



City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, April 22, 2024

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman Villa Hunt, and Councilwoman Fran Scamuffa
Council Absent: Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green
Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Lieutenant Rodger Ollis, Police Department; Richard Troutman, Finance Director; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; and Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

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

President Lavender Norris announced Councilwoman Turner-Green would not be in attendance this evening.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the April 8, 2024 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote due to her absence at the meeting.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Vice President Green made a motion to ratify the accounts payables; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Presentations

1. Ethan Poetic – Letter of Recognition

President Lavender Norris read the letter of recognition for Ethan Poetic. And the letter will read as follows, "The City of Coatesville recognizes people who make an impact on and play a role in the lives of the Coatesville residents. Whereas Ethan Poetic, a native of Coatesville, graduated from McCaskey High School, attended Harrisburg Area Community College, receiving an associate degree, and later attended Millersville University receiving a bachelor's degree in speech communications with a minor in broadcasting and media. Ethan is a life coach, entrepreneur, and motivational speaker from Pennsylvania. His inspirational story of rising from difficult circumstances has helped many others climb out of their own difficulties. And Ethan helped bridge the gaps to inspire the youth inside classrooms, cafes, playground, sports, music, after-school programs, and community engagement. He sees himself inside the youth relating to their struggles, poverty, single-parent household, and needing leadership towards the right direction in life. And now, therefore, be it recognized that the city council of the City of Coatesville salutes Ethan Poetic for his selfless, faithful

dedication and service to the lives of the citizens proclaimed and enacted on the 22nd day of April 2024." Ethan, if you would come up, please.

Mr. Poetic thanked the city council and the City Manager, James Logan, for approving this letter of recognition as I am Ethan A. Poetic, a native of Coastal Pennsylvania. I'd like to thank you much for acknowledging that I made positive contributions, how I overcame a near-death experience. And I realized it's a win for this community, a win for the city, a win for the school district because all that you have to do is be willing to change your mindsets for a greater purpose. For the adults who are parents and guardians or serving as roles as uncles and aunts, all they got to do is change their infrastructure, step outside their comfort zone, and reorganize their foundation. Because in order to be successful like many people or in order to be great, you have to be willing to be led by people who are greater than you or smarter than you. With that being said, I'd like to thank My Aunt Maddie for showing up from Delaware. I'd like to thank Susan Springsteen for allowing me to have a book signing day in Coatesville last year. I'd like to thank the educator from the school and her husband for being in attendance. In conclusion, the best is yet to come. I still got more things in store, and I'd like to thank you all very much for your time, this appreciation, and let's continue to make Coatesville greater tomorrow than it was yesterday. Thank you. [applause]

2. 2nd Century Alliance – Amber Little-Turner

Good evening, Madam President, fellow council members. My name is Amber Little-Turner. I'm the executive director of Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance and also a resident here in the City of Coatesville. I'm going to read from my notes, so I apologize. I don't want to miss anything.

I stand before you today on behalf of Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance bringing forth updates on our ongoing initiatives and expressing our gratitude for your unwavering support extended by city council and the City of Coatesville. As we embark on our threshold of exciting community events, groundbreaking projects, we are eager to share our progress and future endeavors with you all. Firstly, I'm excited to announce the upcoming series of Coatesville's First Fridays set to grace downtown from May to October. Each month we'll bring forth a theme celebration, promising an enriching experience for all attendees. From the vibrant Cinco de Mayo festivities in May to Carnival theme in August, these events are poised to energize our community spirit and foster a sense of togetherness. Furthermore, with June, honoring Juneteenth and July celebrating Independence Day, we are proud to pay homage to our significant culture and historical milestones resonating deeply with our diverse community. Additionally, September with the arrival of Harvest Festival while October bids a fond farewell, not that we're ready for that, to the season with Fall-- excuse me, Fall Farewell celebrations. With an array of food, vendors, live music, and entertainment, Coatesville First Fridays promise an enriching experience for all who participate.

Moreover, I am pleased to inform you of our progress and recruitment process for the pivotal role of our community coordinator position. This endeavor has been made possible through the generous support of the Regional Foundation Grant, which bolsters our ongoing Growing Greater neighborhood initiative. The community coordinator, excuse me, will play a vital role in facilitating community engagement and fostering collaborative efforts towards the betterment of our beloved city.

In addition to our event-centric endeavors, we are dedicated to expanding our Made in Coatesville Incubator to provide comprehensive support of the culinary entrepreneurs in our community. This inception of the Made in Coatesville Culinary Collective stands as a testament to our commitment to addressing the culinary and economic needs of our community. This groundbreaking project will provide a shared-use commercially licensed community kitchen and retail space nurturing culinary entrepreneurship, fostering community collaboration, and driving economic growth. As we are still going through the planning stages of this, we're hoping to locate this at 340 East Lincoln Highway in downtown Coatesville. The Culinary Collective is poised to prayerfully open their doors the midsummer, offering a shared commercial kitchen space and sublease opportunities for cafe stations. With the capacity to accommodate four to five small cafe-- excuse me, cafe stations and a commissary shared kitchen, the Culinary Collective aims to promote inclusivity, sustainability, and local economic development. Again, I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Coatesville City Council and the City of Coatesville for their continued support and partnership in our endeavors. Together, we are paving the way for a brighter, more vibrant future for our beloved city. With that being said, I'm also going to leave our 2023 annual report over on the table for you to review, and I appreciate your time.

Discussion Items

1. Agenda Items

Mr. Jefferson stated I can sort of take the lead on this. This was precipitated in part by me. We've had some issues with the agenda, and I just wanted to provide some guidance and do it in public and try to get some feedback and hopefully present some solutions so that we're not in the same situation again. If you look at the city's charter, it's 2-212. It's the agenda. And it says, "The council shall cause to be prepared for each regular meeting an agenda of matters to be considered by the council at such meeting including pertinent background information which agenda shall be distributed to the public in attendance at the start of the meeting." That's just the first sentence of it, but it goes on further. I believe I provided that earlier this evening to city council. If you'll look at it and analyze it really closely, it's a written passive voice. So, it just says, "Council shall cause it to be prepared." It really doesn't say who actually prepares it. However, the city council adopted Robert's Rules of Order. And within there, it says that the secretary shall prepare the agenda for the benefit of the president of council. What I want to do and wanted to address is a situation where one person says they want X on the agenda and one person says they don't want X on the agenda. And as you can see from the city's charter, there's no sort of resolution of that. I didn't find any resolution of

that in Robert's Rules of Order. It's approximately 600 and some odd pages, so it's entirely possible that I missed it. But in searching the agenda and the creation of it, I didn't find a sort of, well, what happens if one person says X, one person says not X? So it's one of these areas where the charter is written very vaguely. It just says, "You shall cause it to be prepared." It doesn't say how.

You guys, as city council, have the ability to enact ordinances and clarify it and come up with rules to govern yourselves. You're not beholden to Robert's Rules of Order. You can amend those orders, those rules. On the way over here, I was just Googling online this sort of scenario. And I actually found some other municipalities' resolution to this sort of thing. In this municipality-- and I'm not sure exactly where it is, but it says the mayor, as the person responsible for controlling city council meetings, can add or delete matters from the upcoming agenda list. So that's the general rule. But then it goes on to a little further subpart, and it says, "A council member that disagrees with the mayor's decision to add or delete an item from a future agenda can submit a written request to the city clerk that the issue be placed on a future agenda under the heading Request for Future Consideration by the city council." I don't want anybody here to feel marginalized or like they don't have a voice or that you're being left out. These are your meetings. I've said this many times. I want you guys to run the meetings the way that you want them to. I want everybody to be heard. If there's a way that you guys can sort of communicate amongst each other and then maybe implement a rule, there's something in the charter that allows committees to be created. You could come up with a rules committee that will govern this and create one single rule.

My point is that when the secretary, which is Mr. Logan in this case, is creating the agenda and one council member says X, and one council member says not X, it puts him in a middle position that's kind of awkward for him. And I can appreciate being put in that awkward position myself. I'm sure everybody in this room can. So if there's a way that we can come up with some sort of resolution and again, if it's disagreed, there's a new column or a new category on the agenda, which would be Request for Future Consideration by Council. And then it goes on to explain that at the future meeting, the city council will discuss and take action only on whether to place the matter on a future agenda and not the substance of the matter. So, it gives you an opportunity to sort of put it in a special category where you're not necessarily voting on a substance, you're voting on whether it gets on the agenda or not. That's just one example. I'm not saying that this is the model. I'm not saying that this is great. There are probably as many solutions as there are minutes in a day. But out of appreciation for the situation where one person says X and not X, or the scenario where all seven of you want to add 10 discussion items. We're now up to 70 discussion items on agenda. And I know that's a purely hypothetical made-up situation, but nobody wants to have 70 discussion items on a single night. That wouldn't be productive. We'd be here till 6:00 AM.

I just thought I wanted to put this out there. And maybe this is something that you guys can work on. In the meantime, maybe you could communicate, through city council president,

your desires for what should be on the agenda and coming up, and then that way it can be funneled through Mr. Logan. This is one of those things where there's no written thing. It's just we have to come up with something more. I know in the past we've tried to have council members go through Mr. Logan to eventually contact me so that we didn't have individual council members contacting me. Again, there's no rule that's written in anything that I can say that that was a thing. But in order to make sure that everybody was on the same page and to make sure that everything was being communicated through the city and to me eventually, there was that sort of unwritten rule. Again, I can't point to a specific thing that says that, but the idea is that we came up with something to address everybody just reaching out to whomever. And that was just an example. And again, I'm not saying that this procedure is the best. I don't know. But what I can say is I can appreciate being put in that middle situation, and it's difficult at best. You don't really know what to do, but I think we can try to address it. And that was my hope in sort of bringing this to light. Maybe until we issue the rule, council members go through council president. Council president can funnel that through to Mr. Logan. I'm just coming up with solutions. I want to be forward-thinking so that nobody is left out, so.

Vice President Green stated because under council, the charter has addressed it. The charter says that council does not work as individuals. So we have to work as a whole, meaning that we would need to have a quorum that there's going to be changes. I mean, it may not speak to each individual thing, but when it talks about council's role and what we do, we don't operate individually. We operate as one, meaning that if we want something on the agenda - and I recall Tony addressing this with us before - we would just need to have other-- if there's a question with finance or something, there's no problem with code. If there's a question about codes, there's no problem with individuals calling to get clarification. But if we're going to ask for staff to put together some kind of individual report or to investigate or to do something, we have to operate as a whole. If we want something on the agenda, we have to operate as a whole. Meaning that we don't call Mr. Logan to get him to approve something being on the agenda; we call each other to get something on the agenda. That's the very beginning of our charter under council. It says that. Mr. Jefferson explained it does say that you don't operate individually, and it does say that you take official actions as a whole. I agree 100%. This is more of that procedural sort of let's clarify it and let's all get on the same page kind of thing. I know it says that you act as a whole as city council, but how does one council member bring a discussion item? How does one council member--? Vice President Green replied we talk to each other. Mr. Jefferson said well, and that may be the ultimate result of that sort of resolution or discussion or whatever the case may be. That's technically not written there. No, I know. Vice President Green said it's not written there, but it's telling us, in the very beginning, about our role in being on council. It's saying that. So if there's something-- because Mr. Logan doesn't put together the agenda, so to call him to ask him is pointless. I mean, no. I didn't mean anything. But it's pointless. But the agenda is put together by us. So in order to get something onto the agenda, that we have him talk to us. And I think that that's the missing component with council is the communication with the members.

Mr. Jefferson said well, and that may be, like I said, the ultimate result of the sort of policy or the rule or what you want to create. I'm not saying it's not written in a way that is so point on clear, bullet point that it's clear. So I just think it's possible that we could clarify it and make it clear. And going forward, we would know the specific [crosstalk]. Vice President Green asked does it mention it in The Third-Class City-- is there a clarification in The Third-Class City Code? Because if our charter is not addressing it, is it in there? [crosstalk]. Mr. Jefferson said not that I saw. But again, you guys are the home rule municipality. You're [crosstalk]. You guys can create rules. You can do a lot of things. The home rule charter permits you to do a lot of things that other municipalities that are guided by different rules can't do. You have the maximum amount of freedom, generally. So I just want to say that I know he was put in a position where he had to figure out what to do, and it wasn't easy. So we're trying to figure out a way forward that going forward, we're going to operate under procedure X, or at least understanding X. And I'm not saying what X will be, but I'm just thinking it would help Mr. Logan in creating the agenda. That's my thought. I open it up to discussion. I don't have all the answers. I'm just trying to make sure that we all are on the same page and that we can move forward.

Ms. Al Amin stated I have a question, Mr. Jefferson. And I'm actually going to forward an email to you that Mr. Verwey sent to us at the time he was our solicitor to see if you interpret it the same way because things can be interpreted differently. Because we're limited to what we can even discuss in executive session. And I'm correct with that, right? Mr. Jefferson replied yes. The Sunshine Act specifically states what can be discussed. Ms. Al Amin said so we can't vote in there. A consensus isn't a vote. An opinion isn't a vote. And this has happened a couple of times. And I actually, this weekend, did what you did and went through a lot of things. Helps to put you to sleep, as you said. And we got an email, and I'll be more than glad to share it with all of council. I mean, they have it anyway. Where it was talked about discussing things via email, discussing things via text, discussing things via over the phone because you don't want anything to appear as you're voting on something because all votes and discussion is actually supposed to be done publicly. For now, until we come up with a resolution for this, would it be, I guess, acceptable that if there's something we want added to the agenda, that we first ask for it to be added to discussion items so it can be discussed in public. So then after it's discussed in public, then it can be put on the agenda the next step, and then the pleasure of counsel could be obviously very visible by a vote. Is that permissible? Mr. Jefferson replied yeah. What I think you're describing is sort of a multi-step process for implementing either an ordinance, resolution, or motion, where you're sort of starting with the ground level of putting it on the agenda as a discussion item. And then you sort of iron it-- Ms. Al Amin said still be added to the agenda. Mr. Jefferson replied correct. And then you're sort of working through it and then adding it to an action item to potentially be voted on, however, so vote. That is a potential path? Sure. Yeah.

Ms. Al Amin said well, because at least that way, the discussion is in public, so it can't be perceived that we're doing something that we shouldn't be doing, polling, take an opinion via

telephone, text, email, and it's done in public. I mean, now if it's personnel, real estate, or legal, then, of course, that's automatically executive. But if it's matters that aren't necessarily executive, then we could just have it added as a discussion item. And then each council member, I guess, could voice their view or their opinion. And then the following meeting, it could be added as an agenda item so that the pleasure of council could be fulfilled by the folks.

Mr. Jefferson broke it down into a couple of components because there's a couple of things there. The addition of it to the agenda itself is the rule that I was sort of discussing. Whether it's on the agenda under any category at all is what I was sort of trying to outline in terms of how we work through it together. Separately from that, you are correct. Yes, you could have a discussion item first where you discuss a certain topic. After that discussion, you could then draft an ordinance, and then it could be put into the regular action items and voted upon, and it'll follow its normal ordinance enactment process. That is sort of separate from what I was trying to explain in that how do we determine what gets on the agenda in any section, anywhere, at any point in time? And that was sort of what I was trying to address. But to answer your question directly, yes, something could follow that path. Ms. Al Amin said okay. Because technically, if we're emailing back and forth, we don't want anything to perceive or be able to perceive we're doing things that are against the Sunshine law. Mr. Jefferson explained the idea of this sort of rule or procedure that you're hopefully going to consider or work on or whatever the case may be is that you won't have to do those sorts of back-and-forth emails. There'll be a procedure in place so that everybody's on the same page going in whether it's during the discussion items, during the council comments at the end that you sort of raise it and it gets into this new special category. Again, I'm not saying I have the answer. I'm just saying that we're trying to figure out a way so that Mr. Logan's not put between a rock and a hard place, which is, "I want X. I don't want X. What do I do?" And we're just trying to make sure that we don't fall into that situation again, so.

Ms. Al Amin asked what do we do for now until we figure it all out? If somebody wants something added to the agenda for a discussion item or somebody wants something added to the agenda to be voted on in the interim until we get this all figured out in ordinance, whatever, what do we do in the interim? Vice President Green said contact council president. Mr. Jefferson said I would contact council president. I would communicate amongst yourselves and just express your desires to her. You're not voting on anything if you just expressed a desire to have it added to the agenda. All official actions, as you have noted, occur in this meeting room. Official actions are specifically defined term under the Sunshine Act. So just expressing a desire to get something added to the agenda, I would right now go through council president, let her add it to the agenda, and then we'll go through there. Again, I don't know if that's during your council comments, you say, "Can I have X?" I don't know if that's an email afterwards. Again, that's something that I hope you guys can work on just so that it's--

Ms. Al Amin asked we would just call the council president and say, "Please add this to the agenda?" Mr. Jefferson replied that would be my recommendation. Ms. Al Amin asked and then it would be added? Mr. Jefferson replied well, it necessarily may depend--- Ms. Al Amin said excuse me. Mr. Jefferson stated it may depend, but I think that's the path we should try. Ms. Al Amin said okay. Let's say one wants something at it and the council president does not. That's exactly what you're saying: one yes and one no. But then if you go around and ask the rest to council, technically you are polling and votes have to be done publicly. Mr. Jefferson stated So what I'm trying to do, and again, is trying to-- [crosstalk]. What I'm trying to do is avoid all of these issues by coming up with a policy that works for you guys in terms of the creation of the agenda as you want to see it be created. That's where I'm kind of coming from with this. I don't have all the answers right now. I truly don't. And again, this is something that you guys can create. Again, it's passive voice in the charter. The Robert's Rules of Order says that the secretary shall create it; the secretary being Mr. Logan in this case. I'm not saying that I have the answer. And it's for the benefit of the council president. So right now, submit it through that, through council president. Council president submits it through Mr. Logan. It gets on to the agenda. But again, I hope that we can sort of work prospectively and try to address it. That's where I'm at. I really don't have all the answers, I promise. Ms. Al Amin asked so we could just email and say, "Please add this to the agenda."? Mr. Jefferson replied that is my point.

President Lavender Norris asked can we say this? If any of my colleagues call or email me to have something added to the agenda, what I will look for is pertinent information regarding the item you want added, and I will also look to see if it's within council's wheelhouse to do whatever it is. That's it. So [crosstalk]-- Ms. Al Amin said see, again, that's going to be a yes, no, maybe, sometimes. And there's nothing in the charter that says council president gets to make this whole decision, is there? Vice President Green said no, but it does say that-- Ms. Al Amin stated I'm asking a question. Back to the original. Is there anything in the charter or the Third Class City Code that says, on this particular subject, that the council president gets to make the sole discretion and decision? Mr. Jefferson explained so in the charter-- no. Robert's Rules of Order says that the agenda is created for the benefit of the council president. There's at least one interpretation of that. That's who gets to make the ultimate call. And let's say, again, we're stuck in a situation where three of you say yes, three of you say no, we don't want it on the agenda. Who makes the ultimate call? I'm trying to come up with a procedure, a protocol, a rule, whatever. Again, it's not something that everybody may agree with every single term, but you come up with something that is workable for you guys that comes up with it. But for right now-- Vice President Green said but why try to not talk to your--

Mr. Jefferson said I encourage you guys to talk to one another. [crosstalk]-- I truly want you to. -- [crosstalk] your comments to say, "I would like to add this on the agenda." Ms. Al Amin stated but you can't be voting. Vice President Green stated it's not a vote. Ms. Al Amin replied it is a vote. Vice President Green stated it is not a vote. Ms. Al Amin stated if its to get something added to an agenda and each person is giving their opinion, that's a consent. President Lavender Norris asked to wrap this up because we are not getting anywhere. Because it isn't detailed in our charter, we will follow Robert's Rules. And in as much as we'll follow Robert's Rules, please understand, I don't sit here and make decisions because I like you and don't like you and the petty nonsense. When I sit

here, it's about the good of the city. So whatever it is, don't bring it to me with the preconceived notion as though, "Oh, you're not going to say this. You're not going to like that." No. Bring it to me with the open mind so I can make my proper, informed decision. Ms. Al Amin asked and what does Robert's Rule say? President Lavender Norris stated Robert's Rule says I'm the arbiter of the agenda. And because it says I'm the arbiter of the agenda-- [crosstalk]. --we're going to move forward on the end this evening's agenda. Ms. Al Amin stated that's what the problem is. Nobody wants [crosstalk]. President Lavender Norris said okay. We're moving on. Do we have questions here? Mrs. Hunt asked can I say one thing? Oftentimes, when things are written, there's things that are implicit, there are things that are explicit. And I think that's what we're facing in this case. It's telling us that we have the right to govern as one, but it's not being specific. So I think that, as a council, because this is an issue that is at hand, we need to make every effort to do what we need to do to have a meeting as soon as possible and start working on the ordinance resolution or whatever it's going to take and be specific in what our role will be as far as adding or removing things from the agenda. I think we need to focus on both sides of it. So I'm not sure if it's something [inaudible] to post or whatever, but I would like to see us do that as soon as possible before our next meeting, if that's okay. [crosstalk]

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

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

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items; Vice president Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Part-time Police Department Eligibility List

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the Civil Service Part-time Police Department Eligibility list; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Lieutenant Ollis stated so by way of information, a civil service examination was given on April 4th. They're held quarterly when there's openings. These two gentlemen took the test and passed after written and oral awards. And this was placed together for certification from our Civil Service Commission members, all of which signed and certified the list after review.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve conditional offers from the Part-time Police Officers Civil Service Eligibility List

President Lavender Norris read turning to the appointment of part-time patrol officers, the Civil Service Commission has provided us with a certified list of applicants who have successfully completed the oral and written exams for appointment. The city has adopted and incorporated the civil service provisions of the Third-Class City Code for purposes of appointing police officers. These civil service provisions require that the chief of police nominate a candidate from among the three highest ranked applicants on the eligibility list.

These appointments are for the position of part-time patrol officer within the Coatesville Police Department. Any candidate who is eligible for Veterans' Preference under the city's civil service provisions appearing on the list of three candidates must be selected. Candidates appointed tonight by council will be conditionally appointed subject to successful completion of a background check, medical, and psychological evaluation. There are currently vacancies for the position of part-time patrol officer within the City of Coatesville Police Department. The list of the two highest scoring candidates eligible for appointment to those four positions ranked in order by score for council's consideration are as follows: Joshua R. DiSylvestro, one, and for two is Brian R. Buck. From this list, Chief Laufer has nominated Joshua R. DiSylvestro and Brian R. Buck for conditional appointment as a part-time patrol officer in the city police department.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve conditional offers from the Part-time Police Officer Civil Service Eligibility list to Joshua R. DiSylvestro and Brian R Buck; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced since council's last meeting, I have worked on several right-to-know matters; received an order from a judge of the Court of Common Pleas regarding a litigation matter; have worked on a matter regarding a federal subpoena request; I received correspondence from the NSEC group regarding the flags development; provided an opinion regarding an ordinance amendment and the interplay with a resolution; conducted a deed search; provided an opinion regarding code enforcement; reviewed a law firm's proposed cable franchise agreement and provided comments; on or about April 8th, 2024, we received an extension regarding the two-lot subdivision of 733 Coates Street; and finally, in the 10th item, last time, there was a question regarding right-to-know. And the question essentially was, does a council member have to submit a right-to-know request? I reviewed the entire right-to-know law, and there was nothing in the right-to-know law that states a council member never has to submit a right-to-know request under any situation ever. I can specifically think about, for example, a request for a record that may include personal information such as a Social Security number. The idea being that if that type of a record is requested, we wouldn't want somebody's Social Security number to get out. Going through the right-to-know process would permit the redaction of that properly. So, there are very few blanket rules in the law. There are a lot of exceptions to most things, but in my plain review of the right-to-know law, I didn't find anything that says a council member never has to submit a right-to-know request under any situation ever.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced a couple of updates and comments on some of the activities here in the city starting with the training station. As you all know that the project over at the Third and Fourth Fleetwood is progressing nicely here in the community. The construction company, Michael Baker, they're continuing to move forward with their construction schedule. It looks like there has been a few setbacks that being or one being Coates Street. There was a water main that was fit several weeks ago, which resulted in a major kind of repair work. And we thought it was going to be completed a few weeks ago, but it looks like work is a little bit more extensive than they thought. So they should be back out there wrapping it up. I don't have the exact dates, but we hope that they should be completing construction work for the main repair within the next two weeks. The crew out there apologizes to the residents. We know it's been a challenge with the people of [inaudible]. They have to have the assistance of our Police Department. I think we've got some of the traffic issues under control, but we continue to do our best to mitigate some of the challenges that happen in that section of town. The train station completion is still on schedule for 2025. I'm very optimistic, but I think it's going to be the end of 2025 not the summer of 2025. But it will be done.

Moving on to the next item. We are kind of in that time of year where we are seeking and identifying grants to submit on behalf of the city for various projects including our fire department, public works, our infrastructure, stormwater management, park design improvements, and some items for the police department in terms of surveillance cameras throughout the community. We're also looking to partner with some of the investors that continue to or want to do business here in the city. Roberta and I have been in several conversations with a number of great projects. I'm not at liberty to say what those projects are at this point because they are in the development stages. But we are very pleased that the momentum has not declined. So, we're excited. With that, that's all I have for this evening.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. 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]. Madam President, I just wanted to give a few updates. Our Zoning Hearing Board, at their last meeting, approved a variance for work being done by American Water. This project is significant because it's the water tower that sits at Fairview Cemetery, and it's being updated with a new water station booster pump, which essentially means it's going to be about a year-long project, but it will be doubling the capacity at that station, and it will also be providing for better fire suppression throughout the city as well. We're looking forward to that project being completed in 2026. Also, as you remember or hopefully remember, last fall, we completed some road paving work. During that time period, we discovered that there was also road paving work being done by our neighboring township, Caln Township. And we, at that time, had determined that part of their paving project was on Reed Street, which a small portion of it is also City of Coatesville. And we've worked out with Caln Township. The work has been completed on Reed Street, and it does include City of Coatesville. We will be

contributing our portion of that work. But it was able to be done at a much smaller cost to the city than if we had sent out our own contractors out there again. So that was good news overall.

A few updates from our Public Works Department. Public works in these coming weeks are doing safety checks at all of our city parks. You'll see them out there mulching and mowing and otherwise preparing the parks for the season. Our city property and parks are mowed weekly. So that new mower that we do have is being utilized very heavily already. And we're overall doing trash cleanup throughout the city. Also, I just wanted to note that Mr. Logan and I, last week, were able to attend a tourism board event at the People's Light Theater. And I thought I just wanted to share that the upcoming studio tour that's being done throughout Chester County on May 18th and 19th does also include some artists right here in Coatesville. If you're interested, you can check out their website. It's www.countystudiotour.com, and you can see where the Coatesville studios are as well as the hundreds of other studios out there in Chester County. And you can plan a little road trip. Thank you.

4. Finance Department

Mr. Troutman announced my report is quick. I don't need to go to the podium right. If you look at the circle square, all the funds are positive for the three months that we've put. Really nice trend. [crosstalk].

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

Mr. Malott wished everyone a good evening. Thank you all for your time. Thank you for an interesting meeting tonight. I just wanted to address the ceasefire resolution for Gaza. As you all know, we're pushing now three months that this resolution was brought to you all. In that time, the situation in Palestine has only escalated as I'm sure you all are very familiar with. Israel has not achieved any of its military objectives. Most recently, as a response, they have hit the Iranian Embassy in Syria, seeming to draw the US into a larger regional war, escalating the atrocities, and bringing even more of our taxpayer dollars out of this country where they're needed. We need them here. The people need them here. There's a crisis here. When we first brought this resolution to you all months ago, there were dozens of city councils across the country that had passed similar resolutions. Now, there's hundreds. Now, there are hundreds. And there are students. Columbia University students have been occupying the quad at their campus now, going on a week, and that's spreading across the country. People in this country-- I have my ear to the ground. I have my ear to the ground throughout Chester County, throughout the country, and I know that the outrage is only escalating. People do not like to see their taxpayer dollars being used to fund a genocide. People standing up against a UN-recognized apartheid state. The outrage is only escalating. We would just like to see this resolution, which really does seem to be the will of the people, 70% and climbing throughout Chester County, throughout the United States. The people would like to see their taxpayer dollars not being used to fund a genocide but being used to meet their unmet needs: housing needs,

healthcare needs, education needs. And those needs are most acute in Coatesville in Chester County. There is a tremendous amount of unmet needs. We would like to see this resolution being discussed here amongst you all and voted on so that people can have their say. We can hear your response to, really, the will of the people. Thank you so much. I really appreciate your dedication to the democratic process. And have a good evening. [applause]

Randall Scott

Mr. Scott stated my compatriot, Curry, did an amazing job, so I don't want to repeat what he said. But we're six months into the unchecked aggression against the people of Gaza and the people of the West Bank, the Palestinians, in general. The ceasefire resolution has been on your desks for three months. And as my sign says, it's time to vote yes on that ceasefire resolution. In the whole scheme of things, Coatesville is a small part of the United States. But by voting yes on a ceasefire resolution, you would join the hundreds of other municipalities that have stood up to be on the right side of history and demand an end to the genocide in Gaza and an end to US aid to Israel. These things are not missed by the people who have the power to make these things happen. And ultimately, that's because the power comes from the people. So, it starts from the bottom and it goes to the top. Thank you.

Rob Caldwell

Good Evening, everyone. My name is Rob Caldwell. And I have a property along the 300 block of East Chestnut Street. And I'm here to talk a little bit about that project, but honestly, to just have an apology because I was a little frustrated when I got a ruling that went against what I thought would have been good for the city. And I waited a few weeks, and I couldn't process all the information. I spent about nine months on a project that was going to add some what I thought was nice housing in the area. We've been in the city now for about two years renovating properties, and it's been really nice to work with the city, the codes, mostly, is what we're working with, and LTL, the outsource codes people. And then maybe I was a little angry and a little confused. And I got on Facebook. Some of you may have seen my post a few weeks ago. And I didn't realize that it was going to get the shares and things like it did. I did my best for what I would call damage control on some of the comments and things like that. Because if I would have known, it would have been shared, I would have changed my tone on some things. I go where there's buildings to redevelop. We're on our last project, and we'll be wrapping up soon, and most likely heading out of town. But I just wanted to come here and say that it has been nice to work with the city. There're other things that I could share if I had some more time. And I'm disappointed that the project wasn't approved, but actually more so, I was kind of disappointed just how it was handled because it was a lot of time. It was a lot of money. And on the very last meeting, where it was the decision time, I knew it wasn't going to go well because I was literally told, "There's a big basketball game on tonight. We're going to be here for about 10 minutes." And that's when the decision was rendered. Now, I took a lot of time to explain the project, maybe too much time and to the wrong audience. And I know, Madam Council President, you were there and I had a lot of presentations and pictures. I just wanted to clear my own conscience, if you will, because I like to bring light to the world. I don't like to have confrontations. I don't like to put anybody down. And I would have done it differently had I had the opportunity. And

a lot of people did reach out from more so like the public sector, offered me like, "Hey, I have some parking." Or, "Hey, have you considered this?" Or, "Did you talk to this architect firm or that law firm?" Or whatever. I'm not sure still what to do. We're looking for our next project throughout Chester County. And Montgomery County is primarily where we are. We redevelop old tired buildings that need wealth. So I just wanted to come here tonight. I didn't know if I was going to say anything, but it was offered to put my name up and then-- thank you. Thank you for listening. And please, like I said, my apologies for any negative energy that I brought to the city. I know we're all just trying to do our jobs, and thank you.

Mohammed Jamaluddin

I greet with you with the greeting of peace. And I thank you all for the great work you do every day here in the City of Coatesville. As the custodians, you are the custodians who are trusted with the [inaudible] of its residents. And I am Mahammad Jamaluddin at 723 Merchant Street in Coatesville. I stand here tonight as a resident of the city of Coatesville as a taxpayer and as a property owner with my many fellow residents and more as a citizen of the United States of America and as a citizen of the world. And better than that, as the progeny of Adam, our forefather, the first human that God Almighty created in heavens and created him from clay, and into him, he breathed from his own soul and sent him to earth as his voice [inaudible] and his soul. So it is sad that we have reduced our local selves to inhuman activities today. We are not created for war or to kill but to establish God's wise [inaudible] on the earth. Each one of us as thinking just righteous human beings must unite to condemn genocide and mindless oppression wherever it may occur on face of the earth. That's our duty. It is imperative that we stand up for Palestine and Gaza, not as Arabs or Muslims or Christians, but as human beings. We must condemn the horrific killings and genocide in our hearts and take action to end the war. Our identity as humans supersedes our rights as individuals. And I want to remind myself and everybody else that God's rights over us are greater than our rights over one another. And we will be accountable to God Almighty for inaction in the light of such horrific atrocities that we see all around us. We need to stand up for positive peace, not peace as the absence of conflict, but peace of a literate, law-abiding people, not just avoidance of violence, but perpetual everlasting peace. A day when lying and oppression will end and war will be abolished, not just suspended, not just seized, but abolished. Will not the blood and massacre of over 30,000 innocent women and children make the deaf to hear and the blind to see? I humbly request that we all individually and collectively condemn the mindless war in Palestine and condemn the support our government is providing to this war using our taxpayers' money. We need to act urgently to end this war and regain the sanctity and spiritual serenity of the human soul. Amen. May the God who parted the Red Sea for Moses and freed him and his righteous servant from the tyranny of Pharaoh, may he bring peace and tranquility to the world. Thank you. [applause]

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Special Events

There were no special events at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Hunt thanked everyone for coming and sharing this evening with us. I want to thank our staff as always for the great job that you do, the wonderful things you do to help keep our city together and keep things moving. And to my colleagues, it's always a pleasure to get together, put heads together to work on things as it pertains to the city. Mr. Jefferson, just one question, clarification. We're going to look into having a meeting, but until then, you will follow things as laid out in Robert's Rules of Order. Am I correct with that until we have our meeting? President Lavender Norris replied yes.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Be safe and have a good night.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out: Randall, Curry, Imam, all my brothers and sisters that are sitting in the audience. I'm going to speak as a person because council is a body. There was a time when I stood on the corner of 1st Avenue and Route 82 and held up a sign for Black Lives Matter. Imam, you were there a couple of times. You made a lot of words for your efforts. Randall Curry, I stood with you guys on Lincoln and 2nd Avenue as a person, not as a body or council. Same way as a council member, I endorse elected officials that are running. And I don't have the rest of the council's permission to do that. So as a person, a citizen of the United States, and a taxpaying resident, I will continue to stand on 2nd and Lincoln Highway with you, and I indeed support your efforts for this East Park, as a person, because I cannot say if it will ever be on the agenda for discussion or if the resolution-- we've heard things are not so crystal clear to them. So as a person, know that I will continue to stand with you guys. [applause]

Ms. Scamuffa wished everyone a good evening. Thank you for coming out. Thank you to the staff, the police department, Mr. Jefferson, and my fellow council persons. Mr. Logan, I just have to say and apologize that if you've ever felt I put in a predicament and that's never the intent. I just wanted to put that out there. I just wanted to apologize to you, myself. You'll never be put in a position where you have to feel like, "What's happening?" So, for that, I apologize to you. There was a lot of useful information that came to light tonight in how to handle different situations. I appreciate that. I appreciate the dialogue, the conversation that took place. It was very helpful. Sometimes, it seems like council may operate, use the term loosely, as a dictatorship. But I think during the conversation that took place this evening, there's a lot of things that are left open to interpretation, and it makes it very hard for each of us as council persons to really get the job done. So, I'm glad that we're having these conversations, and it's been a long time overdue for councilpersons' decades past. So I look forward to moving forward with that and maybe getting some things so that everybody has clarification, not just council but the public as well, for when things are happening here. So, I just want to thank everybody and appreciate all of you. That's it. Have a good night and be safe.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out. And Ethan, I'm so glad that we gave you your resolution today. Your accomplishments are very well deserved. I support you with everything that you've done and everything that you've been through. I would just like to say to council, I think that we had a great meeting today. And this is a learning situation at all times. And I just want to

thank those of you who stuck it out because sometimes you're going to hear things that you don't like. We're all going to hear answers that we don't like. But in order to get to the end result and to figure it out, we got to stick it out. We got to be able to talk through it. I thank you so much, Mr. Solicitor, for all your insight. And I think I agree with Miss Hunt that we could have a special executive session to continue the conversation and possibly come up with some reasons or some solutions to the problem. I say to you nice people here in the audience, I support your cause full-heartedly. I've not stood out in a corner with you. I'm not in the city during the day or during the week, but I support what you do. And I pray for a ceasefire as soon as possible not only in Gaza but in the other parts of the world where these things are occurring. The state and condition of our world is terrible right now. So, we just have to pray and just hope that our elected officials will come to some type of reasoning or some type of solution to end this all, like I said, not just Gaza but everywhere. Innocent people and children and women are being massacred and killed. And it's just so unfortunate and so sad. We have to struggle. We have to stand for things. We have to fight for things. So, I do applaud you, and I do appreciate you. Thank you. [applause]

President Lavender Norris stated I echo my colleagues with regard to the support and the desire for a ceasefire and not just Gaza, not just Haiti, not just the Congo. My prayer is for humanity. We seem to have lost our way. So my prayer is that we individually check ourselves and try to smile because you don't know what the person you're walking past is living through. You don't know what they're going through. And a smile might make them want to live another day. I've been on council now for nine years. And when I ran for council, I was entrusted with the residents' desires, if you will, for a better way of living. And because I was elected, I was given a level of power or authority, if you will. But I understand that that wasn't power over anybody. It was power for everybody. We can't come into any situation with a preconceived notion because it only brings us down to an element of distrust. So please understand, as we sit up here as a council, even when we don't agree on everything, we agree on the majority. We want what's best first and foremost for the City of Coatesville. That's first. And then we look beyond to our neighbors: neighboring cities, municipalities, states, and countries. We want what's best for everybody, but we can only deal with what's in front of us. We walk these streets. And thank God we don't have to look out for a bomb bursting or shots being fired at us. Thank God we don't have to do that. But also, let's continue to pray for those that do have to look out for these things. One, we were all created with one reason, one purpose. In my opinion, it's to glorify God. And arguing, fighting, shooting, killing, all that, it's not proper representation. My prayer for us tonight is that we love beyond what we think, we see. Love one another as human beings. I am so grateful for our staff, our solicitor. I must say thank you to you all for keeping us on track and forgive us for trying to break through the guide rails you set for us. I appreciate you. I recognize, acknowledge, and see everything you've done for the city, and we would not be in the position we are without you. Thank you for all you do. To my colleagues, I love you all. God bless you all and have a blessed evening. To the residents, please, please, please come back. Don't stop coming. We need you to be here. You as well keep us on track. Thank you for coming out. Don't let this be your last meeting. And I look forward to seeing you in our next. [applause]

Adjournment

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