

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY**  
**COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 19, 2025**

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, August 19, 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; Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, 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; Richard Lockhart, Deputy Fire Chief.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Minutes from August 5, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**PRESENTATION**

**NASD: Facilities Master Plan**

### **Chris Dormer and COO**

Christopher Dormer, Superintendent of Schools, joined by the Chief Financial Officer, Michael Miller, and Jeffrey Cardwell, Chief Operating Officer, provided a Power Point presentation of the “Facilities Master Plan.” He said they need to “overcome decades of deferred maintenance.”

He noted that the District finances have improved and they anticipate an increase in State funding due to a Commonwealth Court ruling to help close a \$53 million gap. He cited some of the goals for a Comprehensive Plan for 2024-2027 that include a full evaluation of the 13 District Buildings which was initiated in 2023 and an Enrollment Study – capacity now versus capacity 5 years in the future. He said that a “bold” reconfiguration is proposed with an estimated cost of \$350 million.

He said that 8 Town Hall Meetings were held between January and September of 2024. He noted that the formal recommendations include the remediation of 13 buildings that include the Norristown Area High School, Hancock Elementary, Cole Manor, Eisenhower, East Norriton Middle School. He said they plan on replacing Blockson with a new K through 4. He noted that the entire Facilities Master Plan process could take 8 to 12 years.

He provided information regarding the implementation of the Plan that would involve GESA (Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement) and working with the Schrader Group on the conceptual design. He added that bus maps to be determined.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

“Philly Bookstore Crawl” will take place on Saturday, August 23. Photo Booth, Discounts, Fundraising for NPT. Place: 208 Cherry Street.

“Tom Sawyer’s Jazz & Supper Club” at Centre Theatre on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Cocktails & Jazz at 5:30 and Supper at 6:30.

### **Responses to Questions from the last Council Meeting**

Mr. Lightner responded to the following Public Comments from the August 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting:

He said they are working on a Parking Plan and Ordinance in response to Keya Johnson's comment on parking in late hours.

He noted they are starting the process for speed bumps in response to Laura Smith's comment.

He remarked that Council does have an annual retreat and the unpaid invoice has been paid in response to Erika Wharton's comment.

In response to Mike Todd's comment, Mr. Lightner said that the Municipality does not monitor the parking garage behind the Human Services Building.

In response to Joseph Alston's comment, Mr. Lightner said that Public Works and Planning and the Delaware Valley Planning Authority are looking at putting signs and striping at Airy & Selma Streets to increase the safety.

In response to Al Johnson's comment, Mr. Lightner said they are working on a Parking Plan and Ordinance.

Mr. Lightner responded to Shantee Maharaj's comment by deferring to Solicitor Hitchens who noted that after review of the Resolution regarding the Owner-Occupied Program, there is no basis to waive the 10-year Lien. He said that a contractor that would be doing the work.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Buck Jones - Mr. Jones said he is a member of the Norristown Sewer Authority Board and he said they are in need of more members. He requested that Council approve people who have applied for the position. He said that Council needs to move forward and appoint people for the Sewer Authority and other Boards because they have work to do. Councilman McCoy addressed Mr. Jones to tell him that the reason it was tabled at the last Council meeting was due to names of people that had put being on the Sewer Board as their top priority were not available so now Council has to clarify some things before moving forward.

Gretchen Stine – She said when she reported an incident of domestic abuse, a Norristown Police Officer had her sent to a mental institution. She said that no one was arrested for the rape and that the Police would not respond to her 9-1-1 calls. Her neighbors got involved and now she's been cited for harassing her stalkers and abusers. She asked for an investigation.

Bob Salerno and Hope Danoff (842 Mt. Pleasant Road, Bryn Mawr, PA) – They said they have a non-profit that helps people in recovery with job training. They said they are raising funds through having a coffee shop. Ms. Danoff said they work with legislative offices. Mr. Salerno is the President. He asked for support from Council. He provided his background including some of his accomplishments and experience including restarting the PAL Center and awards he received.

Mark Benjamin – He said that he requested a Handicapped Sign for his mother but the issue was recently tabled. He asked Council to move on with this. He also asked if Council would tell who they voted for regarding the new Police Chief.

### **MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **Resolution 25-68: A Resolution of Municipal Council to appoint Michael B. Trail as the next Chief of Police of Norristown, effective November 3, 2025**

Mr. Lightner explained that the process was followed: 58 candidates down to 10, then there was a scoring matrix and then the top 5 candidates were interviewed.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates** with no second. A Roll Call Vote was taken resulting in:

Dustin Queenan - he said he did not receive information that he requested so he abstained.

William McCoy – voted yes.

Mydera Robinson – She said that she is confident that Michael Trail can do the job but she said she does not have the majority to support the way she is leading.

She said they can do their jobs but she must honor the position she held throughout this process and she voted “no.”

Natalie Colson - voted yes.

Jasmine Griffen – abstained.

Rashaad Bates – voted yes.

Rebecca Smith - voted yes.

**The motion passed 4-3.**

**Resolution 25-69: Request for Municipal Council approval of the promotion of Lieutenant James Angelucci to the position of Deputy Chief, effective November 3, 2025**

Mr. Lightner noted the purpose for this is to have a built-in leadership with a succession plan to sustain the Police Department for the next 5 to 10 years.

Council Vice President addressed Lt. Angelucci saying that he “did a lot in 8 months.”

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates** with no second. A Roll Call Vote was taken resulting in:

Dustin Queenan – he thanked Lt. Angelucci but he abstained. He suggested that Lt. Angelucci and Chief Trail have a talk.

William McCoy – voted yes.

Mydera Robinson – voted yes. She said that Lt. Angelucci has been very communicative and is looking forward to working with him.

Natalie Colson – voted yes.

Jasmine Griffen – voted no. She said it should be the Police Chief’s decision.

Rashaad Bates – voted yes.

Rebecca Smith – voted yes.

**The motion passed 5-2.**

## **BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE**

### **Ordinance 25-07: Motion to advertise amending Chapter 240 Property Maintenance Quick Ticket Program**

Mr. Gordon said that changes were recommended by our insurance counsel due to pending legal issues. He said the way the Ordinance reads now is that if an appeal is filed, an in-person hearing is required which could require additional resources so it needs to change to an administrative appeal which would involve review of documentation by the BCO and a decision made. He said this would prevent additional expenses and time off from work for some.

Solicitor Hitchens asked Mr. Gordon how many in-person hearings have there been? He responded there were 2. Mr. Hitchens noted that streamlining was the reason for the Quick Ticket Program.

Solicitor Hitchens also noted that this change does not end the appeal process with in-person hearings. They can still be held if requested.

## **POLICE**

### **Resolution 25-67: Request for Council to approve the purchase of LPRs from T2 Systems, Inc.**

Lieutenant Angelucci explained the purpose is to streamline the system. The cost is \$191,255 and it addresses current parking issues as well as expired registrations, 2-hour parking issues, etc. He said the Parking Enforcement Officer would digitally chalk the vehicle. He noted it will save time for the Parking Enforcement Officer. Councilman Queenan said he is concerned with the cost for

low-income residents. He said he would like to see a “softer hand with our constituents” and we not be a profit center.

Lieutenant Angelucci said these units will cover all of the Code Enforcement vehicles. He said it was purchased through the Police General Fund and the subscription fee is factored in and subject to renewal. He added that the maintenance cost is \$12,000 per year. He said the work should start in October and be completed by January.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the purchase of LPRs from T2 Systems, Inc. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo  
Clerk of Council