

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2025

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, October 7, 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; Michael Trail, Norristown Police Chief; Lieutenant Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning; Vincent Poppa, Assistant Director of Planning; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Kathy Pfifer, Director of Finance; Amanda Ciarlante, Assistant Director of Finance; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Keith Gordon, Manager, Building & Codes Enforcement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Colson** to approve the Minutes from the September 16, 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 issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"City Wide Sweep" Saturday, November 1st – 6 am until truck is filled.

There are 2 events for Councilwoman Colson's District: Dedication for Rob Hill at Simmons Park on October 18, 2025 at 11:30 and a game at 1:30 pm.

4th District Town Hall Meeting at the American Legion on 11/12 at 6 pm.

Fire Department Open House on Wednesday, October 8th from 6 – 8 pm at 201 West Freedley Street.

Recreation Center Pumpkin Carving event on October 17th from 5 – 8 pm. Socks and blankets donations are requested from 9 am to 9 pm on Friday and 9 to 5 pm on Saturday.

Norristown Hospitality Center, 503 Chain Street, is seeking donations of men's socks and underwear on Monday through Friday from 7 to 3.

Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 31 from 4 to 7 pm at the Recreation Center. 2:30 setup. Sponsored by the United Families Bond Fund.

"Faith, Blue and You" Active Shooter Awareness and Senior Fraud Awareness on October 10th from 11 am to 2 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 23 East Airy Street.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Watters, Stanbridge Street – He mentioned there will be a Veterans Valley Forge Chapter 349 5K Run at the Norristown Farm Park. He noted that trees were trimmed and Do Not Enter signs were placed at West Airy Street and Selma. He said that there is a blinking light needing attention on Dekalb Street. He said you can see it from Marshall Street. He noted there is a damaged sewer in Elmwood Park. He added that the County is in charge of stopping sedimentation. He said that it is voluntary compliance regarding the Clean Water Act.

Serena Brown – Ms. Brown provided a letter which Leonard Lightner will review.

Melvin Faust, Airy Street – He thanked the Council members who came to the Police Community events. He thanked Public Works for the Airy & Selma Street issue. He suggested that Council have Town Halls so that the community knows who the Council members are because he said, "You are the face of Norristown." He thanked Councilwoman Colson for providing him with the phone number to find out who controls Airy Street & Selma Street. He is waiting for a response.

James Samuel, 516 Hamilton Street – He is the 1st Vice Commander of the Norristown American Legion and the House Chairman. He said he has a parking issue regarding parking on the other side for street cleaning. He noted there are 7 vehicles parked on the sidewalk with no tickets and trucks with trailers on Hamilton Street parked. He asked if parking could be allowed after the street is clean.

Shietto Johnson - She said there is a camera in a parking lot at 1200 Locust and Wood Streets. She saw a man putting it up. She said she is sure it can see into her house. She asked where it came from?

Lisa Brown, West Basin Street – She said that they are targeted for tickets at Basin & Locust Streets. She said now there are tickets for parking too close to the Stop Sign. She said the tickets are being issued early in the morning when residents are getting ready for work. She said the reason is to get money but “nothing is being done for us.”

Victoria Gonzales – She said she has to park halfway up the block and she has health issues that make her a fall risk. She said she should not have to worry about getting a parking ticket. She said also that kids almost get hit by speeding cars and there needs to be flashing lights.

Luca Burrows, Wood Street – He said there is division and the problem is “how we’re doing it.” He said that tickets for less than 30 feet from the stop sign is ridiculous. He said it’s usually not impeding anything. He added that the tickets are given at unreasonable times like when getting ready for work and school.

BUILDING & CODES COMPLIANCE

Ordinance 25-07: Motion to approve amending Chapter 240 Property Maintenance Quick Ticket Program

Mr. Gordon noted this was recommended by the insurance counselor.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve Ordinance 25-07. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request to approve HARB COAs

Mr. Gordon noted that these COAs are for properties needing additions, alterations and repairs. The following are the addresses:

501/503	West Marshall Street
129	East Main Street
514	Astor Street
610	West Main Street
935	West Marshall Street
536	George Street

Mr. Gordon recommended tabling the request for 536 George Street because it has not received Zoning approval.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to amend the request by removing 536 George Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the amended request. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCE

Resolution 25-85: request for Council to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to be budgeted for the Police, Fire, and Non-Uniform Pension Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

Kathy Pfister stated that State Law requires the adoption of the MMO. She said it is calculated by an Actuary for the Pension Plans and is funded by a combination of State Grant funds and member contributions supplemented, if necessary, by the General Fund. She provided to Council a list of the different fundings for each Plan. She noted that the Police requires \$3,345,141; the Paid Firefighters require \$788,156; the Labor Industrial requires \$113,211; the Municipality Pension Plan is fully funded; ICMA \$83,508.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Municipality's pension plans. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Presentation of proposed FY2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects and request for authorization to advertise a Public Hearing for October 27, 2025

Director Musonye provided the amounts needed for the proposed CDBG Projects. She said the total for the proposed Grant is \$756,318.

She said she will be back before Council on October 23rd with an Ordinance to advertise for a Public Hearing on October 27, 2025. She said she will seek Council approval on January 5, 2026 if HUD approval is received.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to authorize the advertisement of the FY2026 CDBG proposed budget and a Public Hearing scheduled for October 27, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

POLICE

Motion for Council to approve the application for and acceptance of a 25-26 Keep It Safe Mini Grant

Chief Trail noted this is a full Grant in the amount of \$2,500 targeted for the youth in the community to help middle-schoolers understand substance abuse with peer discussions, workshops and educational materials.

He said it is one of the tools we have to help youth stay away from drugs and alcohol.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the application for and acceptance of a 25-26 Keep It Safe Mini Grant. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-82: A request for Council to approve the subscription purchase for \$50,179.22 from Lexipol LLC for three (3) years access to Law Enforcement Policy and Supplement Manuals

Chief Trail noted that Lexipol is the modern platform and provides for training on policy, emails and tests and the information can be tracked. He said it was negotiated by Officer Dumas which resulted in a \$21,000 discount. He said it will help to make the Police Department more professional.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the subscription purchase for \$50,179.22 from Lexipol LLC for three (3) years access to Law Enforcement Policy and Supplement Manuals. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-83: Motion to approve and certify the Civil Service Resolution for entry-level Police Officer candidates and approve the conditional hiring of 6 entry-level Police Officers

Chief Trail noted that the testing process is complete and the List has been certified for hiring 6 Officers that will be guided on different models of service. He said there are now 53 deployable Officers. He recommended the hiring because the Department needs the extra support.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve and certify the Civil Service Resolution for entry-level Police Officer Candidates and approve the conditional hiring of 6 entry-level Police Officers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-84: a request for Council to approve the Purchase Agreement with Integrated Security Solutions for five additional security camera locations and expand the wireless infrastructure (Phase 2)

Lieutenant Angelucci noted this is Phase 2 which will be used primarily for the Marshall Street Corridor. He said it is paid through a VIP Grant.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-84 to approve the Purchase Agreement with Integrated Security

Systems for five additional security camera locations and expand the wireless infrastructure (Phase 2). **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution 25-78 of 2025: authorizing the sale of qualifying Municipal property via Public Auction to include seven (7) Surplus Vehicles and/or equipment

Director Odenigbo said they need to sell the old vehicles because they are too expensive to maintain.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President**, to authorize the sale of qualifying Municipal property via Public Auction to include seven (7) Surplus Vehicles and/or equipment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-86 of 2025: purchase of one Street Sweeper from Gran Turk Equipment Co., Elgin Broom Badger, Series CJ Mounted on 2024 Isuzu NRR Chasis at Co-Stars price of \$276,129.75.

Mr. Odenigbo said this was approved in the current Ordinance. He said there are 2 Zones and there is a total of 3 sweepers – one as backup.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-86 for the purchase of one Street Sweeper from GranTurk Equipment Co., Elgin Broom Badger, Series CJ Mounted on 2024 Isuzu NRR Chasis at Co-Stars price of \$276,129.75 that will be added to the sweepers that are currently used to enhance the sweeping and cleaning of the Municipality. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Monthly Updates to Council – presenting Departments: Police and Fire

Police

Lieutenant Angelucci provided details of the September report:

Current Staff consists of 45 sworn Officers; 1 Acting Chief; 1 Captain; 1 Lieutenant; 4 Sergeants; 10 Corporals; 4 Parking Enforcement; 1 SRO; 5 PCOs; 16 Crossing Guides. One on Leave, 2 Extended Sick, 1 Military Leave and 3 Officers in the Academy.

50% reduction in criminal investigations; zero shootings ; 7 robberies committed by the same person who is now under arrest; 41 Domestic incidents; Opiod cases down 17%; 133% increase in fatal overdoses – non-fatal up 4%; 14 events, including PSAs and Water Ice with a Cop;

continuing on Facebook to get information out; 18 shots fired – 9 were founded reports – 1 actually called 9-1-1; continuing to partner with Gaudenzia Drug & Alcohol Outreach Program.

Fire

Chief Tom O'Donnell noted that the Fire Department was awarded an "Assistance to Firefighter Grant" in the amount of \$61,500 to be used for help with health and safety issues in the Department.

Operations Summary:

1,127 incidents; average response time was 4 minutes 13 seconds; Thursday at noon was busiest time; 1,401 training sessions equal to 5,916 hours; no Firefighter injuries or deaths; 3 Civilian injuries; 422 inspections of community properties; 164 Public Education events; 2 Fire Drills (from August); visited 494 homes and installed 144 smoke alarms; 2 appearances by the Safety House; Fleet out of service for 2,320 hours.

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