



City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, June 10, 2024

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

Council Absent:

Staff Present James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Jessica Arthur, Finance Manager; 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.

### **Approved Minutes**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the May 28, 2024 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### **Approval of Accounts Payables**

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

### **Presentation**

There were no presentations at this time.

### **Discussion Items**

#### 1. Computer Upgrades – Administration and Police Department

Mr. Logan informed Council that we are at that time of year that the administrative and Police Department require upgrades to the computer systems. Usually we send them out of our computer guys Help-Now, they basically come back with a proposal and we will be making a purchase to replace the computers of the Admin and Police Department.

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

#### Melvin Dutton

Mr. Dutton announced he was here to serve Council. President Lavender Norris explained this is not an action item and needs to be moved to citizens hearings on non-agenda items. Mr. Dutton said he would wait.

#### Randall Scott

Tonight, the ceasefire Resolution on Palestine is finally on the agenda here in Coatesville. It's been a tireless effort to get it this far. I appreciate everyone's patience. I want to speak to myth of neutrality, you all are elected officials, which means you responsible for the people who elected you. When it comes to the genocide in Palestine, staying silent, not speaking up, is not neutral it is taking a side. Because it's American bombs, American weapons, American intelligence, American tax payer money, and now even American soldiers who are committing atrocities against the people of Palestine. So, to be neutral in [inaudible] and allow a political ceasefire and political end to the

genocide. Over the weekend, nearly 300 civilians mainly women and children were killed in a raid under a refugee camp in Palestine. American service members in a truck disguised as an humanitarian aid truck in Palestine were a part of that genocide. Every minute that we do not speak up to call for a ceasefire is another child who dies, or rather, every 10 minutes because that's how quickly children are dying in Gaza. We've told you the numbers again and again, week after week, and the numbers keep growing. And it's not neutral to listen to those numbers and not be moved and not want to do what you can in the small way that you can to raise your voice and say, "We're tired. We've had enough. We don't support genocide. We can't support genocide." It is the principal position for every American to raise their voice and say, "I do not support genocide," whether in the Congo, in Sudan, Palestine. We are here for Palestine, but this is a global issue, and we need to raise our voices and say something. Thank you.

### Curry Malott

Good evening, council. Hope you all are doing well tonight. Curry Malott on 9 North Second Avenue. So yeah, I just wanted to, I guess, initially, just off the bat, commend you all for getting us this far. And I suppose we're four months into it. We've been here many times speaking with you all. We've said a lot. We've given lots and lots of analysis and statistics, updates on the ongoing atrocities. I've spoken to you all from the perspective of a university professor who works, actually, with a lot of people from Coatesville studying to be teachers. And we're quite familiar with trauma and what that looks like on people's lives. So, two weeks ago, I spoke a little about trauma and the levels of trauma that two million people are experiencing as we speak funded by our tax dollars. It's heartbreaking. There was one piece that I haven't shared with you all since we've been coming in and speaking. It was a professor giving a lecture a few weeks ago, and he made a comparison that I thought was helpful to understand why Israel has been engaged in a conscious ethnic cleansing even before the illegal partition in 1948. And what he observed was the subtler states around the world, whether in-- whatever continent you want to point out, there's been settler states attempted in the past 500 years. The ones that have-- the ones that are still around-- the ones that are still around are around because the settlers were able to almost completely eliminate the indigenous population. The United States of America, settler state. Indigenous people in North America now, what, .0, maybe, 1 percent of the population. So, for the entire existence of the settler state in Palestine, the percentage of the indigenous population to the settler population, just like here, has been something that has animated policy and practice, something the settler state has been extremely conscious of, and it helps us understand why they want to finish the ethnic cleansing. They want to finish the Nakba.

President Lavender Norris asked If anyone wanted to speak, please sign the form now. Vice President Green stated yeah, I had been previously told we weren't allowed to speak if we're not residents, but-- President Lavender Norris sated no, no one is. [public crosstalk regarding who can and can't speak] Mrs. Hunt stated I need some clarity. I thought those that come tonight to speak are to be residents or taxpayers. So, if they're not residents or taxpayers, then why are they being given the liberty to speak? Vice President Green stated well, the others have been speaking the entire time, but not [crosstalk]-- Mrs. Hunt asked so they're not residents? So, then we should have put a stop to that [crosstalk]. Mr. Solicitor, can you help us with that? [crosstalk]

Council excused themselves for a brief recess and went into executive session.

### Melissa Scrimo

Hi, good evening. My name is Melissa Scrimo, and although I'm not a resident of Coatesville, I'm a concerned member of the broader Chester County community. I greatly appreciate you giving me the

chance to speak tonight. I'm here to express my concern regarding the proposed ceasefire resolution that is scheduled for a little this evening. I understand that the resolution has not been shared with the community and that the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and its Jewish Community Relations Council have not had the opportunity to review it as far as I know, directly from the gentleman who's in charge of the Community Relations Council. Given the complexity and sensitivity issue at hand, it is crucial that all perspectives are thoroughly considered. Section 2-212 of your City of Coatesville Code Charter requires that an agenda include all pertinent background information be prepared and distributed to the public in attendance. This provision exists to ensure that community members have adequate time to review and understand the materials being discussed. Additionally, Section 2-215 guarantees public access to all records and reports underscoring the importance of transparency and public scrutiny. Therefore, I respect the request that the council table this resolution until representatives of the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Relations Council have had a chance to review the proposal and engage in the dialogue with US Council members. Thank you for your attention.

#### David Alexander

Thank you all for letting me speak. I'll keep it short. I didn't come with any prepared remarks because I did not think I was able to speak. But again, thank you all for allowing me to. I'm coming here. I've heard about these other ceasefire resolutions being proposed, passed. I think, State College passed one, where my understanding is these individuals are calling Israel a genocidal state. What Israel is committing is not a genocide. It is not a genocide. They are defending their right to exist. There was a ceasefire on October 6th. There was a ceasefire on October 7th. Israel is simply defending itself, its right to exist. Hamas, everything has gotten worse for the Palestinian people. Thank you. Ever since Hamas was voted into power by the Palestinian people, sorry for my note, I think 2006, Israel pulled their own people out of Gaza. And things have only gotten worse for the Palestinian people. The sooner Hamas is defeated, the sooner Hamas is destroyed, the sooner the people of Gaza will be better off. Yeah, it's a complicated situation. It's not going to be perfect, but they will be much better off the sooner Hamas is defeated. Hamas, who uses innocent civilians as human shields. And these individuals will tell me I'm delusional, and that's fake news. It is not. I encourage you all, please go watch Screams Before Silence. It's on YouTube for free. Go watch it. The person who directed it, I believe she's probably very left-wing Democrat, which I'm not. But I absolutely agree with her. The former CEO of Facebook, she made this documentary. Please go watch it. It's facts. John Fetterman, I disagree with on probably 90% of topics. I give credit where credit is due. He has stood unequivocally in support of Israel and their right to defend themselves, the right to exist. 80% of Palestinians want Israel wiped off the map. The individual who just spoke, I'm just going to-- sorry. I saw you had tattoos on you. A university professor. He's one of the individuals leading PSL, Party for Socialism and Liberation. He's one of the individuals leading these individuals throughout the streets and vandalizing city property. The same group in Lancaster came and painted-- they vandalized the war memorial, the war memorial for the people who died and give them the right to stand out there and spew all this nonsense. I have other words I could use, but it's absolute nonsense, absolute lies. And I would like them to revise their numbers. Israel has been 100% more than any other military in modern history to prevent civilian casualties. That is a fact.

#### Imam Jamal Mohammed

Salaam alaikum. I know we are on the crossroads of life, and there can always be different opinions to how we look at what is right and what is wrong. And I know that the one God who made us all and the denominations that we have assigned to ourselves as Christians or Jews or belonging to one party or the other party, that is a denomination that we have created. God Almighty never sent us to the

face of the earth for violence whether it is Hamas or it is anybody else to indulge us in an act of terrorism. It's an act of terrorism. We have to call a spade a spade. But the question is, where does it stop? How can you prevent the mass killing of 40,000, 50,000 people, making them homeless, destroying a country? No matter how it started, even if you were to presume that it started only on October 7th, then everything else was peaceful till that time. Even if your granddad-- an eye for an eye, brothers and sisters, will only make the whole world blind. That is not how we think. As people of learning, people of education, we put our hand on our heart, and we conserve our conscience. And let our conscience guide us to what is right. Killing of children, beyond the point of tolerance, beyond the point of [inaudible], it is not about whether I am right or you are right individually, I think we are all wrong as human beings on the face of the earth. All the eight billion people who inherit this face of the earth, which is given to them free by God Almighty who created us all, to whom we will all be answerable one day. Let's give these numbers to Allah, to God Almighty, and let these reasons that we are talking here, let's see how much water it will hold in front of our creator. That is what drives me. That fear of accountability is what drives me. It is not the Robert's law. It is not any other 215 Section 3. I do not know them. The only law I know is the law of the creator, and that applies to all of us. So my humble request is we should act as human beings who cannot see this massacre. Imagine for one minute, your home being bombed, your children being killed in front of you. Just because you broke my window glass, you cannot go and kill my family. The guy who broke the window glass is wrong, but then that does not mean that you can destroy the whole city or the whole nation. And then this, what we are seeing today, the impact of this is going to last not tomorrow, not next year, is going to last 100 years or more, like it started 100 years before. So they are only participating in a genocide. It is definitely a genocide. We should not be shy to call it that way, and we should not hide behind words. We should fear over theater. May God Almighty guide us all. Thank you.

#### Tyler Grant

Hello. I'm here to urge the council to vote yes on the ceasefire. I'm here to urge the council to vote yes on a ceasefire. As we see on the news every day, we see atrocities committed. And one of the most horrific aspects about it is the death toll of women and children and the proportion of those victims that are women and children. I think it should just be within our hearts to kind of look at this beyond some of the politics that are going now and just look at the death tolls on either side. I would also encourage us to kind of continue and vote on the right side of history. We're seeing as time goes on with these atrocities that other communities, other countries across the world are voting or agreeing and coming out in support of the ceasefire. We saw it today with the UN backing a resolution for a ceasefire. So I'd encourage us to kind of continue with times and stay on the right side of history and support the ceasefire. Thank you.

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

#### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion to conditionally approve the Minor Subdivision Plan for 773 Coates Street prepared by EB Walsh and Associates Inc., dated December 27, 2023 and last revised April 2, 2024 subject to compliance with the Cedarville Engineering review letter dated May 13, 2024.

Vice President Green made a motion to conditionally approve the Minor Subdivision Plan for 773 Coates Street prepared by EB Walsh and Associates Inc., dated December 27, 2023 and

last revised April 2, 2024 subject to compliance with the Cedarville Engineering review letter dated May 13, 2024; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Cosentino explained 773, it is a property owned by Habitat for Humanity, who is here right now. And we also have our city engineer here if there's additional questions. But they did present to Planning Commission at their last meeting, and the Planning Commission overwhelmingly approved the project. There were several questions that were addressed, and our city engineer is confident that any further questions will also be addressed. But I would encourage if you have specific questions for either of them while they're here.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve a Resolution for a permanent and Immediate Ceasefire in Palestine

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve a Resolution for a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Palestine; Ms. Turner Green seconded the motion. Motion failed 1-6. President Lavender Norris, Vice President green, Ms. Scamuffa, Ms. Allen, Mrs. Hunt and Ms. Turner-Green were the dissenting votes.

3. Receive and consider a motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Full-time and Part-time Fire Department Eligibility List

Vice President Green made a motion to approver the Civil Service Commission Full-time and Part-time Fire Department Eligibility list; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Receive and consider a motion to approve conditional offers from the Full-time and Part-time Firefighter Civil Service Eligibility List

Vice President Green made a motion to approve conditional offers from the Full-time and Part-time Firefighter Civil Service Eligibility List; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Receive and consider motion to appoint Aaron Flook as Zoning Officer

Vice President Green made a motion to appoint Aaron Flook as Zoning Officer; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

President Lavender Norris stated I just want to leave a comment with regard to the ceasefire. That's an action item. I want it to be known that each council member, as we're up here, we're council. But as individuals on the other side of the table, we all have the right to support the ceasefire. We have that right as individuals, not as a council. I just want to make that plain. And with that being said-- Ms. Al Amin asked as council members, why don't we have that right? President Lavender Norris replied as I'm saying, I said, "As council, we voted to not." Ms. Al Amin said okay. But as individual, not. President Lavender Norris said but as an individual, you have the right. Call council, please.

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

## Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson announced he provided a more detailed attorney-client privileged report to Council. Since Council's last meeting: I provided an opinion regarding unemployment compensation; reviewed a draft affidavit and provided feedback; communicated about the subdivision that was the subject of tonight's vote; communicated with CYI's attorney, and my office reviewed the proposed deed; received a communication from Brandywine View's attorney regarding the project; and communicated with RDA's Solicitor and it was determined that the City does not have to terminate the easement that runs through the Flats.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. Members of the council, I don't have any reports this evening and no updates on real estate issues. I briefed you all on those. Far as community activity, I encourage everyone to go to our calendar on our website and take a look at all the great events that are happening in the City. Those of you last week or a couple of weeks ago, Mrs. Minnie McNeil hosted an event for new housing for homeless men here in Coatesville. It was a wonderful event. But she wants to encourage the community to come out, take a look after the work that's done. It's on Merchant, right between 7th and 8th of Merchant. I don't know the exact address, but if you call the Activity Center and ask for Mrs. McNeil or anyone in the office, they can point you in the right direction. But it's a wonderful building, again, for some of our vets here in the community. And I think it's a great start to house some of our veterans that serve our community.

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]. Earlier in the executive session, I gave some personnel updates. I'd like to thank Council for appointing Aaron Flook as our zoning officer. He has been our code department director since April 1st. He was the zoning officer in the borough of Wilkinsburg from 2020 to 2022 and the zoning officer and director of zoning and planning in the borough of Millvale from 2022 to 2024. He's highly knowledgeable about zoning and planning, among other things. And we're glad to have him on board as an additional zoning officer for the city. I'd also like to note that last weekend, the splash pads throughout the city were opened. So the parks are prepared for the summer.

I'd also like to mention that Mr. Logan and I have been receiving several complaints about trash. And we sat down and met with our trash company last week and expressed those concerns and complaints that have been shared with us. And I'd just like to note, while we work through the trash company, if residents or property owners are experiencing problems with their trash pickup, to please call the city. They can speak with the city receptionist and she tracks all of those complaints on a daily basis. And it's helpful for us to have that communication and know what's going on. And in a similar vein, it is summer. The weather is great. And we have noticed an uptick in people doing work on their properties, new businesses opening up. And we, as the city, would just like to remind everybody, if you are doing work on your property, you are bringing in tenants, please contact the city. If you're not sure if you need a permit, if you're not sure what to do, just call us. We can answer your questions. We can help lead you in the right direction so that you don't end up with a citation or a violation notice. And with that, I'm going to end my report as our Code director is here for the Code report.

4. Codes Department Report

Mr. Flook explained the Code Department is really here to do two things. One, to improve the overall safety of the public housing that we have for renting housing. Also to maintain and try to eliminate or at least control issues that are occurring throughout the city, such as trash, cutting grass, other things of that type. I know that our reports are not very sexy, particularly not as good as Rich's or financing. But we have had some very good success. I will tell you it's because of two things. One, a little bit of increase in training on individuals out in the field, understanding what our situation is going to get in the best, and how to understand what the clues are showing them to do. And also, some of the processes and ways that we're getting things through the office. That is an essential part because things are now not falling through the cracks, but we're not losing items. We're actually having backups and checks that we make sure that things are followed through on. And because of that, rental license were up to 59% issue with 15% pending, which means we perceived a minimum [inaudible] that changed the process. And 26-- no, there are 24. What that does is that actually locates where everybody's renting and where we be paying attention.

We have done the record amount ever released from recorded information of 142 rental inspections last month, which makes this month already the second highest because we have 112 inspections already. Because the process is we're finding out and actually finding where we have been missing inspections and getting them caught up. So this helps us to find those issues that put people's lives at risk and their problems at risk. And that is going to be an essential thing to help us to improve the quality of housing that we have in this city. 55% of our business licenses have been renewed and issued, which we didn't get to that part until December of last year. Surely, the processes, again, are starting to help move things faster and getting things done. And you'll be seeing something coming up in the next couple of months that is really going to make that a lot better.

We have matched our high on permits issued. We have 42 permits and 19 URs issued this month, which is something that is really going to help us. What that means is there are a lot of people that don't understand when they need a permit and when they don't need a permit. There's a couple of circumstances where decks were put on here literally one 2x4 supporting 14 feet of joists. It just didn't go there. So once again, that is something that's going to help us in improving quality of life and eliminating accidents. And the last part is that we have, for the second time in a row, closed more violations than we have opened. We have opened our second most, but we've also had 122 code violations that successfully resolved. There are still some sitting out there, and still some we're hunting down, and we're going to be doing it like a bloodhound. But the processes, again, that we're going through and following up on the steps and making sure that we are not forgetting stuff is really starting to not catch up. We're not catching up yet, but we're at least starting to get back into the race. There's still a lot of work for the Code Department to do, and we're going to be doing it, and I appreciate the opportunity to work on this. Thank you very much.

5. Police Department

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. The complete statistical report is in your packet as usual. Just a couple of highlights as we normally do. Calls generated through the 911 call center for the month of May was 2,133, and that was down slightly from 2,256 for the month of April. And then calls were received through our front desk for the month of May was 828,

down slightly from 980 for the month of April. So, if we can continue that trend through the warmer months, that would be great, but typically, we will stay around the same or increase slightly now through September based upon past years and experience. We had a busy month of May for car seats. We did 16 car seat installations, certified car seat technicians, and provided those seats at no cost to the residents of the city. So that was good to see. We also had a successful coffee with the chief at the Washington Hose Company. It was actually coffee with the chief's [plural] as we partnered with the fire company and Chief Dobson for our coffee with the chief for the month of May. And this month also, as well as last month, we are participating in the click it or ticket, which is the statewide enforcement for seatbelt initiative. So, our officers have been out there looking for those violators who are not wearing their seat belts as a primary violation and hopefully obtaining compliance for the safety of all of this really.

I skipped over one stat that we normally report on, just to put it a little farther back in my report tonight, but in the month of May, we had two Narcan administrations. And I know last meeting, I spoke to the issue that sometimes the statistic sort of belies what's actually happening behind the numbers. And we talked about the letter that we had received from the mother of somebody that had been administered Narcan by one of the officers and was brought back to life, basically. And the reason why I sort of saved it toward the end for tonight is those of you who may have seen the Daily Local from yesterday, Sunday's Daily Local, two things. One is a good story, a feel-good story, and that was the coffee connection. They came out and did a nice article on our coffee with the chief for the month of June, which was hosted by the library. So we were front page of the paper with a feel-good story for the city, really, and the police department talking about our Coffee with the Chief Program.

But then right next to it is the article, "Years of Concern Preceded Boy's Death." And that's the article that addresses the most recent arrest of the father and mother of the young child who died as a result of drug overdose, and both parents have now been charged with murder for the death of that child. And that's the story behind the statistic that we talk about every month when we look at our Narcan cities. And that's the result of the scourge of drug addiction and how it impacts families innocence. And the mother who has since been charged was one of those statistics. We brought her back with the administration of Narcan from an overdose, and now her child's dead because of that drug addiction. Just a sad, sad case, but it speaks directly to the issues that impact so many families and the city in such a big way. So, I wanted to say that toward the end. And I know it's right alongside the feel-good story, but I think we have to look at both sides of it too. What we're doing positively here in the city, but we have a lot of work left to be done.

And then just another quick one. Richie's Water Rice is now sponsor of the Chilling with the Community Wood Rice Truck. So, he has agreed to be our partner with that initiative that we have every summer. Those of you who will recall, it was Rita's through Chief Pierce from South Coatesville. Chief Pierce and his wife had several businesses here in the area for Rita's franchises, and they've elected to get out of the franchise business, and so they've sold all their Rita stores. And we thought maybe this was a good time for us to approach a local business here in the city, see if we could partner with them. And if they would support us, we would support this business, and hopefully it will be for many years to come. So, these will be our new stickers on our Water Rice truck. [applause] We want to thank them for agreeing



to partner with the Police Department and the city. And [crosstalk] Unity Day. And yes, our first outing will be Unity Day. So, we will be in the park with everybody on Unity Day with rice for everybody, and which will be partnered with Richie's. Yes, President, that is my report. President lavender Norris stated well, you bookended the sad story with the good stuff, so thank you for that report.

Mr. Logan asked can I just interject before we move on to-- I think the next report is going to be from Vincent Miles? But I have to apologize to council members. I gave you the wrong numbers in terms of firefighters. I'm looking at an email; it is in your packet, by the way, and Chief Dobson, can you come to the podium, please? I shared with you that the fire department has been making tremendous news on what we're trying to do in the city for protection, both on the police and fire side. And Chief Dobson, can you just bring us up to date on the number of full-time and part-time hires? And don't embarrass me too much because I was off by 50%. [laughter] Chief Dobson explained first off, thank you council for the vote tonight to approve the civil service list and the initial offers. With that vote, it brings the full-time compliment when they start at the end of the month, up to 9:00. So, we have three full-timers work each shift. There're three shifts. It also replaces some part-time employees that have been promoted up to full-time. With your vote, we've hired four more. So, they'll start their training now that you've voted on it. So, one of the priorities was to decrease the overtime. This will help with that. It'll cover those shifts, and a part-time can cover that opening when a full-timer's off on vacation or personal time. But we appreciate your work and diligence getting this to this point and hiring [inaudible]. We appreciate it. Vice President Green asked will we be monitoring those part-times so that they can do so many hours and ensure that they don't go out over so many hours? Chief Dobson replied we will. And the hiring of the full-time really helps regulate that number of hours.

6. Public Relations/Government Affairs Report

Mr. Miles thanked Madam President. And good evening, council residents and city visitors. I want to thank you all for giving me the space and moment to share, briefly, what's been going on in the realm of public affairs. I'm going to start this presentation because you guys know I love visuals. I'm going to flow right through this presentation and really try to lighten the mood-- excuse me, the mood here, I'm losing my voice, in this meeting. So first up to bat is Unity Day. We spoke on it briefly, the Food and Music Festival for 2024. This is going to be presented by us, the city, and the Alliance for Health Equity. It'll be hosted at Gateway Park, July 6th, 2024, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. We're going to have flag football games, volleyball, dunk tanks, horseshoes, sack races, some good food, good music, and most of all, good vibrations throughout the community so we can all share it together. Speaking of good vibrations, we have the Sounds of Summer music series that's also coming to Gateway Park. This is an event that, hopefully, we can enjoy the sounds of live music following Coatesville's first Friday activities. The concert dates are going to be July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, and October 4th from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM.

Next up. This is just a few more materials that we're going to have on billboards that we're going to promote both events. So that will be shown on billboards in the surrounding region. Next up is the national fitness campaign. So this project is coming to Abdala Park, for those who don't know, this summer. Earlier this afternoon, me and Mr. Logan spoke with their installation team where we are planning to get on schedule by mid to late July. So once the concrete is poured-- our contractor is hoping to start work next Friday for the concrete. So

things are pretty much moving for that project, and we are on schedule with the National Fitness Campaign. So things are looking really good for that. I just have a few images here just to go over the layout of the fitness court in Abdala Park. So where this mouse is, this is where the court is going to be. This is pretty much phase one. Again, we're going to have a concrete walkway and a pad in front of the field house, which is here those who are familiar with Dollar Park right in front of Scott.

Hopefully, this is going to be phase two, getting the concrete port in this 88 ramp going up towards the school. We're looking to revamp the baseball diamond for softball and youth baseball teams coming. And then we also have the-- I want to say it's about an 80-yard field for flag football or some of the football teams with CKR. This is a real-time image of Abdala Park. I was out there, I want to say, two weeks ago with our contractor for the concrete. And he put stakes in the ground just to show where that's going to go. So back in this corner, this is where the back wall of the court is going to be, and it's going to be facing the field house. And that pathway that I'm telling you guys about is going to flow from this gate, go around to the pad in front of the field house, and then up towards the corner where the playground is. This is a 3D rendition of the court. During our conversation earlier with the National Fitness Campaign and their installation team, we're really thinking about the colors of this court. We wanted to really match the Coatesville bleeding red and black aspect of the city. So we may just switch the colors around with what's going on there. So that's the back of the court that I was explaining earlier. And down below is the front part. More images of it. This is the rear wall and more specs on the front.

All right. Next up is the ward walks. So I handed out why you guys went to executive, the packets for that. Within the packet here for your residents to see, it's just mentioning our mission, the different goals that we have for this initiative. Also within it, as a follow-up to ward walks, we're looking to do town talks between council and residents just to talk about all the pressing issues within the wards, make it ward-specific, and then see what we could do to better our community ward by ward. So that's that initiative followed up by town talks. The conversations for town talks is what's numbered within the packet. So it's not set in stone, so you guys can come up with topics on whatever that may be. I just wanted to outline just different topics and collaborations with different entities, organizations, and so forth that we can have during these town talks for the community. And then the last page is the ward evaluation questionnaire. So this is just for you guys after we walk through the wards with our community and rub shoulders with the different organizations within the ward. It's just a set of questions that you guys can meditate on post the walk so you can say, "Okay. What's happening with the residency," or different things that you guys observe during the walks and so forth, just to keep things on task within this project and initiative. I'm actually piloting this event with you guys. I sent out emails and so forth to the group. Ms. Allen and Ms. Turner-Green, I did my first ward walks with them in the second ward. Just briefly, what do you guys think? How do you guys think this went for the first? Ms. Allen stated I think it went well. It was very engaging. We got to meet some of the residents and got to know that we were their ward leaders. I was at large; she was their ward leader, so. And we actually had one little [inaudible]. He's a renter who really had a real question about something with steps out front. We were able to help with that information. Okay. For that specific portion that you're talking about with Mr. Hogart, our Codes people, they get on that as well. So that's a work in progress for the steps out front, so appraised report on that end. So yeah, that's the

ward walks. I thank you guys for joining. And next up, we're going to get this thing rolling ward by ward. So that's going to be awesome. All right.

So next up, we have our trash campaign. We've came up with this campaign, and the mission is pretty much simple with this. It's to reduce litter and clusters of trash throughout our public places. It's also to prevent illegal dumping in city bins and to simply ensure that the City of Coatesville stays clean for our residents and visitors throughout the city. We decided to add a little dose of humor to this campaign because we believe a little laughter could go a long way in making our message stick to the community. So I have the signs here. If you guys want to see it, I'm going to have them out there so you guys could look at it. But it's also in the presentation here. Simple, "Keep it classy, never trashy. The choice is yours." "Pick up your trash or get fined up to 300." Then you have the ordinance or the code there for scattered rubbers. "If you litter, Pepe will find you. Watching." Pepe is a famous meme on the internet for those who don't know. So I thought that was pretty funny. And then this is a fan favorite. "Hey, man, don't look now, but your trash is showing. Pick it up or get fined up to 300." So that's just three other signs that we're going to put together. I want to do more funny ones, so I'm taking recommendations from the community, and we're just going to blast it out throughout the community, have fun, and really just keep our city clean. So that's the campaign that we're working on together. And I hope you guys love it. You already said you love it, so that's good. Any questions? President Lavender Norris asked the trash campaign, where will you be erecting the signs? Mr. Miles replied great question. So we only have about nine right now. There was a situation where we were printing the yard signs for Unity Day and Sounds of Summer. There was a misprint. So the signs that you see out there with Unity Day, it doesn't have the date or the time and where. So our first person that we went to, he had space for the nine. So we just thought as admin, let's just fit this in there and start promoting this trash campaign that we're putting together. So as the pilot for this campaign, we just printed that out. So it's just as starters. We're just going to have those three. And then hopefully, with more memes, funny different things throughout the community that we're going to post.

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

Good evening, everybody. My name is Khadijah Al Amin. And again, I'm here to address the issues that I've addressed for the last three or four meetings, which is the residence that sits next to mine. He received a state citation on May 17th, and he did a little, but not real much. I want to say thank you to our co-director because he has diligently been trying to make the homeowner to comply, but unfortunately, it doesn't appear that he's going to do it. So since May 17th, there hasn't been any more citations, and I'm not quite understanding that. I thought maybe there would be one a week or whatever. I'm not asking for one every day, but I think it should be more than once a month because, honestly, I really believe the only way that that man is going to comply is if the city gets an administrative search warrant and does that property and shows him what a property should look like. And I mean, I think he'll repeat the cycle, but I think to find that what he would have to pay for that to be cleaned up would be much different. So, when he got the citation, he waited a couple weeks. He had somebody cut the banks out front and one path on each side. Everything else, he hasn't touched. He hasn't touched the back, not the weeds. On the sides, like on the side of my house, the grass is still up. On this side of the bushes, on the other side of the shrubbery, there's a weeping cherry that really extends over onto my property. But some of the bushes on the line of the property had maybe two or three branches on each bush that extended over to my property. He walked up, he

snapped them off, threw it all on my property. And of course, I took pictures before I picked it up and threw it back on his property. So this week, I had to get up on my garage roof. Our houses don't attach, but our garages do. So where they attach, there's metal flashing? Valley flashing. So in that flashing, this tree is really old. His tree is almost on my garage roof. He just doesn't take care of it. And from the leaves and different things falling down, there's now a compost pile that has things growing out of the garage roof. Now, I myself, not many years shy of 70, got a whole trash can full of old pieces of tree, pieces of tree with the leaves still on it. A whole trash can full. That is going to damage my property. That gentleman is not going to get it until the city gets an administrative search warrant and cleans it up. And I'm going to come back every meeting until it's done.

#### Melvin Dutton

To start with, I had to make a civil complaint about a situation that I had with my vehicle being towed and impounded. So I had to settle to go to West Chester and take care of it in our courthouse. So I don't know what else to do besides. Do I just handle this on my own and hand them out? Then again, okay, I have a civil complaint. I couldn't resolve it in Coatesville, so I had to take it to West Chester. And I had to follow. So, I had to serve the board, Coatesville. I was told to bring it here and talk to you. That's what I did-- Mr. Jefferson explained I try not to interrupt. Stopped at three minutes. I can't give you legal advice because I don't want to cross that boundary. I don't know who the lawsuit is against. [crosstalk] Mr. Dutton said okay. Yeah. Because I was basically finished what I had to say. I just know I have to serve-- President Lavender Norris explained I'm saying after our citizens' hearings portion, then you can have the conversation. But we're not to use your time. That's why he did like this-- Mr. Dutton stated I understand. President Lavender Norris stated after this, after we get through the citizens that are on here, we'll close and then you can have a conversation with our solicitor. Mr. Dutton asked are you saying at this time I cannot just serve you, and? President Lavender Norris stated after. You can after. Thank you. [crosstalk]

#### Ricky Campbell

Charles Ricky Campbell, Merchant Street, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, 19320. Good evening to Roberta; Vincent Miles Jr.; the Chief, Laufer; Solicitor Robert; Roberta, Assistant City Manager; James Logan, City Manager; Councilwoman Scamuffa; Councilwoman Green; Council President Lavender Norris; Councilwoman Al Amin; Councilwoman Allen; Councilwoman Hunt; Councilwoman Turner-Green. Good evening. I know that the seats that you sit in, you have to make tough decisions, and I know it's difficult. And I know that you have to take time away from your family, and I know that it's a thankless job. So before I say what I'm going to say when I stand up here is I just don't know if anyone's told you this in a while, but thank you to the council for the work that you do and the tough decisions that you have to make. I know it is not easy. I stand here on behalf of [inaudible] Academy in proxy with my partner, Brandon Jackson, [inaudible]. And we just wanted to come this evening to just thank you and solicit your participation in an ongoing event that we have throughout the summer. It is one of the largest activities for youth in the summer for the City of Coatesville that Coatesville had. And it's called Hoop Dreams Academy. And what it is is basketball skills and drills and challenges throughout the month of July and June. So we are here today to just thank you for the opportunity to work with the youth, and we encourage each and every one of you to come down as the season progresses and moves on to participate, to sign your children up, your grandchildren up, your neighbors, and the residents of the City of Coatesville to be able to allow the youth to continue to move forward, thrive, and flourish in the City of Coatesville. We did meet and have a meeting with Chief Laufer, and I want to publicly thank the chief for meeting with us so quickly and being so readily available to sit down with us and go over a safety plan and talk about some things that we have in the future. I want to also acknowledge our city manager, James

Logan, for just being there and wanting to participate and donate, and actually attending some of the games last year, and actually getting on the court and playing basketball with the kids. It is my dream-- Yes. [laughter] He is limping now because of the basketball. But it is our hope that this league will continue to grow and will continue to branch out and be able to touch Chester, Norristown, Parkesburg, and the surrounding areas that we have a relationship with and a connection with to continue to bring those people into Coatesville, into the city, so that they can see the beautiful city that we have. Thank you so much for your time. Mrs. Hunt asked if it is for boys and girls? Mr. Campbell replied yes. It is for boys and girls. And we service elementary, middle school, and first-year entry-level high school. So we're trying to do everything. The more we grow, we can get the older kids as well with the actual high school students as well. That way, we'll have all of our youth here participating. Ms. Allen asked what age group [inaudible]? Mr. Campbell replied age group starts at elementary school. So we do 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and teens in 10th grade. So that's seven. So we're covering all grounds. Mr. Logan asked do you have a big event coming up this weekend or next? Mr. Campbell replied yes, yes. We also have an event coming up this week, and it is to celebrate Juneteenth. It's in collaboration with you all yourself, with the City of Coatesville, NAACP. And what it does is we bring-- we understand as the Hoop Dream Academy and also as just ourselves that there are a lot of youth in the city who are fatherless or who may even have a father but may not be active. So we try to implement and fill that void that a lot of the young people have. So we have a father-son/daughter basketball tournament. And what we do is we team the youth up who do not have, and even who do, with youth and individuals, and allow them to play with a mentor. But we don't allow it to stop there. What we do is those individuals will play with their mentor that they pick and the youth that they pick and they will continue that relationship on. They may go fishing. They may go bowling. They may go to the movies. But what our goal and our dream is to hope that we can continue the relationship and continue to pour into the youth. So that's myself and Brandon Jack's dream here tonight. And that's what we're doing on the 15th to celebrate Juneteenth. So if you have any youth that are young, young men, even if they have a father-- we teamed my personal son up with a whole other man because there's things that I can't explain or teach my son, Jordan, that somebody else could. So it's just all around allowing men, not just Black men, but all men in the community to be able to pour into these young people. So again, I don't want to take up too much time. Thank you so much. I'm going to stick around if there's any more questions, but I want to be respectful to the audience. Thank you so much for your time again. Thank you.

Randall Scott

Mr. Scott asked to rescind his time. Thank you, Council.

Curry Malott

Good evening, Council, again. I guess the first thing I want to say is thanks again for considering this resolution. It doesn't always work out the way that you hope it will work out. That's the situation that we're in. And I also just wanted to-- I suppose, the discussion earlier about who can speak, I guess as a nonprofit business owner in town, I guess I had assumed that I could come here and speak. So maybe that was a misunderstanding of the laws, order. Bottom line, I just want some clarification. I would like to be able to come here and speak. But it's certainly not trying to speak out of line. I just, I guess, want some clarification on that, that as a business owner, does that make me eligible to speak? I assumed it would. President Lavender Norris explained public comment is for residents and taxpayers of the city. Mr. Malott said and I thought it was property owners, taxpayers, residents, right? President Lavender Norris explained the property owner is the one that would be paying taxes, so yes. Mr. Malott said yeah, I'm still-- I mean, I hold a lease on two storefronts, pay those. I assume all the bills, the water bills, and electricity bills, and all those bills that we pay for are taxed. Vice

President Green asked you mean the [county?] property? Is that right? Mr. Malott assumed there's lots of absentee landowners that come here and speak once in a while and they're upset about one of their for-profit-- --properties here and whatnot, but I'm not an absentee business owner. I'm very much present. So I don't know. Based on being a home rule municipality, it's sort of your call on my understanding that you all could decide if I can speak or not. Mrs. Hunt asked do you live in the city? Mr. Malott replied no, I live in West Chester. Mrs. Hunt asked do you own your property here in the city? Mr. Malott replied I do not. I don't own a property anymore. Mrs. Hunt asked do you pay property taxes here in the city? Mr. Malott replied I mean, I guess I assumed that the rent that I'm paying-- Mrs. Hunt stated I'm asking do you pay taxes in the city? Mr. Malott replied the income tax bill does not come to me directly. I contribute to it. Mrs. Hunt stated that's the answer to your own question. [crosstalk]

#### Imam Jamal Mohammed

Good evening, once again. First of all, I wanted to thank you, whether it was a yes or a no. Like you said, we all have our individual rights and we also wear a different hat as members of the council. We respect that. We respect you taking the time, investing your time to do what you do for the City of Coatesville. And we continue to be brothers and sisters. We continue to love you for the sake of-- and this is our position, always. And nothing changes from that perspective. I know we all have a job to do. And may God almighty guide us to what is right and help us to stand before Him smiling, and that we have done our part as human beings and we would like to be counted on the [inaudible], right? And that's all we ask. And thanks, Chief, for sharing about Richie's Water Rice. We are also inviting him to our Halal Food Festival. And I know the city had given me a list of 200 vendors that I could use for the Halal Food Festival. But because of our halal concept, which is kind of a little-- that's one of the reasons why we are doing this, so that there's a difference between the [inaudible] side and the halal side. There's a fine difference, but there is a difference. So, we couldn't use many of them, but we were looking out for whom we can bring in. And Richie [Rice?] was one of them. So, we are questioning. And hopefully, he's able to come there. And once again, thank you for it. I know the topic of man killing man, no matter what the reason might be, it's not something that appeals to any of us as human beings. And I know we all have our heart on the right side of righteousness. I only hope that voice of councils carry in the word and people think and understand righteousness as what it should be. And then we don't get swayed by individual emotions. And we always hold our [inaudible] and support and patience and dignity and decorum in whatever we ask for and what we grant and what we get granted. This is all from Almighty God. Once I was traveling to California, a Jewish lady was traveling with me by the seat next to me. And we started to talk about Moses. And she was saying, Moses is-- I was reading a book, and she said, "What are you reading?" I said, "I'm reading about Moses." And she said, "Moses is my prophet." I said, "No, he's my prophet as well." [laughter] So we're fighting about whose is Moses. I said, "The Quran teaches us to respect all the prophets from Adam all the way down." And then the captain said, "Put on your seat belts." And then I put on my seat belt, and she put on her seat belt as well. And then she said, "If you trust in God, why are you putting on the seat belt?" And I said, "Here is the differences," I said, "You put on the seat belt thinking the seat belt is going to save you. I put on the seat belt knowing only God can save me. That's the difference between us." Thank you.

#### Ricky Campbell (Dan Williams)

I'm standing before you, Charles Ricky Campbell, Coatesville. Standing before you on behalf of our State Representative, Dr. Dan K. Williams. And I have a lot to read here. So I'm not going to read it because I know you would probably like to hear his voice more than mine. I've been on the phone with him all day. And they are actually-- [inaudible] to determine the quality of their education, so

House Bill 2370 does several things. First of all, it provides equity for every student. And it provides tax relief for many of our taxpayers. It drives out more than \$5 billion now over a period of seven years, creating not only equity in education, but also unpredictability because it allows certain school districts to receive more than \$200 billion a year for the next seven years. In a real sense, this is not just a constitutional mandate. It is a moral obligation to finally and fully repair the damage that has been done to students within the Commonwealth. And the court has decided the General Assembly's responsibility is to get it done. HB 2370 is the right thing to do. I wanted to play that because the state representative has just voted yes to pass the current budget, and those are just little things that are in the budget. So I just wanted to bring that report. Thank you for allowing me to share.

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

### **Special Events**

#### **1. Upcoming Public Events**

President Lavender Norris said on to our special events, upcoming public events. Mr. Miles just went over them. Is there anything you want to add? Look at the calendar, and then make your claim to come out. These events are for you, so please consider attending.

### **Council Comments**

Ms. Turner Green wished everyone a good evening. Thank you all so much for coming out this evening. I believe it was Mr. Randall Scott who brought up [inaudible] saying that it's not a possibility to remain neutral. And I agree with that in a sense of personally, right? Personally, we have our own ethical viewpoints. We have our own kind of [inaudible] that we go by. And so you're going to kind of align on one side or the other or more so. But when it becomes-- when you sit in seats like these, and it's a large political issue, sometimes it is important to remain that neutral. And that is the standpoint we take. So how we feel personally, sometimes the way that we vote here, we have to put our personal feelings aside and pick them up on the way out. And you might kick the air, but the decisions that we make here are for the whole of the city and not for our own personal feelings. Get home safely and have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. Thank you all for coming. Again, thank you to our staff for the work that you do. Everyone, do have a good evening.

Ms. Allen thanked for everyone for coming out. All of you continue to come out so we can see you guys in the city. Get home safe. Thank you.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. I want to make mention of one other event that is going to happen this month. It's not necessarily a city event, but it is still an event. [Imam?] Jamal is going to have the first ever Halal Food Festival in Coatesville on June 22nd. And so, halal is the type of food it is, the manner in which it was slaughtered. It isn't just going to the grocery store and buying chicken or hamburger or-- it's a particular method for the slaughter and the preparation. And it will be in Gateway Park. So, I hope that everybody can come out and taste the food and see the difference between halal food and store-bought food. And Mr. Curry, I want to make a comment to you. So, when you were at the podium asking questions, I could have probably answered or commented on some of those questions too. I don't want you to think that I disrespected you or you either, sir. But when you come to the podium, you get three minutes. And Mr. Jefferson, please correct me if I'm wrong, it's not a question and answer time. You get to make your statements and

then like the council president said to the gentleman over here, you can stay till after the meeting and you can conversate with people then. But if we as council interrupt or ask you a question or speak, then it's one of two things. Either we're cutting into your time or we're extending your time. And that's something that we're not really supposed to do. So, I don't want you to think I was disrespecting you. Was trying to follow our protocol. Did I explain that right, Mr. Jefferson? Mr. Jefferson replied yes. Ms. Al Amin said okay. And so, I just don't want anybody to ever think when you're up there that I'm trying to be disrespectful or ignore you because I'm certainly not. And so, thank you, everybody. I just want to thank you all again for coming out, and I hope you have safe travel time. Good night.

Ms. Scamuffa thanked everyone for coming out this evening. I do want to comment to Mr. Flook. You've only been here a short time. I know that your hands have been full. Your plate is full. But I've noticed some things getting done, some things getting stickered, which I think that I haven't seen done in probably several years. So I want to thank you. I have hope and faith that once you get through everything. I feel like you're going to do a fine job. And I appreciate the work that you put in in the short amount of time that you've already been here. So thank you for that. Mr. Flook state on behalf of my staff, I accept the compliment because they're the ones that do the most work. Ms. Scamuffa said Okay. Well, I thank them too. I always appreciate the staff. I knew that they're doing the best with what they have to work with and the training's going to come in handy. So I think it's going to be a good thing. And I have to add there, Councilwoman Turner-Green, when we're up here, we're just a small bit of the world. I mean, we're here for the people of the city and we have to act accordingly regardless of what our own personal feelings may be outside these doors. It could be a whole different thing. But I respect all humanity. And when I get to put my head on my pillow at night, I pray for everyone. So again, thank you and have a great night and be safe.

Vice President Green thanked everyone for coming out and playing a part. But I appreciate your comments Ms. Scamuffa and Ms. Turner Green. I just want to think your group's [inaudible] up very nicely. Everyone, have a safe trip.

President Lavender Norris stated I wanted to thank you all: my colleagues, the administration, most certainly our residents, those of you that have come out. The City of Coatesville, I've said so many times and I promise you, I won't stop saying it, is moving forward. And some see the movement, some hear of the movement, some are involved in the movement, and in this room are all of the above. I'm grateful to you all. I just want to-- not to diminish or lessen anybody else's efforts, but I want to acknowledge our emergency services. You guys have been-- for lack of a better word, you guys have been killing it out there. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I appreciate you. I want you to know that our residents - I've heard from them personally - that they appreciate your work. I thank you for it, and I'm grateful to God that He keeps you safe and allows you to go home every day after your shift. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you. To our administration, you all already know, thank you. I just love the opportunity to say thank you to you all. We know how, by the grace of God, to agree, to disagree, and keep moving forward. I won't say, I won't do, and I doubt that I'll hear everything I want, but I know what's right. And it's my desire to do what's right. I voted no to the ceasefire because I just don't believe that's my place. So I voted no, not that I don't respect and appreciate those that are in support of both sides. You all have the right to stand on your convictions. And please, by all means, continue to do so. Thank you all for coming out. God bless you all. And please stay safe.

## **Adjournment**



Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.