

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2025

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, June 17, 2025, was called to order by Council President, Rebecca Smith, at 6:30 PM in Municipal Hall Chambers, 235 East Airy Street, Norristown, PA.

There was a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council members were in attendance:

William McCoy
Mydera Robinson
Dustin Queenan
Natalie Colson
Jasmine Griffen
Rashaad Bates
Rebecca Smith

Also in attendance were:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amanda Ciarlante, Assistant Director of Finance; Acting Norristown Police Chief, Lt. Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Captain Michael Bishop, Norristown Police Department; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates** , to approve the Minutes from June 3, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Smith announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to the Council Meeting to discuss Personnel issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

“Juneteenth Jubilee” - June 19th 12 – 6 PM, Dekalb & Main Streets. Live music, family fun, food, drinks, games, free admission to the Charles Blockson Exhibit and more.

PRESENTATIONS

Employee Recognition

Leonard Lightner introduced “Earl” and asked him to give details of an incident that happened when he and another Public Works employee were cleaning inlets by the Riverfront and he saw a man that was disoriented. His co-worker called an ambulance while they checked on the man. He said it turned out that this man has Alzheimer’s and had been reported missing.

Leonard Lightner said a Policeman wrote a narrative for outstanding employees about these men. They received certificates from the Municipality and were invited to the Council Meeting for recognition.

Elmwood Park Draft Master Plan

There was a Power Point conducted by Peter Simone, Landscape Architect.

He said that these slides will show where the project stands and this information is also available online.

It covered topics such as “Project Schedule,” “Public Input,” “Key Agency Interviews,” “Master Plan Concepts.” He noted that some of the concepts include a Veterans Memorial Plaza, restoration of the Pavillion, some Park ideas and Trail Connections to and from the Park, Community Center at Roosevelt Field, new Recreation Center concepts. Also, online is a Draft Report, a 60-day Survey, an Implementation Summary and Elmwood Park Improvements.

He said that the next steps will be discussed at a Public Meeting on June 26th at 7 PM at the Norristown Recreation Center. There will be information about the Master Site Development Plan Final Revisions. Adoption and Approval by Council to be announced in the future.

MS4 Year 7 Update from Pennoni

Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineer, noted that the DEP requires an update and the Municipality is under an MS4 Permit which has been extended until March 15, 2026.

The following information is from the Meeting Packet provided to the Council members and Staff:

MUNICIPALITY OF NORRISTOWN MS4 UPDATE - Year 7

- The Municipality's MS4 permit became effective on March 16, 2018. Year 7 of the permit ends on June 30, 2025. The DEP has administratively extended the MS4 General Permit until March 15, 2026, with annual progress report due September 30, 2026.
- A Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) is required as part of the new permit. The PRP requires a 10% reduction in sediment in the Sawmill Run and Stony Creek watersheds. Pennoni has been collaborating with the Municipality and PA DEP on alternate PRP project sites for the MS4 PRP compliance.
- Six (6) Minimum Control Measures are required to be met to be in compliance with the MS4 permit: - Public Education & Outreach -- Public Involvement & Participation -- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination -- Construction Site Runoff Control Post-Construction Runoff Control -- Pollution Prevention/Municipal Good Housekeeping
- Municipal staff attended the following workshops and training sessions:
Perkiomen Stormwater Initiative Stormwater Symposium (03/14/25)
Construction Stormwater Runoff Control (05/22/25)
Stormwater Pollution Prevention (05/22/25)

Stormwater Pollution Plan General Awareness Training (05/22/25)

- Stormwater information is available on the Municipality's website.
- All stormwater outfalls in the Municipality are required to be screened once before the permit expires in 2025.
- The Municipality, through the Norristown Stormwater Authority have completed several stormwater improvements in various areas of the Municipality through the Stormwater Capital Projects completed last year, as well as projects done in-house. There will be additional stormwater improvement projects scheduled to be constructed in year 2025.
- The Municipality received a \$10k grant from the America Water Charitable Foundation through collaboration with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC), to distribute (75) 55-gallon Camels Hump style rain barrels to Norristown residents. Requirements to receive a free rain barrel is attending one of two workshops that will be held on Tuesday, 6/24/25, and Thursday, 7/10/25. PRC indicates that the 75 rain barrels can amount to removing approximately 1,170,000 gallons of stormwater from the Norristown stormwater system annually.
- In addition, much of the storm sewer cleaning, jetting, and inlet rehab work has attributed to mitigating some of the flooding issues observed in certain neighborhoods.
- DEP has issued a draft of the new MS4 permit requirements. It is anticipated that the new permit cycle will start on October 1, 2026 and end on September 30, 2031.
- Under the new permit, a PRP will no longer be required, however, the Municipality must complete its PRP obligations under the current MS4 permit. In addition, a Volume Management Plan (VMP) based on a Volume Management Objective (VMO), which is determined by DEP's Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) calculator, will be required to be submitted to DEP by September 30, 2028 and subject to DEP approval. The VMP must be completed by September 30, 2031, unless otherwise authorized by DEP.

Responses to Questions from the last Council Meeting

Leonard Lightner noted there were no questions that require a response.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lita Gibson, 48 East Oak Street, Norristown – Ms. Gibson said that a Search Warrant was served to her home on May 27th while she was working at home and her nephew and daughter were home. She said that the Police broke down the door which caused damage. She said the Warrant had to do with her nephew being friends with someone involved in a crime. Council President Smith asked her to speak with Chief Angelucci after the Meeting.

Derek Johns, 1102 Dekalb Street, Norristown – He had an update from “Family Day.” He said there are kids that are afraid to come outside due to the increased violence. He said it is up to the community and parents to change this.

Tyree Wallace, 1102 Dekalb Street, Norristown – He is the CEO and Founder of the SRC (Systemic Reformative Change). He thanked Councilman McCoy for his involvement. He said this was founded on behalf of the young black men in Norristown. He said that “Every summer we brace ourselves for violence.” He said he is asking Council for support because the program gives the young men something to become and they need to know that the City believes in them. He noted that from January to April 2025, 350 residents were involved in the clean up.

James Watters, Hamilton Street, Norristown – He had a Times Herald article regarding a flooding issue in 1997 and pollution in the Schuylkill. He asked why didn’t the Clean Water Act do anything? He added that in 1991, the Stormwater Basin wasn’t working due to an incompetent DEP.

Rocco, Kohn Street, Norristown – He said he hopes the sign at Beech & Kohn Streets stops the trash dumping. He said his neighbor makes noise at 1 AM with kids kicking doors. He said some of his neighbors block streets and driveways and that Code Enforcement knows about it. He asked Council “What if it was your neighbors?” He asked Council to send a letter to them.

Council President Smith announced that the Juneteenth Flag will be raised following the Meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to approve the appointment of Nadene Hitch to serve on the Civil Service Commission

The Commission shall consist of three (3) Commissioners and one (1) alternate, who shall be qualified electors of the Municipality of Norristown and shall be appointed by the Municipal Council for a term of six (6) years. Any vacancy occurring on the Commission for any reason whatsoever shall be filled by the Municipal Council for the unexpired term within the period of thirty (30) days after such a vacancy occurs.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the appointment of Nadene Hitch to serve on the Civil Service Commission. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution appointing Kris Latimore as Zoning Enforcement Inspector

Kris Latimore was not present so the swearing-in will take place at another time.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the appointment of Kris Latimore as Zoning Enforcement Inspector. **The motion passed unanimously.**

To administer the Oath of Office to Probationary Police Officers Jacob Drummer and Alexander Wharton

Judge Ashe performed the Oaths of Office for Jacob Drummer and Alexander Wharton.

Councilwoman Natalie Colson takes the Oath of Office

Judge Marc Alfarano performed the Oath of Office for Natalie Colson.

Councilwoman Colson thanked everyone who supported her and said that she “has big shoes to fill and am excited to serve.”

Councilwoman Jasmine Griffen takes the Oath of Office

Judge Ashe performed the Oath of Office for Jasmine Griffen.

Councilwoman Griffen thanked those who supported her and she said “I will continue to stand for and with the people of Norristown.”

BUILDINGS AND CODE COMPLIANCE

Consideration of HARB COAs

Mr. Gordon provided the following addresses for consideration:

1126 West Airy Street
1230 West Airy Street
531 Stanbridge Street
1337 Dekalb Street
503 West Marshall Street

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Certificates of Appropriateness for the above-mentioned addresses. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Public Hearing to consider the approval of the Proposed Zoning Text and Proposed Zoning Map Amendment to create a Mixed-Use Overlay of the Institutional Zoning District and approval of Ordinance 25-03 to amend the Zoning Text and Ordinance 25-04 to amend the Zoning Map to create a Mixed-Use Overlay of the Institutional Zoning District

Jayne Musonye noted this is the same issue regarding a change to the Zoning for the Norristown State Hospital project.

Mr. Maras of Pinnacle Realty was present.

Ms. Musonye provided a history of the process including advertisement and Planning Commission recommendations.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to open the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Solicitor Kilkenny entered the Exhibits: M1 Advertisement in Times Herald; M2 Copy of Ordinance 25-03; M3 Copy of Ordinance 25-04; M4 Update; M5 Notice of Overlay; M6 Postings; M7 Recommendations by Norristown Planning Commission and Director of Planning.

The Solicitor explained that the Applicant will speak, the Public can comment, Council can continue or close.

Mr. Maras complemented the Staff in accomplishing the vision. He noted that this Overlay can be applied to any type of development in the future. He said that inspections are currently in progress and the Master Plan may be ready by the end of the summer.

There was no Public Comment.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Proposed Zoning Text and Proposed Zoning Map Amendment to create a Mixed-Use Overlay of the Institutional Zoning District. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Ordinance 25-03 amending the Zoning Text. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Ordinance 25-04 amending the Zoning Map to create a Mixed-Use Overlay of the Institutional Zoning District. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Hearing to consider Ordinance 25-02 for the vacation of Leitenberger Alley and request for Council to approve Ordinance 25-02 – Vacation of Leitenberger Alley

Director Musonye noted that the Advertisement was already approved and the neighbors were notified. She also said that the Owner of the Church is present.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Ordinance 25-02 for the vacation of Leitenberger Alley. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Public Works

Thomas Odenigbo noted they are continuing with crack sealing of Main Street from Plymouth Road to Walnut Street; cleaning of inlets; street sweeping; patching potholes; tree trimming, Riverfront clean-up and working with PennDOT with a design for street paving.

Building and Code

Mr. Gordon conducted a Power Point.

He showed that from March 1 to May 31, 2025, the department collected \$205,000 Building Permits; total Fees collected: \$268,570; issued 1460 violations (522 owner-occupied and 938 rentals); issued 917 Quick Tickets. Responded to 230 city concerns from the online Municipal Reporting; 167 Property Transfers; 70 assists to other agencies.

ADJOURNMENT

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to adjourn the Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council