

Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, August 26, 2024

Council Present: President Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Villa Hunt, and Councilwoman Fran Scamuffa
Council Absent: Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green
Staff Present: Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Jessica Arthur, Finance Department; Robert Jefferson, Solicitor; and Ruthann Mowday, Recording Secretary

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

Vice President Green announced that Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green would not be in attendance.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the August 12, 2024 meeting minutes; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Mrs. Hunt motioned to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Presentation

1. Bridge Academy

Pastor Crans stated it's an honor to be able to sustain you guys tonight. Just briefly, I wish I could say more tonight. And I was telling Chaya, if I walked in here-- my wife says I talk too much, and that's not always good. In Cranes we set big mountains. But really, several months, I don't even know, maybe June, James called us and just kind of brought up the idea of the Coatesville Community Center, knowing that we had been looking for the last five years for a bigger space to run our programs out of the Bridge Academy. We're landlocked there. We have that neighborhood. We don't want to leave the city. We don't want to really leave that neighborhood and go too far. So we've been in the last five years going through every event and building and just trying to find a space to grow. We've kind of reached our limit with what we can house in our facility with kids. We had probably over 125 this summer, kids and staff [inaudible] building. That's not a lot of space. Now we could take them out to the camp and things like that. But we want a space for them here.

And so it really piqued our interest, because as we've been looking for the last five years, we ran into a lot of dead ends and brick walls, closed doors. And it's been not a crazy financial toll, but it's been a financial toll because as you look through buildings, as you do the research, you got to know, due diligence and the process, it costs thousands of dollars. And so you guys know you're in my heart for the city and our family's heart for the city and the families here. And our hearts keep getting broken over closed doors. But when this came up--

so we're trying to be guarded. We're trying to be guarded. And we wanted to present just a brief proposal. Our proposal is mostly what we've done in the last 20 years and just the programs that we've had. I'm not sure if you guys have had a chance to look at it. The other thing I'm going to talk about, she's not in the room tonight, but Jane's really giving me a lot of information about what you guys would know and not know tonight. But I'm grateful for that. And so in our packet here, it talks a lot about what we've been able to do with the help of community and volunteers in the school district and the city to accomplish what we've been able to accomplish right now in Virginia Avenue. But our kids have dreams. And so a few years ago, we had to write down their dreams for a facility. And some of the things that kept coming up on their behalf was more program space that they could do more things in the building. They have these STEM dreams and they want to make T-shirts. And every single kid, they wanted a multipurpose space of gymnasium. That's one of the things that this city, unfortunately, has lacked my whole life. And so that's a dream of ours, is to have a place where we can have a gym where-- I love what Brandon Jacks does in the summertime. But how great would it be on a rainy night to be able to have a place where kids can continue to have their games and not be rained out in the wintertime, not try to compete with the school district.

So, I want to just-- without divulging too much information because we really don't know what we're getting into. I grew up going to the community center. I participated every summer. I was one of the few white kids down there, and I loved it. My dad drove me down there when I was probably seven years old, and I spent every summer down there. The East End is where we grew up. And that community center means a lot to me. And I grew up learning about the people on the wall there, the mural when that was painted. And several of those people were at my dad's ordination to become a pastor in the early '70s. And so it has some significance in history, not only in this community, but in my own life, playing in the summer was down there and working there in high school. I worked under Miss Felicia and in the recreational department for those years that we were able to have one in the city. But it was a joy, and it created so many memories. And we can only do so much in the building that we have now. And we spend our lives for the kids that come in our buildings. We don't turn any kids away. We love each and every one of them. We desire for them to have a good education, to have a healthy meal, to be not only physically fed and mentally fed, but also spiritually fed. That's important to us as well. And we just want to care about not just the individual kid, or I shouldn't even call them kid student, but their family as well. So we're taking little babies in with their moms and walking alongside of them through life.

My daughter just turned three today, my youngest. So I have a daughter going into 10th grade this year and a daughter just turned three today, so you can keep me in your prayers for that. [laughter] But three young men were at my house tonight to celebrate my three-year-old birthday: Nasier, Mark Quinn, and Khalio. And we met those guys 20 years ago, 21 years ago, the first time we set foot in that building on Virginia Avenue. And they've become a part of our lives where my daughter calls them uncle and gets more excited about them coming than my own family. [laughter]. But I wanted to just share a couple more minutes. We have a desire. We need more space for our programs. We would love to have a gym someday. We need more classroom space where we can focus on young people individually and in smaller groups. Right now, our biggest space is kind of our auditorium space. And we do everything from play kickball in there to have a meal to have after-school homework. So it'd be nice to be able to divide that out where even our high school students that come in the afternoons can

get individualized tutoring and math and science while our middle school kids can play on the keyboards in the computer lab. And our elementary kids can just play in the gym and play four sports. And that's hard to do in a little space. So we have a great need for that.

We have a great need for office space. We have shared office space. We have that little store that we kind of renovated in the last few years. But that's kind of a shared office space that everybody shares. And that's great and all that. People want their own little workspace and want their own privacy and their quiet space to get some work done. So we desire that. We'd love to have a commercial kitchen. We do a lot of meals. We do, in our busiest of times during the school year, six meals a week. And real meals, I'm not talking about chicken nuggets and fries. I'm talking about spaghetti and rolls and salad and dessert. And we're grateful to be able to do that. But a lot of that food gets brought in from the outside. So we'd love to have a commercial kitchen that we can really have a facility where we can do that and do more community-oriented things. Bigger bathroom. We've got two little [inaudible] bathrooms in the bottom of our building, not handicapped accessible. And so we'd love to provide that reception area where we can greet people and we can meet with people.

But the biggest thing-- I don't want to keep it 100 with you guys tonight. The biggest thing is a gym for me. [laughter] The greatest thing that's had an impact on my life, I would say apart from Jesus and my dad, is coastal basketball. And I just grew up going to coastal basketball games. I coach. I'm around the team. [inaudible] has to kick me out a lot. And that's just had such a profound impact on my life. It's why I do what I do, really. It's why I feel gravitated to young men in the city because the game of basketball has given me an opportunity to build relationships and longevity. And it's an opportunity for them to do something and to have a dream. And so I would love to just have a place where the community can use to play basketball and to run around and to have something that we've never had that other communities do, because our kids deserve it. They're worthy of it, and they need something, and we want to give them what everybody else has because they're worth it. And so you guys, I don't want to over-promise-- I'm speaking on behalf of my wife tonight. I'm just a glorified volunteer at the Bridge, really. I'm not an employee. I'm the community relations coordinator or something like that. They gave me a [fake?] title. But I love being there. [laughter] [crosstalk]. Yeah. And she gets all the credit. And she's just incredible. And she's on a little sabbatical right now. She's given her life to that ministry for 20 years straight. And so finally, people are like, "Man, you deserve a break." And so they're giving her just a little bit of a break. And it was so hard for her not to be here tonight and be able to share her heart. And I said, "Let me do it. I'll mess it up for you." [laughter]

But we love this city. My family was born and raised here. It's just meant a lot. It means a lot to live here. It means a lot to walk these streets every day and to love people. And I love this city. I love the people that are here. And I want to be here the rest of my life, and I want to serve the families here the rest of my life. But I want to do it well, and I want to do it in a place that the kids can get excited about; the city can get excited about; the community can rally around. And I just think the community center would be an awesome place for that. If God would allow, like I said, we can get another door slammed in our face and a brick wall. We're not going to stop. It's not like we're an organization coming to find a space. We have a space. We just want a bigger space. We want parking spaces. We don't have any right now. So I know parking is a major issue in this city. But you think about where we're at, it's all community parking. We only have one spot. So even the 12 that are right around the building

there, right now, currently, it's 12 more spots than what we currently have. How great would that be, just to have a place that people can park [laughter] and not park in the street? Police officers have to get us along. Or you can knock on our door and say, "Hey, move your car because you're going to get a ticket if you don't." [laughter] "But I'm grateful that you warned us first." But I don't know if anybody has any questions. Like I said, I could talk all night. And we don't know how much money it's going to cost. We have ballpark figures. We know what we've already looked at doing, what we want to do. We kind of have generalizations. We want to do environmental studies. We want to do due diligence in order to do something right. And so the last thing I want to do to come tonight is over-promise something and then not be able to do it. And that's such a letdown.

So I want to be guarded in saying, "We want to do this, this, this, this, and this." And then we do an environmental study, and you can't do this, this, and this, and this. And so hopefully, you understand that. But we want to phase it out what we'd do. As you can see here, we want to do it in a couple of phases because it's a lot of money. I mean, it's a lot of money to do. And so we'd have to phase it out. But we're looking at a building that could take up pretty much that whole space there with a gymnasium, classrooms, commercial kitchen, small medium spaces, counseling spaces, offices, bathrooms, handicapped accessible, all of the above.

And I'll say one last thing. I'm grateful that Chaya is here. She's been on our board for many years. She's not currently on our board, but she's on our committee. I'll tell you this, we have an incredible building committee right now, and I don't know how we've been blessed to get them, but we have commercial builders. We have developers that are big time, that have just generously given up their time and are excited about doing a project with us. But they don't, whatever, take shortcuts. They do everything right about a book. But we have an awesome team. We have a really awesome team. And the cool part about it is two of them were volunteers at the Bridge throughout their whole high-school career. And they're just blessed to be very successful commercial builders. One builds Starbucks, Carrabas all around the country. And he's willing to help us do something here in the city, which is awesome. It's really awesome.

President Lavender Norris asked will it be Providence, the Bridge, or are you looking or considering collaboration? Pastor Crans answered I'm the pastor if I'm going to say [inaudible] that. But right now, we currently rent space from the Bridge Academy. And so we would hope to be able to do that. So that would be a collaboration. It wouldn't be a Providence. The Bridge would have full ownership. It wouldn't be a dual kind of thing. The Bridge would have full ownership, full decision. They would have their own separate board. We would hope to remain a long time. We've rented there since we started the church seven years ago. So we would hope to continue to rent space there, a shared space. But we don't have offices or anything like that. We basically rent the auditorium out on Sunday nights. President Lavender Norris asked would Bridge be willing to collaborate? Pastor Crans replied absolutely. Absolutely. Yeah, absolutely. I mean, that's one thing. I'm a firm believer in community and Jordan is too. And sometimes organizations--Sometimes organizations have to do things like a sector, and they have to do things that they're passionate about. And they do things that they're skilled in. We might not be good at it. And so I don't want to reinvent the wheel. We do want to collaborate. We've tried to model that over the years, even with the book bag drive, and things like that. But that's hard. That's gotten hard. It's gotten

hard to do because it's a lot of work to collaborate. But we really believe-- my best friend is Dwayne Walton that runs at Parkesburg Point. He pastors with me at the church. We've been friends a long time. And we don't want to be the Parkesburg Point, right? Parkesburg Point is the only show in Parkesburg. But I think this city needs community centers. Yeah. And the community centers need to collaborate together. And I think that was how I met Chaya. It was awesome. When she first became the executive director of Coastal Youth Initiative, I was at the beginning of those early stages. And I just remember dreaming about the space and dreaming about the collaborations and dreaming about the partnerships. And that was when we were at the Bridge still. But, yeah, we would definitely be open to collaborate and to honor people that are already doing things in the space. We have a lot of programs that we run every single day. So we wouldn't be having a great need to look at like, "Oh, we have five days a week that we got to fill the space in the building." The reality is we have 125 in our building this summer. I can imagine if we had a gym in some of our meeting space, we're going to use [inaudible]. But, man, what I'd love to say, "Hey, Brandon, why don't you do your leg at the community center?" [laughter] Wouldn't that be awesome?

Vice President Green explained we just got your package tonight. So I haven't had a chance to read it. If I have questions, I'll reach out, but I will read. Pastor Green responded yeah. We would love to answer any question-- --you guys have. I so badly want to give a rundown and give every detail of what our desire is and what we've done before. And we just don't want to do that. Not because we want to hide anything. It's because we want full transparency. And we want to be real with what we can actually accomplish there. And I'll just be honest with you. I know this isn't a given, right? And I know that there's probably other organizations or people that have an opportunity to meet with you guys about the community center, and that's wonderful. But I don't want to go down another four or five months of spending 30, 40 thousand dollars and then hit another brick wall. That's \$40,000 that we could invest into a life of a young person. And so that's not a knock on anything. That's just the reality. We want to do it right. We want to do it in a way that honors the city, that honors each one of you, that honors the Lord. But most importantly, honors the Lord, but really just honors the young people that we care for each and every day.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items at this time.

Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)

There were no citizens comments in regular action items only.

Ms. Al Amin motion to close citizens hearings om regular action items only; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

President Lavender Norris excused herself from the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve second reading and adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 218, Vehicles and Traffic, § 218-7, Loading Zones, subsection C(3)(C) by deleting “Church Street, North(entire block)” from the list of school zones; and subsection C(3)(B) by adding “Church Street, North (entire block) to the list of passenger loading zones

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve second reading and adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 218, Vehicles and Traffic, § 218-7, Loading Zones, subsection C(3)(C) by deleting “Church Street, North(entire block)” from the list of school zones; and subsection C(3)(B) by adding “Church Street, North (entire block) to the list of passenger loading zones; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Allen asked if we're making that whole block a loading zone, right, as part of the childcare center. Yes. The whole Church Street or just right in front of it? Vice President Green replied right in front of it. We go to do this for the block. Is that right? Mr. Jefferson replied no, this is the gentleman who came in and gave the presentation about that. It's just changing it from a school zone to the passenger loading zone. And the appropriate signs will go out to notify individuals where to park or where not to park. Ms. Cosentino asked will that be time-specific for the loading and unloading, or is that just going to be continuous all day? Because I know he requested—time specifics. Mrs. Hunt asked if it was time specific. It seemed like that would be important. Ms. Al Amin asked well, we can withdraw our motion and second, right? Can we not do that, Mr. Jefferson? Ms. Cosentino explained we have a recommendation from our zoning officer to make the sign say, "Loading zone only, no parking or standing between 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM." Mrs. Hunt explained that encompasses in case they have afternoon programs. As long as we have that in place. Vice president Green explained because I think there's children that don't get picked up until-- Probably 6:00. Mrs. Hunt said okay. That's fine. Thank you.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the General Reimbursement Grant Agreement for Federal-Aid Highway Projects (Agreement No. R24060006), the Water Protection and Investment Certification Form, and any other applicable document for the project located along Lincoln Highway between 2nd and 3rd Avenue

Mrs. Hunt motioned to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the General Reimbursement Grant Agreement for Federal-Aid Highway Projects (Agreement No. R24060006), the Water Protection and Investment Certification Form, and any other applicable document for the project located along Lincoln Highway between 2nd and 3rd Avenue; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0-1. Ms. Al Amin abstained from the vote.

Mr. Jefferson explained this is, actually, a resolution that failed to make it to last council's meeting. At last council's meeting, there was the grant reimbursement agreement that was on the agenda, and City Council approved that at that time. This is for streetscapes between 2nd and 3rd along Lincoln Avenue. In order to fully complete the circle, we needed to do a resolution. This resolution is essentially cleaning that circle off. So it's the same exact thing as you saw last council meeting. Vice President Green asked executing the grant, right? Mr. Jefferson replied yes. Ms. Al Amin asked but what could be the other documents? I mean, nothing's listed in here. Vice President Green said this is just executing the grant reimbursement [inaudible]. Mr. Jefferson stated the grant reimbursement agreement, I thought, made it into Council's last packet. Ms. Al Amin stated it did, but it also says, "Any other applicable document." What could they potentially be? Mr. Jefferson answered I don't know, and I don't think there is anything else. It's more about making sure that we give him the proper authorization to execute that and the water protection and investment certification form. Ms. Al Amin asked so can we remove that small portion of the wording through an

amendment of the motion and a second, where it says, "Any other applicable document"? If you don't think there is any other, why would that portion be there? Vice President Green asked but what if they find that there is an applicable document? Ms. Al Amin replied well, then they could bring that back to us. Mr. Jefferson stated I guess we would come back if they-- Ms. Al Amin explained not knowing what could potentially arise, I don't know that I would be comfortable just voting for a blanket something that I'm not aware of.

Vice President Green said I don't think it's a blanket. I think this is anything that's applicable to the streetscapes. Ms. Al Amin stated I know, but it doesn't say what the applicable document could be. And so for me, that's an unknown. Vice President Green asked so then, who made the motion? Because [inaudible]. Ms. Al Amin replied Councilwoman Hunt made the motion and-- So we can still take-- we can take the vote. Mr. Jefferson stated you can take the vote. Well, so there was-- I guess you're making a motion to amend or some sort of subsidiary [crosstalk]. Ms. Al Amin asked just to remove that "any other applicable document," because if something else arises, then that could very easily-- that something else could very easily be brought back to Council. I'm just speaking for me. Not knowing what an unknown could be, I don't know that I would be comfortable approving that. Vice President Green said I don't think that saying unknown-- this is applicable. So that doesn't mean it applies to-- Ms. Al Amin explained it does. You'd have to apply. Vice President Green said if it -applies to the streetscape.

Mrs. Hunt stated I just think if we're giving the city manager the go-ahead to do the grant, you can't give him the go-ahead and then at the same time tie his hands while he's negotiating or whatever it is that he needs to do. And when you say, "Any other documents that may be applicable," it could be as simple as, "We need another signature." It could be multifaceted. But it's either, in my opinion, we're going to agree to give him authorization to do what he needs to do for this particular action, or not. I don't think we need to take out wording or reverse wording. I think it's either I'm willing to give him the authority. And I do think that as a counsel, we can say, even in his absence, that he has made very good decisions on behalf of the city. So I don't have a concern that he would get into some other documentation that's going to end up being a hazard to us. Vice President Green said yeah, because it's not saying, "Unknown document." Mrs. Hunt replied exactly. So me, personally, I'm not for rescinding my motion to say, "[inaudible] remove those words." So what we need to do is just carry it as it is and put the road on the floor either if it goes up or it goes down. That's where I see it. And that's my take on it. Vice President Green said I just want to be clear because it doesn't say, "Unknown document." It says, "Any applicable document." Applicable to the streetscapes and this general reimbursement rate. Mrs. Hunt stated yeah, it would have to take to that item.

Mr. Jefferson explained so the way I see it, and just because it'll make it clear for the record and maybe voting, I think there was a subsidiary motion to amend it. I think you can vote on the subsidiary motion to amend it. And then we'll move up back to the original motion depending on how that goes. So the first vote will be—Mrs. Hunt explained that I don't think she actually gave a motion. She asked if she could, and she could only give it if we rescinded the one that we had - am I correct? - which we did. Mr. Jefferson replied no. Right now, there was a first, then there was a second, and now we're in discussion. I think during the discussion portion, there was a subsidiary motion if I'm understanding it correctly. But there wasn't a second on the subsidiary motion to rescind that. So is there a second on the

subsidiary motion to amend the resolution to withdraw the sort of third clause, which is any other applicable document for the project?

Vice President Green explained because this was on last time, and it was not done, it was tabled last time, same information was here. I just think that if you could just explain it because then I want the public to understand there's nothing in this that says, "Unknown document." It says, "Applicable documents to the project," not throwing in any-- to the streetscapes. And this is just to get the streetscapes [inaudible] things done. I mean, I can't imagine, but you have to always leave room in case there is something that they need according to this, not anything else. It has to be according to the project. It's not in the "unknown document." So I think that in hearing that, that makes it seem like you can just put anything in there. This is something that was tabled last time. And I think it's a timeframe thing: you have to get this done.

Mr. Jefferson explained This actually was voted upon last time, but it wasn't the resolution. It was simply the underlying document with it. It was technically not the resolution. This is now the resolution for that document. So you essentially staple that agreement to the back of this resolution, and that's what you get. But yes, there is-- and I drafted the resolution, so I know that I put in "other applicable documents" because a lot of times you go to certain things, other documents come up that are sort of ancillary, not necessarily changing the documents, but we've done closings where other documents have to get signed. So I was just giving that permission, but you're right. So the first two, the water protection and investment certification form, that should have been last time. The general reimbursement agreement was last time, but that was voted upon. To the best of my knowledge, there is no other agreement, but it just puts in that little flexibility. Ms. Scamuffa asked in the parentheses, in the last meeting that we voted for this, that agreement number R24060006—Mr. Jefferson replied yes, --that was in the last council packet. The entire agreement. Mr. Jefferson explained sorry, I heard a subsidiary motion to amend. I didn't hear a second. I would say that that motion fails on the floor, and now we can go back to the original motion and the original second, which is the resolution as it's written. Mrs. Hunt said I'm sorry. Can I have a question? When we're doing the polling and we abstain, is that equal to a no, or how does that fall in? Mr. Jefferson replied it functions as a no. Mrs. Hunt explained I've been meaning to ask that a couple of times. I thought that's what it was. Mr. Jefferson stated it is the functional equivalent of no. Mrs. Hunt said thank you, I've been meaning to ask for awhile.

3. Receive and consider a motion for the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension

Mrs. Hunt motioned to approve the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Arthur explained in front of you were the three motions for the minimal municipal obligation for the MMO for the pension plans. This is the 25 mandatory pension required by Pennsylvania law. Each form is the same except it pertains to the plan noted in the heading. Each one is voted as a separate vote, even though they are basically the same thing. The amounts will differ based on a number of different factors: the number of people who are attending, the prior number of retirees, along with the employee participation rate factored in, along with their ages, salaries, and the investment performance of the actual plan. All of this goes into factoring and determining what the calculations are, and all the calculations are

done by our pension actuaries. Ms. Allen asked since they're all three the same, can we do them all at once and we have to go to each one? Can we approve yes or no? Mr. Jefferson explained I'm going to say go individually just because they're listed individually, but. Vice president said and they're from different departments.

4. Receive and consider a motion for the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Firemen's Pension Fund
Mrs. Hunt motioned to approve the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Firemen's Pension Fund; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Receive and consider a motion for the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund
Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Fund; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Receive and consider a motion to approve 2025 Budget Timeline
Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the 2025 Budget timeline; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
7. Receive and consider a motion to approve Civil Service List for Police Officers
Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the Civil Service List for Police Officers; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Chief Laufer explained if I might just quickly, if you remember at our last meeting, we had the original document in front of council for approval. When we realized, Mr. Jefferson and I realized that it did not include full time hires as all the other ones in the last 10 years have only been for part time officers. We had modified the civil service regulations to allow us to go ahead and advertise for full-time vacancies. That was inadvertently left off of the signed document from the Civil Service Commission. So we asked that we could go back, have them sign an amended one, and then presented before council at the next meeting, which would be tonight. So we're just asking to go ahead and approve the amended one that is now signed by all three members of the Civil Service Commission and has the right verbiage for part-time and full-time vacancies.

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

Mrs. Hunt excused herself from the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Reports

1. Solicitor
Mr. Jefferson explained I've provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to counsel. Since council's last meeting, I have communicated and continued to communicate with outside counsel regarding certain litigation matters; communicated with outside counsel regarding a donation agreement; drafted a conditional use decision; provided guidance regarding signs; drafted a notice for the potential adoption of the ordinance that was subject for tonight; communicated with the Rand Spear Law Firm regarding a lawsuit that was

improperly sent to the city and I communicated with the RDA solicitor regarding the Flats development.

2. City Manager

Due to Mr. Logan's absence there was no report at this time.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino announced to begin, the city would like to welcome any Spanish speakers and other non-English speakers that need assistance in the city matters to contact the city as needed, either in person, on the phone, or via our website. We want everyone to be able to share their questions and concerns. [foreign]. To begin, I gave everyone a copy of the update from Amtrak on the station. The platform at the Amtrak station itself is 80% complete. But the total project is 45% complete. I'd also like to make a note that the final inlet work around 3rd Avenue and roadwork reconstruction is currently scheduled for the end of the project. That brings me to wanting to update council on roadwork on coats. PA-American, as you remember, had to move the main water line along Coates Street because of the train station project. This work has been ongoing for several months. Today, the final paving started along Coates Street. That work will continue for a couple more days. As you know, PA-American paves curb to curb when they open the road in the city. So this work, the paving, will continue on Third Ave headed west, and then starting at 415 Coates Street to the intersection of Graham, and then moving up towards Blackhorse Hill Road. Again, that work should be complete by Wednesday, pending weather.

Other PA-American projects ongoing in the city include permanent paving restoration between 8th and 13th Ave on Stirling and Walnut Street. That should be done by the end of October. And there's also work on going on Charles Street between Church and Strode Ave, where they were placing the sewer main. Also, Pico's continuing to work here on Third Avenue in MLK Drive. That project is ongoing, and we don't have a paid schedule yet. I'd also like to let Council know a little over a week ago, we learned that a sinkhole had formed Harlan Drive heading up towards Elmwood Gardens. What happened was the stormwater pipe broke. It took us a little while to get our engineers down there to be able to look at it. But in fact, the stormwater pipe has a break in it, which then caused the sinkhole. Probably the storms that came a couple of weeks ago contributed greatly to that. So we are currently waiting for additional estimates on the work. We have one in hand right now, and we're waiting for additional estimates. So I will let you know what that repair cost will be.

I'd also like to let Council know because there's been a lot of public kind of outcry and people coming to the city regarding Regency Park Apartments. The city did conduct rental inspections at Regency Park Apartments, many of which have been several years out of date. And the city is currently communicating with the property maintenance company about the required repairs and the timeline that those repairs need to be made in. I'd also like to just give a couple of updates coming from our Public Works department. With the help of the police department, thankfully, they were quickly able to help us inventory our streets that were needing signage for trucks and no-through traffic signs. So the Public Works department has ordered those signs. We are waiting for them to come in, and once they do, they will be installed. You also may have noticed throughout the city, Public Works has been clearing trees, not only trees that fell during the storm but other trees that have been found that were either dead or needed to be trimmed and this is all for safety purposes throughout

the parks, throughout the city itself. So that work is ongoing. In addition, Public Works is preparing for fall and winter activities already. And that includes kind of inventory and equipment and making sure that that equipment is prepared and doing a project inventory as well.

As I mentioned in the last council meeting, a Philadelphia artist came to the city. His name is Calo Rosa. He held a focus group right here in this room with several youth and youth leaders, including the Bridge Academy. And everybody got to meet him. He got to meet everybody else more importantly and everybody kind of got to draw their vision for Ash Park and share that with him. And it was a great discussion that happened. It was kids of all ages and all experience levels who were here, and he'll be sharing his initial design with that group, and they'll have a chance to give some input as well. So we're really, really grateful to have him as part of our Ash Park project.

I'd also just like to let Council know that last week, Greg Vietri contacted me, and he generously donated a beautiful picture of a historic image of the Coatesville train station from early 1940s, probably. And he's donated it to the city and hopefully, we'll find a perfect place for it soon. And last but not least, I just want to congratulate Vincent Miles again on a great job. We had our Abdula Park Fitness Center ribbon cutting, and then last weekend, the FitFest. It's so wonderful to see so many people showing up at the fitness court and working out. And I'm sure Ms. Allen can talk a little bit more about the day itself, but there's been a lot of support. Everybody in the city has shown up, and it's just been wonderful to see.

4. Finance Department

Mrs. Arthur explained the circle squares. In front of you is the usual circle-square report that we're all familiar with are just over halfway through the year. And as you can see from the circle here, we are fairly relative to the budget and are where we would expect to be at this time of the year. We have had a couple of unexpected costs that have come up, but have been able to manage them, have been able to manage the costs with other savings. We will continue to work with all the departments to manage the cost, and we'll monitor our revenues and expenses closely. And as I said in my previous, it's short and sweet.

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

My name is Khadijah Al Amin, 1110 East Lincoln Highway. First, I'd like to say I come to this podium for a specific reason. When I come here, I'm no longer Councilwoman Al Amin. I'm a city resident, taxpaying resident, Khadijah Al Amin. And I come here because the issue I come about is personal. I have to say in the last couple of weeks, the city has done a phenomenal job with the state citations on my neighbor. However, he's still not complying. It's unfortunate. He'll hit and miss stuff. Do a piece, but not all, cut the front grass, cut a piece of the back. Part of the grass in the back has never been cut this year. The flower beds, the weeds are up again. None of the shrubbery was trimmed except the shrubbery that runs on the property line between him and I. And he only trimmed-- some, it looks like he snapped it because it's not a clean cut. And he either took what he trimmed and threw it in his yard, but the stuff that runs predominantly down the property line, again, second time, he threw the clippings in my yard. The fence on the west side, still falling. I mean, going eastbound, still falling, stuff going through it, around it. The big tree, that's the major tree, and in my opinion, it's not a matter of if it falls, it's when it falls. That has not been addressed. It appears like it's rotting from the inside out. It also has dead wood. The garage that was damaged during the

storm, that hasn't been touched. There's still wires hanging from the side of the garage, the fence in between my yard and his yard. And I can only touch what's on my side. So the weeds and the ivy and the poison that grows up from his side over to my side, I can't really get control of it because I can't address it from the roots. I can only touch the portion that comes over the side of the fence on my property. So I'm hoping that the city sees that these more regular citations just aren't doing the trick either, that they will resort to the last two options in the ordinance, which are requesting five days jail time, which I'm not necessarily for that. He doesn't clean it up there, he couldn't clean it up in jail. I don't know if that would send a message to him or not, or that the city goes in and cleans it up because-- I don't know. You should take the money that he's paying on the fines and just pay somebody to clean the yard up, but he won't do it. I think he's trying to send the city a message and me that he's going to do what he wants, when he wants, how he wants.

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Special Events

There were no special events announced at this time.

Council Comments

Ms. Al Amin thanked everybody for coming out. And I'd like to piggyback off of what our assistant city manager said. The ribbon cutting for the fitness center was really nice, and it was a decent turnout. I wasn't out for the second event, but it was a really nice turnout. And so I was happy that I was able to be there. And I'm glad that our numbers are still online with where they should be, even though we had some little surprise bills. So thank you so much for that. And I just hope that everybody has a good remainder of the night and safe trips home.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone, for coming out. Since she's no longer the best ever assistant city manager, because she put me on the spot. [laughter] I did one time. I did [inaudible]. Yeah, Saturday, we had to fit our first inFit Festival at Abdula Park. And it was a great time to be out. Sue was there. A lot of other gyms came out. And just to be able to work out in the park, like underneath this sun and just being there, the vibe there was just so great. Everyone enjoyed their self that was there. We had the truck blends and things, the food trucks. So he was selling his nutritional smoothies or booster shots and stuff. So everyone really, really did enjoy themselves. I wasn't working out. I'm sure you all can tell. [laughter] But I want to thank you all for coming out and have a great week. Oh, and there is special events because we're having first Fridays and then after first Fridays is Music in the Park. So tell everyone because we need you out to help support our city.

Ms. Scamuffa thanked everybody, for coming out this evening. I was hoping we'd have a bigger turnout tonight just to start packing the room with our residents, start shooting out the emails and spreading the word to people. It'd be nice to see the room full at some point, again, with the exception of when there's just a problem. I do have a question though, Ms. Roberta, for you. And anybody else here as well, really. Has anybody noticed in front of the library the huge waves along the bicycle lane? They seem to be getting worse in the road. If you look in front of the library, if you're heading west as you approach the library, you can't miss it. The road is going like this. And it concerns me because I don't know what's going on underneath there, but in my opinion, it's been progressively getting worse. So if you happen to cruise by in your journeys, check it out and see what you think. Anyway, again, thank you. And I hope you all have a great week, great night, and stay blessed.

Vice President Green announced the First Friday is September 6th. But music in the park is directly following First Fridays. First Fridays has been so wonderful. We've got rained out, I think, twice on the music, so hopefully this one will be fine. But thank you all for coming out. We had a wonderful event last Sunday with the street dedication to Ms. Hunt's husband. This is wonderful. So well attended. A lot of people, I tell you, thank you to [inaudible]. Thank you, chief. Thank you. Great job. We had everything under control outside. Rich was outside, right? I told him he didn't stay very long, but he was outside. But there's so much going on in the city of Coatesville. Like Ms. Scamuffa said, I wish we had more people in attendance. They do only come when there's a problem. But if people could just come out and just hear of the many projects-- we have a grocery store that's going to be coming real soon. Our assistant manager just went over. The track work is 80% done. The overall train station is 45% done. That's amazing news. So there's a lot of things going on. And I think that when you're on social media, social media shows you a lot of negative things about the city. But there's a lot of positive things going on in the city. So just keep us in prayer as a city, not for us, but the city as a whole, that we can come together and appreciate and work together, that things will continue to progress and move forward. So thank you all and have a wonderful night.

Adjournment

Ms. Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.