



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

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

Council Absent: Councilwoman Khadijah Al A min and Councilwoman Charrisse Allen

Staff Present James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Richard Troutman, Finance Director; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; 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

Vice President Green made a motion to approve the March 25, 2024 meeting minutes; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Ms. Al Amin was not present for the vote.

### Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Scamuffa made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### Presentations

1. Swear in from Detective Joseph Thompson to Corporal Joseph Thompson and Officer Joshua Fox from Part-Time to Full-time Officer

Chief Laufer asked Officer Fox to come forward? So as is noted on our agenda tonight, we have two issues to bring before Council, the first of which is the promotion from part-time to full-time of Officer Joshua Fox. Last council meeting, Council voted to go ahead and authorize promoting him from part-time officer to full-time officer to fill a vacancy created back in January by the resignation of one of our officers. So just a little background on Officer Fox. He attended Twin Valley High School. He started his police career in Plymouth Meeting as an officer, but he left police work to begin work as an engineer with [inaudible] as a-- sorry? Officer Fox as a mechanical design engineer. Later in life, the law enforcement bug bit him again, and he became an officer for South Coatesville Borough. And it was as an officer with South Coatesville that he came to us as a part-time officer additionally. So Officer Fox is currently enrolled in the Western Governors University out of Utah and online and is studying technology for his bachelor's degree. He has been married for 18 years, and his 19th wedding anniversary is coming up at the end of this month. So we'll see if we can give the day off [laughter]. Officer Fox has two boys and one daughter. He resides in Chester County in the Downingtown area and is a Boy Scout master and heads one of his son's troops where his son is working on his Eagle Scout certification. Officer Fox enjoys working on cars, working out, and spending time with his family when he's not here with us at the city of Coatesville. So at this time, I would ask Judge Hines to come forward and swear Officer Fox in.

Officer Joshua Fox was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Hines as his son held the bible.

Chief Laufer announced the second item on our agenda tonight is the promotion of Detective Joseph Thompson to the rank of corporal. Detective Thompson joined our department in 2013 after serving with the Pennsylvania State Police and retiring from that fine agency for 20 years. I knew Detective Thompson. We never worked directly together, but we worked some cases together, and I knew him as a trooper with the department. He was recognized as an outstanding investigator and was selected to be trooper of the year, which is a pretty prestigious honor when you figure there's 4,800 troopers in the Commonwealth, and Detective Thompson was chosen to be the top trooper for one of those years in his career. So, it's quite the accomplishment. He also is a decorated United States Marine Combat Veteran. So we thank him for his service to the Marine Corps, to the country, to the State Police Service, and now to the service of the City of Coatesville. He has served honorably for a little over 10 years now with the department, going from patrol to the detective unit in 2014, where he's worked as a detective.

He is recognized for his investigative abilities. You see all the officers here from the Chester County detectives who they work closely with when we have a serious incident here such as a homicide in the city. And Joe is certainly well respected in the district attorney's office and the Chester County detectives as evidenced by their support of him here tonight. So, he took the civil service test and scored number one on the civil service test. He turned down the promotion initially, and that's when Sylvester Earl was promoted to the rank of corporal because Joe wanted to remain in the detective unit, felt that's where his skills were best served. But I think he's reached a point in his career where he'd like to take the promotion to corporal and see where that next phase of his career takes him. Unfortunately, I don't think you'll see him in uniform too often, at least not initially, because he has been a part of so many of our most recent homicide investigations, and there's still considerable investigative work that needs to be accomplished. So, he will have to continue for a while anyway with his detective duties. So, at this time, I would ask Officer Thompson to come up, and Judge Hines.

Corporal Joseph Thompson was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Hines as his daughter held the bible.

2. Swear in Aaron Flook, and Greg Lambert as Code Enforcement Officers

Ms. Cosentino gave a brief introduction for Aaron Flook. Aaron comes to us from the Pittsburgh area with over 20 years of experience in building inspections, code enforcement, zoning, and planning. Aaron is a certified uniform construction code building official, is registered with the American Society of Home Inspectors, is an indoor air specialist, a FEMA-certified floodplain administrator, and has his Building Inspector 2 certification. And tonight, he will be hopefully appointed as a city building code official.

Aaron Flook was sworn in as Building Inspector by the Honorable Judge Hines as he held the bible.

Greg Lambert was sworn in as Code Enforcement Officer by the Honorable Judge Hines as he held the bible.

Ms. Cosentino stated I didn't get a chance to introduce Greg, but Greg has been on staff with the city for just over two months now. He has been doing a great job with the department, kind of getting up to speed with all of our local ordinances, working on property maintenance enforcement. And now that he's been appointed our code enforcement officer, it allows him the ability to write citations as needed and that sort of thing. So we're very happy to have him on board. He's doing a great job. And thank you for being here.

3. Crime Victims Center  
Not present at meeting.

4. Brighter Futures – Jarrell Brazzle

My name is Jarrell Brazzle. I am the proud owner of the only childcare center in the City of Coatesville. It's called Brighter Future Early Learning Center. We're at 17 North Church Street. Here's a few pictures of the center, as I'm speaking. This is our multipurpose area downstairs. We have one of the largest multipurpose areas. This is our two-year-old's classroom. This is just one of our hallways. It used to be an old Catholic school. We had an amazing time there. Yeah, that's fine. So this is our two-year-old classroom currently. This is our hallway for all the kids. Our two, three, four, five-year-olds, they use the lockers like the big kids. We had a wonderful book reading. The kids loved it. It was a surprise to all [inaudible] and the kids really had a really good time. So you got to come out and do that again very soon.

Yeah, next one, please. So this is just one of our signs that we have in the school just for our children to know that they change the world. That's just another picture of our two-year-old classroom. That is our one-year-old classroom. So it doesn't look like that anymore, really, because they destroyed it [laughter]. But somewhat looked like that. In fact, it did look like that at one point. These kids are ruthless [laughter]. But yeah, this is our one-year-old classroom. We had a Halloween party. So at our center-- we actually have a lot of family events at our center. We're not about the money at our center. I honestly don't care about money. Money doesn't motivate me. The children, that's what motivates me. So as the owner, I have a salary, and I don't make more than my salary. And all the money goes back into the school and back into our staff. So we have one of the highest-paying staff in the daycare industry at our school because of that. But we offer events throughout the whole entire year. So this right here was our Halloween party. It went from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at night, and the kids were able to come with all their family members. The kids who showed up on time [laughter].

But we actually had over 60 members or individuals in the center for this party. It was a really good time. Let's go to the next slide. These are all my babies. I tell all the parents when they come to my center that these are your children outside of this school, but inside of school, these are my children. So don't argue with me inside the school because these are my kids. And all the parents understand that and respect that because I'm very, very protective over my children. This was the inside of the party that we had. It was an amazing time. All of our events that we have for the family are free, so there's no extra charge. The company pays for everything. All the food, all the decorations, everything is paid for by the company. I don't make much money from this business, but it's okay because I get to see their smiling faces every single day, and that's what drives me. You can go to the next one. This was our Thanksgiving feast. So, we had the parents come and we had the caterer come out, and the

kids were able to eat with their parents during Thanksgiving time. We also had a Toys for Tot event. So, all of our children and their siblings and cousins and made-up siblings ended up getting free toys through our program. So, none of our children had-- none of them was left out.

You can go to the next slide. So this is why I'm here tonight. I was a council member before, so I understand what it means. I used to live in the city of Coatesville. I now reside in Valley Township, but I still have properties in the city of Coatesville. I'm a landlord in the city of Coatesville. I'm a good landlord. I'm not a slumlord. My property is always well taken care of [laughter]. I just wanted to say that. I know we have a lot of those slumlords out there, so I just wanted to say. But anyway, so the issue that we're having on 17th North Church Street is probably the issue that we're having in Coatesville, period, which is parking. So the residents have been very nice. They've been amazing. They're very excited to have the childcare center there. It's just bringing so much to the City of Coatesville. Well, what we're having a problem with is our drop-off and our pickup time. So our drop-off time is at 6:30 - that's when we open up - until 9 o'clock. So the parents have to drop off their kids by 9 o'clock in the morning. After 9 o'clock, you cannot drop off your kids at our center. And then the pickup time is at 3:00 PM until 5:30 when we close.

It doesn't matter how many times I tell the parents that, "Hey, you can't park in the middle of the street. You can't block the alleyway. You can't do any of those things." They're still doing it because of not having anywhere to park. You can go to the next slide. So this is just Dining Street, I believe, and the alley. This is one of the alleyways that is always being blocked by the parents who just, "I want to hurry up and run in and run out." And no matter how many times I tell them, "Don't do that." [inaudible] go to the next slide. Go to the next slide, please. You can stop there. So what I am asking for council to do is to give us, if possible, two parking spots during those hours, at least. During that day of operation, we don't need those parking spots. It's literally only during pickup and drop-off times that we really need them. During the regular hours of operation, it's plenty of parking on the street. On the weekend, we're not there-- well, I'm there because I'm there every weekend, but the kids aren't there at least. That's my vehicle actually right there.

So I'm wondering if right in front of the school, we could just get two designated areas of parking for our drop-off and pickup time. I know that in the past there was a childcare center around the corner in West End that the council-- when that opened up, they did approve that. They did have two designated parking spots for their childcare center. It's just a safety issue. There was an accident a month ago where one of our parents were parked in the alleyway and another parent was blocking, so they couldn't really see. And as it was coming out of the alleyway, an accident happened. And so that was the reason why I said I needed to come to Council to try to get some type of support when it comes to the parking situation because that's a concern. Also, if a kid is walking across the street or something like that, I'm afraid that one of the kids may get hit or something like that. So my number one thing is the safety of my kids and also the safety of their parents.

Vice President Green asked it would be two and a half hours at 6:30 to 9:00, and then from 3:30 to 5:00 or 5:30? Mr. Brazzle replied yes. 5:30, yeah. Yeah. And like I said, the residents-- it's not really the residents that park even in front of our schools. They've been really nice. I will give it to the residents. The residents have really showed up in the

Coatesville way. I think a lot of times it's people who don't even live on the street that is parking there because the residents there are very kind at the moment that-- they know that our school is about to open up. They move their vehicles and everything. It's just people who I don't really see their vehicles often. It's just visitors or whatnot that parks in that area. So yeah, that's why I'm coming today to see if that's something that Council could approve. Vice President Green asked so you need something that says, "No parking Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM and 3:30 to 5:30 PM." Is that right? Mr. Brazzle replied yeah. If we had that sign, then we could put out homes because I know we don't want to put stress on the police department. You have way too much important things than to try to ticket people. But even if we have those signs, then we can at least put our cones out there to block those parking spots. So we'll at least have them when it's available. President Lavender Norris asked so what's our process? Mr. Logan explained well, I think we would need to go over and take a look at it, meet with the police chief, our engineers here this evening, look at our ordinances, and come back with an Ordinance with the times to City Council. Is there any other--? Chief explained no, I was just going to-- it would take an ordinance change because we list-- in the ordinance is listed all these special parking provisions, whether it's a loading zone or a drop-off zone. So it would take an ordinance change. That would be the procedure, and then you just have to make the decision based upon that. It's a for-profit business. I know we've had other businesses before Council looking for special exemptions for parking, and it's been an issue, but it's entirely up to Council as it would take an ordinance change. Vice President Green stated and when it was the Catholic school, they had the parking in the front there at one point in time. I guess once it became-- that building became vacated in a way. But there was designated parking there for the school. Ms. Scamuffa said I'm going to take things way back. 44 years ago, that was my school. I attended it. [laughter] I want to say it looks beautiful. I'm glad to see it being utilized as an educational building again. I know your little ones are too small. We used to get dropped off at the bus at the corner of 30 and would walk up. So your parents are required to physically bring their children into the building? Mr. Brazzle explained we cannot take the kids from the sidewalk. They actually physically have to bring them in. Because once they are actually in the building, then we control their safety and all that stuff. Outside, we don't have any control until they're actually into our building. Ms. Scamuffa replied okay. I just want to make sure I have a well-rounded view of everything. Okay.

Mr. Brazzle announced I'm proud to also announce that we are bringing a second childcare center into the city of Coatesville on 6th Avenue, the old-- St. Cecilia will actually be our next childcare center that we will be creating. So we will have two childcare centers in the city. Absolutely. Okay. And that would be St. Cecilia's just being a little-- I'm sorry. Just being a little ahead of the game for St. Cecilia's, the parking would be the drop-off. Pickup will be in the back. Back. So yeah. Two parking spots or two parking lots already back here, and we also have a third parking lot that we're able to use. Parking is not going to be an issue whatsoever at that facility. And we're trying to do three different layers within that building. We're trying to do a childcare center at the bottom, then also a Pre-K Count program. I don't know if you know what Pre-K Count is, but Pre-K Count offers free childcare for the parents who cannot qualify for subsidy childcare. Pre-K Count has a higher threshold. We're aging to offer that childcare for three to five-year-olds for free. And we're also trying to work out going early at start as well within that building. There's going to be hopefully three different programs within that one building. Thank y'all very much.

5. Valley Crossing Digital

My name is Braedon Swindler. Just a little bit of background on myself, and then I'll introduce my colleague, Monica [inaudible], and then she'll come up as well. My name is Braedon Swindler. I graduated from West Chester University a few years back with a degree in International Business. And then I also got my MBA from West Chester before moving out. And now, I live full-time with my wife out in Valley Township. But we have a business in downtown Coatesville called Valley Crossing Digital. I worked full-time for a company out in West Chester called IT Edge, doing technology consulting. I started their marketing division and web design division a few years back. I'm also a professor of marketing at West Chester University. And after moving out here, I decided to start a consulting company for the startups and emerging businesses in Coatesville as we're having an incredible showing of small businesses and startups and lots of entrepreneurial folks. I wanted to do my little part with my marketing side to help out wherever I could. We started Valley Crossing Digital, which is based in the 2nd Century Alliance's Made in Coatesville Incubator space downtown. So that's just a little bit of my background. And then part of Valley Crossing Digital, we started a new initiative called 19320 GO!, and my colleague Monica, who is actually the director of that program, will come up and give a little bit of a background on what 19320 GO! is. We're not really asking for anything in particular. We've just been working on this project for about eight months now. We just wanted to bring this project in front of everyone so you know what's going on. Hopefully, we can find some ways to creatively collaborate and also for the residents just to see what we're doing downtown.

Thank you, Braedon. As Braedon said, I'm Monica. I'm the program director of 19320 GO! Thank you for letting me talk about what we do for the city of Coatesville, and we love to do it. So, like he said, we've founded-- thank you. Like he said, we've founded Valley Crossing Digital. That's our offshoot. We have a space in the Made in Coatesville Incubator for 2nd Century Alliance. And we are all about local news support in the city of Coatesville. We are hyper-local. We are all about positivity. There's nothing negative about our site. You will never see-- you'll rarely see an opinion piece, and when you do, it is going to be spun in the positive direction. So how we communicate through the city is through our blog, which is our website. You'll see a screenshot of that in a second. Our social media accounts and our newsletter, which you'll also see a little bit of a preview of later. And we strive to inform and inspire our community to take action and support local organizations. This is just a screenshot. For those of you who have seen it, I hope you've all had a chance to take a look at it. But this is where most of our social media links to. This is basically our home base. This is our website. It has everything about us, our Best of Coatesville nominations, which I'll get to a little bit later as well, and some partnering [inaudible].

A few of our top stories. This is just a good little outlook on all the kinds of stories we do. Our Best of Coatesville Awards allows for voting and engagement throughout the city. It uplifts all the local businesses. It's completely run by me and Braedon, just by us, so you won't get any other opinions inside of it. You'll have all the local community voting. Anyone can vote if they're inside or outside the city, but it's all Coatesville's businesses and nonprofits. Our Spotlight series, our most recent one was Stingy Brims. I don't know how many of you know Brad, but he's a big famous face in the Incubator and outside the Incubator. It highlights businesses and individuals. So last month, we did Fred from [Singe & Fringe?]. We did his company and then within the next month or two, you'll probably see one on just Fred himself about how he got started, why he does what he does, and why he

loves the city of Coatesville. And then the Grand Prix announcement was our most recent and big one. Expanded reach for press. We take all of what the press releases-- and Braedon, I think, is going to talk about [inaudible]. I'm sure you're familiar with the media they do there. So, Ellen, we have a great working relationship with her. She sends her big press releases to us just to make sure that she can reach all of Coatesville, because we have that reach organically and by [inaudible]. The first annual Best of Coatesville Awards. Our goal is to shine a spotlight on Coatesville businesses and nonprofits. There're 13 categories. I hope you all, everyone included, takes a look after and votes. There're 40-plus full form completions for the nominations in March. And then in mid to late April and through May and June, we're going to send out another round of voting so that Coatesville then can, again, vote on their favorite businesses and nonprofits in those 13 categories.

Oh, this is a Snapchat of our monthly newsletter. Our monthly newsletter goes out within the first week or two of each month to highlight the previous month's top five stories. There's partner highlights and mentions in every single newsletter. We'll mention our partners in a little bit, as well. And there's 300-plus newsletter recipients and growing. It's growing every day. We have a little bit of a sign-up sheet on the bottom of our homepage on our website. If anyone's interested, they can go ahead and go receive that monthly newsletter like clockwork. So, partnerships. We're seeking partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits only located in the 19320-zip code. Like I said before, we're hyper-local, and we're offering one partnership level currently that could grow for \$1,000 a year. And with that, we like to say our partnership goes directly back to you. It's just like most of our stories. So, with that partnership, you get one post per month highlighting your business or organization, and that could be one post minimum. You'll probably get more just because I like to post about our partners and non-partners. Custom branding and landing pages creation on the 19320 GO! website, that also goes into our newsletter, like I said before. And then 20% of your partnership spend goes towards paid advertising efforts. So that one post per month would get boosted using your money, just that we would do it for you because lots of people and local businesses and small businesses don't know how to do that, so we would be getting all of our reach back to you. This is our current homepage. This is a partner page. I'm sorry. 2nd Century Alliance was our first partner, and then in collaboration, obviously, with Made in Coatesville. We gave them two partner pages. Each one has an [inaudible] about the organization and three feature photos. And then categories are something we do when we post a story. Then each partner gets a category, so all their stories per month and beyond go into their partner page as well. They're all condensed into their partner page. I think Braedon's going to come up and tell you a little bit about our media collaborators.

All right. So just to kind of tie off a few things here. We've been working closely with VISTA Today. Our big differentiator from VISTA is that they're kind of-- I mean, they still have a very strong presence in Chester County, of course, but we wanted to move more local into zip codes, and they are looking to move out into large areas like Philadelphia. We actually wanted to go more local. We're also going more for the social media take rather than just the blog. We're also pushing a lot of paid advertising. A lot of that's just internally funded, but also from our partners as well that will help support everything. We work closely with the team at VISTA and their lead editor to make sure that we're pushing stories from Coatesville up to VISTA so that they can get distributed to all of Chester County. We're also going to look to start doing paid advertising, once we have a few partners and can support it, to the rest of the county to push the positive Coatesville stories out to the rest of the county,

not just the internal residents. We have a great working relationship with them. We also have a great working relationship with [inaudible] for all of the press releases that they release that we can make sure that the residents of Coatesville that might spend more time on social media rather than news outlets can still see those press releases in totality. Then we have a few numbers here. I won't get too far in the weeds. But again, this has been about seven, eight months or so. We're looking at about 8,000 users on the website in the last seven months. The city of Coatesville, I think, we're about 13. And I wanted to put the screenshots so you know we're not lying. Next slide. This is Google Search console. This is from organic search. Another way we wanted to approach this was from the search engine optimization perspective. All of the stories we put out are optimized for search. If you're looking up Stingy Brims, the 19320 GO! story will come up first in Google Search. If you're searching for stories in Coatesville, our stories will come up first. We're also playing just the organic search algorithm. And you can see in the last month or two-- I mean, this takes time to build. But in the last month or two, we've really seen a big spike. Our keywords are starting to hit, which is great. We want when somebody outside of Coatesville searches for something about Coatesville, they're seeing our positive stories about startups and entrepreneurs and nonprofits, and all the great things going on. So right now, we're at about 300 clicks of organic search and close to 8,000 impressions. And then we're getting into the social media side. So this is Instagram. Again, over the last seven months or so, we're looking at a reach of about 31,000 individual accounts with almost 400 followers and going on about 400 link clicks, which means they're going and reading. The full story is not just our excerpts. Then finally, our biggest platform is Facebook. So our goal is to act as kind of that professional liaison between whatever organizations we're working with and just the general public. And Facebook happens to be a big source of things like that. So we've currently reached over 50,000 individual accounts and people in the 19320 zip code alone. So we're at about 92% of everyone who lives in the zip code has seen one of our posts in some capacity. So we're getting close to where we want to be as far as full exposure. Some of that's from organic posts. Some of it's from our paid advertising. Oh, yeah. Then this is the last numbers thing. I just wanted to give you guys some perspective. The paid reach is up around over 70,000 individuals that have seen the posts, individual accounts. And these have been shown about 330,000 times. These are being seen-- so 70,000 people total, and it's appeared in the feeds 330,000 times. So a lot of people are seeing these stories multiple times just to make sure it sticks. So yeah, we just wanted to bring that to you and the residents, show you what's going on, and also to take any questions or comments you might have. But of course, we're right here if you ever want to chat or find us.

Mr. Swindler said thanks very much. I know that she worked with not only the local businesses, but a number of our local chambers to help put the information out. As you know, [inaudible] is one of our consultants that we have on staff here. So a lot of the information that we put out to the general public, it's great to see them [inaudible] pushing that even further, so thank you. I'll just pass around cards, so if you want to email me or call me, you have contact [in it?].

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Downtown Buildings/Ownership**

Mr. Logan explained this is just a discussion item. Oftentimes, the City of Coatesville gets asked who owns the buildings downtown and throughout the city, and why are they in the shape they're in, and how come you can't do anything about it. And I know that we've had



some of these conversations outside the council. One of the things that's really important, and you all know, for our administration is to actually put community in [inaudible]. [inaudible] and I had a conversation on how do we educate people on who owns buildings and things like that here in the city. So would you like me to start it off with the— Vice President Greens said absolutely. Because I think that a lot of times-- especially with their record closing, their social media has so many comments. And some of the comments were that the city were charging too much for the buildings for rent, and that's why they closed. The city doesn't own any of those buildings downtown. They're all privately owned. The misconception is that, because it's in Coatesville, that they're controlled and owned by the city, and they're not. They're all privately individual buildings. People buy them. There's comments about why someone has bought so many properties. We don't have control over someone's wallet and what they can afford and what they can't afford. The city is not selling the properties because we don't own them. They are owned by individuals. And I think that it's very important that we clarify because the system can have really a bad misconception. And when you start looking, it's so hard to comment on social media because somebody writes something, then an hour later someone-- you can't keep up. And you just really want people to understand that these are not buildings that we own. We don't have control over who buys the property, if they open up a business or they close the business, or they sell a business to someone else. They're privately owned. It's just like you buying your house and you want to sell your house. We can't tell you who to sell your house to, so.

Mr. Logan asked well, I was wondering-- I know that Vince is here. Vince is working on a number of initiatives to work with council members to [crosstalk]-- So is it something where you think we should have town hall meetings to try to educate residents on matters like that? Vice President Green replied yeah. Especially because of revitalization. With the revitalization going on in the business district-- it's not gentrification. It's trying to get people to invest in the city and open up businesses. We have a plan on what we would like to see in our downtown. For instance, the grocery store. It's taking a little bit longer, but it's going to be opening soon. But we have a plan on what we would like to see. However, it's about the developers coming in. When they come in, they come before our planning commission and all that. They have to go before the zoning hearing board to make sure they're within the zoning. But we don't have control over who they sell a building to or who buys a building. As long as they're able to afford it, they're doing everything that they need to do, they're good. And I think that we need to just educate people that we don't own the buildings downtown and we can't control who buys what.

Mr. Logan asked have any other council members been in discussion about who owns what building? [crosstalk] Council replied yes, I think we all have. Vice President Green explained we don't have a lot of property left for everyone. I think the city-- I think we own approximately eight parcels in the city. And what we do, as council members know, the city has two options to sell the property or lease property. One option is to-- let's say if we were to sell a property, we can put out a bid for the property. And because the city sells directly, we have to take the lowest responsible bid. Or we can turn it over to our redevelopment authority, which handles property for the city, and they can sell it at the highest market value. Oftentimes, cities, municipalities, townships, they opt for the redevelopment authorities to sell the property that they have because it's a revenue generator. In our case, because we don't have multiple revenue streams, we would use our redevelopment authority to more than likely sell property. But we don't own a lot of property. Our job is to identify the little that we

have, and if there's an opportunity to take an existing building and work with a developer to call it [inaudible], we work with them in that respect. But shy of that, as you said, we don't own a lot of parcels out here. And the parcels that we own, most of them are-- especially if they're in a downtown, they're by defaults sometimes. It's not like you buy properties, but for instance, if we had buildings that were torn down like we had in the east end of Coatesville where the Old East End Hardware was, things of that nature, and they come to the city by default. In that case, we turn the buildings over to our redevelopment authority, because the redevelopment authority can actually sell and market the properties. The city cannot. Like Mr. Logan said, we have to put them out for bid to the lowest bidder, and then you really don't have any control over who buys the building or whatever. And it's not cost-effective or smart of us to-- that's a waste of city's money. We're not getting the most for the residents. It's better for us that we created the Redevelopment Authority, I think, back in 2004 or 2003. And that's what the Redevelopment Authority does, is they market the buildings or the properties that the city owns. And I think we're down to just a couple of properties.

Mr. Logan stated well, I think something like this break would be good to share with you [inaudible] just to, again, educate people. But I know that the town hall meetings are something that we're looking to schedule this year. And other topics, too. I think that it's-- on social media, Vince, you see some of the things, and it's very hard. You can't get into discussion that way because [inaudible] comments this hour and then someone else, and once it gets rolling, it's really out of control. And I think that the residents deserve to know and to understand how this all works. To have it at a town hall meeting that people can attend and then get a better understanding. Mrs. Hunt started I think when we go through trying to have the town halls, we have to make it very attractive for the residents to come out. Because I know when I was personal counsel, I would have a quarterly-- well, I tried to have a quarterly town hall with my board that I represent. We have all the disciplines there to talk, and the people just don't show up. It's something bad that's happened or some type of an emergency that's going on in the city. So, to have a town hall just to talk about properties and things of that nature, you're going to have to really make that advertising attractive in order to get the residents to come. And let them know that coming to a town hall such as that is just as important, if not more important, in coming just because a tragedy has happened. We need to find a way to be attractive to the residents so that they can come and hear firsthand. The misconception, I think, is that because we are a city council, that we control everything that goes on in the city. And although we try to be involved in everything so we can know [inaudible], that really is not our position. So, we need to make sure that they understand what our position is, but also, because of who we are individually, and we are involved heavily in our city that we try to make sure we support and be supportive of all things that are going on. Also, it'll give people an opportunity to answer or ask questions regardless of what our topic may be. People come, they get three minutes at the podium, and sometimes, they don't want to answer-- they don't have enough time. But it'll give them the opportunity to come in with questions and stuff that they have, that they can get answered.

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

There were no citizens comments on regular action items only.

Vice President Green made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

## Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve a Letter of Support for Youtopian, Smart Dream City Infrastructure

Vice President Green made a motion to approve a letter of support for Youtopian, Smart Dream City infrastructure; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. Ms. Scamuffa was the dissenting vote.

Mr. Logan stated I just have a comment on that letter. The letter was drafted, and I just want to make sure that the council does understand this is not the final letter. We just need to tweak it a little bit. Ms. Scamuffa stated I have a couple of questions. I can't recall everything off the top of my head. Is this a nonprofit or for-profit? Vice President Green stated no cost to the city at all? That's why they need the letter of support. Ms. Scamuffa asked again, I don't know how it's-- so my question would be this. I like the ideas and the concept of the Utopian Smart. How will it affect the-- if you're having an emergency, you'd have the lights? I'm all for that, and it sends a signal to police, fire, whoever. My question I'm more concerned with is what would prevent somebody from just constantly tapping those and causing a problem within the city? Do you know what I mean? You have kids, you have a lot going on. So that would be more my question for them and how that would affect things. President Lavender Norris stated well, what we can do is when we make our decision and contact them, maybe we could set up another opportunity for them to come and speak with any of the individual members that have questions or concerns [crosstalk]. Ms. Turner-Green stated I have questions specifically for them. President Lavender Norris stated I know Mr. Miles had previously reached out to set up appointments for them to speak with Council. I don't know what occurred or what didn't occur, but I know they're willing to come out and feel any questions, concerns, comments and that. Mr. Logan stated and also, just for counsel, this is just a letter of support, and oftentimes, we're asked to write a letter of support to grants or to support other organizations' applications. Let's just say that they happen to be awarded whatever dollar amount they're going to be asking for. It doesn't bind or commit the city to do anything with it. Because we have not signed any-- we probably will not sign any documents until we get to the full breadth of it. Ms. Scamuffa stated so there's no commitment with them at all. Thank you for clarifying that. President Lavender Norris asked Vince, if you will, reach out and some potential dates and times for Council? Vice President Green said I think when they did before-- for you, you would probably need an evening. Ms. Scamuffa replied yes and I know we can't all be there at the same time. President Lavender replied correct. I did speak with them. So I think three and three, you're good for that because I did have a chance to meet with them when they set it up before. And they were very informative, transparent, and it's an exciting program there. Ms. Allen and myself met. So Ms. Allen and the four of you still have the opportunity.

Mrs. Hunt asked if you set it up and let me know the date and time, it's always good to hear it again. President Lavender Norris stated so there you have it. Ms. Scamuffa asked so the draft needs a little revamping or be on the table to send to the next meeting? Mr. Logan explained support letters, oftentimes, organizations will send us a letter like that, and then I usually have a standard response. Ms. Scamuffa said right. Now, I understand that. But if the letter is not going to be drafted-- if it may potentially be drafted differently, for me-- President Lavender Norris stated it's going to say what we want it to say. Ms. Scamuffa replied yeah. And for me to vote on the letter of support, I would rather see the letter of support prior-- the corrected draft, if that makes sense. Mr. Logan said yeah. Well, that's your call. I normally

don't. I have letters of support all the time, so [crosstalk]. Ms. Scamuffa said yeah. I'm going to vote on it. I'm going to read it, and I want it to be the right draft. I'm not saying would or anybody would. Mr. Logan said if you want to take a look at it, it's fine. Mrs. Hunt asked is there a time-- are we under time restraints to move this letter? Mr. Logan replied I think they have an application submission. It's either this week or next week. Vice President Green said this is just a letter from the city of support. This has nothing to do with what they do for the city. Ms. Scamuffa stated yeah. And I understand, as well. I would just rather-- before [inaudible] letter of support, I would like you to read it. Vice President Green asked according to the letter that is in here, do you know what the change might be? Mr. Logan replied well, the first paragraph, that is not the city's mission. Other than that, it basically just speaks to their application and what the plan is for them. Pretty much the first paragraph.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve a Resolution supporting the acceptance of professional services proposal/agreement with Cedarville Engineering Group, LLC (CEG) for a study of the Gibbons Run Culvert that runs through the City of Coatesville

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve a Resolution supporting the acceptance of professional services proposal/agreement with Cedarville Engineering Group, LLC (CEG) for a study of the Gibbons Run Culvert that runs through the City of Coatesville; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Turner explained in February of this year, CEG provided a proposal to provide special service for the Gibbons Run Culvert. [inaudible] 65 x 65 or 72 x 72 stormwater drain that basically takes a lot of the water from our inlets and pushes it out. We are in receipt of that particular award from the county in the amount of \$113,810. In order for that particular work to be activated, we have to get approval from council or resolution for recording our minutes. We thought the best way to do this would be through the resolution, and then Kyle will be here to kind of comment on how this particular project will get us from phase one, which is the survey, and-- Yeah. Conceptual study to the FEMA. This is the first part of-- so there's two parts to this. There's a Chester County Community Revitalization Program Award that was recently made, I think, late last year by the county. This is kind of the precursor to the FEMA grant that I think was made in roughly the same timeframe as well. This will do the preliminary study, figure out what the flows are in the existing culvert. If there's any areas of concern, it'll identify those. And we'll be able to generate some conceptual plans for the city to be able to advance on with the full FEMA award that's still somewhat pending. And then that FEMA award will take everything through for a full design and permitting up until construction.

Vice President Green asked well, I personally think that-- so we can only use Cedarville to do this? Mr. Logan explained Cedarville has been on the project since our stormwater [inaudible]-- Vice President Greens said well, it just seems to me that they just charge us way too much. And sometimes I don't think that they work for our best interests. They work more for their interests to inflate the bills. I just think that we could use a different engineer if it's too late. That's just my opinion. Mr. Logan explained I think because we are this far with the application and the work, we received the bids, and again, they do have first-hand knowledge of this based on the last two storms. Vice President Green stated just to voice my concern going forward, though, I just wish that we could look at a different engineering company. We're giving them a lot of business, and they're charging us a whole bunch of money. And I think that, even with developers in the city, they're not having their best interest at heart

either. They're more benefiting their side in the amount of money that they're asking. I just want us to open ourselves up to another engineering company. [crosstalk]. Mr. Logan announced we have an alternative engineering firm, yes. [crosstalk]. Vice President Green stated I would like for us to start doing that. I think that we're just throwing everything at Cedarville, and it just upsets me sometimes when I look at the amount. And then even with some of the businesses or developers coming in, I just think that they're not being fair. They're not handling it properly. And I think they're doing it more to inflate their costs, as opposed to what's best for the people. I would like for us to be able to look at a different company. So is it too late to look at companies? Mr. Logan said well, we have an alternate engineering firm that we work with. So in the future, if council wants to use that alternate firm, we can do that. [crosstalk] Mr. Logan explained well, the application that we received in this award, Cedarville was our partner in putting that application together. They're written into the actual grant. And they are kind of the service provider for this award to be done. If we were to move from then we would have to do the whole process over from the beginning. I don't think they would want to come in and pick up someone else's work.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close action items; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

## Reports

### 1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced since council's last meeting, I have communicated and continue to communicate with the city's zoning hearing board solicitor regarding zoning matters. The zoning hearing board denied relief for 370 East Chestnut Street; provided an opinion regarding a solar area; and my office have worked on several right to know matters; caused ordinance adoption notices to be run in the daily local news, consistent with the city's charter; I and my reviewed a proposed donation agreement and provided comments; I provided an opinion regarding non-opioid reporting, and I communicated with outside counsel regarding land development matters.

Ms. Scamuffa asked it's totally nothing to do with what you just spoke of [laughter]. Can you possibly look into right-to-know request by council and how-- I went to a training and I was under the impression that council members did not need to submit right-to-know requests. And that was a council training. Can you just get a confirmation on that if that's something that any council member has to do? I mean, unless they're looking at in general requests, what the protocol is for that. Mr. Jefferson said understood. And yes. Ms. Scamuffa asked do you have an answer now? Mr. Jefferson replied I do not. Not one that I could point to a source of authority for.

### 2. City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. Well, first, I just want to start with a few economic development notes. But before I end, I just want to share that I did have some discussion in executive earlier this evening. I too provided comments and updates on personnel and real estate matters to city council members. So, moving on to the first item, I want to extend our thanks to Senator Comitta and Senator Casey for notifying the City of Coatesville of our recent award. This is the CFA award on Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of \$751,730. This is for the Lincoln Highway streetscape extension. We already have funding for streetscape 1st to 3rd. This is funding to continue that, as we'd say,

construction from 3rd to 4th, and are looking forward to that in the future. That right now is going through the [inaudible] ECMS system. Cedarville has been working with us on that. We've been able to move the needle on that and will start construction in 2025 on the 1st and 3rd streetscape function. The next item I have is kind of a big item that's been kind of in the social media. We did a couple of press releases a couple of weeks ago or last week, I should say. And that's in reference to the Grand Prix.

The City of Coatesville, as you may have read in the press release, has decided to take the hiatus on the Coatesville Grand Prix. And there are a number of reasons why we did it. But first and foremost, I just want to share with everyone, it has nothing to do with anything that's happening in the city and it's nothing to do with budget. I saw some Facebook posts that were saying that because of the recent shootings in the city of Coatesville, we are canceling the Grand Prix. All that is false. The Grand Prix is being canceled because the event itself is more and more difficult to manage. We have over 5,000 people that kind of descend on this city. We have a lot of moving parts to it. If you've attended the event, you know it's a great event. We have over 60 cars, and in the event, some of those cars were moving fast on the track. In spite of our efforts to keep the track safe, we still see people crossing the tracks. So we thought it would be a good idea to, after seven years, let's take a break, regroup. We hope to roll it out in 2025, a little bit different. We are looking to reach out to some of the members of the Strawberry Festival that did that plan. Maybe bring in an element of the Strawberry Festival to the Grand Prix, as well as some live music, and just a more family-oriented event. But I just want to share to the public that none of some of the unfortunate incidents in the city played into our decision to cancel the event. And I would just encourage people if you're not real sure about what's going on in the city in terms of the committees, we have council members that sit on the advisory committee for the Grand Prix. We have council members that sit on the advisory committee for the Unity Day, Sounds of Summer. They are here to answer your questions. Oftentimes, we kind of get caught up in social media and thinking that's the gospel. Well, it isn't. If you want to know something about what's going on in the city, Roberta and I are here, council members are over there. You can call them and ask questions. And we're very transparent. We're not hiding anything. But I just sometimes get discouraged when I hear people make all these accusations of why we're doing something, and they're false. So the Grand Prix is going to come back in 2025, and we hope to have, as I said, a different flavor. And this is news to everyone. We do plan to have the cruise-in still. So as we did last year with the Friday night-- well, we had Thursday night event, and then we had the Friday night cruise-in, and then there was the Grand Prix on Saturday. Well, this year, we're still going to do the cruise-in. We're going to piggyback it. So the plan right now is to piggyback it on the first Friday event. And we think that's going to be a great partnership there. And we hope people come out with a little cruise in, little first Friday activities and dinner, and have a great time in the first week of September. And if you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Moving on to the next item. Last week, I attended a transportation event that was sponsored by Bentley Systems out in Malvern. We had the pleasure of meeting with Secretary of Transportation, Mike Carroll; majority leader, Matt Bradford; and Senator Wayne Langerholc to discuss some of the transportation and infrastructure challenges in the City of Coatesville and throughout the region. It was a great meeting. They're very aware of what's going on in the city with the train station development, as well as some of the transportation

and commuting issues that were happening in this region. It's just nice to hear that Secretary of Transportation knows about Coatesville. That's a great meeting.

Next item I have is in reference to the crosswalk on 3rd and Lincoln Highway. We had a meeting about a week ago in front of Coatesville Towers, Public Works, Cedarville, Police Department. And we talked about what we can do regarding that crosswalk. As you all know, there are a lot of seniors and a lot of people use that crosswalk there. We have pedestrian signs, but they're not flashing signs. We are looking into putting flashing signs here, which may be temporary because we also have a streetscape project that's going to be coming through. The chief had to identify some flashing lights there. We're going to be working with Cedarville, our engineer, to see if we can get those installed. And hopefully, we'll be able to do that pretty quickly. Let's see. I want to give a quick congratulations to two individuals. One just walked out. That was Vincent Miles. But Vincent Miles and Jose Colon from Coatesville were recently recognized as VISTA Today's millennial superstars. And that's really nice to see two Coatesville young residents here be part of that. So our congratulations goes on to them. They will be recognized at a May 9th event. Congratulations [applause]. And that concludes my report for this evening.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. And I will speak quickly. To begin, I'd like to welcome any Spanish speakers and other non-English speakers that need assistance with city matters, that we are here to help as best we can. We want everyone to be able to share their questions and concerns. [foreign]. As you appointed our new code department director, Aaron Flook.

We're very happy to welcome him. And he will be leading the Code department through a very pivotal time for the city. We're very glad to have his experience and his leadership as we go through this continued era of growth in the city. As you'll see in your packets, we have the March code report. The 2024 rental licenses are now past due, and our business privilege is currently due. We are starting to see an increase in permit applications throughout the city. And on page five of the code report, you can see that a large majority of our enforcement cases are trash related. You met earlier, Greg Lambert, our new code enforcement officer, who's been doing a great job, and he's really been focused on trying to clean up some of that trash throughout the city. As you can imagine, the code department has seen an uptick in activity recently, which is resulting in more people physically coming into the city to pay fees or fines or licenses or permits. And these fees and fines require just more processing time to close out before the end of the day. What we're seeing is that our code department just needs more time, more uninterrupted time for data input and filing.

I just want to let the city know that this Friday, the code department window will be closing at noon to allow for some of that time, for uninterrupted time. It may be that we will close the window again, and if we do need to do that, we will announce it on-- we'll post it on our website so that everybody's aware. I do also want to announce that, as you know, we are still in phase one and two of our Ash Park design. We have our engineers, JMT, on board, and they are designing the first half of the Ash Park project. And recently, it was announced that Senator Casey's office appointed-- the city of Coatesville Ash Park project was awarded \$959,752 for the Ash Park project. We're very thrilled and appreciative of Senator Casey and his office. As council knows, Ash Park is a major project for the city, and a welcome one,

and a very important one for our community. It is the largest park in our city. This is a multi-million-dollar project, and most of it is grant funded by many different grants, different appropriations from our representatives and senators. And it's very much a community effort, so we're grateful for all the support. And that concludes my report.

#### 4. Police Department

Chief Laufer announced the complete statistical report is in your packet tonight, just a couple of highlights, as we normally do. For the month of March, 911 call center-generated complaints for city of Coatesville was 2,405, up slightly from the month of February, which was 2,057. And then also, those calls that are received through our front reception desk for the month of March was 920, up slightly from 775 for the month of February. In addition, we had three Narcan saves administered by the police department for the month of March. We had 12 car seat checks and installations, along with car seats provided by our certified technicians, benefiting the citizens here in Coatesville. We also had our Coffee with the Chief, which was hosted at the 2nd Century Alliance, was an evening program, which was the first ever for the Coffee with the Chief program, which was very well received. And special thanks to April for hosting that and making that happen. In addition, we had-- I'm sorry, what did I say? Oh, Amber. I'm sorry. Amber, April, Amber. We're in the month of April. Special thanks to Amber. Coffee with the Chief was just hosted by President's Bank on April 3rd. We had a very nice turnout. And next Coffee with the Chief is scheduled for May the 1st, which is the first Wednesday in May. And it will actually be Coffee with the Chiefs, plural, because we're going to have it hosted by the [inaudible] at the firehouse. Chief Dobson and myself will be co-hosting, so we'll get the fire company involved a little bit. If the weather's nice, we'll open up the bay and have Coffee with the Chief in the engine bay and be inviting those that might be passing by in front of the station to stop in, as well as our regular crowd that normally comes from Coffee with the Chief. So that will be on May the 1st.

Just two other things to mention here. I received a letter, an email, a thank you. And I'll leave the names out, but it was from a prison guard that works at Chester County Prison. And Chief Laufer, he said, "Good afternoon, sir. I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out to show my utmost appreciation to Officer Nicholas Thorburn. I will mention the police officer's name from the city of Coatesville, Officer Nick Thorburn. In the early morning hours of March 23rd, 2024, my daughter was involved in a domestic situation with her ex-boyfriend. The individual kidnapped my daughter and took her at a high-speed chase through Coatesville and county townships. These two agencies, along with the state police from Embreeville, were involved in a pursuit and an eventual apprehension of the individual and a safe return of my daughter. Officer Thorburn, who is a former officer here at the prison--" so Officer Nick Thorburn of City of Coatesville Police Department in his former career worked for the Chester County Prison. Officer Thorburn reached out, informed him that his daughter was safe and in good hands with the Police Department. Just saying, "He also went above and beyond to sit in the ambulance with my daughter and let her know that he is acquainted with her father and comforted her during her medical evaluation by EMS services. I know your officers are just 'doing their job', but it is truly appreciated when they go above and beyond, as Officer Thorburn did. It really doesn't go unnoticed, and you've got yourself a good one with Officer Thorburn." I just thought that was-- we talk about domestic violence, and we recognize domestic violence month of October, but it really is all year round. This, fortunately, could have had a very different outcome. But between City of Coatesville Police



Department and county township, the state police, were able to safely bring that pursuit to a safe termination and return this girl to her family. And then another incident that, unfortunately, I have to report on is the city experienced our second homicide of the year for 2024. And once again, it touches a member of Council, so it touches our family here. It's unfortunate. We continue to investigate. And hopefully, at some point, we'll be able to bring some closure and some resolution to the families that are involved. We're asking for anybody that might have any information. The homicide occurred in the unit block of Oak Street between 3rd and Fulton Alley or Fulton Street. And this was on March 27th, 2024, at 2:00 in the afternoon. We're asking anybody that may have had-- who may have additional information to come forward and let the police department know.

5. Finance Department

Tonight is the last installment of the information sessions. By the Numbers, Controls & Roles and Tonight Results. We will start with a slight refresher on the first two sessions, starting with slide 11. Slide 12. Recall the expenses, and the efforts to convert them largely to structured, contracted with the bulk of the remainder being budgeted. Slide 13. Recall discussing the Controls and Roles in place around the expenses. Slide 14. Coatesville is Rising! Have used this and have heard it countless times over the past few years, including on queue earlier this evening by madam president.

First want to stress this is one perspective and needs to be understood in context of what we just heard about Narcan saves and fire fighters serving our residents. Tonight, it is about showing financial progress for what the TEAM has put together. We all know what TEAM means – Together, Everyone, Achieves More. Notice I changed Achieves to past tense to reflect the last five years of progress.

Slide 20. This begins the story over five years, when the City was on the verge of ACT 47, distressed status. During the 2019 to 2023 portion we had to work through Covid years. The City also had a history of borrowing \$1 Million each January to pay bills, then use the first Million of tax receipts to pay back the loan; then struggle to make ends meet at the end of the year, into the next January – repeating the cycle. Now we have broken that cycle to the point of investing early tax receipts instead of repaying loans.

Also recall the drawing showing the “Ohio” geography of a canyon with the car trying to drive across the top, needing to use borrowing or reserves to fill in the structural deficit. Now we have had how many balanced budgets – 5 with no borrowing from reserves or no external borrowing to pay bills. In actuality, I should not have included the word External since no borrowing was need at all. And of course, the City now has a total of nine years without a tax increase.

Slide 21. Will start with the non-monetary results. On the right countless festivals and events, largely started by Mr. Logan getting sponsors to pay for these. The remainder of the left side are largely infrastructure upgrades, mainly with police, to help address delayed needs by providing tools to serve the community. On the right the City was able to add cyber insurance coverage, address a number of pension issues, and eliminate nagging embarrassing audit findings back to 2012. Slide 22. This slide represents the initial list of money results. “M” is for millions. \$4M of grants invested, with almost \$1M for parks and half a million for

roads. The City bought \$152,000 of safety equipment for its employees and contributed to parks and recreation \$22,000 from the Grand Prix events. Behind the scenes substantial improvements occurred with the fleet, and I want to focus on the safety aspect. The City had an average old fleet, and now vehicles are safer for our employees. Regarding the fire trucks, I included the \$3M order because the City is in a position to have enough confidence to pay for these when the time comes. Slide 23. This is the real money page. Real estate values are up \$5.1 M over 5 years. Wages are up over 50%, either as more people having jobs or increased wages are being earned; this as a result of the increase in earned income tax, which is directly tied to earnings. The \$200M is the amount commonly used for how much development is at various stages of implementation.

Non tax revenues are up almost 40% over five years while expenses have averaged about a 3% increase over those same five years. The Liquidity box highlights the impact of now being able to invest cash, with an almost 18% increase. The pension assets are up almost 80%, which is not just the market. Recall there were bad years of performance, and City Council approved special added infusions. We have been told the City pension plans are among the strongest in the Commonwealth. For all five years the City has also paid down \$2.8M in debt.

Major Annual Cost Savings lists a few of the larger savings created by the team. There were also countless \$1,000 to \$10,000 sized savings that I'll trust your memory for those of you who have been around to recall. There are also countless times the department supervisors negotiated better pricing, shaving costs that were not really reported to Council.

All of these savings went to balance the budget and to invest in staff. Pointing out Codes, about five years ago there was one part time person, now there are 4 and the asterisk represents 2024 additions such as the new Codes Director. Slide 24. Of course, time did not stop at the end of 2023, so this slide shows what is in store for the City starting with 2024. \$31 Million in awarded grants and budget savings already identified, and this doesn't count the benefits of the pending development projects. Slide 25. All I can say then is, Congratulations Coatesville. Thank you.

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

#### **Barbara Beckett**

Good evening. My name's Barbara Beckett. I live at Cedar Street. I want to say first I don't know about how long the train station is going to take to be built, but you know how they had the detour. I've been up there for almost 20 years, and I've been down the police station between five to seven times. We complain about cars coming down a one-way street the wrong way. And we got kids out there playing. I'm out there in the morning, putting my grandson on the bus. They come down and they-- come down fast. Sometimes they come down Cedar Street and go right across. Sometimes they come down Graham Avenue and then they turn-- it's a one-way. I'm at wit's end because I'm thinking, "What are they going to do, wait until a kid gets killed?" because they come flying half the time. And I go to the police station and they keep telling me there's nothing they can do. I feel they should be able to do something when somebody keep coming complaining and as it's getting warm outside and the kids are outside playing. What are they going to do? Wait until somebody gets hit and then when we come down to the police station or they come up there and know they've been told. I'd like to know what could be done there. Is there anything that they can do? Mr. Logan stated he would talk to the actual company that's doing the road work up there. They're supposed to have-- Ms.

Beckett said well, they know. The company is doing fine because they have detours. But the cars are just ignoring them. They're coming down Cedar Street the wrong way or they'll come down to Graham Avenue and then go down Cedar Street because they don't want to go-- I guess they living down there in Elmwood or whatever. But it's the point, the kids are outside. I got a grandson that's outside playing. The weather's getting warm. In the morning, I've been going out there, but we make sure we're out there because you don't know. I'm out there at 7:30. Within 15 minutes, there's five cars that I've seen. And this is a constant. I was outside today about 3:30. 10 minutes, I was outside. Four cars come flying the wrong way. Mr. Logan stated what I was going to say, ma'am, is that some road work is being done. They usually have two flaggers. One has a stop sign and one has a slow sign. It sounds like they don't have those individuals out there. Ms. Beckett said but it's not the individuals-- I'm talking about the cars are not following the detour. They're just saying, "The heck with it." They're going down Cedar Street or coming up Graham Avenue and running down. So even if there was flaggers, they'd have no control over the cars. I'm complaining about the cars. And then I went down to the police station between five and seven times. And they're saying there's nothing they can do. I feel there's something that they can do. Put a light up there or whatever-- they got them in the alley, [inaudible] alley and all that, where you can see the thing coming down or put up. They do have, at the end of Cedar, a do-not-enter. They pay no mind. And then if you're coming down, they get an attitude and be like, "[inaudible]." They're coming up. They're going down. I sit there. They want to lay me out. And not just me, but anybody else, like we're in the wrong. I'm just feeling like-- I hope something can be done before a child gets hit because I want it on record that I did come and complain. Go to the police station, they tell me, "Oh, there's nothing you can do. Take a picture." It's not my place to take a picture. I don't have my phone outside every day. Vice President Green stated between Mr. Logan and Chief Laufer, we'll see what could be done, if anything. If you leave some contact information so they can reach out to you, that would be good. Ms. Beckett said yeah. Even if they had a police car-- a police car could sit down at end of Cedar, and when they see them coming down, do it in the morning. They can see them coming down. People get stopped. They keep getting tickets, they'll stop.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Ms. Scamuffa asked to go last this week instead of first all the time. President Lavender-Norris said No. Ms. Scamuffa stated it's brutal in here, let me tell you. [laughter] First off, let me thank everybody for coming out and staying until the end. Much appreciated. Hopefully, we get to have more people come out just to be educated on what's going on in the city. I appreciate the staff, my fellow council persons. Congratulations to now Corporal Thompson, and Officer Fox being promoted to full-time. Congratulations to our new codes gentlemen that I am a stickler for. And you may see my name coming up, Fran's pain in the neck. And that's just who I am. I'm trying to make Coatesville a better place. I want to say, please understand, to all residents in the city, I in good conscience, cannot vote on something that I just haven't seen with my eyes. Some things you know what they're about, some things you don't. I'll always be outvoted, but I have to vote my conscience, and that's just who I am. So it's not because I'm just being disagreeable or anything like that. And to

the general public also, our residents, our taxpayers, please note that Council is here. We're trying to do the best that we can do with what we have to work with. All of the council members here have a different strength. We don't all carry the same strengths. We all see things differently, which is good. It's great to have different perspective on everything when we're looking at all the codes and different ordinances that come our way. Try not to be so hard on us [laughter]. Like Mr. Logan said, I see the comments and everything on social media and some of the stuff we have nothing to do with. We are one city, but some of this stuff just is not a Council position to make a decision on, so I just want the public to realize that. Again, I thank everybody for coming out and hope to see you at the next meeting. Bring some guests. We'll just go from there. So thank you. Thank you.

Ms. Turner-Green wished everyone a good evening. Thank you so much for coming out. Of course, I want to first congratulate Corporal Joseph Thompson, also Joshua Fox as well, and to our new code enforcement as we speak. Also, to Vincent Miles, congratulations. You were out of the room when we gave you a little recognition for being recognized as a rising star. You've been doing wonderful things. I'm sure you'll do much more wonderful things. To Ms. Beckett, thank you for coming and sharing your concerns. Of course, there's nothing that can be done about something that we're unaware of. But it is a partnership, so hopefully, we can partner together with law enforcement and the staff and hopefully the residents. All right. Have a good evening and get home safely.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. I do want to thank everyone for coming and spending the evening with us. Echo my colleague that we congratulate the youth members of our staff. We look forward to working with you as you go through things to make our city a better place. And to all of our staff, we acknowledge your hard work and things that you do and things that you've done. And for all of those things, we are grateful. I too want to address Ms. Beckett, this isn't the first time that this has been brought up to council, because I've brought this up to council before, about this same situation on Cedar and Grant Avenue. And it really concerns me. Actually, my best friend is right on that corner, right across from [inaudible]. So I'm up there at times, and I see how those cars are coming, and they're turning the wrong way on Cedar, and they're not going 5 or 10 miles an hour. So I really, really, really, really, really hope that we can do something before something happens, and then we're on the other side of it. And then, at that point, you take action, after something happens. So please, I'm begging you as a councilperson, let's explore what we have to do through all that construction that's going on to keep the children and the residents as they're trying to get to their cars. They open their door and here come a car, and they have to stamp their door closed. And that's happened several times to my friend that lives up there. Her and I just talked about this today, so I was going to bring it up again tonight. But we have to do something about that corner and that turn on Cedar Street. And Mr. Logan, I totally understand what you were saying about the flaggers, but I especially understand what she's saying. Because once the flaggers-- even if they direct them up the hill, they're going to get to the top of that hill and take it down. Because they don't want to go down Coates Street and have to come around 3rd and 4th Avenue to get back to Elmwood. Most of them live down in Elmwood, and they just don't want to have to take that detour. So I'm asking again, please, please, let's see what we can do to make it safe out there for our residents, okay? So that's my spill for tonight. And thank you, Rich, for the report. Everybody have a good night. And it is six minutes and 50 seconds left in the first half. And it is a tie score of 23-23. [laughter]

Vice President Green stated I'm just happy for everyone who came out. Bobby, I didn't recognize you. I was trying not to stare at you. But I'm quite sure that the police department is saying that there's not too much they can do because the cars are already gone. But maybe during the morning or something, that we can have a patrol car update to kind of catch the cars going through. I don't know

how long that's going to be blocked. They try to do it periodically. It's not all the time. It's there, so. That's one of the reasons I was late today because I went that way. So like Ms. Hunt said, and everyone, we can try to come up with something to keep because it's all about safety and keeping the kids safe. Thank you, IT Edge, for your presentation. I look forward to speaking with you, Braedon. We welcome you, Mr. Flook. Aaron, [inaudible]. So I'm excited about the changes and the progress that we're going to be able to make having you on board. Thank you, Rich, again, for your-- you said this was the final one. This was your final one? Mr. Troutman replied yeah. I don't think people would request for-- Vice President Green stated I think they like it, though, the information. So maybe we do it more, but the shorter segments. Something like that. Good job, Rich. And I just want to-- we're all individual council members, as Ms. Scamuffa was saying, and we all make our own decisions based on our ability to understand or how we feel about a certain topic. But I just want to clarify something that-- when it came to-- our city manager has been with us-- how long have you been with this? Mr. Logan replied five years. Vice President Green said five years. Five years. And I voted yes on this particular because it's just a draft ordinance of support. And Mr. Logan had explained that the very first paragraph was not our mission. And he needed to adjust it because they give you samples where they present what they would like you to support them. And we just have to change what our mission is in the top part. I trust that he's not going to put anything crazy. He knows what our mission is. Our mission is what the city has, and he's going to make that change. I don't have a problem with voting for that because grants have a deadline, and their deadline is going to occur before we have a chance to meet again. He did explain that. And like I said, we're all individuals. But I just wanted to clarify that because I didn't want it to seem like we voted not caring about what the letter said. The letter was very clear. It was a letter of support. And I specifically asked him what changed, and he said, "Just the top paragraph, the mission." Thank you all for coming out. And I appreciate when people come out. I appreciate when people come and voice their concerns because otherwise we don't know. And our police chief, our lieutenants, I think that they'll come up with some resolution. Okay. Thank you all and have a wonderful night.

President Lavender Norris stated I sit here convicted. I was one of-- was, not am. I was one of the ones that went down Cedar Street the wrong way. [laughter] Ms. Beckett asked was I outside? President Lavender Norris replied no, you were not. But I did it. And I think it was Mrs. Hunt mentioned that accident had occurred. I'm like, "Oh, my God." First, I thank God it wasn't me, but once she mentioned that, I just made up-- I will not do that again. I haven't done it. And that was back when they first started closing it off. And I was like, "Oh, way down there to come way back up here," all that. That's what I was going through. But I did it that time, and I haven't done it anymore. Listen, you know I know. But I was just doing the shortcut thing, and I was wrong. And I've been convicted, and I don't do it anymore by the grace of God. But with that being said, though, in all honest seriousness, it is an issue. And I say so because a couple of times I was coming down the hill, somebody was coming onto Cedar the wrong way, and we both had to break to stop from-- Right. And then they go fast. Let me tell you, I understand. They go fast because I was doing it like, "Let me hurry up and get down here before a car come or a cop come." That was the mentality when I was going down there. I wasn't thinking about anybody but me. And that's why I tell you I was convicted because I was being selfish. But in any event, it is a really sensitive and serious matter there. I think when I came into our executive this evening, my first question was, how long are they going to be closing Coates because of that very issue? I don't know exactly what they're doing at this point, but what I do know is, can't you close the street up, put a metal plate across or something to open Coates Street back up once they're done working because they close it in the morning, they don't open it back up. So you're just out. You have to go all the way around to get back up, and it's not okay. That's a real problem. Even in an emergency situation, what do you do because the street's closed. So

yeah, we have to look at something with regard to people going the wrong way and them keeping their street closed all the time. It has to be addressed. On another note, I'm just grateful that no one's been hurt to this point. I thank God for that. I'm grateful to be here with you all this evening. Glad to see you all. First time I saw you here, Bobby. Don't let it be the last. Come back out. Keep us informed. When we don't know, we can't do anything. So don't let this be your last time. Braedon and Monica, welcome. Kyle, welcome to the meeting. Again, not your last. Come back. It doesn't have to be official business. Just come out with us. We appreciate you. [crosstalk]. Okay. But anyway, let's get back on track because it is 10 o'clock and [crosstalk]. And everybody, have a blessed night. Be safe. Congratulations, Aaron. Thank you for the report. James, Roberta, Rob, Chief, Ruthann, Vince, I love you guys. Thank you so much, colleagues. We are who we are. God bless y'all.

**Adjournment**

Vice President Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.