

Minutes
City of Coatesville
Regular Meeting – 1 City Hall Place, Coatesville, PA
Council Chambers
Monday, December 9, 2024



Council Present: President Lavender-Norris, Vice President Carmen Green, Councilwoman Charrisse Allen, Councilwoman Khadijah Al Amin, Councilwoman Tiniera Turner-Green, and Councilwoman Fran Scamuffa
Council Absent: Councilwoman Villa Hunt
Staff Present: James Logan, City Manager; Roberta Cosentino, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Jessica Arthur, Finance Manager; 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 Council woman Hunt would not be in attendance.

Approved Minutes

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the November 25, 2024 meeting minutes; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the December 2, 2024 – Public Hearing minutes; Vice President Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payables

Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Presentations

1. Promotional Oath of Office – Officer Sam Snyder to Corporal

Corporal Sam Snyder was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Gregory Hines while his son, daughter and wife held the Bible.

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. Tonight, we have before you our latest promotion to the rank of Corporal of the Coatesville Police Department. Officer Snyder joined the department in June of 2015 as a part-time police officer. And then he was promoted to a full-time officer in March of 2020. Officer Snyder has been doing this full-time since March of 2020. And if you remember back in the spring, Corporal Antonucci left us for the West County Police Department, and that created a vacancy in our leadership position for the rank of Corporal. At that time, we didn't have an existing eligibility list for promotion from Officer to Corporal, so we administered a promotional test in the summer. Officer Snyder scored the number one on that promotional list, so he has earned the promotion to the rank of Corporal. Those of you who are familiar with Officer Snyder know that he's a graduate of the Coatesville School District at the high school, played football. And it really lends itself to the sense of our department being part of the community. When our officers were raised in this area, went to school in this area, graduated and have come back to serve the community. So

we're very fortunate to have our newly promoted Corporal Snyder here. So at this time, I'd like to have Judge Hines please come forward and administer the Oath of Office for the rank of corporal.

2. Street2Creek Initiative: Meagan Hopkins-Doerr, Penn State Extension and Shakira Davis, 2nd Century Alliance

Ms. Davis wished everyone a good evening, members of the City Council. I would like to introduce Meagan Hopkins, a dedicated and passionate representative of the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program. Meagan and I first connected in August during a meeting to address Coatesville's litter challenges, where she shared an initiative and impactful idea of the Street 2 Creek program. This program, successfully implemented in York, PA. It has proven to be an effective tool for educating communities about stormwater pollution and its impact on local water waste. By combining public art and environmental stewardship, the Street 2 Creek program raises awareness about how litter and runoff travel through storm drains, and eventually affect ecosystems like the Chesapeake Bay watershed of which Coatesville is a part of. Meagan brings a wealth of knowledge and a collaborative spirit to her work. Her enthusiasm for fostering cleaner, healthier communities through education and creative engagement is evident, and I believe her insights and experiences can help Coatesville adopt similar initiatives. So please join me in welcoming Meagan as she shares more about the Street 2 Creek program.

Ms. Hopkins thanked everyone. I am very excited about the possibility of having a Street 2 Creek program here. It is a mural arts education program. So you can see some of the images on the slides that will be shared. There are also images in those folders, both of the program in York, which is the only place that it's currently located. So this will be a separate second site for the Street 2 Creek program. And you will see a link to a website about the program that will expand and include murals and information about Coatesville should it be approved, which hopefully-- and that's why we're here. So just kind of going through things. The Street 2 Creek program is an educational-- a passive education program that involves the community. So what it is, is there's an opening for artists from the community to come up with designs for mural arts that'll be painted next to storm drains. Because a lot of people don't know that what goes into the drain ends up going directly to our creeks, causing all sorts of pollution and other issues within the Delaware river watershed. So this is just kind of passive education, as well as a celebration of those artists and murals and things like that. So once it opens up-- actually, next slide. So just kind of going through some of what that looks like. So you can see one of the York County artists came from-- she was one of the award winners from 2024.

In terms of timeline, the winter starts out with planning. So the first step being-- Shakira and I talked. There was interest because she is my local partner in terms of engaging community, things like that. It is hopefully getting approval from council for this project to happen here and then preparations. So we would go around, choose the potential sidewalks where those murals can be installed, propose those sidewalk locations, choose city council. Hopefully, you would select those that you think are appropriate so there's not going to be construction in the nearby future. There's not other issues that you can see going on there. And then, it moves into spring, which is when it opens up for a call to artists and putting together that judging panel from local community members, some with artistic backgrounds, some with other interests. Basically, they will judge those murals. There's a group of criteria that deals

with the messaging, design quality, and a couple of other categories. The top selected murals will be installed, painted by the artist in the summer. Before that happens, there's a little bit of city prep that needs to happen. Those are italicized in that list. So the site prep is power washing those streets and then laying down a base coat sealer. The artist will then paint on top of that approximately about a week later, based on your county's timeline. That'll be under 10th. There'll be some media will be invited to come talk to them. Residents will see what's happening. There will be volunteers, [master watch?] and steward's there to help facilitate this as it happens. Because it is painted right next to a street, that is one of the other things that's needed from council, various crews is setting up those tents, which, fortunately, 2nd Century Alliance has plenty of that we can use, and then safety barriers. So [Jodie?], my colleague in New York, recommends blocking off the lane that's closest to where that mural is being installed, just for the protection of the artist and just during installation. So once that is done, having those safety things removed, the ceiling is put on so that mural is essentially locked in place. If any damage happens, that's where we're just notified if it needs to be painted over, if the paint needs to be amended, fixed, things like that. There is an MOU that the artist will sign, saying that the rights for the mural-- they do not own the rights for the mural. So it goes on to the website. There's an announcement. There's celebrations. And then that fall is that celebration time. So assuming this all comes to pass, a tour with the public to talk about the importance of storm drains and water [health?], talking about the murals, looking at them, and then an award celebration. And hopefully, City Council will be there for, certainly, those celebrations and things that are going on.

In terms of those responsibilities, so what we want from the City of Coatesville is approval of the project. So time to think about it and then approve preferably in the winter so that we can get moving towards spring. Communication with Shakira and myself about sidewalks, about how the mural is going, just responding, communication. Approval of those sidewalk sites. The site prep that I mentioned, so that cleaning and sealant, pre-sealing, [inaudible], and then help with safety during the installation. Participation in awards and media. So that fun time where we get to say like, "Hey, wonderful things that are happening here in Coatesville." And then communication, if anything should happen to those murals where they need replacement, amendments, things like that. What we'll take care of is that planning. So project planning, the funding aspects, the material procurement. We're not asking for those things from the city, although you absolutely are a key crucial partner. For that, Pennsylvania American Water has promised to provide some of the funding for the initial material procurement and then the cash awards that winning murals will receive, the arts will receive.

The other thing is that we'll facilitate the installation and manage the art contest. So doing all of that back-end work and then problem solve as needed. This will be my first time running this. I'm very much thankful that Jodie and New York has already done this and agreed to share all of the things that she found as planning needs, potential issues, some of that. So I am relying on an SOP that Jodie put together. And then next slide. In terms of the other slide, the material feed, the artist provides some of their needs. So they provide the brushes and rollers that they'll need for the installation if they prefer knee pads. I did put an asterisk against that because if that's a need, a concern for somebody, we can certainly help out. Cleaning supplies. And then unassigned, we've already kind of talked about this and just figuring out some of those basic things like [inaudible] installations. You need paper towels, you need brooms, things like that.

Ms. Allen asked yes. How long do the [inaudible] become last [inaudible] like, five years or three years? What is the timeline for those murals to be [inaudible]? Ms. Hopkins replied Jodie-- so I'm relying on Jodie's information. She started the program in 2019. Her murals are still beautiful and still there with a couple of exceptions. One, the sidewalk was less than a year old in terms of the pavement going down, and so it hadn't fully sealed. And the mural just kind of didn't look good after a little bit. So that we ended up painting over and putting in another mural art installation. The others that have the skills in those kinds of things, they are still there and so incorporated into those tours, tourists, and part of the inpatient [setting?]. Does that answer your question? Vice President Green asked do the City get to see the murals, like, the pictures before? Ms. Hopkins replied absolutely. Yes, so this is-- we are happy to share as much information as you want. I never want to be a pest. So yes, as much involvement, including looking at the murals, being part of the judging panel, absolutely part of the celebration, yes. Vice President Green stated okay. Well, the reason I asked that is because I was looking at the proposed responsibility and the facilitating of the installation is not a city responsibility [inaudible], that's how you have it listed. Ms. Hopkins stated that's mostly just where the artist comes in, making sure the tent is there, making sure they have water, they have the materials, the painting supplies, talking to the artists in terms of what they need to do. So it's more that side is what I intended. President Lavender Norris asked so you want us to - excuse me - sweep, power wash, and install the base coat for the murals? Ms. Hopkins replied yes. Ms. Al Amin asked do you have an estimated cost of that, the base coat sealer, and the-- do you know what the cost of that is? Or you can get it? Ms. Hopkins replied I can definitely get it. I do not know. The numbers that I have from Jodie are from 2018, so I think it's more expensive. I didn't want to come with too-low estimates. If that becomes a problem, again, we can dip into that money from PA American Water to purchase that.

Discussion Items

1. Holiday Parking – December 16, 2024 – January 1, 2025

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. As custom has it, we generally block off a two-week period, the week or so leading up to Christmas and then the week between Christmas and New Year's for holiday parking on Lincoln Highway. So with the fact that Christmas falls on Wednesday, we kind of picked the 16th to the 1st to cover those weeks. So we will bag the old meters, and then the new meters will flash, "Free parking. Happy holidays." So if that's agreeable to council, we will make that happen.

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. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Regular Action Items

1. Receive and consider a motion to approve a Resolution approving the Liquor License Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. R 17062 (LID#50321) into the City of Coatesville from Honey Brook Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Ms. Al Amin motioned to approve the Resolution approving the Liquor License Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. R 17062 (LID#50321) into the City of Coatesville from

Honey Brook Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Jefferson explained just by way of background, this is an amendment to the agenda. We added it. Section 712.1 of the Sunshine Act permits changes to the agenda under certain circumstances. I would note that this has no financial implication. This liquor license transfer is an item that we actually addressed last December, so December of 2023. We had a public hearing pursuant to public notice. It ran in the Daily Local News two times. And we had a hearing for this transfer. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is proving to be a little bit more challenging in terms of the paperwork that they want. This resolution just clarifies the names of the transferor and the transferee or the recipient of the liquor license. So the only thing that changed aside from the dates are just completing the names more fully. So what you'll see is 30 Prime Seafood and Chophouse LLC. In the original resolution, it just said 30 Prime. So the more fuller, more complete name is now listed in this resolution. So I believe this is just a paperwork item. I spoke with Mr. Gill and the applicant's liquor license counsel at the time. No one believes that an additional hearing is needed as the hearing already occurred. This is just fixing names.

2. Receive and consider a motion to conditionally approve the Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development Plan of the NSEC Sports and Entertainment project, dated June 24, 2022, revised on September 12, 2024, subject to compliance with the Cedarville Engineering review letter, dated November 20, 2024, and Al Federico's review letter, dated November 19, 2024. City Council grants waivers consistent with the attachment.

Vice President Green motioned to conditionally approve the Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development Plan of the NSEC Sports and Entertainment project, dated June 24, 2022, revised on September 12, 2024, subject to compliance with the Cedarville Engineering review letter, dated November 20, 2024, and Al Federico's review letter, dated November 19, 2024. City Council grants waivers consistent with the attachment; Ms. Scamuffa seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Gill thanked Madam President. I have the very distinct pleasure of appearing this evening and asking City Council to grant conditional final subdivision and land development approval for the National Sports and Entertainment Complex Project at the flats. After an extended period of time and multiple starts and stops, this project really took off several years ago when IDG Development reached an agreement with the Redevelopment Authority, which, of course, City Council approved, pursuant to the Redevelopment Act. Since that time, City Council has also amended the zoning ordinance to change the criteria which had been in the flats overlay district portion of the zoning ordinance. The Zoning Hearing Board has granted relief in Valley Township for certain provisions of the Valley Township Ordinance. The Valley Township Board of Supervisors, just last week, granted preliminary final subdivision and land development approval for that portion of the project, which is in their municipality. The City Planning Commission granted a recommendation for you to approve this action, this evening, just last week.

We have worked through a number of iterations of the Township engineers reviews all along the way. And we're very happy to report that we have reached a point where all of the comments in Mr. Turner's letter are well complied. We will not have any issues complying with any of those comments. Of course, you know that IDG acquired the property, well,

about a month ago at this point, a little more than a month, acquired the property from the Redevelopment Authority, closed on the loan from the Commonwealth Finance Authority, received the first tranche of funding to facilitate the acquisition. As we move forward through the land development activities, actual earth moving, we'll be drawing down additional funds from those loan funds and from a grant which the Commonwealth has made to the city for that purpose. So we are full steam ahead. The project is looking to break ground in early 2025. I'm sorry, [David Connor?] and [Patrick Kinzeler?], excuse me.

I had a former colleague named Patrick [Mintzer?], so constantly confusing to me. Looking to break ground in early 2025 on the horizontal site work, and then later in the year, on the vertical construction. The goal is to have this facility open and operating as a crown jewel here in Coatesville, Chester County in time to allow for training associated with the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. That is very, very much a real active goal for the entire project team. I could go on and on and on. We should thank all of the stakeholders who have made this possible. This is not the last time you'll hear from us, but this is one of the ultimate procedural steps to obtain land development approval. We'll have a series of conditions with which we need to comply. We expect those will, to some extent, mirror the ones in the township. And then once we are ready to record the plans-- again, it should be, I would imagine, February, March of 2025, when we're ready to report the plans, and then actually start moving some dirt around over there. So I will go on and on and on if you let me. But with that, [laughter] I will ask City Council to grant conditional subdivision and conditional final subdivision and land development approval with the waivers that are noted. Mr. Jefferson's attachment to the agenda. Thank you.

Mr. Turner stated there are no questions from Cedarville's perspective. I think Mr. Gill did a fine job summarizing. There's no waivers that are of any significant concern. If there's any questions, I'm more than happy to expand on any of the waivers.

Mr. Gill thanked Council. Thank you very, very much. I do want to note Crosby very much was sorry to miss this milestone, but I think I speak for him when I say thank you very much.

3. Receive and consider a motion to approve an Ordinance setting the tax rate for General Purposes for the year 2025 at the same rate as that set forth for tax year 2024.
Ms. Scamuffa motioned to approve an Ordinance setting the tax rate for General Purposes for the year 2025 at the same rate as that set forth for tax year 2024; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
4. Receive and consider a motion to approve an Ordinance providing salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City of Coatesville
Vice President Green motioned to approve an Ordinance providing salaries and wages for personnel employed by the City of Coatesville; Ms. Turner-Green seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
5. Receive and consider a motion to approve an Ordinance appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City government as herein set forth, for the year 2025 Budget

Vice President Green motioned to approve an Ordinance appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City government as herein set forth, for the year 2025 Budget; Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Scamuffa asked because this is my first rodeo here with the year-end budget, is this the normal? I thought we approved the budget, or does it require an ordinance as well? It's a separate item. Vice President Green replied yeah. We did the preliminary and then [inaudible]. this is basically re-approving the budget officially.

Vice President Green motioned to close action items; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Reports

1. Solicitor

Mr. Jefferson provided a more detailed attorney-client privilege report to council. Since council's last meeting, let me just first say I hope everybody has a safe and happy holiday and a happy New Year. I communicated and continue to communicate with outside council regarding land development matters; communicated with outside counsel regarding an active litigation matter; reviewed a draft notice of a violation and provided initial feedback; communicated with Pennsylvania American Water Company's engineer regarding standard forms; provided an opinion regarding a tax matter; worked with land services to hopefully effectuate a land closing in the future; worked with Michael [Nessingard?] to help the city close on three parcels and communicated with the zoning hearing board solicitor regarding an active matter. And finally, again, and I just wish everybody a safe and happy holiday and a happy New Year.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan thanked Madam President. Happy holidays to everyone. Travel safe if you are traveling. I just wanted to say that during the public meetings during the executive meetings, I have provided updates and comments on the City of Coatesville's real estate matters and personnel matters. I just have four bullets, actually, five bullets this evening. The first, as Rob just mentioned, our solicitor, we have completed almost I would say the final phase of the Cleveland-Cliffs parcel donation. We're very excited about that. We have also started to work with our e-comm partners with our grant consultant as we start looking at what the parcels are going to be used for. Right now, the first parts are-- so there's two parcels. One is an existing public works facility [inaudible] looking to [launch that?] and rebuild a new public health facility and use one of the donated properties as an extension of the public health facility. So we're very excited to have this opportunity to work with Cleveland-Cliffs to put their donation to good used.

Second item I have is this morning, Rob, myself, Kyle Turner, Cedarville, our grant consultant. We were on the call this morning in reference to the FEMA grant that we received. The grant is over a million dollars that is awarded to City of Coatesville. This is for the preparation of the stormwater mitigation project. We went over a set of phases for it, including the agreement, the scope of work, reimbursements, permitting, and the project scheduling. We'll see a lot more activity in 2025 as we continue to prepare ourselves for a new, hopefully stronger, network in the City of Coatesville. E-comm partners is also working

with our team, as I mentioned, on the Public Works Management Plan. In addition to the RACP dollars, at the end of this month, there's a deadline for us to get in what the particular project will entail. So we've all been working together to get those documents together so that forward goes to the State of the DCED.

Next year, City of Coatesville will resume the small business development training. We are going to restore our entrepreneurial training program in 2025 working with various higher learning institutions, banks, and subject matter experts. Those workshops will include marketing, finance, sourcing, accounting, bookkeeping, leasing, office, retail space in the city, building sustainable business, investing in your company, and building a brand. Those are just some of the workshops that we've introduced into this.

And then my last bullet tonight is there's been a lot of talk about the trades. We've talked about it here. We continue to move forward in our discussion with the trades training program in the City of Coatesville. Delco Community College has graciously submitted their information in terms of their curriculum. We are going to be working with some of our local stakeholders and investors on the site to host these workshops and training. There aren't any hard and fast launch dates at this time. We're still kind of doing some research on how we put this together without any problems.

And other than that, that concludes my presentation. I want to thank Century Alliance and all the volunteers that were housed over the weekend. They had the tree lighting ceremony that was about 6 o'clock. Thanks Shakira. She's not here, but thanks Shakira and 2nd Century Alliance and all those who came out. I also want to thank our police and fire department that was out not only for the parade, but throughout the evening, both attending or having a presence at the parade as well as the tree lighting. And just thank our citizens. We have a wonderful community here. Next year, we have some great things in store. I just hope everyone continues to move forward as we continue to move forward. Thank you.

3. Assistant City Manager

Ms. Cosentino thanked Madam President. To begin, the city would like to welcome any Spanish speakers and other non-English speakers that need assistance with 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]. I think in January, I'll adapt. I'll change my intro just so you don't have to listen to the same one again. Oh, no, I can't do it in French. I'm sorry.

But a few updates on development projects that we're working on. As you know, the Millview Basin Restoration Project is reaching completion. I'm not sure if you've seen it, but it looks great. And our solicitor is currently working with the solicitor for the Millview HOA because we'll be transferring the property to them. And that will be the final step that we're very much looking forward to. Also, as you know, Ash Park continues to move along. We'll have a series of public information sessions to share those plans. And meanwhile, they are still finalizing those plans. And that project is slated to go out to bid in January. Because of the different levels of grant funding that we have on this project, it requires several approvals prior to doing that.

I shared with you today the co-department monthly report for November. We will have an end-of-year report for you in January, but just to share a few key highlights from the November report. I'm very excited and proud of the department for getting to where they are right now. A few key things. We completed more inspections in November than we did in any prior month this year. 163 inspections were completed. Our goal is 120 per month. So we exceeded our monthly goal thanks to some of our-- we had a few property owners who owned multiple properties who were getting into compliance, so that helped move things along. This is the kind of cooperation that we're looking for. It's the kind of communication we're looking for. So we're really excited to see that happening.

Another key factor in being able to do this work is one of our co-department staff, he's Casey Arthur, he's really become a subject matter expert in SmartHub. And he has really taken on expanding how we use it. He's created business accounts for all of our property owners so that their multiple properties can be listed under one account. This makes things much more efficient on our end, much simpler. He's also instituted for our rental inspections that are all automatically done in SmartHub. No more paper forms. It makes things incredibly easier. Paperwork doesn't get lost. The inspections get done efficiently. In 2025, they'll be scheduled automatically. So there's a lot of things that are happening that we are very, very thrilled to see. And I think as things go on and the better we get at it, the easier and more efficient things will get.

You'll also see in the code report that property maintenance and trash continue to be our biggest challenges for our code enforcement officers. I will also note that another big factor in their time, as of late, are compliance inspections. The good thing is that we are receiving phone calls and complaints from residents directly. And our code enforcement officers investigate those. And that also is helping to complete some of our inspections because we're finding when there's a compliance inspection, there also has not been an up-to-date full parental inspection as well. The caveat to that is that we do want people to reach out to the property manager or owner first. The city shouldn't be their first phone call. But obviously, if a repair is not happening in a timely manner, then it's time to contact the city. So we're pleased to see, again, communication happening and hopefully some improvements happening across the board for folks.

With that being said, winter is around the corner. So just a few reminders for everyone. I mean, winter is here. You're absolutely correct. Winter is here. If it does snow, which it very likely will, sidewalks need to be cleared within 24 hours. And I was reminded by one of our code staff today that clearing the sidewalk does not mean a shovel's length. It is two-thirds of the sidewalk that needs to be cleared. If people do not clear the sidewalks, they will receive a citation. Snow should not be thrown in the middle of the street. That causes major safety issue, especially if Public Works has already driven by, cleared the streets, salted the streets, and then snow goes on top of it. It just creates a safety hazard. [crosstalk]--

Ms. Al Amin stated that's an issue on Lincoln Highway. When PennDOT comes down, we shovel our sidewalk, and they put it back up. And because it's from the street and wet and heavy, a lot of times it's too heavy for the residents to move it. My neighbor one year, the plow came down, and it was so forceful - you might remember this - and it knocked our neighbor over while he was shoveling. Can those instructions go on the website? Ms. Cosentino replied sure. Absolutely. Yeah. We will definitely do that. And last but not least, in

the next couple of weeks, if the weather does remain above 40 to 50 degrees during the daytime, we'll see some final paving happening for the American Water and the PECO projects that are currently ongoing at 3rd and MLK, Olive and South 4th, and also on Charles Street. So hopefully, we'll see that happen before. Ms. Al Amin asked and do we have a shutoff date yet for the street sweeper, or has it stopped? Ms. Cosentino replied it has stopped. Ms. Al Amin asked Okay. So is there a post up on the city website so that people don't have to-- those that live in the route of the street sweeper no longer have to move their vehicle? Ms. Cosentino replied we'll get it posted tomorrow. Ms. Al Amin asked d you know when it stopped? Ms. Cosentino replied off the top of my head, I do not. But generally, the street sweeper stops when we get below freezing. Especially if it's below freezing early in the morning, the street sweeper cannot run. Ms. Scamuffa explained we usually announce that it's been stopped on whatever date.

4. Police Department

Chief Laufer thanked Madam President. The complete statistical report is in your packets tonight. Just a couple of key highlights. 911-generated calls for police service for the month of November was 2,201. And that's down slightly from October where we saw 2,420 calls for police service. And then those calls received through our front desk for the month of November was 1,149 down slightly from 1,298 for the month of October. In addition, we had two Narcan administrations by the police department, eight car seat checks and installations provided by our certified car seat technicians. We also had a successful Coffee with the Chief just this past Wednesday at the Arches. It was a very nice facility. It was well hosted by the Arches Administration, Jane there. We had the Christmas parade just this past Saturday, which went off without a hitch, and it normally does. It sort of runs itself. It was very well-attended and good to see that for another year. We have no Coffee with the Chief coming up in January because the first Wednesday is January 1st, the holiday. So we're skipping the month of January. So our next Coffee with the Chief will be at the neighborhood center located on Lincoln Highway. And that will be on February the 5th.

Just a note in the Boilerplate, the magazine for the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum, there was a nice photo for the 911 commemorations of our police officers observing 911. And the officer from West Brandywine, who is actually in the picture with two of the Coatesville officers, is actually a retired Coatesville officer, Mike Rach, from Coatesville. But he's in his West Brandywine uniform. So he was there also. So just a nice picture in their fall magazine. And Madam President, that is my report unless there are any questions.

Oh, one more thing. And Shop with a Cop. This Saturday is Shop with a Cop on Saturday. So we will be leaving Olivet and parading up to the Parkesburg Walmart at about 9:15. And we have 50 kids, 50 kids that we'll be taking up there and they will each have \$200 to spend on Christmas gifts for themselves and for their family.

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

There were no citizens comments on non-agenda items only; Ms. Allen seconded the motion Motion passed 6-0.

Special Events

Mr. Logan announced before we go to council comments, there's some special events. So on our website, I just want to share with everyone, there are a number of events that are happening over the

next two or three weeks. In addition to Shop with a Cop and local community events, there's a parade, rolling parade that American Finest Tire is putting on. This will be the fifth year. And I don't remember everything, but if you are curious to see what's happening, go to our city calendar. A number of events are posted there between now and the new year.

And then if I can, I just want to say to Council, thank you for another year. I hope you all are proud of what we have done here in the city. And if you need a refresher, one of the things that Ruthann has done for a few years now, we decided to put all of the action items in the packet so you all can kind of look back and in sort of a flashback. So if you look tonight, you will see that from January '24 to post tonight, all of your action items, all of your work, your ordinances, your resolutions is all captured in the back of your packet. So we should be very proud of the number of things you've done in the city.

And on behalf of our staff, we thank you. And I'd like to thank our staff and all of our team members. You guys have been wonderful this year. If you think about leaving the city, I will hunt you down. But I really do appreciate everyone's support and look forward to working with you all in 2025.

Council Comments

Ms. Scamuffa thanked those who came out tonight and stuck it out. It's been an exciting year for me. It's my first-year council personship. I really have enjoyed it. It's been quite a learning experience. I look forward to bigger and greater things coming in 2025. I wish everyone a, if you celebrate, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, or whatever holiday it is you're enjoying this time of year. And hopefully in 2025, we can start filling the room. So bring it on. Nothing but good things coming next year. Have a great night. Be safe and enjoy your holidays with your families.

Ms. Al Amin thanked all that were here earlier, all that stayed. For the upcoming holidays because there are multiple, more than just Christmas. So for anybody that celebrates any of the upcoming holidays, I hope that you have a very peaceful and blessed time with your family. And for those that don't celebrate any of the holidays, enjoy your time off. This is the last meeting for the year, and so we will see everybody next year.

Ms. Allen thanked everyone for coming out. Stay warm. Have a great night.

Ms. Turner-Green thanked everyone for coming out. Have a good holiday. [crosstalk]

Vice President Green wished happy holidays to everyone. I just wanted to-- because it is the last meeting, I just wanted to let the staff know how appreciated they are. I'm so thankful. And James, you had said that the rest of the ordinances and stuff in the back, the council did a great job. Well, I say that, the council president said, we've done a great job. The staff has been working very hard and very diligently on so many projects. You have such a great team here. So I just started looking back over some things. And 2024 was a fantastic year for the City of Coatesville. Coming out of the pandemic, it was kind of hard to judge things in 2023. But 2024 is that balancing year. And we've made a lot of strides. We opened up the-- the grocery store opened up for us. Paving that was so needed in the city has been done. You're working on this forum board, the ACE Forum. And then ACE Forum-- I said to everyone else, I was so impressed with the ACE Forum. And when I've seen the amount of people that were there, it's so impressive because other municipalities have these events, and they don't have the same amount of people like we had at ours. But when you open up the booklet and you read the things in the ACE Forum, that the median household income has increased

to \$55,300. And I'm going to say that our median household income is around 28 to 29 thousand. And I'm going to say that due to your workforce development ideas and bringing these things into the city, the other forms of development having [inaudible]? Opportunity zone. But they were called-- those meetings were called that. But just the way that you instituted those meetings and the way that you set up things and brought the developers to the table in the City of Coatesville, these are the reasons why our household median income has increased. More people are working, but there's so many other things that are going on in the city. Even with 2nd Century, and I'm not taking anything away from 2nd Century, but when you look at the community of Coatesville, the idea and the fact that they have that storefront, which is awesome, but that originated with your pop-up shops. Bringing that and having people who had an entrepreneurial spirit, giving them the encouragement to come out and start their own little business even just one day or two days. And I just want to just thank you all for balancing our budget again, for not raising our taxes again. In the midst of everything that is going on and the strides that the city is making, we still have a balanced budget. We're still not increasing our taxes. And we're moving forward. So I just wanted to acknowledge every department, our police department. You give your report every month, chief, but there's so many things that you guys do in our community with our young people. So many interactions that you should include them in your report. But I'm just proud of our police department. And I've not always been proud of our police department. I'm proud of what you guys stand for. I'm proud of the way that you interact in our community. Our young people, and I'm talking about the little people, they're not afraid of the cops too much, I mean, where they used to be. They didn't want to interact. So I'm just proud of all of those things. And I just want to let you know. And Jessica, I know you work very hard with Rich, and I see that you're continuing to do the things that he's taught you and that you've learned from over your career. And I'm just proud. And I just want to acknowledge all of that. And I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season regardless of what you celebrate. But this has been-- 2024 has been real great. So thank you.

President Lavender Norris said I say praise the Lord. We're at our very last council meeting for the year. God has been good to us, kept us, brought us through. And the same God that brought us through this year is the same one that's going to bring us through the next year. So our expectations are in Him and His ability to empower us all to do what's necessary moving forward. I thank you all. I echo my colleagues' sentiments. And if I sound like I'm being a little short, I am because y'all know it's Monday night. I thank you all. I wish you all the most loving, safe, blessed holiday, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, all that wonderful stuff.

Adjournment

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