6:30, for me, my time is just as important as everybody else, and I would prefer to just not sit there for a half hour. So, I ask for it to be put on the agenda for discussion. Vice President Green stated if we change the executive 6:30, we would have to change the public too. Ms. Al Amin said okay. Well, then is there any way that we can make a better effort for people to be there at 6 o'clock? Vice President Green stated well, I don't think the meeting has to wait for people to get there if there's enough people to start the executive session, we should just start. Ms. Al Amin said I know that. But it doesn't usually start until 6:30. And I'm not the one that gets to dictate when the meeting starts. But I know that I'm there prior to 6:00. So I'm just saying, once the amount of people that need to be there are there, can we start? Or if we're not going to start until 6:30, then can that be communicated ahead of time so that those that are here by 6:00 don't have to be here. Mrs. Hunt stated I don't believe we've had a whole year starting the meetings 6:30—That is untrue. Ms. Al Amin stated okay. Because every meeting I write down. Mrs. Hunt stated [crosstalk] times throughout the year that meetings have started late, waiting on-- make sure we had a quorum. But I don't think it's a set pattern that people just don't get here till 6:30. And we're allotted an hour and a half to take care of business before we come on the floor. So I mean, yeah, there has been times-- and I do think if someone is late, I think we make contact with the president or either the city manager to let them know, "Hey, I'm going to go late. I'll be here at whatever time." So yeah, it has been times that we've started late, but it's not like-- I don't want the impression to go out that it's a consecutive thing every single meeting that we don't start until 6:30 because that's not presenting true. Vice President Green said the meeting should start at 6:00. They're not voting, so it doesn't matter if there's a quorum or not. Mrs. Hunt stated it is discussion. But yeah.

President Lavender Norris stated since I'm the one that starts the meeting, yes, we have started late. And I promise you, we'll start late again because that's life. I can't tell you what's going to happen next week. I know what I have planned, but I can't tell you what it'll be. However, when I hold the meetings up, it's generally because we have some really important stuff on there. And we are only a council when we're all there. We're there as individual members, yes, but when we come together, we come together as a council. And when we make decisions, it's for us to make those decisions as a council. So that's why I hold the

meetings up, not to disrespect anybody's time. And for the most part, I'm usually the second one in the door. I don't always get there at 6:00 o'clock, not long after, but I don't have a problem with it. I try to accommodate. Vice President Green stated I don't get off work until 6:00 o'clock. So, I come here straight from work. So, I'm not going to be here at 6:00, but I'm here shortly after. And if I am going to be later, I always call. Mrs. Hunt stated I try to do the same because my work schedule varies. All of you know, I have a very sick husband, and that takes precedence over anything certainly. But I try my best to get here. And if I know that I'm going to be 15 minutes late, I'll text somebody and let them know. So that's the nature of life, and that's how life goes. But I do think we all have the best interest of what we're doing at heart, certainly. And I just don't want it to be presented that we're being lax or unconcerned or just walking in whenever we want to because such is not the case. And we have not-- I want it to be in the notes. We have not had consecutive yearly-- a year worth of meetings with everybody being late at 6:30. That is just not the case, and it's not the truth. So [crosstalk] try to do better when things are-- absolutely. And when I'm looking at the clock on Monday meetings, [inaudible]. Because we have not met every month of the year, twice a month, and purposely have 6:30 meetings. That just has not happened. Ms. Al Amin stated I'm not saying it's purposely. But I'm telling you for the entire year of 2023-- and I write the start times down in my packet, and I can provide those packets. 24 meetings out of 24 meetings in 2023, we started late. And generally, it was round about 6:30. Mrs. Hunt said that's not true. Ms. Al Amin stated and sometimes there might have been enough people there to start the meeting. [crosstalk]

Ms. Allen stated this is becoming a bickering back and forth, and that's not what we're here for. So can we say what we're going to here? We vote on it. We're all in favor. We're sitting at 6 o'clock. That's how it is. Let's go to the next one. [crosstalk] Okay. So we go onto the next one because this discussions over. Mrs. Hunt said I respect what you're saying, Charrisse. And I'm not doing a bickering. I just want to make sure that it is noted because everything that we've discussed is noted. And I just wanted to make sure that get's in the minutes here. Ms. Allen said and it's okay that we discussed it at length. Everybody said their piece. Tiniera, do you have something to say about it? Ms. Turner-Green replied no. Ms. Allen replied I don't. Fran wasn't here, so I'm not going to ask her. We discussed it. Can we move on? Because it's 8:21 and it's dark outside. And people have to get home to their families. Some of us have people waiting on us to get home. Mrs. Hunt stated I'm sorry. I just have issue when we are reflected in a way that's not right. Because when we come together as seven people, we are now one. And when it's reflected that we're being literally irresponsible or disrespectful of time for no reason, then that doesn't sit right. And I'm not going to walk out of here leaving that as an open item that this is what we have done. Because we have been elected by the people to represent them. And if we're not being mindful and respectful of the times that have been set for us to be here, then we're not representing the people the way we should. And I'm not going to allow that. To go out like that, without a rebuttal on it. Vice President Green said again, I don't get off work til 6:00, but I'm not calling asking the meeting to be held up until I get here. The meeting can start. And like I said, I'm here shortly after. So I know that I'm probably one of the ones that is late. But unfortunately, I work. The City doesn't pay me my salary.

Ms. Scamuffa stated Councilwoman Allen, I agree 100%. I was not here last year, but I think we have to be respectful, too, of when somebody has concern with something that they put on the discussion item. I know we want to move forward. We all want to go home, but it's just a

discussion. And I agree with what everybody is saying, Councilwoman Hunt. I understand how you feel. Everybody has a life outside of here. We have to move forward. But let's be mindful and respectful of each other while we're sitting up here at the table. Mrs. Hunt said well, I'm always --- and I make it a point to be respectful of what anybody has to say. But all at the same time, I'm not going to sit back and let something be misrepresented-- --that's the way that I feel about it. So that's all I'm saying. I'm not saying that she's wrong for saying what she feel, but it's wrong in the way it's presented to make all of us look like we're being irresponsible. That's the issue. That's all I'm saying. Ms. Scamuffa stated I can't speak to it because I wasn't here. This is my first one tonight. But I just think, well, we're sitting up here and just be dismissive of somebody's discussion. Concern. Vice President Green stated it's not going to be like that. We have businesses.

3. Newly Elected Municipal; Official Boot Camp

Vice President Green explained this is new and it's something-- and pretty much everybody who's got elected would take this on how to be an elected official. But this is Yes, this is new to them. President Lavender Norris stated yes, this is 201. Well, they've been doing the 101. Ms. Allen stated this is something different. Yeah. Mr. Logan said yeah. The one that is done or presented by our West Chester County Chamber. But that's coming up this month. That's the—20th. Right. That's the one that's getting council members from-- usually invited too. Vice President Green stated not all of us have taken it. Mr. Logan announced that is January 20th, 8:00 AM, and it's at the Training facility in the South Coatesville. It's a great event. We actually encourage all of our committee members to attend that as well. The one that you're looking at, the newly elected official that is presented by the PSAB, it's my understanding this has been added to your packet. This one is free. Vice President Green explained this is a virtual-- is it a virtual [inaudible] travels? Ms. Allen stated this is one thing that I've seen on here was depending on where. Montgomery County or in Delaware County. I think it's virtual. Mr. Logan suggested attending the local one if you can. Ms. Allen stated the local are in Montgomery or Delaware County?

4. Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jefferson stated I actually think we skipped 4.2, which is meeting minutes. I don't want to take anybody's time any longer, but it's on the agenda and I was asked to speak about it so I could do it in a minute or under. So it's 4.2. It's meeting minutes. And I was asked to state what the Sunshine Act specifically requires in terms of meeting minutes. So, what's specifically required under the Sunshine Act for meeting minutes is governed by Section 706 of the Sunshine Act. And it reads, "Written minutes shall be kept of all open meetings of agencies. The minutes shall include date, time, and place of the meeting, the names of members present, the substance of all official actions, and a record by individual member of the roll call votes taken. The names of all citizens who appeared officially, and the subject of their testimony." So I know that I was asked to discuss what this means, but those are the specific things that the Sunshine Act requires. It doesn't have to be verbatim meeting minutes. Obviously, you can go above what the minimum is, which would be more than what's in this. But this is what the actual law requires. So is there any questions about that?

Ms. Allen stated I do, Rob. I heard what you said in looking over our minutes, is there anything that's in the Sunshine Act that we're not following or that we're not doing? Mr. Jefferson asked in terms of the meeting minutes? Ms. Allen replied yes. Mr. Jefferson explained I believe the meeting minutes cover everything that's within the meeting minutes. I

think we're going above and beyond what's required. But again, if you want to consider the law, the [inaudible] floor, you don't want to go below the floor. You can obviously go above the floor. So, I know it just takes, from my understanding, Ruthann, a long time to create the meeting minutes. So, I just wanted to make sure that everybody understood specifically what's required under the law. That's all. Ms. Allen noted for areas that are inaudible that we get in our minutes, it's because of the microphones or what have you. However, because this has been brought up and we want to make sure that we are on board, we're following everything, can we, as council and the citizens, when we come to the mic, speak more clearly and a little bit more slower? If you know you're a person who speaks fast, [inaudible] words unsaid can be heard around the table so that we don't have to worry about Ruthann not being able to transcribe what was said. Mr. Jefferson replied that is my understanding. President Lavender Norris explained a lot of the crosstalk is what causes the inaudible. None of us know what was being said or who said it because three or four of us are talking at one time. So we've got to be mindful of that. [crosstalk]-- Ms. Al Amin stated I think they're a little different because when there's crosstalk-- Like now. When there's crosstalk, it says-- you know what, I'm going to excuse-- I'm going to handle my business the way I need to handle business, the way I did before. And I want this on public record. And let me make sure it is being heard loud and clear. I'm tired of the disrespect from you-- President Lavender Norris asked what disrespect? Ms. Al Amin stated --I'm tired of the disrespect from other council members, and I'm tired that if it's me that asks the question, me that says something, I get the eyes rolled, the teeth sucked, a, "This is ignorant," and, "This is that." But if there's another council member that asked it, it can be answered, no problem, no too much. What I'm going to do is what I did two and a half years ago. And when I leave out of here, I'm going to contact my legal counsel so he can send another letter to City Hall so this can cease and desist. President Lavender Norris stated I don't know. But okay. But anyway, what I was going to say is-- Ms. Al Amin stated you're one of them.

Ms. Al Amin excused herself from the meeting at 8:30 pm. Ms. Allen and Ms. Turner-Green stepped out of the meeting.

President Lavender Norris explained when we have our sign in issue, which becomes a legal document, is it not required that we not put a nickname because it is an official document? And if we need to go back on that, if I say Cinderella, if I sign up as Cinderella, then you can't tell me Linda Lavender-Norris signed that form. That with Cinderella. You see what I'm saying? [crosstalk]-- Wait a minute. When you sign up to speak in our meeting, does the sign-up sheet become an official document? And if so, is it not required for the proper name and information that's asked for on that sheet to be filled out? Vice President Green stated they are required to put their name and their address. Right? Mr. Jefferson said I haven't looked at the sheet in a while, but yes. Vice President Green explained you've got to put your name and address. Mr. Jefferson explained obviously, there's no way that we can make sure that we enforce that. I don't know how I could make sure that somebody put their correct address. Ideally, people would use their correct name. Ideally, people would put their correct address. I just don't know practically how we would enforce that—Vice President Green stated well, their address because it has to be a city address. In the city. Unless they are a property owner in the city. Mr. Jefferson said see, there's already an exception. So, it becomes more challenging just to even do that. So it just presents a challenge. Obviously, ideally, everybody would use their correct name. I agree. I just don't know how, practically, you would enforce. I know exactly what you're talking about, but I just don't know,

practically, how that would work. But ideally, yes. Vice President Green stated no, I was saying they're supposed to put their full name. Their name and their address because it does become a legal document. It's required to know who is at the podium. Is that correct, Rob? Mr. Jefferson replied you could go with that. Vice President Green stated I can't get up there and say, "I'm John Doe." Mr. Jefferson replied no. Ideally, that would not be the case, right? But the sign-up sheet is for our purposes. Ideally, like I said, they would use a real name and real address. Let people know. We only have one issue with it, so. But yes, I agree. Ms. Mowday explained regarding inaudibles, there are microphones above you which are voice activated. So if someone were to-- if you were speaking and someone were to whisper to you, it's still crosstalk or may be inaudible. But because it's whispering, it's shutting that down to where you can't hear. It's not always where it's just crosstalk. It's if somebody else is right near you and you're the one to speak, and if somebody else says something, it cuts you out because they are speaking louder or may shut down to cut out noise. They'll go to the next loudest person speaking.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

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

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Ms. Allen and Ms. Turner-Green were not present for the vote.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to promote – Officer Joel Williams from Part-Time Officer to Fulltime Officer

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to promote Officer Joel Williams from Part-Time Officer to Fulltime Officer; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Ms. Allen was not present for the vote.

Chief Laufer stated I would like to make a couple of quick comments. I'd like to thank Council for their support in this promotion of Officer Williams from part-time to full-time and Finance Director Troutman for making the case as to why there's a need for an additional full-time position within the police department and also how the city can afford to pay for that position. And it was through the efforts of Mr. Troutman providing that information and then Council being receptive to that information and adding the additional position in the 2024 budget. That brings us here tonight for this promotion of Officer Williams. He's been with us for about a year as a part-time officer, basically working full-time hours. He comes to us with prior police experience here in Chester County, and it was a unanimous pick by the supervisors. They came to myself and the lieutenant with the recommendation that Officer Williams be the one selected and promoted to hold this position full time. So having said that, thank you for your support. And any questions, happy to answer them. Thank you for your continued support for the police department. And your second meeting in January, we'll have Judge Hines here to actually swear in-- a ceremony.

Ms. Turner-Green re-entered the meeting at 8:40 pm

2. Receive and consider amending the City of Coatesville Master Fee Schedule

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve amending the City of Coatesville Master Fee Schedule; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Cosentino pointed out the changes that have been made to the master fee schedule. If you turn to your packets, the resolution, page 3 of 11, you should see a yellow highlight towards the bottom of the page where there is now a late fee for a dwelling, hotel rooming house, or commercial licenses to be inclusive with commercial license as well. On page 4 of 11, you'll see we've added a line for U & O Zoning determination application fee which is \$125. And all the way at the very end, page 11, 11, there's just been a small bit to note business privilege tax/license are charged per entity and rental property owners are businesses. Mr. Jefferson explained the way that the resolution is drafted, these fees will go into effect one minute after midnight tonight. That's when it will become effective. Ms. Scamuffa asked and are, these-- I guess, coincide with other local areas? Ms. Cosentino stated that's a good question. We actually do take into consideration-- we reflect on what other municipalities charge, but our fees are based on our costs. So whatever fees that we incur are costs for those services. So that's how those fees are determined. While we also look at what comparable fees are in other municipalities and ensuring that we're in line with others. Vice President Green explained if you go a little further out, a lot of them here [behind?], we're not as much as they are. But the [inaudible] is in fee-for-service. Vice President Green explained if you go a little further out, a lot of them here [behind?], we're not as much as they are. But the [inaudible] is in fee-for-service.

Ms. Allen re-entered the meeting at 8:45 pm.

3. Receive and consider to accept resignation from Fran Scamuffa for the Civil Service Commission effective December 31, 2023

Ms. Scamuffa made a motion to accept resignation from Fran Scamuffa for the Civil Service Commission effective December 31, 2023; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Scamuffa stated it was an honor to serve on the Civil Service Commission. I enjoyed it, liked being a part of it, dealing with the fire department, any of their concerns when they came up, and things like that. I'll certainly miss being on there, but I know there's somebody ready and willing to jump into my shoes

4. Receive and consider a motion to reappoint: Jay Byerly to the Planning Commission for the term 2024-2027; Jack Burkholder to the UCC Board of Appeals for the term 2023-2027; Joseph DiSciullo to the Redevelopment Authority for the term 2024-2028; John Guerrera to the UCC Board of Appeals for the term 2024-2028; and Charles Thoman to the Zoning Hearing Board for the term of 2024-2028

President Lavender Norris asked Mr. Jefferson if the motions need to be separate or can be on one lump sum. Mr. Jefferson explained it only becomes an issue if somebody objects to one of them and you clump them all together. So, I don't know how this is going to go, but it only becomes an issue if somebody objects to one, but all five together. Do you have any objections to any one that's listed? Jay Byerly from the planning commission. Jack Burkholder for the UCC Board of Appeals. Joseph DiSciullo to the RDA. Roger Barrett to the UCC Board of Appeals. Charles Thoman to the Zoning hearing Board. Are there any

objections to any of them? No. Hearing that there's none, then I have no issue with being one mass motion and then voting on the whole motion at one time.

Vice President Green made a motion to reappoint Jay Byerly to the Planning Commission for the term 2024-2027; Jack Burkholder to the UCC Board of Appeals for the term 2023-2027; Joseph DiSciullo to the Redevelopment Authority for the term 2024-2028; John Guerrera to the UCC Board of Appeals for the term 2024-2028; and Charles Thoman to the Zoning Hearing Board for the term of 2024-2028; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Allen made a motion to close action items; MS. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson wished everyone a Happy New Year, and congratulations to the newly elected and reelected individuals. Good luck, and I look forward to working with all of you. Since council's last meeting, I have communicated and continued to communicate with outside counsel regarding certain litigation matters; worked and provided an opinion on a certain zoning matter; communicated and continue to communicate with outside counsel regarding personnel matters; worked on a criminal matter that will be heard at the end of the month before a judge in the Court of Common Pleas; communicated and continue to communicate with outside counsel regarding certain land development matters and opioid litigation matters; and finally, I received several orders from the Court of Common Pleas regarding the last litigation.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan stated I want to congratulate, as Rob has already done, so congratulations and welcome to our returning council members, our reelected members, President and Vice President, and to our newest council member, welcome. During our executive meeting. I provided comments and updates on personnel and real estate matters to city council members. Once again, I want to welcome everyone to 2024 and another year in the city of Coatesville. To residents and stakeholders. As noted in our last meeting, we have major plans this year. A number of investments that are being made in the City of Coatesville. Our staff is working hard and has worked hard to look at projects made over the last year and previous years. Over the next four years, we have on staff some great things in store for the city. Our staff is excited as we look towards the future and working with our residents, our youth, and other stakeholders to continue our positive initiatives. I would like to take this time to thank everyone that's been part of the city's success and comeback of the city. We could not have achieved the status that we've reached at this point without your support in the front and behind the scenes.

Moving on, in the course of the last three weeks, I should say close out of the year, we had an opportunity to meet with Jarvis Berry, CYI Executive Director, and Bertram L. Lawson, who is president and CEO of the YMCA Greater Brandywine, discussed building our partnerships and our relationship to ensure that our youth in this community has resources. A building that they will be soon going into. The YMCA also is making tremendous effort to come back to the City of Coatesville, provide various programming and activities for our youth here as

well. In addition to that, Roberta and I met with the Caln Township Manager, Don Vymazal. He was able to meet to discuss partnership and municipal collaborations. Some of you may know Don from his days working with the [inaudible]. Well, he's a very knowledgeable young man. He looks forward to working with them. And we couldn't think of a better partnership for the [e-service?]. So we're excited about that. We also met with members of our leadership team here at City Hall to discuss our vision goals. In 2024, we plan to work on our business plans for the next-- that will take us up the next 5 or 10 years. And we will be working along with the county to develop that plan.

The theme of reimagining Coatesville will continue in 2024. We want others to reimagine the City of Coatesville with us. And that's going to involve everyone, Police, Fire, staff, stakeholders, volunteers. We will continue to add municipal updates to our new website. We have economic development impact in terms of new restaurants that are coming into the community. We have more retail interests. The train station project, it's moving according to schedule. And of course, we've all seen the uptick in folks coming to the city to live. So good things are happening for the future. On our youth development and educational side, we continue to work with our Chamber of Commerce on trades. Programming. And the idea behind this is to get individuals who may not be college-bound, but that they learn a trade, make a decent wage, establish a nice family here in the city of Coatesville, and just take care of what their needs are. So excited that the companies that are here in the city are willing to step forward and help us with developing curriculums and partnerships to initiate the trade programs in the city.

Parks and Rec, you heard from Tiniera a little bit earlier this evening. We wish them the best of luck bringing more programs to the city this year. And of course, we are also working with Quality of Life initiatives, as we always have been. But we do know that there are still some challenges here in Coatesville. Some are trash-related. Some are dumping-related. Some are fire-related. And of course, crime. But all of those numbers are down but still on the radar. Still a number of things that we need to improve on and look forward to [inaudible]. That concludes my report. And Happy New Year too.

3. Assistant City Manager

Thank you, Madam President. To begin, I'd like to welcome any Spanish speakers and other non-English speakers to come to the city for assistance with city matters and say that we are here to help as best we can. We want everyone to be able to share their questions. [foreign]. In your packet towards the end is our monthly Code Department report. What you see at the end of the year with holidays and winter weather is a general slowdown in inspections and permitting. Important to note is that the Codes Department sent out all of our rental license reminders for November, and also reminders for rental inspection and for business privilege, along with other reminders like trash and that sort of thing as well. So, we try to make the most out of that one mailer. The Codes Department has also been busy updating forms and applications for 2024. And we are also obviously trying to stay on top of any code complaints for the city as well.

I'll also add, aside from the report, Mr. Logan and I had a meeting with PennDOT in the previous week, as well as Valley Township and our respective engineers to discuss the flooding on Route 82, what's causing it, and potential solutions. We will have another meeting with updates by the end of the month, recognizing also that we are expecting

flooding as early as tomorrow evening into Wednesday. So PennDOT is aware of the issue. Are working on it. This is something that's going to take some time, so it won't be resolved by Tuesday or even the next Tuesday. But it's important that everybody just be careful as they're driving and stay home if you can if it's flooded. Oh, another positive thing that happened towards the end of December, council president and I had a chance to meet with Representative Houlihan at the Made in Coatesville small business incubator. She had come to do some Christmas shopping, and it was great to just chat with her about the small businesses and entrepreneurs here in the city, and really seeing her support for that and also the potential growth that's there as well. So that's an exciting thing that's happening here in the city.

I'll also note that the Ash Park Design Project continues. The name of the engineering company is [DLT?], has been meeting with several community members that utilize the park, and they will be meeting with us, the city, during February to learn more about how the park is utilized and best design features and that sort of thing. And last but not least, last Saturday was our first snowfall of the year. As you all know, or maybe you don't know, so I'll say it, but snow removal can be somewhat of a dangerous job, especially on our steep city streets and narrow roads. And just a public service message on behalf of our public works department and our EMS and Fire and Police, if the plows are out and you don't need to be, please stay home.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete statistical report is in your packet tonight. Just a couple of highlights as we normally do. We had five Narcan administrations administered by the Police Department in the month of December. We had 11 car seat checks and installations provided by our car seat technicians, which includes a car seat at no cost to our residents. Our parking enforcement officer, Lynn Rawls, announced her resignation, which was effective December 31st. So, we will be actively soliciting applications for what is really a thankless job. But if you know anybody that has an interest in being a parking enforcement officer for the city, please send them our way. We advertised using our Facebook page and our other avenues through Berta, to try to attract some interest in that position. We had our annual Christmas parade back on December 2nd, Saturday the 2nd, [inaudible] the month of December, which kicked off the holiday season. We had our coffee with the Chief at nth Innovations, Sue Springsteen. Thank you, Sue, for hosting. Back in December. Very enjoyable. We appreciate it. And had the officer coordination involvement with the Shop with a Cop program. It's always the second Saturday in December. December 9th. Another great success. We had a little over 60 kids. We started out with a breakfast with Santa in the morning at Olivet. And we're transporting them to the Parkesburg Walmart, where they were all given an opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts and spend \$150 per kid, partner up with a law enforcement officer from Chester County, and also a certain city manager from Chester County. No names given. But a good time was had by all. Also, we had officer involvement in the first day of winter, also known as Winter Solstice, where we visited the bus stops here in the city, and we gave away hat and gloves for the weather as it begins here. That was a good success. We gave the officers a chance to meet and interact with our young school students.

I'd like to read a letter that was written on behalf of the Coatesville Police Officers Union and was addressed to the city council and to administration. We were fortunate enough through

the hard work of our finance director, Rich Troutman, and through Mr. Logan [inaudible] city and council's approval, to be able to offer an incentive for officers to remain with the department and also to help us attract new officers that might consider employment with the city. So, we were able to work with the union and agreed to a memorandum of understanding, which modified our current collective bargaining agreement for the younger officers, specifically. So, this is what the union wrote back to the city. I'll just go ahead and read it. It says, "On behalf of the City of Coatesville Police Officers Benevolent Association, I am writing to you with regard to the MOU agreed upon by the city and the union. Union is extremely grateful for the city showing its commitment to the police department by agreeing to provide additional financial compensation. This will be of particular benefit for the younger and newer members of the department. We as members of the union will continue to strive to provide the same high level of service that this city has come to expect and deserve. Sincerely, Officer Sam Slater, the president of the police union." So, I just wanted everybody to hear that coming from the police officers' union.

And also, just from my standpoint, I just want to recognize Council's part in trying to make the City of Coatesville a safer place, trying to make it a place where officers want to come to work and want to stay. We are in a very competitive environment when it comes to hiring and retention, and we're not unique. That's really industry-wide all across the country. Obviously, the city's financial situation that we're in, it is looking brighter, but we don't have the tax base a lot of other municipalities do. So our officers recognize that we'll never make as much money as some of these other municipalities in Chester County. But this certainly goes towards allowing the officers to feel good about being here with the city of Coatesville, to remain with the city of Coatesville, and hopefully attract some additional officers for all the right reasons. So thank you once again for your support

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

Lila Singleton

Ms. Singleton wished everyone a good evening, all. [inaudible] and saying something at the meetings [inaudible]. Some of the times people get up and they're going to give name and address and get up and-- so anyway, we'll do questions about two things that were mentioned on the agenda, although I know this is non-agenda items. So, if I am asking inappropriately, let me know. The first one is about the meeting minutes. And I guess, this is the directed towards the solicitor. I don't really know the intention of why you were asked the question or whatever. But I do know when we were here several weeks ago with Mr. Good Citizen, and I know you mentioned that a few minutes ago, about not using actual name, there was minutes distributed from the September 25th, 2023 meeting, which were approved by Council on October 9th. And I don't know if they had anything to do with those minutes, but it might be helpful to take a look at those minutes because they definitely go into detail about comments that City Council members-- and that's all I'm going to say. Only because I was here, I received a copy from the gentleman out in the hall. So I don't know. So that one's pretty good. The other one is the newly elected municipal officials. I guess this directed to Mr. Logan. The official boot camp. Is that open to the public? The official boot camp that you mentioned that the chamber is giving at the training center? Is that something for officials for? Is it open? Mr. Logan stated with the Chamber of Commerce. It's something that the city [crosstalk]-- Ms. Singleton replied oh, okay. So you were just making the announcement. And if I may, does anyone know what's going on in with Aarons building. Is that a city initiative? I know you mentioned some things about the city doing investments with developers. Mr. Logan said we have not received any updates. Thank you.

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

Special Events

President Lavender Norris announced for special events, we have the MLK march reenactments, Edmund Pettus Bridge crossing that will-- sorry. That will be on the 15th. Registration at 8:30 at Gateway Park. Our first step-off will be at 9:30. March will go from First Avenue to Fifth Avenue. With each intersection, there will be some signage acknowledging each day end of that week. When you get to New Life in Christ, there will be pastors that are in character, the Freedom Riders that were in the march. They'll be in character representing them. They will introduce themselves in character, informing what part they played in our history. Pastor Michael Harris will be in character of Dr. Martin Luther King. Judge Hines will be singing a rendition of Old Freedom there. Congresswoman Houlihan will be there. She will speak as well. And after the speech by Pastor Harris, the I Have a Dream speech, we will matriculate over to the CYWA, where there will be a soul food lunch. And the rest of the characters will introduce themselves. And then there will be a viewing of the movie, Rustin, there. Afterwards, we will matriculate down to the Atkinson Center, in the 700 block of East Chestnut Street, where there will be stuffing of bags for homeless veterans. They'll be filled with toiletries, and there will be little notes of encouragement written and stuffed in the bags as well. There will also be a house raising, if you will, where the work has begun on January 2nd, expected to culminate on that day. The house will house three homeless men as well. So there is definitely the march, there's definitely the educational piece, and there is also the service piece. All are welcome. None of it is at cost. So please come out, participate, and bring as many as you would, and just be a part of our march. We've been contacted by news stations. We've been contacted by state government officials. Different people that want to be a part of this. Our own councilwoman will actually be in character as well. But it should be a wonderful day, and it will definitely be a positive mark in the city's history. So to all of you, please come out and participate, and thank you for that.

Council Comments

Ms. Scamuffa thanked everybody for coming out. Thank you for watching. It's [inaudible]. I just want to say I'm proud and I'm honored to be sitting on this side of the table. I intend to conduct myself accordingly. I've been on the opposite side of the table, and I know I've had disagreements because I'm fighting for the city as well. I've had my moments, but I made a vow that I would conduct myself accordingly on this side of the table for the people of the city. For my co-council persons. By no means mistake my kindness for being a pushover. I really hope in the future that council members can conduct themselves accordingly. At no time should we be disrespecting another council person's concerns. I mean, we can take that aside somewhere. And I'm sorry that the residents had to witness that. I do look forward to working with my co-council. We're going to get things done. And I just want to say thank you. I'm just very disheartened by the turn of events. But regardless, we're going to push forward and we're going to make Coatesville a better place. Whether I have 0 questions, 1 question, or 100 questions, I'm going to keep doing what I'm supposed to do for my city. So, thank you, everyone.

Ms. Turner-Green. Wished everyone a good evening. Tonight was, I would -- typically, I don't have a lot to say, but I will say that having seven people on Council is invaluable. That's seven different perspectives. That's seven different opinions. That's seven different opportunities to look at something differently. And because we're seven different people from different backgrounds and

different experiences, it is a certainty that we won't always agree. But conflict, we choose. We can choose that. Thanks, everyone, for coming out tonight. Continue to come. It is eventful.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. This meeting tonight, it reminds me of how it used to be dreadful because you just didn't know the outcome. In fact, I refuse to sit on any type of council board of any kind, the way I feel right now. I haven't felt this way in a long time. This city has moved in such a positive direction that we cannot afford or allow ourselves to go backwards. We have to look at the makeup of our council right now. We are all-female council, and I will not allow us to be drawn under that stigma of women can't work together because we certainly can. And as I stated earlier, we are seven individuals, but we are one council. This week, I received two different phone calls concerning the election of officers. I was told that we were wrong for selecting the same president and the same vice president year after year. I was told that council members feel that everyone sitting on Council should have an opportunity to be president and vice president. I personally don't agree with that simply because-- just because you are elected to one position does not mean that you are able to fill another. I know personally, I served as president for one year. And I could not handle the position because of my own situation. So I dare not just take a position to have a title. And since it came to me more than once, in more than one direction, I will give you my take on it. I feel that the most capable people on this council right now are serving in the right position. And that's why I vote for who I voted for. And nobody will stymie me or cause me to go in any direction just because they feel a certain way. I have to vote my heart, and I have to vote for what I feel is right. And Ms. Lavender-Norris, Ms. Carmen Green, you guys have done a magnificent job in the roles that you have as president and vice president. And I do not regret my vote. Neither would I change my vote, just because people talk. My biggest concern is that as a council, we understand our position and why we are elected to be here. It's not for personal gain. It's not to get a crown because you'll never get that. We're here to look out for the residents of our city. We're here to make judgment calls. We're here to orchestrate an environment that is conducive for growth. We have a great staff. You guys work hard. You put everything in to what you do. I can call Chief anytime at night. My kids tell me I should get him a gift every week. I can call Mr. Logan. Roberta. Any of you guys, I can call. If there's a concern with the agenda, if there's a concern with the packet, you're open to take questions. We don't have to come to council meeting in public and grandstand over questions that we have. Because frankly, your constituents would like to hear even more that you made a personal phone call. When I get calls, I make a personal phone call, and then I call them back. "The concern that you had, Mr. or Mrs. Whoever, I made contact to City Hall and this is what I can tell you." Because that way, they see that you're really trying to work and make something happen. When we sit here and we take votes, and we vote down payroll, we're hurting the city. We're keeping the city from paying their bills. If you get enough votes to go along with your no vote, you stop everything. So, we have to consider all of the ramifications that come behind what we do, what we say. We can't just come in here and make rash decisions, a million and one different conflicts within a two-hour time of a meeting. It's ridiculous. It's sad. We have come too far as a council and as a staff to allow us to go backwards. It's time to continue to move forward. And if we don't, then it's a shame on us. Coatesville has always gotten to the brink of major things happening, and then something come in and knock us back. And if as a council, we sit here and allow that to happen, it's a shame on us. So I know I'm a little extended tonight in my comments, but I do not feel good about this meeting tonight. My spirit is vexed, and I just hate what I saw tonight. I hate the comments that were made that were negative. And I will never sit here and not speak up for what I know is right, but what I know we're doing is right. I was a few minutes late tonight for executive. I came here off the road from Johnstown. I haven't seen my husband since 7 o'clock this morning. My kids have been taken

care of him. And you think I want to come here and sit in a meeting like this? No. And I'll do everything in my power to make sure this won't happen again. Guys, have a good night.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out. Get home safely and enjoy your evening. Good night.

Vice President Green wished everyone a Happy New Year. Thank you all for coming out. I'm not going to-- Ms. Hunt, you just said so many things. You said a whole mouthful. I do agree with just about everything that you said. It's okay to disagree. But in disagreeing, it doesn't mean to be-- people throw the terminology disrespectful. Disrespectful. I guess it's a matter of interpretation of disrespect. But because someone doesn't agree with you does not mean that they are being disrespected. And we have to learn sometimes conflict resolution-- that should be a class that we should have to take as council people. Because you have to be able to work through conflicts somehow. We're not always going to agree. There's been times, Madam President, [on carry?]- there's been times that we totally disagreed. But it didn't result in us screaming and hollering and being disrespectful to one another because you're not always going to agree. Because we have to learn and realize why we're here. We're here to make a difference. I'm grateful to my fellow council members, those who voted for me. Because when I took the office, I took the office under the assumption that I'm going to give 110% at all times. I'm going to do whatever it is that I need to do. If I was unable to do that, I would refuse the nomination. So, I'm grateful for all those that supported me and thought that I was doing a good enough job that I could handle it. The city is important to me. This is my second time on council. And I tell you, I was blessed to be on the council earlier that got along. We disagreed but we got along. We didn't disrespect one another. We talked through things because it's about me. If I have an idea and I want you to come on board, I need to try to convince you. That's what politicians do. That's why we ran for office. That's what we're supposed to do. I need to convince you that my idea is the best idea. Now, if I can't, same thing. You might convince me the opposite way. But that's what it's about. It's about compromises sometimes and being able to work some conflicts. So again, I'm not going to hold up everybody with all of this, but I am grateful to all those that came out. Continue to come out. There's a lot going on in the city. There's a lot to be grateful for. 2023 was an awesome year, and 2024 is going to be even better. We just have to keep our vision. Keep focused on why we're here. Thank you all and have a great night.

President Lavender Norris stated I too want to say Happy New Year to everyone. Certainly, thank you all for coming out. I cannot control how people feel, but what I can control is me and what I say. And I most certainly am in charge of the intent of what I say. You receive it the way you choose. I sit here meeting after meeting, reminding myself and everyone else that Council is not here for hardship. We're here, like Councilwoman Green just said, to make a difference. To ensure that we're in a position making the city conducive [inaudible]. That's what we're here for. And I, like you, Mrs. Hunt, I will not allow that type of disrespect to occur again. I promise not to allow that to happen. We're not here for nonsense. Our decisions affect our lives. This is not a club. This affects our lives. Take it seriously. And I do my homework. You may think I'm mean. You might even think I'm evil. But what I can promise you is that I pray before I come to the council meeting. And then while we're here in the beginning of the meeting, we pray again. Because I ask God to allow me to communicate properly for His will to be done and not mine. I can be as petty as the next person, but that's not what I want. That's not my intent. Therefore, I won't do that. What I will do is all I can to ensure that we, as a council, work together to move the city forward. I am ever so grateful for my colleagues and again, the fact that you saw fit to reinstate myself and Councilwoman Green as president and vice president. We are in communication every day. I communicate to her what I know is going on with regard to the city, and she does the same. That's our responsibility. We don't only conduct city

business while we're sitting here. We do our homework. We ensure that one another are aware of what's going on. If I'm not able to come to a council meeting, Councilwoman Green is up to speed because we have been in communication. So, I'm saying all this to say, we're not here for games. And we are not so caught up in ourselves that we think it's about us. Bigger than us. It's about all of you sitting here and anybody that views this video. It's about y'all, just like it's about us. There are no big I's and little you's. Me being the president only says, "I conduct the meetings. I can go somewhere and represent council." It doesn't say, "I am council, and I determine what goes on." Not that position. So with that being said, please tell Officer Williams, I say congratulations. We, as a council, congratulate him. I just want to shout out our Fire Department back there. Thank you. And thank you for coming. We appreciate you and we thank you for your service. That being said, staff, you already know how much you're worth are and how much you mean to us because y'all make us look good. God bless you all.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.