



City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA  
Council Chambers  
Monday, January 13, 2025

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

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

President Lavender Norris announced Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin and Councilwoman Charrisse Allen would not be in attendance this evening.

### **Approved Minutes**

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve December 9, 2024 meeting minutes; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Approval of Accounts Payables**

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

### **Presentations**

There were no presentations at this time.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **1. Chester County Tax Increase**

Mr. Logan explained this is just more of an awareness to city council. I'm sure the news has basically spread over the holidays of the tax increase that the county commissioners have decided on. We have provided council members with the actual article in the local news. It kind of gives a kind of a scenario, depending on your housing situation, what the increases will look like. We do recommend that our community here in the City of Coatesville reads this article. The increase is pretty substantial, I would say. And certainly, I think it will have an impact on all property owners. So I just wanted to provide you all with that information.

#### **2. Eagle Disposal**

Ms. Cosentino explained back in December, the council approved our 2025 fee schedule, which included an increase for our solid waste per our contract with Eagle Disposal. Also, in our contract, we are required to notify them by December 31st of the year prior that we intend to extend our contract. So this is actually our first contract extension with Eagle Disposal. We have one additional contract extension available to us for this contract. But we

just wanted to include the letter in the packet to make you aware that we did extend that contract, and it will go from June 25 until June 26.

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

There were no citizens comments on regular action items only.

Vice President Green motioned to close citizens hearings on regular action items; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a motion to reappoint: Crystal Arnold to the Parks and Recreation Commission for the term 2025-2029; Jeff Deacon to the Historical Commission for the term 2025-2027; Joseph Hamrick to the Zoning Hearing Board for the term 2025-2027; Tyrone Harley to the Redevelopment Authority for the term 2025-2029; Clarence Norris to the Planning Commission for the term 2025-2029; John Ross to the Historical Commission for the term 2025-2027; Bill Shaw to the Planning Commission for the term 2025-2029; and Bill Shaw to the Firefighter Pension, Non-Uniform Pension and Police Pension Commission for the term 2025-2026

Ms. Turner Green motioned to reappoint Authority, Boards, Commission and Committee members; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion.

Mrs. Hunt stated I have a comment. I've said many times over that I feel when they are either appointed or reappointed, they should at least come for a council meeting. As a council, we oftentimes get disgusted when things aren't being done. They're not making reports to us. We don't know this or we don't know that. And why should they feel that they need to give us a report that we're putting them in these positions with them not even coming to the night that they're being reappointed? Some of these people, I don't know. And just to take time out to come and say hello, give us an overview of what you've been doing and why you feel you should be appointed or reappointed to those positions, I just think it's a matter of respect for the people that are putting you in, and if you don't feel the need to come, at least for that, to get appointed, then why should you feel like you need to give us reports throughout the year? So I'm going to stand on what I believe in. So you don't even have to poll me. I'm voting no for all of them for tonight because I just feel that they should come make an effort to at least - Somehow, we got away from it. And then I just think it's a matter of respect for the people that you want to vote you into a position. That's just my comment. Ms. Scamuffa stated I agree with Ms. Hunt. I mean, every time I was appointed, whether I needed to be here or not, I was here. I took my responsibility serious, and I do think it's important that they show up.

Mr. Logan explained and we can make that request. Since I've been here, I do not know that they are intended, to my understanding-- Mrs. Hunt stated and somehow, we got away from it, and I'm not sure exactly when. President Lavender Norris said I don't know when it was, but at one point, they had to be here. And then, I don't know, if I say about three or four years ago-- Mrs. Hunt stated probably longer than that because James has been here five. [crosstalk] President Lavender Norris stated it changed. I don't know what was going on that it changed. Mrs. Hunt stated I know that it changed because I didn't believe it. And I still don't believe it. Vice President Green asked was this something we voted on? Ms. Mowday explained I could probably find it in the minutes, but it was discussed. Because sometimes

people work the nights and they couldn't make it here or there were times that they came and then it wasn't voted on and then they had taken off work to come in so they had stopped it. Mrs. Hunt said I just think that's excuses. I think that's excuses. And I just don't think we should continue to accept subpar because when you accept subpar, then that's what you're going to receive back in return. So I just think we need to step up and be accountable for what we want them to be accountable to.

President Lavender Norris explained so, for the people that are listed that we're looking at this evening, have they been fulfilling their duties? Have they been coming to their required meetings, their positions? Have they been accountable for their positions as far as you know? Mr. Logan answered yes, I would say so. Yeah. I mean, all of them indicate attendance. Jeff Deacon, if any of you know him, he's the Historical commission. But every other individual on here listed that they do attend all the meetings. I mean, we can certainly reach out to them and make that request. I think some of them probably don't even know that they have that option to come. [crosstalk]. President Lavender Norris suggested maybe we can reach out to them and ask them to come to the next council meeting. So council can add a name and a face together. And if they have anything to say or if we have something we want to say, just invite them to our next meeting so council can add a name and a face together. And if they have anything to say or if we have something we want to say to them just invite them to our next meeting.

Mrs. Hunt stated I think we should table this section until they come. That's what I think. Because they may be very well fulfilling their obligations to their different committees or commissions or whatever it is because that's what they're appointed to do. But again, those committees, those organizations are not even reporting to us like they should. And I think if they come and they know, "Okay, this is your obligation. Maybe no one has ever told you that you need to make reports to council, that you need to make sure council is informed of the steps that you're making." So I just feel like we should table them until they all come. And of course, some of them on here, I do know. So I know that they're good people. It's not a matter of attacking their character as to whether they're good people, whether they're not good people. I just think you have to-- when you're going for a job interview, you can't say, "Hey, I can't show up, but I can do the job." Vice President Green said it's like putting an envelope on a voicemail. Mrs. Hunt said yeah, yeah, right. So I would just like to see us go back and putting some principles into things that we're doing and not just doing things because.

Mr. Logan said right. I certainly agree that they should be in attendance, and we should have an opportunity to meet with them. Unfortunately, we have meetings scheduled this month for both the planning commission and zoning. And we have action items on the zoning committee, which will require that those members to vote on his own issues there. Mrs. Hunt said well, then they just need to postpone their meeting[crosstalk] Vice President Green said our meeting is before their meeting. Well, our meeting is before their meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Logan asked so I mean, if you want me to attend the meetings, I guess my question would be if they attended the meeting, would we vote them in? Mrs. Hunt said I don't see no reason why we wouldn't vote them in. I don't see anything wrong with anybody on this list. That's not my issue at all. My issue is coming before council. Vice President Green said bringing the processes back, yeah. Mrs. Hunt stated bringing the processes back, putting the

respect back where it should be. We couldn't just hire you as our city manager off of a letter or a resume and then say, "Hey, come to work." So I just think that we need to start putting some structure back, and we'll get some better results of what we want and what we expect. But if we don't put it out there and they're not aware, then, "Hey, what--" Yeah. Put, put my name in, I'll-- They appoint me. They may have things-- I'm sure they have things on their agenda that they need to get done. Mr. Logan asked well, I guess, again, my question is, can we vote on this? And what we will do is make sure that they are at the next meeting. Mrs. Hunt replied that's what we always do. That's what we always do. We make provisions for them. And I'm not talking about this section. We make provisions to make it easy and okay for who they are. And I think it's time that we stop doing that. Mr. Logan stated and I agree with that. I'm just saying that-- Mrs. Hunt suggested, and I'm only one vote, but my suggestion stays that we table this section until they can come to our next meeting. That's my suggestion.

President Lavender Norris asked I don't know if you're aware or not, but with both zoning and planning and having matters coming up for vote, are they time-sensitive? Mr. Logan answered I think the zoning one is very time-sensitive. Vice President Green asked when does their term actually end? Ms. Mowday replied December 31st. And with zoning, we just lost Spartacus, so there's only-- Vice President Green stated Oh, good to know. So they've not had any meetings before then? Ms. Mowday replied none. President Lavender Norris asked they meet once a month, right? Mr. Logan replied yes. Vice President Green stated this shouldn't have happened, we should have done this in December. Mr. Logan said I don't think we can do it in December. Ms. Mowday explained we did have it before in December, and they said to put it in January because they were still in term. And where council has changed hands, like Fran came in last year, previous, that way, the old council's not voting new and the new council members that are in January are voting for the new members for their new terms. Vice President Green stated well, I think that if their term expires in December, this is unfortunate. If they're voted in, the new council, or if they did not want them, some of the terms are two years, they would have the opportunity to change that. But I think that it should be in the December agenda going forward so that we don't have this type of issue. To that, I agree with you, Ms. Hunt. they should be [inaudible] and they should write a letter. Some of them did write letters. President Lavender Norris stated I think they all do on their application for reappointment. Okay. So let's-- Vice President Green said you see they can't, and that's the crazy part is that if you look in front for reappointment in November and October, so these are just—Ms. Mowday stated they were sent out to the members in September or October. Mrs. Hunt said so they should have been before us.

President Lavender stated okay. So let's move forward. Either we vote it up or vote it down and if necessary we do our poll. Ms. Turner Green asked so what would happen [crosstalk]? Mr. Logan explained well, we have a motion right now to either approve or not. If you want to change that to table it, then you can have a motion to table. Ms. Turner-Green asked if we table it-- if we table it what would be-- I guess, what would be the consequences of not attending for the next meeting? President Lavender Norris asked that's time-sensitive. Mr. Logan replied well, I mean, I don't know. I don't know if we've ever been in this position before, so I'm going to have to check with my solicitor. But I think if we are saying that-- I mean, unless their positions are okay for them to take action, then they will just take action on the work that is on this agenda for them. If not, then they wouldn't be able to take action.

Again, I don't know if there's anything that-- at this time, I don't know if there's anything that the planning commission would be taking action on. Ms. Cosentino announced there's currently no action items on the planning commission agenda. There is a zoning hearing board hearing scheduled for January 22nd. Vice President Green asked can they reschedule? Mr. Logan replied well, the hearing is just as a hearing. They don't take action on anything there. Ms. Cosentino replied they do. There's an actual hearing scheduled with a-- it's the gas station. Yes. And that hearing has been scheduled. There is a timeline associated with that. I'm not familiar enough with it to know if we have wiggle room. But I do know that there are significant costs associated with rescheduling and hearing board hearings. Ms. Scamuffa asked is Spartacus already gone off of the board? Mr. Logan replied yes. [silence] President Lavender Norris stated I don't know. Either the solution is we have them come to the next meeting, introduce themselves to us. We introduce ourselves to them. Or we just vote now and say yea or nay. Vice President Green explained the planning to make the zoning hearing has a [inaudible] I guess it's for Munches for the—President Lavender Norris said for the gas station. Vice President Green said oh, it's for the gas-- That's a lot of money. President Lavender Norris explained they want to raise it and rebuild it. That's where they wanted to change the setbacks, the whole footprint there. Vice President Green said that's the gas station? And you're saying it can't be rescheduled? Mrs. Hunt explained I'm not saying-- I don't want to see it voted down to say, "No. We're not going to appoint these people." I just want it to be tabled to our next meeting and give them a chance to come in. I'm not saying I'm not going to appoint them. That's not my point at all. My point is that you take responsibility. At least show the council your face.

Vice President Green said before you come to the podium and say I want to be reappointed to—Mrs. Hunt replied yeah. And even can give a little synopsis of what they've done and why they feel they should be reappointed and what do we have to look forward to in the future. That's what I'm saying. I'm not saying, "No voting down and we're not going to appoint them." No. That's not what I'm saying at all. And again, that's just my opinion. I'm one person. Vice President Green said so this is not for the Munchies store. This is for the gas station. Ms. Cosentino replied this is for 652 East Lincoln Highway. But the hearing has been scheduled. Vice President Green said that's what I was saying You said it would be a great expense to reschedule it? Ms. Cosentino explained Zoning hearing boards require public notice. They require posting.

Mrs. Hunt said it's the same as council. If we have to change the meeting, we have to post. We have to do all that paperwork. So it's no different, right? Ms. Cosentino explained they actually post the property, physically, in addition to what we do for council meetings. Ms. Scamuffa asked if Mr. Hamrick could operate at that meeting as an interim until he's reappointed, just for that meeting? Even though he's already on it without being officially appointed? Vice President Green asked if he's the only one. Ms. Scamuffa replied yeah. Him and Charles. But Charles isn't up for reappointment. [crosstalk] if he could act as a temporary. Ms. Scamuffa asked as temporary until the next meeting. That I don't know. I don't know. President Lavender Norris explained really, the only one that at this point matters is the zoning because they have everything scheduled. The rest of them, it's nothing pressing. Ms. Mowday explained in the past, they have. In the past they have represented them until they've been appointed because there's nobody else in that position. Should they have been in that position until they've been reappointed?

Vice President Green said so rather than rescind the motions, I think that we could rule to just vote it down to-- I mean, I'm not telling anybody how to vote, but we can poll. President Lavender Norris sated or rescind. Yeah. You can rescind the motion and table it and put it on the agenda and let them know they have to be present for the vote next meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. And those that are in position now just continue on in their position until we vote again. Mr. Logan explained because these committees are residents, they're volunteers. In the event that they cannot make the hearing on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hunt said then they put somebody else. Put somebody else. Put somebody that can be here.

Vice President Green said that they would have to come to the meeting and present their desire to be-- I agree with Ms. Hunt, I think there should be-- Mrs. Hunt stated we've just been doing haphazard too long. Mr. Logan stated right. But I think, with all due respect-- Mrs. Hunt said if we keep making concessions, we keep saying, "Okay, we want to do this, but--" or, "We're going to do this if, we can. We're going to do this--" How about if we're able to-- let's just set a standard. Mr. Logan explained no, I'm not arguing that. I think, with all due respect, that we should ease into this because they haven't been informed that this is what they were supposed to do. Again, when I started, this is the first time I've ever heard that. I was supposed to attend in the meetings. I mean, they attend the meetings. We report out. I report out to the activities of the commissions of the committees, but I never knew that they had to attend. Vice President Green stated yeah. I'm not sure of how long it was, but I remember when Tiniera to here. The same thing with Ajené. They all came. I don't know if it was something that they were informed that they no longer have to come, but I think that should have come. I think that it should always be like that. President Lavender Norris stated so let's just poll, vote it up, vote it down, whatever it is or rescind. Who made the motion. Ms. Turner-Green stated I made the motion. Ms. Turner-Green and Ms. Scamuffa rescinded their motion. Anyway. I'm sorry, Mrs. Turner-Green and Mrs. Scamuffa rescinded. Mrs. Green and Mrs. Hunt tabled.

Ms. Cosentino asked Madam President, can I just offer a possible suggestion to appoint temporarily until the next meeting? To appoint these members temporarily until the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting so that we can continue to conduct business? Vice President Green replied yeah, that doesn't make any sense to the point of temporary without them-- Mr. Logan explained but I can still conduct the business without the reappointment. But it's just there in the meantime. Vice President Green asked if they've already had a meeting this month. Ms. Cosentino stated they did not. The Planning Commission is scheduled for Wednesday. But we don't have any action items, so we wouldn't be meeting. Planning always meets the Wednesday after the first council meeting. Vice President Green stated yeah. I don't see appointing a temporary. Ms. Turner-Green asked what you're saying is you sit in the seat as an incumbent. Vice President said yeah. But then you would have to consider a motion to reappoint. You're saying now to reappoint them temporary. I think that might be an issue because that's not [inaudible]. I just don't understand appointing them temporary and then going back. The only one that has action is the zoning here. Everyone else should be fine till the 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Cosentino suggested temporarily appointing Joseph Hamrick to the Zoning board until the next council meeting. Mr. Logan said yeah, but that is not what Mrs. Hunt is asking for. Can't just vote two or three in. [crosstalk] President Lavender Norris explained because they're still not here. Even if we said temporary, they're still not present now, and

that's where the issue is. The fact that they're not. Vice President Green asked when there was a hearing on the 9th, do they vote directly after the hearing on that action item, on that specific thing? Ms. Scamuffa explained that's what it was like when I was on the hearing board. Ms. Cosentino explained and there's certain timelines with the zoning hearing board. The city has deadlines, and I'm not sure what that date is for this particular hearing, how close we are to that deadline. It's typically within, I think, 90 days. A hearing needs to be scheduled once that application has been made, and I'm not sure how close we are to that 90-day deadline.

Vice President Green said okay. The four-year terms-- I mean, can we separate the two-year terms and the four-year terms to one to two years? President Lavender Norris replied no, we've already rescinded and motioned for table. So, either we're going to take-- at this point, we're either voting on table because we had a motion and a second for tabling. So we need to vote on that because we rescinded our ability to perform the reappointment. Mr. Logan stated right. But I didn't let the poll council rescind it . We just have it-- In a motion. President Lavender Norris stated a motion made by Councilwoman Turner-Green and Councilwoman Scamuffa. Ms. Turner Green stated and so essentially [crosstalk] understanding her kind of temporary appointment. It could be not to kind of just feel all the resentment [crosstalk]. Mrs. Hunt stated Oh, I'm done with what I had to say. I'm one person-- Ms. Turner-Green stated because I think we believe that we have to set it to a standard and everyone has to meet that standard. But at this point, that has not been communicated. So if it's something that we could appoint temporarily so we can still pick up the business and we could get out that messaging to say, "This is the new standard that we're--" Mrs. Hunt stated that's the thing. It's not a new standard. It's a standard that has been overlooked, a standard that somehow council got away from. And even the people that's been in these committees, they know they had to come before council before. So it's not like it's something they didn't know or that this is something foreign that we're just doing. It's just a common courtesy to the people that you're asking to either put you in a position or hire you or whatever. And to just think you don't have to show up, you don't have to show your face, you don't have to give us a reason why we should appoint you to this committee, quite a statement. [inaudible] you already know what my belief is, so yeah. The rest of you got four more people, do what you want to do, but that's how I feel about it. And nothing's going to change how I feel about that. But you guys [inaudible] so begin on that. President Lavender Norris stated okay. So first, let's do this. Mr. Logan, poll counsel for rescinding because we are not going-- we're going in circles now. So let's go back to-- poll council for the rescinding, please.

Ms. Turner-Green rescinded the motioned to reappoint Authority, Boards, Commission and Committee members; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion to rescind passed 5-0.

Vice President Green motioned to table reappointment of Authority, Boards, Commission and Committee members; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion tabled 5-0.

2. Receive and consider a motion to approve the Natural Lands billing rates

Vice President Green motioned to approve the Natural Land billing rates; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Receive and consider the disposition of records in accordance with the schedules and procedures as set forth in the Municipals Records Manual approved December 16, 2008.

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve the disposition of records in accordance with the schedules and procedures as set forth in the Municipals Records Manual approved December 16, 2008; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Logan explained this is a resolution, annual resolution that requires the City of Coatesville and I'm just going to read it because it's more of a financial resolution. We're asked by virtue of resolution number 2014-16 adopted August 11th, 2014, the City of Coatesville declare its intent to follow the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in The Municipal Records Manual approved December 16th, 2008. And whereas, in accordance with Act 428 of 1968, each individual act of deposition shall be approved by resolution by the governor [inaudible] municipality. So again, this is for the recordkeeping of the city. I think the city's minutes as well. Does that include the records? Ms. Mowday replied no, the minutes are forever. The ordinances, resolutions are forever. It's more like licenses, permits. You have the old checks, financial statements from seven years. Most is beyond seven years. Yes. Most records are seven. And like police, a lot of police is lifetime. It's just to follow the municipal law record of the record retention. There's a manual that you have to file for certain years.

4. Receive and consider a motion to approve consultant training from Aspirant Consulting Group to a designated employee designed to guide the Police Department through the accreditation process in the amount of \$19,500.

Ms. Turner-Green motioned to approve consultant training from Aspirant Consulting Group to a designated employee designed to guide the Police Department through the accreditation process in the amount of \$19,500; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Chief Laufer explained this is in reference to what we had spoken about in an exec session several sessions ago with the police department's goal of pursuing accreditation through the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission run by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police. Only 10% of police departments in the Commonwealth are accredited. So it's a sign that our standards meet those that are deemed to be for a professional organization. Our insurance companies will certainly be happy to see this. And I think it's a worthy goal for the department to pursue and for the city to pursue. The number that's mentioned here, the 22.5, we've actually been able to get that down to 19.5. So by taking some of the responsibilities on our own and alleviating some of that responsibility, some of that work from the accreditation consulting group, so we're at 19.5. And so we're excited to begin this process. Sergeant Boyle will be our lead person and he's already beginning to work on it, at least to do the groundwork that's necessary for us before they even begin their process. So we're excited about it and appreciate council's support, and I think it'll be good for the city.

5. Receive and consider a motion authorizing the City Manager to execute the Cooperation Agreement between the City, IDG Development and New Heritage Properties for the administration of Business in our sites Grant and the Non-Discrimination Document

Vice President Green motioned to authorize the City Manager to execute the Cooperation Agreement between the City, IDG Development and New Heritage Properties for the



administration of Business in our sites Grant and the Non-Discrimination Document; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Logan explained this is a standard Cooperation block groups agreement as part of the [inaudible] flats. The city and IDG group, and I think there are two properties listed here. The agreement outlines what our responsibilities are. And this is also part of the BIOS grant that we are the principal of. So it's really a general understanding of agreement that sets forth what our responsibilities are for the grantee and development.

6. Receive and consider a motion to approve Barbacane, Thorton & Company for the audit year ending December 31, 2024

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve Barbacane, Thornton, & Company for the audit year ending December 31, 2024; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Vice President Green motioned to close action items; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

## Reports

1. Solicitor

Ms. Cosentino read the Solicitor's public report. He writes, "I have provided a more detailed attorney-client from legal court to council. Since the council's last meeting, I've communicated and continued to communicate with outside the council regarding land development matters. I have communicated and continued to communicate with outside the council regarding certain litigation matters. I reviewed and commented on a potential notice of violation. I worked with the City and Land Services regarding the Community Center property. I worked with the City and Cleveland-Cliffs attorney on certain steps that are required to be completed before the donation can occur. I drafted, mailed, and emailed a 15-day letter for the Flats Land Development Project. I worked with Andrew Mears and Ms. Braun for DCNR to complete the certification of compliance with bid requirements documents for the Ash Park Improvements Project. I communicated with PAWC and Jason Leonard regarding PAWC's Land Development Project. I reviewed a proposed agreement between the City IPG Development and New Heritage and provided feedback."

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan stated I don't have the report at this time. I just want to wish everyone a happy New Year. It's great to be back. And then we're looking forward to a wonderful 2025.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. The city is proud of the diversity of its residents, property owners, and business owners, and we welcome any non-English speakers to contact the city as needed, either in person on the phone or via our website. We welcome any opportunity to communicate, answer questions, and resolve issues. [foreign]. In December, the city submitted their 904 Recycling Grant for the year 2023. We reported 1,070 tons of residential recycling and 504 tons of commercial recycling. The Millview Basin Project is at completion. The final reports and reimbursements are being finalized as we speak with the county. As you heard in the solicitor report, the Ash Park bid package is being put together and all the final approvals are working to be in place as we speak. We have various funding

organizations, so each one must approve the bid package. So that takes just a little bit of time. We expect the bid package to be in front of council hopefully in February.

I also just want to share that we did post this on our website, but PECO reported rate increases for 2025. Electric customers can expect a 10% monthly increase and gas customers a 12.5% monthly increase in their bills. We do have links to the assistance programs that PECO and the American Water have for their customers on our website. I'll also share that there's road work planned on Charles Street from 5th Ave to 11th. K American Water is installing a new 16-inch water main. That work started today, and we will continue to put updates on our website as far as how long that work would last.

I'll also share that we've had several complaints, as I've mentioned in other reports, from Regency Park apartments and other rental apartments throughout the city. And we are moving forward and doing what we can to hold those property managers and owners accountable for inspections, any complaints that we've received, that type of thing. Towards the end of your council package, you'll see the year-end codes report. I just want to point out a few things. The code department is very proud of what they've accomplished in 2024. You'll see some comparisons with 2023 in the report, but I will note that in some cases, it's not comparing apples to apples because the data is really-- we started tracking a lot of data in 2024. So we'll have great comparisons next year for you. But this just kind of gives a little bit of a baseline. I'll note on page two, you'll see our rental licenses and inspections. This was a great year for inspections. We were very close to meeting our goal, which is the first time that that has happened. You'll see that number increase quite a bit over 2023. We're, like I said, very proud of what the code department was able to accomplish this year. On page three, you'll see that business privilege also increased not only the number, but the percentage as well. So we learned about a lot of new businesses in the city. So more business privilege licenses were created. The other important note about business privilege, you'll notice that the issued percentage is quite high. That is because this was the first year that we issued notices of violation and citations for business privilege. So we got quite a bit of response out of that. On page five, you'll see that code enforcement opened about 1,300 cases this year. I think it's important to note that 20 of those went to state citations. I'm sorry, last year. Thank you. [laughter] 20 of those went to state citations. So that's a pretty small percentage of the total 1,300. And I think that that shows that the instant tickets and starting off with the smaller warnings really is effective. A lot of times, it's just that first initial notice of violation and people understand that they need to do something. And it very rarely gets to the point where we need to issue a state citation, which I think is good news.

Some important lessons learned from 2024. We've made some changes to our notices of violation. They'll be more informative, referencing our ordinances and giving corrections that are needed so that the state citation does not move forward. We've also learned that it's very important to be proactive in sharing information with residents and property owners so that they understand what their responsibilities are. So we are working to do that in 2025. And we also learned that it's important to be consistent with those notices of violation and citations just across the board. So you will see the code department doing more of that this year. Trash, property maintenance, these are our top two offenders in code enforcement. And as of fairly recently, we're adding abandoned vehicles to that list. Those things will be looked at throughout the year, but moving forward in 2025, we'll be taking kind of a seasonal approach

to targeted code enforcement. So in these winter months, on top of snow and snow removal, we'll also be looking at vacant properties, vacant property registrations, and really making a concerted effort to look at that as opposed to trying to do everything all at once. And as we go throughout the year, I will give updates on what the code department is focusing on at that time. And that is it.

Mr. Logan announced on January the 27th, our next council meeting, that is when the swear in of the fire chief happens. Thank you.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. The complete statistical report is in your council packets tonight. Just a couple of key highlights. Calls for service generated through the Chester County 911 Center for the month of December was 2,156. That was down slightly from November where we saw 2,201. And then calls received through our front desk for the month of December was 1,051 down slightly from 1,149 in November. Another interesting statistic was we had zero Narcan administrations for the month of December, which Lieutenant Ollis will back me up on this. We would have to really go back and research the last time we had no Narcan administrations in a month. So hopefully, we can continue that trend into 2025. We did six car seat checks and installations provided by our certified car seat technicians. We also had officer participation at the Coffee with the Chief at the arches for December on December the 4th. We took the month of January off because the first Wednesday fell on a holiday, so we are resuming Coffee with the Chief beginning in February, where on February 5th, we'll be having Coffee with the Chief at the neighborhood center on Lincoln Highway. So it's sort of a different venue for us. They had reached out to us and asked us if we would consider and we thought it might be an opportunity to outreach to a different segment of the population here in the city. And so that's where we'll be on the 5th, and everybody is welcome certainly to attend that first Coffee with the Chief in February.

In addition, we mentioned at the last council meeting, but since we are talking about December's highlights, we did have our Shop with a Cop event once again on December 14th, Saturday the 14th, and we had 50 kids that were provided to us through the guidance counselors in all of our school district. That's how we generated the list of the 50, along with some additional input from some other members and council members. But most of them came to us through the school district as children that were either needy or had excelled and also could use a help for Christmas. So the program was very well attended. I know there were a lot of hands that go into making that happen, but just a special shout out to Lieutenant Ollis who he had sort of handed the program over to Corporal Antonucci for two years, and then Paul left us, retired. And so Roger had to pick the mantle back up and run with it. And he did an excellent job as always. So a special shout out to Lieutenant Ollis for organizing that for 2024. [applause]

And then upcoming or-- well, one other additional one was the announcing the retirement of Detective Bill Carter. He retired effective January 1st. Sorry to see Detective Carter go. He was very well liked and respected by the community, and we certainly enjoyed his time with the city. But he has retired from the Coast Guard. He's retired from the state police. And now he retired from the sheriff's department, and now he's retired from us. He says he's done.

[laughter] But we'll see what his wife has to say about that. But we wish him the best. And then once again, as I spoke about earlier, we are really excited for 2025 to complete the PLEA Act certification and become an accredited police department here in Pennsylvania. So it's about a year-long process. So hopefully, 2025 will work towards that goal throughout the year. And hopefully, by the end of the year, we will be officially recognized and accredited. And I think that will be great for the city.

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

Good evening. I've sat here long enough and I've studied when other people have come up to try to remember the etiquette. So forgive me if I don't get it quite correct. I want to acknowledge City Council President Lavender Norris, Vice President Green, Councilwoman Scamuffa. I was practicing [inaudible]. Councilwoman Hunt. Councilwoman Turner-Green, our city council manager, Logan. I was really practicing assistant city manager Cosentino, And certainly, Chief Laufer. Okay, and Lieutenant Ollis. I am here this evening because it would be remiss of me not to be here this evening, and just to say thank you. On Friday pass, we had the installation of the new NAACP. Officers were listening to your turn, and I was installed as the president. I'm excited for the journey. I'm excited to work closely and differently with many of you. And I wanted to say thank you. Thank you for allowing us to use the beautiful space for the evening. I truly believe that it was an excellent, glorious evening. I wanted to say a special thank you to President Lavender Norris. Thank you for your call. It meant the world to me that you were [crosstalk]-- --and not feeling well, take the time now to just reach out to me to let me know that you wanted me here. I wanted to say thank you so very much to Vice President Green for being here, for ensuring that [inaudible]. There were so many people here, but it meant the world to me that you connected with me. And then for our city manager, Mr. Logan, who is here and actually shared remarks, I wanted to say thank you for being a part of our program. I don't even know if you knew you were going to be a part of the program, but no one could tell. And so I just wanted [inaudible] and then Lieutenant Ollis for having time for us to connect with each other. Thank you.

Susan Springsteen

Well, she's a tough act to follow. [laughter] So for the record, Sue Springsteen, I have a business at 190 West Lincoln Highway. And what I just want to say is I just want to thank you for how wonderful the downtown looked during Christmas. I know you had to put money in the budget to put the garland with the lights and the lamppost and everything, but it looked fantastic. And I can't tell you how nice it was to leave work when it was dark and look down 1st through 3rd and see how beautiful it looked and see Gateway Park. And I just wanted to thank you for that because --who are you pointing to? , it looked fantastic. And since I've been here, the city has-- I know we had the familiarity of trees and we missed that this year, but it just looked really, really beautiful. And I was just so proud of my city every time I drove by. I just wanted to say thank you.

Vice President Green motioned to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Special Events**

Mr. Logan announced on special events, these are not special events, but I just wanted to bring your attention to the calendar. That's a new addition in your package. Thanks to Ruth Ann for putting this together along with whoever is on the team who put this together. But I hope that this will be

something that you guys can look at that you can see. There's a lot of meetings in January, but these are admissions. These are committees, holidays, so on and so forth. And we'll continue to use this format and hopefully details like that. And then the last part is, of course, as I said in our December meeting, action items for 2024 are also included. So, this is a body of the work that you all have done since January 2024 to the end of the year. That's all in here for your reference as well. Ms. Mowday explained the pension boards will be in the calendar once they approve it, the other ones have approved these meetings for the year already. So, once they approve their dates, I'll put the new meetings in. And I'll try to remember zoning hearing as they come up, but they're not every month.

### **Council Comments**

Ms. Scamuffa thanked everyone for coming out tonight. 2025 is bringing about new change. It's the new year. To my residents here in the city, I think you're going to notice a lot of changes as we move along because council, again, functioning as one unit, as a team. We're trying to tighten up the ship here. Trying to make a better place for our residents, happy, safe, clean. You're going to start seeing a lot of changes, and it's not to cause turmoil in your lives. It's just to make things better for everybody. So just keep that in mind as we move along. We're just moving in a positive direction, and I'm really looking forward to it. So, here's to a great year coming to us. Thank you, and have a great night.

Ms. Turner-Green thanked everyone for coming out. Congratulations to the NAACP and the new president. Thank you, Ms. Springsteen for your comments. I appreciate your time. To my colleagues, even when you're not feeling well coming in. Much appreciated. Of course, the staff, you guys are wonderful and Have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt wished everyone a good evening. It's good to be here. It's good to be in a new year. I'm grateful for that. I was going to give a big kudos about the Christmas lights, but you did it for me. But I do want to just thank you. It looks so nice. Thank you so much. And also, for the sidewalks. I mean we worked hard to get those sidewalks at First Avenue repaired, and it really looks good and it looks safe again down there. So those things I'm grateful for. 2024 was a tough year for the Hunt family, but I'm grateful for my colleagues and the staff here who were wonderful, helping us get through what we had to get through. As of yesterday, it's been four months [the guy?] went on home, but we're just grateful. But now I'm asking you once again to keep our family in prayer. On Christmas Eve, my brother was diagnosed with stage IV inoperable liver cancer. And as of this past Friday, they informed us that within the next week, two at the max, he will be in hospice care. I just ask that you continue to pray for us. He is with me. My kids and I are taking care of him. I just ask that you please keep us, again, in your prayers. And one thing I know that no matter what comes, I trust God for it all. So, having a family like you included in my biological family, I'm just grateful. Thank you. My sister's coming in Friday from Florida. My brother's coming in from Chicago on Friday. I'll have family coming in this weekend to help. So, keep us in your prayers. Thank you. I'm sorry, Congratulations--to both of you for your reappointments.

Mrs. Green expressed to Mrs. Hunt, we will Definity being praying for you. Whatever we can do, whatever I can do. We spent a lot of time on voting. It's always hard to [inaudible] that. When you guys talking about it., I [inaudible]. [laughter] But it's good when we discuss an issue and come to a resolution. Everybody's point of view is necessary---and respected. And so, I just wanted to make that point. Because going forward in 2025, I vowed to be a better vice president that in the event that I'm attending any type of meeting or update, I will make sure that I come back and update because maybe the public is not aware. We all can't be in a meeting at the same time. So, when there's a

meeting that only a couple of us can attend, it's only right that the others are updated. And I know Mr. Logan does bring stuff back to [inaudible], reports and stuff, but I just feel that if I'm going to attend, it's my responsibility to make sure that [inaudible]. And I just wanted to vow that I will make a point of doing that this year. Chief, how long have we been doing Coffee with the Chief? Probably about 10 years, almost. And I say that to say that, all of a sudden now, all you hear is about Coffee with the Chief from everywhere. And I mean, I'm not saying that you invented it. But I just think that we try to put it on the map that the surrounding municipalities and everyone is really adding that to their agendas, making sure that their offering this Coffee with the Chief. You know what I'm saying? But we've been doing it and making it so popular that it's wonderful when people catch on, and everybody wants to do that. People are opening up their doors, wanting to host. It's been very successful. And we are innovators. What do they call them? What do they call those people [inaudible]? Trendsetters. And I just want to acknowledge that because you just hear it so much. I mean, even on national TV, they never talked about Coffee with the Cops and Coffee with the Chief. Now you just hear about it all the time. So, I just wanted to-- the same thing with Shop with a Cop. That has really caught on, and we've been doing that for about 18 years now, right? --2003, yeah. So I was so proud of our police department for their community policing and everything that is going on. And I got a fan for your-- I'm on your fan page. I got on because I share all the great things with the kids that are earning certificates and earning startup money for bank accounts. There's just so many things. The fact that the kids came out and wanted to help you guys shovel the police station parking lot was just awesome. And we had been trying and for many, many years, way back in the day, really pushing this community policing. And it's never really taken off Chief until you got here. And we've been talking about it back when I was in council in 2003. That was a big thing, but it just never took off. And I just wanted to thank you for doing that and bringing that to our city. So many people respect our cops. The children, the adults, the young adults, even the ones that get in trouble. They respect our cops. I just wanted to acknowledge that. And I'm just wish everyone a Happy New Year and the fact that 2025, we have a lot going on, guys. And we just need to be ready to move forward. Thank you all very much.

President Lavender Norris stated I just want to thank you all. I want you to know I appreciate you all. And yes, it is still football season. And yes, I am ready to go home. But I bless God for every one of you. Thank you so much for all you do. I love you all, and can I have a motion to adjourn because I got to go to bed.

### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.