

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2025

The Council Meeting of Wednesday, August 6, 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:

Dustin Queenan
William McCoy
Mydera Robinson
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; Lieutenant Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Richard Lockhart, Deputy Fire Chief; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Bri'Ana Hawkins, Director of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the Minutes from the July 15, 2025 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Smith announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss Personnel and Litigation matters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THREAD: Artist Residency Program for Theatre Horizon. Councilwoman Mydera Robinson, Executive Director of Theatre Horizon, provided details including the program description and objectives such as financial resources, space, time and feedback on new or continuing artist

work and networking, teaching and exhibition opportunities. She added there will also be a panel of residents to form the Community Advisory Board to select the artist who will receive a \$3000 stipend, access to physical and virtual spaces and Marketing, Fundraising and/or Artistic consultations from the Theatre Horizon staff. She provided flyers in the back of the meeting room.

Norristown Area School District “Back to School Bash!” on Thursday, August 7th from 1 to 4 pm at the Musselman Learning Center. Free backpack giveaway, Bus safety tour, Family resources, free books. Free food truck and treats.

PA American Water Clinic – Tuesday, August 12th from 10 am to 12 pm, sponsored by Rep. Greg Scott’s Office at the Greater Plymouth Community Center. PA American Water representatives will answer your questions regarding your water/wastewater. Contact info: 484-685-3494 or RepScottevents@pahouse.net.

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Leonard Lightner responded to the following residents that gave Public Comment at the July 15th Council meeting:

James Watters – Mr. Lightner said that the flood gates issue is an ongoing discussion.

Al Johnson – Mr. Lightner said Mr. Johnson spoke with Mr. Gordon regarding the Code Compliance issues on the property he mentioned on the 400 block of Moore Street.

Fran Walsh – Mr. Lightner said Mr. Walsh spoke with Kathy Phister of Finance regarding his Stormwater fees. He said this issue needs to be taken up with Portnoff.

Kia Boynes – Mr. Lightner told Ms. Boynes that the issue of prohibiting parking less than 20 feet from the corner is according to PA Vehicle Code and that putting up signs is not required by law.

Lisa Brown – Mr. Lightner said that they are working on solutions for speeding and cars and trucks parked in areas where they are not residents.

Jane Pekol – Mr. Lightner said it is illegal to pose as an ICE agent and that Norristown does not have the ability to prevent ICE activity.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heather Lewis, Haws Avenue, Norristown – She announced that Councilman Queenan will host a Comic-Con in Oaks from Friday to Sunday. She also commented about the Resolution on tonight’s agenda to purchase a Municipal Christmas Tree for \$45,000. She asked if it added to the quality-of-life for the residents. She also noted that the Municipality will no longer partner

for the 11th Annual Trunk or Treat which she pointed out was a success with booths and activities and she noted that 750 people came through this event last year, even from other areas.

Keya Johnson, Buttonwood Street, Norristown – She is also against the \$45,000 purchase for the Christmas Tree. She also suggested moving the trash dumpsters to different locations so all residents can have access to them. She also complained about the parking in her area. She said if she comes home after 7 pm, she has to walk blocks to her home.

Laura Smith, Powell Street, Norristown – She said that there should be a meeting with the people from Committees so people know about their Committees so they can decide if they would like to join that Committee. She also noted that speed bumps were approved for the 500-600 block of Basin Street after completing a form a few years ago but they have never been installed. She also doesn't understand why there's an issue with having block parties.

Erika Wharton, Markley Street, Norristown – She commented that Council members should come together with no division. She said she doesn't see members out in the community. She suggested they have a Retreat and review the by-laws. She also asked how many votes are needed for the Police Chief election process and asked where is the feedback from the residents? She also asked where she would send an unpaid invoice?

Mike Todd, E. Freedley Street – He commented about the parking near the Human Resources Building. He said there are many cars parked with no permits. He said he found out that only around 40 cars park in the parking garage due to a limited number of passes. He asked if Council could distribute the passes on a first come-first serve basis.

Tiffani Todd, E. Freedley Street – She asked where the money is coming from for the Christmas Tree. She said the amount equals \$21 an hour which could be a job for Parking Enforcement or money for a small business. She suggested getting sponsors and donations for the tree and have a community event for decorating the tree.

Joseph Alston, N. Trooper Road, West Norriton – He commented about the Airy Street bridge project on Markley Street noting that it is in District 2 and not under Economic Development. He also noted that Marshall Street and Haws Avenue is part of a driving pedestrian safety project because it is so dangerous and noted that West Airy & Selma Streets, which are in Council Vice President's Bate's District, are equally dangerous with a recent fatality. He said that there is high volume traffic and asked what measures are being taken?

Al Johnson, Norristown – He said the Resolution for the purchase of the Christmas Tree needs to be voted down. He also mentioned that he sees cars parked on curbs. He saw a truck on the 400 block of Oak Street that was booted – he said it should be towed. He said there is an Ordinance forbidding vehicles over 25 feet long to park on a residential street. He thanked Councilwoman Colson for handling the Code issue on the 400 block of Moore Street. He said

the Code process needs to be vamped up. He watched 3 cars run the stop sign at Moore & Walnut and Violet & Walnut.

Melvin Faust, 1228 West Airy Street, Norristown – Mr. Faust said that the dead man that was hit on Airy Street lay on the ground for 5 hours. He asked who's in control of this? He said it is a raceway. He asked if stop signs or speed bumps could be installed on Selma and Airy Streets especially with the kids going back to school. He said something needs to be done because that man did not have a chance.

Shantee Maharaj, 529 Stanbridge Street, Norristown – She came with issues regarding the Owner-Occupied Program. She objects to the 10-year lien. She will be 81 and needs to worry about her health at that time. She said she appealed through a letter she gave to Council. She asked if the lien could be waived in her regard. She also had issues with the indemnification clause and the Lead Paint Testing – she suggested to waive the testing which costs money and just fix the problem because it is apparent there is lead.

PRESENTATIONS

GIS Presentation - Pennoni

Matthew Quackenbush, Project Manager, conducted a Power Point which included an overview and benefits. He said it will go live on August 7th. The program includes "Snow Maintenance Routes", "Street Sweeping", "Trash Pickup", "Parking", "Community Facilities", "Public Transit", "Norristown Ambassadors", "FEMA Flood Zone Map", "Zoning Map", "Properties Under Review", "Economic Development Projects", "Capital Improvement Projects." He presented a live demo of the "Service Areas Map."

Presentation on the Hometown Heroes Program in Norristown

Leonard Lightner explained that the Municipality is working with a third party to initiate this program. The application is online which has a \$135 processing fee. A photo must also be attached and it goes to the third party for review. He said there are 116 pole locations for the banners. He said the program will run from May through November. The streets where they will be displayed are Dekalb, Main, Markley and West Marshall Streets. Mr. Lightner also noted that the banners are displayed for 2 years but can be renewed. He said the program will go live tomorrow, Thursday, August 7th.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 25-62: Request for Municipal Council to approve appointments to Boards, Committees and Commissions

Mr. Lightner stated there are 2 vacancies on the Sewer Authority Board and 1 on the Recreation Committee Board.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to table this item in order to get further information. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 25-63: Request for Municipal Council's approval of a Christmas Tree purchase not to exceed \$45,000

Mr. Lightner noted this would be an investment in Norristown. He said they spent over \$500 over the years for a tree only. He said this would be a smarter, long-term purchase. He explained it is an artificial tree with all the ornaments and that it should last for 15 to 20 years. He said it would be displayed at the Bandshell. He said it could bring people together at a central location. He added it would be a convenient location for Christmas toy events.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to table this item in order to get more feedback from the residents. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-64: Request for Municipal Council to authorize an agreement with PMT Consulting, LLC, for Parking Management Services in an amount not to exceed \$50,000

Mr. Lightner stated they are working to reduce some issues within the Parking Ordinance.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Council President Smith**, to authorize the agreement with PMT Consulting, LLC. **The motion passed 6-1 with a nay from Councilwoman Griffen.**

Ordinance 25-05: Request for Municipal Council to amend Chapter 278, Article II, Sections 278-9 "Sidewalk Sales" and 278-23 "Violations and Penalties" of the Norristown Municipal Code

Mr. Lightner noted this is an update and it has been advertised. He said this is a tool in managing violations with Sidewalk Sales.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to amend Chapter 278, Article II, Sections 278-9 and 278-23 of the Norristown Municipal Code. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 25-06: Request for Municipal Council to amend 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

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to amend Chapter 225 to add additional prohibitions in Municipal Parks and to authorize the adoption of policies and procedures relating to the same. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Council motion to approve the Governmental Entities Settlement Agreement and Bankruptcy Plan in the Purdue Pharma L.P. Case

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that this is related to the opioid epidemic. He said that portions of the lawsuit have been settled and there are proceeds from further settlements.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Council President Smith**, to approve the Governmental Entities Settlement Agreement and Bankruptcy Plan in the Purdue Pharma L.P. Case in order to ensure eligibility to receive settlement funds and to support the collective resolution of claims against Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUILDINGS & CODE COMPLIANCE

Presentation of HARB COA's for consideration

Mr. Gordon noted these Certificates of Appropriateness were submitted for review and recommended by the HARB:

530 Hamilton Street
512 Hamilton Street
509 Buttonwood Street
24 East Oak Street

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the above COA's. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution 25-65: Mechanical Service Agreement with the Tustin Group in the amount of \$41,250 to maintain the HVAC system in Municipal Hall.

Director Odenigbo noted this is a 3-year Agreement.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve a 3-Year Agreement with the Tustin Group for HVAC maintenance. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Presenting Departments present monthly updates to Council.

Planning

Director Musonye presented a Power Point on the Economic Development Projects. She noted she will present new projects in November 2025.

The current projects include:

- Historic Façade Improvement Program
- Main & Swede
- Main & Dekalb
- Five Saints Distillery
- Montgomery County Justice Center
- Arbor Place - a 14-month completion
- Isaac Court
- Montgomery Park Senior Housing – interested in a 4th building
- Housing Rehabilitation Program
- First Time Home Buyers
- Stinson Hall
- 1020 Violet Street
- 1340-42 Markley Street
- 902 Violet Street – a sketch plan was made. Need to meet engineering reqs.
- Elmwood Park Zoo – needs permit for Bridge
- Trail Junction Center – construction to begin in September 2025

Parks & Recreation

Director Hawkins said they are closing out a busy season. She said there were events every month. She noted there will be a Summer Camp Carnival on August 15th with a talent show. She invited Council to attend. She noted that the Ramadan celebration has grown; there will be a Spring Easter Egg Hunt; Basketball League; new Fall programs; events for Seniors. She noted also that July is “National Parks & Recreation Month.”

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Colson, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Roseann Santangelo