

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 15, 2025

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, July 15, 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; Vincent Poppa, Assistant Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Acting Norristown Police Chief, Lt. Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Bri'Ana Hawkins, Director of Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates** , to approve the Minutes from June 17, 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:

Montgomery County Recovery Community Center is hosting an event at Elmwood Park on July 30th from 6 to 8 pm. There will be food and activities.

“Smoke and Whiskey” at vonC Brewery on Sunday, July 20th from 6 to 10 pm funded by “Reuniting Families.”

Responses to Questions from the last Council Meeting

Leonard Lightner responded to Lita Gibson’s issue about the Search Warrant. He said that Lt. Angelucci said that they will look into the procedures that were followed and will forward the information.

He also responded to the Derek Johns and Tyree Wallace’s issue about the fear of violence when they had “Family Day” and Mr. Lightner agreed that parental involvement is crucial. He added that they met with SRC and plan to work with them.

Mr. Lightner addressed the concerns of James Watters and said he would like to set up a meeting with the DEP and the EPA to address flood monitoring. He added he will address the illegal dumping issue with the Code Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Watters, Hamilton Street, Norristown – He said he contacted the USGS about the floodgate being off. He asked if the flashing lights on Lafayette Street are permanent because they are not flashing. He said there was good feedback from the Police Chief candidates meeting. He addressed Council saying that they are making up for what was done 50 years ago.

Al Johnson, Moore Street – He said he’s lived in the 4th District for over 60 years and has never met his Council person. He said they should be out there with the constituents. He offered the American Legion ballroom to use for a meeting. Code issue, tear down retaining wall 400 block Moore Street – He said that 421 Moore Street leaves a mess, 450 or 452 had a fire months ago men working and there were no permits posted. He expects the Council to move on it.

Fran Walsh, Stroudsburg – He said he is being sued for Stormwater bill fees. He said the bill did not get forwarded to the correct address. He was told to meet with Kathy Pfister of Finance at the meeting.

Kia Boynes, Washington Street – She said that practically the whole neighborhood received \$50 parking tickets for parking less than 20 feet from the corner. She said there are no signs and it is unfair.

Lisa Brown, Basin Street – She said there should be more tickets given for speeding and trucks parked with trailers and cars parked on streets where they don’t live. She said she is asking for a solution.

Mark Benjamin, candidate for Police Chief - He asked what is the timeline for selecting a new Police Chief?

Jane Pekol, Buttonwood Street – She commented on the ICE activity. She noticed they start at 6 am on a Sunday and some were found at the movie theatre on Ridge Pike. She said they were driving the wrong way on Green Street, running stop signs and ignoring red lights. She also said that these ICE people are armed with masks and park at our Police Station. She asked if that is impersonating a Police Officer? She asked if they are allowed to be here. Told not giving aid to any ICE agents. Behaving dangerously trying to do “their crimes against humanity.”

PRESENTATIONS:

EMS presentation – Chief Thomas Trojansky

Chief Trojansky presented a Power Point about the Plymouth Community Ambulance Association. He noted that they receive around 16,000 emergency

calls yearly with 110,000 residents being served. Some of the topics on the slide presentation included, "Specialized Vehicles and Equipment," "Advanced Life Support Ambulances," "Special Operations Team," "Special Weapons and Tactics," "Rescue and Rehab Equipment," "Community Involvement," "Operation: Christmas Kids" Toy Drive. The Norristown call volume for 2024 is 6,307 calls. He said that more information can be found at Medic308.org.

Presentation of 240 West Johnson Highway Development

Jayne Musonye noted there is no Zoning process. She said that the Developer wants feedback regarding the proposed development.

Mr. Mathew presented a Power Point about "Juniper Flats", which is 1.5 acres. Also present was Tim Ajvazi. Mr. Mathew said they were the runners-up for the State Hospital project and spent 6-8 months listening to residents and business owners, young professionals, seniors and in-between. He showed the proposed layout design which includes vinyl tile floors, paver system and fiberglass roof. He also proposed a Fitness area. He said there needs to be balance in Norristown between market-rate housing and affordable housing. He said people need to see the story of Norristown.

Jayne Musonye noted that the Developer will still need to go before the Zoning Hearing Board and the Design Review Board.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 25-55: Request for Municipal Council to approve appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Leonard Lightner said this is to re-establish blighted property.

He said the Blighted Property Review Committee should consist of 4 members - 1 Council member, 1 Planning Commission member, 1 Redevelopment Authority member and 1 Executive Committee member.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen** to amend the Resolution to include the appointment of

Councilman Queenan to take over the position held by Council Vice President Bates. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-59: request for Municipal Council to approve the appointment of Leonard Lightner as Legislative Liaison

Mr. Lightner explained that this is new and the purpose of the Liaison is to stay abreast of the General Assembly legislation. He said it requires a new system called “Grass Roots” that the Municipality can maintain and upload questions and suggestions.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the appointment of Leonard Lightner as Legislative Liaison. **The motion passed 5-2 (Councilwoman Robinson and Councilwoman Griffen voted no.)**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 25-57: Request for Municipal Council to authorize a purchase from Dell Technologies in the amount of \$196,414.76 for desktops, laptops and servers to support the Municipality’s ongoing Technology Upgrade Initiative

Mr. Lightner said that the Municipality’s technology is outdated. He said that an upgrade would improve speed, quality and security and reduces down time. He said they need to be on a “replacement cycle.”

Councilman Queenan asked if there was any room to save money. Mr. Lightner said they are replacing the entire hardware system.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to authorize a purchase from Dell Technologies in the amount of \$196,414.76 for desktops, laptops and servers to support the Municipality’s ongoing Technology Upgrade Initiative. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-58: request for Municipal Council to approve the purchase in the amount of \$43,701.00 from Ubiquiti Inc. for Security System Upgrades at the Recreation Center and the Fire Chief’s Memorial Bandshell.

Leonard Lightner explained that the cameras would be monitored 24/7 by the PCO Office. He said they will be strategically placed. Councilwoman Robinson suggested public education about this due to privacy issues. Mr. Lightner said that signs can be posted.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the purchase in the amount of \$43,701.00 from Ubiquiti Inc. for Security System Upgrades at the Recreation Center and the Fire Chief's Memorial Bandshell. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-60: request for Municipal Council to approve to extend the Due Diligence Period for the State Hospital Project

Leonard Lightner noted this is to allow us to continue the partnership. It expired in May 2025. The date has been extended to December 31, 2025.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the extension of the date for the Due Diligence Period for the State Hospital Project to December 31, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-61: request for Municipal Council to approve an amended Resolution authorizing a purchase in the amount of \$98,617.00 from Integrated Technical Systems, Inc. for ten (10) T2 Digital Payment Cosmo Pay Stations, amending Resolution 25-06

Leonard Lightner noted that the price is for upgrade and delivery and the Municipality is responsible for installation and maintenance.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to approve an amended Resolution authorizing a purchase in the amount of \$98,617.00 from Integrated Technical Systems, Inc. for ten (10) T2 Digital Payment Cosmo Pay Stations, amending Resolution 25-06. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 25-05: Motion to advertise amending Chapter 278, Article II, Sections 278-9 “Sidewalk Sales” and 278-23 “Violations and Penalties” of the Norristown Municipal Code

Leonard Lightner noted this update will strengthen enforcement.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to advertise the amendment of Chapter 278, Article II, Sections 278-9 “Sidewalk Sales” and 278-23 “Violations and Penalties” of the Norristown Municipal Code. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 25-06: Motion to advertise the amendment of Chapter 225 titled, “Parks and Recreation Areas” to add additional prohibitions in Municipal Parks and to authorize the adoption of policies and procedures relating to the same

Leonard Lightner said that this will enhance safety and cleanliness and they will appropriately deal with the “displaced.”

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Ordinance 25-06. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUILDINGS AND CODE COMPLIANCE

Request approval of HARB COAs

Mr. Gordon provided the following addresses for consideration:

27 West Airy Street
611 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.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution 25-56: Award of Contract to The Nubo Group for repair work needed on the Norristown Recreation Center restrooms (male and female) in the amount of \$86,801

Thomas Odenigbo noted that they are currently using Portable Potties until the repair work is completed on the restrooms that were damaged two years ago by a storm.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-56. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police

Chief Angelucci noted that Part 1 crimes are down 1% overall. 45% decrease in numbers for robberies and aggravated assaults, burglaries. Shots fired for June zero average, 5 in May, 7 in April. Auto thefts down 5% overall considering the spike in January. Burglaries down 46%, aggravated assaults up 18%. 2 shootings in June targeted. Goals from January: 46 domestic-related incidents. Opioid fatalities and overdoses increase of 29%. 16 hosted events with more scheduled.

Fire

Thomas O'Donnell reported that year-to-date there were 775 incidents. Average response time: 4 minutes, 16 seconds. Saturday at noon was the busiest time. 866 training sessions, 4,120 training hours. No firefighter or civilian deaths and 3 civilian injuries. 293 commercial property inspections, 101 public events. 2 fire drills, visited 288 homes, installed 90 smoke alarms. 1 event held. 2,147 hours of fleet out-of-service time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson**, to adjourn the Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council