



City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, March 11, 2024

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

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 February 26, 2024 Meeting minutes; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained due to her absence at the meeting.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentations

1. Crime Victims Center
There was no presentation at this time.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items at this time.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens comments on regular action items.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion for second reading and adoption of an Ordinance authorizing a first amendment to the lease between the City and Washington Hose Lease for the property located at South 4th Avenue and East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville to provide additional dedicated space for two engines, and additional bunk room, cages for firefighter personal effects, and ancillary storage areas in exchange for an increase of \$10,000 annually.

Vice President Green made a motion to approve second reading and adoption of an Ordinance authorizing a first amendment to the lease between the City and Washington Hose Lease for the property located at South 4th Avenue and East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville to provide additional dedicated space for two engines, and additional bunk room, cages for firefighter personal effects, and ancillary storage areas in exchange for an increase of \$10,000

annually; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1. Ms. Scamuffa was the dissenting vote.

Ms. Scamuffa commented I just wanted to reiterate to the residents they should not fear here for safety, with what's going on with that. I mean, I don't feel that's going to be a concern. I want them to rest assured we have enough surrounding departments that will compensate for the department not being specifically located in the West End. I just want everybody to have their mind at ease with that. That's all.

Vice President Green commented so, does that mean that prior to that, that they were not safe? It's not that far away. And moving from the West End to the Washington Hose, with us being in Washington and West End all those years, the city has been safe. So, I think that that's an unnecessary fear to put out there. It's going to be safe, regardless, you know what I mean? And when you look at the time getting to these fires, as I had stated last meeting, I've gone to a couple of things, and there's so many communities. The VA is always here, but we're not talking anytime. The trains for the railroad tracks there, they're used but nowhere near the way that they used to be used over the years, and that was one of the biggest reasons why we had it in the West End. So, I don't think that the fear should be an issue. It's not an issue. And for either side, whether you live in the East End or whether you live on the West End, I just want to clarify that.

President Lavender Norris reiterated the fact that the West End firehouse had a fire, and they were down for almost a year, I think. Almost two years. And safety wasn't an issue then. So we don't want it to be, pardon the pun, but a fire starter out there that safety's on the line, excuse me, because safety for us as council, first and foremost.

2. Receive and consider motion for first reading and permission for advertisement of an Ordinance amending Part I, Administrative Legislation, Chapter 38, Pension, Article II, Nonuniformed Pension Plan, by repealing and replacing the article in its entirety, and thereby, amending the existing defined benefit pension plan for Non-Uniform employees by establishing a defined contribution tier of the plan to benefit both existing employees and future hires.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve first reading and permission for advertisement of an Ordinance amending Part I, Administrative Legislation, Chapter 38, Pension, Article II, Nonuniformed Pension Plan, by repealing and replacing the article in its entirety, and thereby, amending the existing defined benefit pension plan for Non-Uniform employees by establishing a defined contribution tier of the plan to benefit both existing employees and future hires.; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Receive and consider motion for first reading and permission for advertisement of an Ordinance amending Part II, General Legislation, Chapter 193, Streets and Sidewalks, Article V, Trash Dumpsters, of the Code of the City of Coatesville in its entirety.

Vice President Green made a motion to approve first reading and permission for advertisement of an Ordinance amending Part II, General Legislation, Chapter 193, Streets and Sidewalks, Article V, Trash Dumpsters, of the Code of the City of Coatesville in its entirety; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Cosentino explained as we discussed in a previous meeting about the portable storage containers, this ordinance amendment reflects the change of adding portable storage containers to our ordinance that also refers to dumpsters and other like containers so that for anyone who is intending on placing a portable storage container on a street, for instance, they would have to notify the city, get a permit, and you would have to be aware.

Vice President Green made a motion to close action items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

President Lavender Norris stated just as a matter of business, Mr. Troutman. When we're going through the agenda, if you have the need to share with regard to any of our agenda items, just let me know and I'll give you space. Okay. We're moving on to our reports. First being Mr. Jefferson, our solicitor.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council. Since council's last meeting, he communicated and continued to communicate with outside council regarding various litigation matters; drafted a notice in compliance with the city's charter regarding the Washington Hose Company ordinance; communicated with the district attorney's office regarding a criminal matter; provided an opinion regarding storage containers, and subsequently drafted and revised the ordinance that was subject to action tonight; communicated with outside counsel regarding land development matters, and I received a certified green card for a certified letter that was mailed that involved a lease for the city.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. A few items this evening. In executive, we're going executive. I provided personnel information for city council along with the information on some of our properties and appraisals. On to public items. Today, we had a meeting with [inaudible] finance director and assistant city manager. We had an opportunity to meet with Coatesville Area School District to open up the lines of communication. We've learned some great things that are happening with the school district that the community, I think, is going to be a welcome surprise to what the school district has on tap this year and next year. So that meeting was great. As I said, a great opportunity to open up the lines of communication. We plan to continue these meetings quarterly. What I'd like to do is just to have Rich use the remaining time of my report to enhance our efforts to inform our residents on how the city's financial arm works. I'd like to turn over to Rich. Rich and I have had discussions on just educating our residents as well as the community on how some of the mechanisms work here in the city. So, with that, I'd like to turn it over to Rich Troutman, CPA, Finance Director.

Mr. Troutman said thank you. Let's start with the cover page. I'm going to spend a couple of minutes, not long, on different topics in a series of different meetings to, as Mr. Logan said, share information about the city, about its finances, about administration in general. So-- -- this topic or the thought of it was introduced last time I was in front of you. And this will be one of the first steps. And there's probably going to be three to four-- --of these little steps. And the first one, basically, the three different-- there's four different groupings. The first one will be the numbers about the city and what we do and how big it is. Then the second thing

will be the controls that are in place to manage the city, to manage these things from a financial administrative background, and then roles and responsibilities. And then the fourth one will be a little recap of the last couple years of results. We are going to start with possibly seeing some of the statistics, and we're all kind of [crosstalk] so-- There we go. Okay. We are going to start with final numbers. So, could've gotten a lot of different numbers out there. There's a lot of facts that-- I thought these might be representative of some of the complexity of the city that you're managing and that the city is part of. Go ahead to the first. So nice little plain old Coatesville, 37, almost \$38 million worth of assets, what the city owns. That's not counting the land. That's not counting this building. So, it's just a lot of-- most of it is liquid in cash pensions that have some complexity to them. Total annual expenses. I want to emphasize this is all the funds. When you go through the budgeting process, we generally focus mostly on the general fund. But this is all the funds that are involved, and some of the ways to liquid fuels to capital. \$16 million worth of expenses a year. There're over 25,000 transactions that occur. Those are individual receipts. Those are individual payments. There's a lot of activity that goes on. And I will spend more of the time in next sessions about how we control these throughout so there's adequate controls in place to protect those transactions in the assets. 6,000 mailings a year. Number of payments, just pure payments, over 5,000. Number of vehicles that we manage and are available and used within the city, 45. And I can see people making notes. I can share this with you so you can have it-- so you don't have to really focus on the notes, but focus on, hopefully, the content.

And then 25 bank accounts. A lot of those are for special purpose. There are unique things that we just have to keep track of on rules and regulation. But also, it's just prudent to have multiple bank accounts so that we don't have all our eggs in one place. We have flexibility. So those are a couple of the stats to jump out. And this is what I want to emphasize. This is not just the finance department. This is a half dozen people who are working with these transactions on a daily basis, or they're managing those transactions. Next slide. So now we're going to go into what does that 16 million represent by groupings? And of course, it's in fine print, but over 10 million of it is personnel and benefits. And as you work your way around the wedge, you're going to see that there's different groupings. And this is a lead-in to the next slide, but not quite. I bolded the 304,000. That is the supplies that the city-- the city spends over \$300,000 on different supplies. That sounds a lot. But when we think about it, \$72,000 of it is fuel, and there's closing that is tied-in to different contracts. And so when one looks at this, the bulk of it is the 10 million, and that has all kinds of controls over the payroll. And again, I'll elaborate on that next time that I'm in front of you. But let's go to the next slide. And this is, if you look at that, that's that same 16 million. 15 million of it is tied to contracts in some way, shape, or form. This is trying to help you-- where it's eventually going to go, is our focus needs to be on managing the contracts, managing how we commit to funds ahead of time, more so than after the fact. What we have is over 15 million of everything we spend is done through some type of contractual relationship, whether it be a grant, whether it be a personnel contract. And within that 15 million, almost all our payroll is by contract. There's somewhere over about a half million dollars of payroll that is not in a contract. It is the employment at-will component. But if you recall through the budget process, and I appreciate you haven't been through it, but there's a schedule of the payrolls of each individual's pay. That gives you the detail on the half million dollars of people who aren't covered by a contract. So, you see those individually.

And the remainder of that 716,000 are things that you specifically budget for, and we talked about-- among those different funds. For example, the ALS, for example. The different conversations we have about what should be provided to the library or other organizations. So, you see that during the budget process, and then whenever it gets expended, we're carrying out the council advice that council has decided on. And then you have that sliver, that 104, is-- the \$300,000 we showed in the prior slide, 104 of that really comes out to be "discretionary." So, when we go through the budget process, there's a line item in most departments for office supplies. That total is about \$20,000 across all of the 16 million. There's about 20,000 that different department heads can choose how they're going to spend that. And then there's other pieces of that. Nothing major, I would say, but there's different sections of, we call it agricultural supplies, but it's the mulch. That's the little bucket. There're small supplies, and there's about 30, 40 thousand dollars in there for things that generate revenue. So the expense is considered a supply, but it's generated for a cost to do the actual revenue. That might be the tax collection. There's a sliver in there for police supply for protection, those types of things. So that's really where I want to go with tonight, a little snippet of some data so you get a sense of, A, how complex it is, but yet how it's not overwhelming because of the way things have been structured and is approached. I'll stop there. Questions? Makes sense?

Ms. Scamuffa said I appreciate you putting this together. Vice President Green stated I just wanted to just say because I know that some of the expenses are often discussed here before they're approved in accounts payable. And the fact is that I know that you're not just paying people for services that you're not getting the best deal for the city. We're not just going out and saying, "Okay, we're going to--" for instance, our SPCA. The SPCA, sometimes, that bill is high, sometimes, it's low. But it's a contract, like you said, and it's not something that we're just out here spending. So sometimes, we're going to have, for instance, a big bill, that we caught a lot of stray animals and we've taken them to the SPCA. And then other times, it's not as much. But it is a contracted amount that-- it's not a negotiated amount that we can say, "Okay. We only want to pay you this amount." It's based on how many animals that we're collecting. And I just want the people to understand that when we're going through accounts payable, that the finance office is not just haphazardly paying bills. They're trying to find the best deal possible. I mean, there's so many times that Rich has saved us so much money, even when it comes to the contracts and uniforms and things of that nature. We are bounded for, sometimes, by years, or whatever. But when we were able to change, I think it was Public Works a couple of years ago, you made that change. Even with the telephone. There're things that, sometimes, the expense is going to be a little bit higher, but it offsets itself sometimes. Some things are based on usage. And so, when we come and we are questioning, I just don't want you to feel that we're questioning your integrity as far as what we're doing with the money and how we're spending it because I know that you're doing everything you can to save the city.

Mr. Troutman explained a couple of things, if I may, is thank you for that. This is not a one-person deal. I mean, I'll spread the wealth a lot because there's money being spent and ideas coming forward from all the disciplines, all the different departments. And the chief is sitting there. He wanted that. He squeezes nickels. [laughter] That is the highest compliment [crosstalk]. So, you brought up the example of the SPCA. What people might not recognize is that probably at least 10 hours of back-and-forth discussions by Mr. Logan, trying to get the best deal possible and negotiating some things within it. You don't necessarily see what goes

behind, and you don't have to see what goes behind it, I would suggest. But I know-- --that there's a lot of people who put time and effort in that could take the easy way. But they're dedicated to finding things. And I'm going to make you wait until the fourth topic to see those kind of results that have happened over the years. And the obvious is it's one of the reasons why taxes haven't had to be raised in how many years. Mr. Logan? Mr. Logan replied nine. Mr. Troutman said Nine years. And that's one of the reasons, is because of everybody coming together, so. Well, that's-- One thing, before you move on, because the SPCA was mentioned, and their bill was a little above this time. But Miss Cosentino, could you speak to that just to clarify how we're moving [inaudible]? Ms. Cosentino explained we had a situation last month where somebody was hoarding cats, and it was discovered by our code enforcement officer along with a couple of others in our code department. So he addressed it with the property owners, and the woman who is having-- the hoarder, she agreed to let the SPCA come and take a couple of cats at a time. So sometimes, there are issues that affect our residents very directly and very personally, and so our staff kind of takes some extra time sometimes to help folks out. And then that brought up kind of the issue again of, how do we address the additional cost from SPCA. And so we're going to start looking into maybe an amendment also where we can charge back to the property owner, those fees, so.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. As always, I'd like to begin by welcoming any Spanish speakers and other non-English speakers that need assistance with city matters, that we are here to help as best we can, and we want everyone to be able to share their questions and concerns. [foreign]. Madam President, the February code report will be in your next packet, but I do want to give you a couple highlights that our team is working on. Right now, we are in full swing with getting rental licenses in because they are marked to be past due as of April 1st. So those are coming in quickly. Similarly, rental inspections also need to be scheduled and completed before a license can technically be issued. And also, last but not least, very impressively, our code enforcement officer was able to resolve 142 cases in February. About 49% of those were property maintenance, and 35% were abandoned vehicles. So like I said, we'll have more details for you in the next packet. Also, the bulk of the work at Millview Basin is happening as we speak - well, maybe not as we speak, but in the month of March - and is scheduled to be finished in April. Also, the city submitted their Act 101 recycling report and reported over 2,300 tons of recycled material in 2023. And those reports are still coming in, but in general, that's the number. The Planning Commission will be meeting-- this is just a general note for everyone. Our planning commission will be meeting this week on Wednesday, March 13th, and the zoning hearing board is holding a decision hearing on Thursday, March 14th.

And lastly, if you will allow, I just want to walk us through quickly signing up for ReadyChesCo. So as of last week, the City of Coatesville is going to be utilizing ReadyChesCo to alert residents-- I'm just going to walk over to Ruthann here. We will be alerting residents - oh, thank you - to various city updates utilizing ReadyChesCo. The thing with ReadyChesCo is that you do need to sign up for an account. So the county uses ReadyChesCo for emergency alerts, but municipalities can also send out messages to residents, both for emergencies and for non-emergencies. So what you want to do, if you already have a ReadyChesCo account, that's great. You can go into your account and choose the option to receive City of Coatesville updates. If you do not have an account already, go to ReadyChesCo.org and you can click on sign up, and it'll take you to the registration page. I

have kind of signed in with a dummy account. So I'm going to go in. And this is what your account would look like. And you can go to my subscriptions, and this is what you'll see. You can click to receive county-wide alerts. I highly recommend checking this one. These are those emergency alerts that the county sends out. You can click on government if you want to hear about government closings, about any of these county services. But for us, what you want to do is actually click on my community, and you'll see all of the municipalities in Chester County listed here. Coatesville is one of the first to be signed up through ReadyChesCo to deliver these different types of alerts. So you can sign up to receive general community information. You can sign up to receive public meeting notices, notices about special events, notices about street sweeping, snow plowing, and parking, notices about trash and recycling and yard and hazardous waste events, and any travel advisories, road closures, that kind of thing. So all very important information for our community, and we'd like to encourage everyone to sign up for an account to receive these alerts, and we'll be sending those out.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer explained the complete statistical report is in your packet as usual tonight. Just a couple key highlights for the month of February. We had 2,057 calls generated for police services through the Chester County 911 Center. And that was down slightly from the month of January, where we had 2,195. And then additionally, calls for service that come in through our front desk for the month of February, we had 775, and it was down slightly from 919 for the month of January. Just some other key highlights that we normally cover. We had one Narcan administration. As I had mentioned at the last meeting, we had none in the month of January. So only one in February continues, hopefully, maybe a downward trend for this year. We had ended the year with five in the month of December alone. So hopefully, we will continue with some better numbers this year than we had last year with regard to Narcan saves administered strictly by the police officers. This does not include those from Fire and EMS. It's just our police statistics. We did four certified car seat checks and installations and provided car seats to residents of the city for the month of February. We had our officer involvement with the Coffee with the Chief Program for the month of February at the mosque on February 7th. It was very well attended, those of the council that were there. It was a nice day. And then we just most recently had our first ever evening Coffee with the Chief, which was a special request through 2nd Century. So that was hosted by 2nd Century Alliance on March the 6th, and that was also very well attended. So that was a little different. We will be back to our morning Coffee with the Chief. For those that don't like to drink coffee in the evening, it might keep us up, [laughter] we'll be back to our morning Coffee with the Chief, and that's this coming Wednesday, April the 3rd. The first Wednesday in April, April 3rd, we'll be at Presence Bank for Coffee with the Chief there.

And then just on a little more somber note, we did experience our first homicide for 2024 here in the city on Friday at approximately 7:55 in the evening. Officers received a call for shots fired in the 700 block of East Diamond Street. And upon arrival, they did discover Amere Naylor, deceased from gunshot wounds. Amere Naylor is known to some of us here in the room tonight. So it did hit home a little close for city government with our first homicide for the year. The officers have been working 24/7 since Friday night trying to develop information, develop leads. We are meeting with some success, and we will continue to actively pursue the investigation and hopefully be able to make an arrest at some point. But that's our first homicide for 2024, and hopefully our last for 2024.

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

Hello, City Council. My name is Randall Scott, 9 North 2nd Ave. And I understand that the city council members have received a draft copy of a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. And I would like to state my extreme desire to see that on the agenda here at City Council with the hopes of it being passed. To date, over 30,000 people have been killed in Gaza, over 13,000 of those children. Over 85% of the 1.9 million people of Gaza have been displaced from their homes, are now homeless and forced into the southernmost territory, Rafah, which currently has a population density that is two times as dense as New York City. So with all the untold atrocities happening in Gaza, the need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire is paramount. So in a poll on December 5th, it was noted that 61% of all likely voters and 76% of Democratic voters support a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza. In Pennsylvania, so far, State College is the only municipality that has passed a ceasefire resolution. And out on the street corner of Lincoln and 2nd Avenue, over the past month, there have been rallies calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. And we've seen those growing. The one about a month ago now had about 65 people. And then last weekend, we had 75 people in the pouring rain, and cold. So I'd say it is an issue that is dear to the hearts of people in Coatesville as well. So I think Coatesville is in a unique position to be one of the leading municipalities to pass this resolution in Pennsylvania. Whereas we've seen it pass in other places across the country thus far - Dearborn, Michigan, Chicago, Providence, among others - but I think it would mean a lot to the people of City Council to have that on the agenda and voted upon. Thank you.

Curry Mallott

Good evening, City Council members, we really appreciate your time this evening. And I want to also speak in support of a ceasefire. And I wanted to note, too, that beginning November 21st, 2023, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, they signed a ceasefire. And that included State Senator Katie Muth, State Rep Danielle Otten, and State Rep Chris Pielli. So they signed the ceasefire February 15th, 2024, US Representative Chrissy Houlahan also called for a ceasefire. And February 16th, President Biden also has called for a ceasefire. And so this is I think a good opportunity for us to basically be with our leaders, our state reps, be with the president, be with the voting people of the country, and get behind a ceasefire. I think it's important to note that before 1948, in Palestine, Christians, Jews, Muslims, they all lived together in relative peace. In 1948, the United Nations, they voted on partitioning Palestine. Zero Palestinians were a part of that vote. Zero. Shortly after that, almost 700,000 Palestinians were forced out of Palestine through force and terrorism. The United Nations has acknowledged that Palestine is living under apartheid conditions. They have supported South Africa's charging of Israel with committing the crime of genocide. That has passed. The United Nations have spoken. The International Criminal Court has spoken in regards to genocide. And Palestinians, I think they just want to-- like what we all want, we want to live in peace. We don't want to have to worry about the health of our children, let alone if they're going to be bombed or not. So I think this is the time for us to stand up and take this humanitarian action. Join the people of the world and say, "We will not turn our backs on Palestinians. We will not turn our backs on these people being huddled into a tiny little corner of Gaza." I think one of the slogans of the founding of Israel is telling, "A land without a people for a people without a land." Palestine clearly was not a land without a people, and it is still not a land without a people. And those people just want their homes back. In 1948, the UN also passed Resolution 194, which acknowledged their right to return to their home. So please, thank you very much.

Ethan Poetic

First, I have to say I am a proud native of Coatesville, Pennsylvania. In 2001, my mom decided to move the family to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where my life had to start all over. But going to a new middle school, learning a new environment, and going through personal changes and challenges that I acknowledged in my autobiography titled, *The Inspirational Story of Ethan A. Poetic: Chronicles of Adversities, Education, Sports, Relationships, and Resiliency*. And fast forward to recently, I was able to speak at Kings Highway Elementary School and be interviewed by 6 ABC Action News to not only help the community, but also show other people that you can turn your adversities into your advantage. You can go from learning support classes to a two-time college graduate. You can put away the excuses and be part of the solution. I've been part of --- what's your organization called? Mr. Logan replied Bringing Back Brotherhood. Mr. Poetic said I've been part of that. I was also part of a LLC business. I sponsored a track meet at the Coatesville Invitational 2022 for 100-meter dash. I also was recognized at the Pennsylvania State Capitol for the Award of Excellence. Also, I received a letter from the governor, Mr. Shapiro. I laminated it and made copies. And recently I met up with newly resigned Eagle Brandon Graham. I was also featured in a magazine in the West Coast [by Finnish Voyage?]. And last but not least, my college degree from Millersville University. I'd like to thank Mrs. Susan Springsteen for letting me have a book signing day last year at her facility. I have two requests. My first request is to receive some type of public acknowledgement from Coatesville City Council members, whether it be a formal letter or a certain type of special document. And the second request, would be to have a group picture with everybody. And that's my statement. [congratulations crosstalk]. Mr. Logan explained what we can do, Ethan, is set up a time where Council would comment and discuss the letter of recognition. And then once that is approved we can provide the recognition and then we'll schedule a time to take a photo.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Ms. Scamuffa thanked everybody for coming out. Great people come out of Coatesville. Keeping it short and sweet tonight. So again, thank you for coming out and hopefully, we'll see you at the next meeting. Rich, you did a great job tonight, by the way. I really appreciated that. And look forward to other presentations. So as always, I appreciate all of you sitting at the table and beyond, and appreciate our residents. So thank you and have a good night. Everyone that's here tonight, we like to see your faces. God bless you. Get home safely. Goodnight.

Miss Turner-Green wished everyone a good evening. Thank you, Mr. Ethan. So, so proud of everything you've done. You should be proud of yourself. Curry Malott and Mr. Randall Scott, thank you so much for yours as well. Everyone that's here tonight, we like to see your faces. God bless you. Get home safely. Goodnight.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. I know you're anxious to leave and [inaudible] sharing your heartfelt concerns about things that are happening in Gaza, and I pray daily that things will get better. And I'm just grateful that we're living in a sense of peace now. But we do pray for God and pray that there will soon be a ceasefire so that those families can resume their lives. I don't know that their lives will ever be what they were before, but at least we can pray. So thank you for coming and sharing that. I wish you nothing but the best in your endeavors. Also, a big thank you to our staff.

Thank you again for all that you do on a daily basis. And Rich, thank you for the presentation as well. And to all of you, have a good night. God bless you, and come again in the next two weeks. Colleagues, as always, great to be here. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. Ethan, congratulations on your accomplishment. So well deserved. Randall and Curry, thank you so much for your presentation and all of your heartfelt sentiments of what's going on. I appreciate you sharing that with all of us. I'll speak to you after council. We're not allowed to comment when folks are at the podium. I appreciate our staff. Chief, please make sure you and all of your officers stay safe as your job is not always the safest job to accomplish. So I appreciate all your hard work. And appreciate all my colleagues. Everybody have a safe travels home, and have a good night.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out this evening. Ethan [inaudible] all that you accomplished. I'm proud of you. The presentations, what's going on in Gaza. It's not a pretty thing, but it's life and it will work out soon. Rich, thank you. Our staff, everybody said everything. Thank you to our wonderful staff, Ruthann, and our assistant city manager is the best ever. Everybody get home safely. Thank you. And yes, we do have an awesome city manager. But good night everybody.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. Ethan, just so wonderful and so proud of your accomplishments. You just showed the young people when you went to Rainbow that they can do whatever they put their mind to. So appreciated that. I watched your 6 ABC News special, and you were awesome. To our fire department, I'm so happy you finally get to move into your new place. I'm just glad that it finally happened. It's been a long time coming. The gentlemen, Mr. Scott and Mr. Curry, I appreciate your comments and praying for Gaza. It's a lot going on. It's a lot that you're just praying for the powers that be. Thank you so much for your presentation. But everyone have a safe trip home tonight. And staff, you guys are always great. I'm always so pleased, especially-- well, not especially, but Rich, I really appreciate all that you do and the time that you take, and the fact that you took the time to put together a series of FYIs for us, and I think it's not only good for council, but I think it's good for the public that they understand what's going on behind the scenes, so I thank you so much for that. Chief, like everyone said, I know that it's getting ready to be warm outside. Spring comes, things start to act different, and I pray that we're in for a good summer-- --and not a violent one. So I appreciate everything that you guys do. Thank you all, and have a great night.

President Lavender Norris thanked everyone. I echo my colleagues, and I just want to say I'm thinking be not weary and well due. We're in two seasons. We shall [inaudible]. Don't give up. Don't give up the fight. God bless you all, and have a blessed night.

Adjournment

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting; MS. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.