

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 2, 2025**

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, December 2, 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  
Mydera Robinson  
Jasmine Griffen  
Rashaad Bates  
Rebecca Smith

Also in attendance were:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Michael Trail, Norristown Police Chief; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning; Vincent Poppa, Assistant Director of Planning; Kathy Pfifer, Director of Finance; Amanda Ciarlante, Assistant Director of Finance; Alecia Fields, Senior Analyst; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Richard Lockhart, Deputy Fire Chief; Keith Gordon, Manager, Building & Codes Enforcement; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering.

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

The first response was to Cynthia Culbreath regarding her visionary for a Walk of Fame at the Band Shell. He said they reached out to her to set up a meeting to discuss her vision and possible locations for it.

The next response was to Tiffani Todd regarding the status of the former Human Services Building at 1430 Dekalb Street. He said they reached out to the County

and currently there is a Day Care on the first floor who must vacate as of Quarter 1 2026. He said that phased construction planning will start later in the first half of the year to progress to mid to late 2026 with final inspections at the end of the year.

He thanked Olivia Brady for her positive comments about the Police.

He addressed the comments about ICE activity. He said the policy regarding ICE is still the same that they do not support or work with ICE. He said that when they do hear about possible ICE activity, they do their best to notify the people involved.

The next response was from Mr. Jackson regarding the trash pile across from his home. Mr. Lightner said they set up a meeting with Code Enforcement and Mr. Jackson and, as of today, a contractor was contacted regarding the clean up.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Council President Smith**, to approve the Minutes from the November 25, 2025 Council Work Session. **The motion passed 5-0.**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Historical Society Presentation**

Dr. David Young, Executive Director, said he came before Council because of an invitation by Council Vice President Bates who visited the Historical Society. He provided a Power Point highlighting the history, the programs and resources of the Historical Society. He invited everyone to “like” them on Facebook.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

“Norristown Holiday Hall” – Join us for an evening of cheer and good times at Norristown Holiday Hall on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Enjoy beautiful holiday ambience, light snacks and pictures with Santa!

Council Vice President Bates announced that if anyone has Announcements they would like to be read at the meeting to email him at [rbates@norristown.org](mailto:rbates@norristown.org).

Council President Smith announced that if there is anyone interested in applying for LIHEAP, they can go to the PA website for the application.

Council President Smith congratulated Fire Chief Thomas O'Donnell for being named one of the "City & State's 2025 Impact Honorees."

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Reverend Elisha Morris – He was joined by other members, Jeanna Lyons and Nadene Hitch, of the Civil Service Commission. He said that at the meeting on November 13th, 2025, he said they were asked to make some changes to the Rules and Regulations of the Norristown Civil Service Commission. He said it meant that something was already done and we were asked to make it right. He said, "We refuse to do it because it wasn't right." He said that Council members, who voted, created a Deputy Police position and then it was sent to them to ratify it. He said that is not how it works. He said Council should send the position to them, they create it and then put applications out for the position.

He said he received a letter from the President of the FOP which was sent by Matthew O'Connell stating that Police applicants have taken the test and have been scored. He said their scores are being whispered to some people but not the applicants nor have they told the Commission what the scores are. He noted that the President has demanded the Commission to conduct an investigation. He said the Municipality Civil Service Regulations gives them that responsibility. He cited Section 210 Investigations and Section 211 Subpoenas. He said they intend to follow the rules and regulations and do their job.

He added, "We found out that Council was going to appoint Solicitors tonight. We found out that the Solicitor was meeting with our Administrator but they couldn't speak to them about the meeting. When we found out that Council was going to hire Lawyers to represent us, we had to act because the Rules and Regulations state that we are to come before Council to say who we want Council to hire. It is the right and responsibility of law of the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Solicitor cannot come to us about who he or she is talking to

about the work we do, and gave us a “mocked up re-ordering” of the rules and regulations to cover up the mistake or wrong that Council did by appointing a Deputy Police Chief, that was on the agenda for tonight but now it’s taken off. Somebody told you that we said it was wrong. The FOP has pledged to sue Norristown in Commonwealth Court if you go ahead and make the appointment. I am a homeowner for 6 years and I can’t afford to get sued by the FOP. We’re going to do what is right and you’re going to back us.”

“We’re here tonight to ask you not to give us a Solicitor because we have to talk to our Solicitor on Thursday night to find out if that Solicitor wants to be our Solicitor or your Solicitor – they can’t be both.”

Solicitor Kilkenny said they are correct that the Civil Service Commission appoints their own Solicitor. He said that Council could affirm their engagement letter and Council would then decide if they want that Solicitor or not.

He added, “You can amend the Resolution to reflect that and table that portion of the Resolution.”

Councilwoman Griffen brought up that this is normally done in January.

Reverend Morris agreed that this is normally done in January.

Councilman Queenan suggested taking this off of the agenda. He said this is done every January and Council should not vote on this twice in the same year.

Councilwoman Griffen agreed and suggested to wait until January.

Reverend Morris read a letter from the FOP to Ms. Hitch.

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – He shared that in 1812, the Norristown Dam was built. He said that Riverfront Park, Tourism and Economic Development and all that goes with it has been missing in the Budget. The Prison was not allowed to be turned into a museum, there was a Tour Boat from Riverfront Park, the Dragon Boats are gone. He said that all these could have brought in revenue. He suggested they dredge the Norristown side of Barbados Island. He said he filed a

complaint with the DEP and the Attorney General. He had a copy of “Are You Violating My Constitutional Rights?” He said “yes.”

Taria Mayo – She said she comes in peace. She said she was targeted because of speaking out at former meetings. She and Heather Lewis run a Teen Summit every year at the Recreation Center but it can’t happen because the Center will be closed on December 20th and 21st. She said there is an event at the George Washington Carver Community Center called “Boys Lock In” for ages 10-18, Friday, December 19, 2025 at 6 pm. She said she was asked to bring youths to this meeting but most didn’t feel too engaged and also felt targeted. She said we need to all work together. Regarding William McCoy – she told Solicitor Kilkenny that she believes he is there to protect Council. She said there are disheartening comments about him on Facebook saying he stole money. She said it needs to be cleared up because he did not steal any money.

Lamera Hinton – Ms. Hinton said that the NYAA Bengals have an upcoming tournament and they have done fundraising but are still short. She asked Council if there was any possibility they could help? They are \$2,000 short. Councilwoman Robinson offered to speak with her.

Derek Price – He had an issue with the Norristown Parking Enforcement. He said he parked in the same parking space for 10 years but recently received a ticket for parking too close to the stop sign. He said that the metered spaces at Swede & Marshall Streets are within 30 feet of the Stop Sign. He said to either loosen up the rules or enforce equally.

## **FIRE**

### **Resolution 25-88 Motion to Hire (3) Firefighters (moved up on the Agenda)**

Fire Chief O’Donnell gave the breakdown of the Eligibility List: Numbers 1, 2 and 3 were hired, number 4 withdrew, and numbers 5, 6, and 7 are up next.

Council Vice President Bates swore in the Candidates.

There was a **motion by Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the hiring of three (3) Firefighters. **The motion passed 4-0** (Councilwoman Robinson was not present for voting.)

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Resolution 25-103: Appointment for Professionals for 2026**

Council President noted that there was interest to move this to the January meeting.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to table this Resolution until the first January Council meeting. **The motion passed 5-0.**

## **BUILDING & CODES COMPLIANCE**

### **Request approval of HARB COAs**

Mr. Gordon recommended approval of COAs for the following addresses:

902 West Marshall Street  
507 West Marshall Street  
560 Hamilton Street  
921 Swede Street  
1321 Dekalb Street

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the HARB COAs for the above addresses. **The motion passed 5-0.**

## **FINANCE**

### **Request of Council to adopt Resolution 25-94: 2026-2030 Capital Improvements Plan**

Kathy Pfister noted this Resolution represents the 5-year Capital Improvements Plan. She said the details are included in the Council meeting packet. She had a Power Point which displayed the major projects for 2026. She added there are also 2 Firetrucks, one being paid by ARPA Funds and the other will be ordered next year.

She noted these projects were discussed in the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting by the Department Heads and they were also discussed at the November 5<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup> Council meetings.

Councilman Queenan asked what happens if this does not get approved? Kathy Pfister responded that this is just the budget and Council is not approving them to go out and purchase. She added that any project over the amount of \$23,800 must be brought before Council for approval.

Councilman Queenan asked when there will be ground-breaking for Poley Park? Ted Dymtryk of Pennoni said it is in the Review Process for Land Development then it will go out for bidding.

**There was a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to approve the 2026-2030 Capital Improvements Plan. The motion passed 5-0.**

#### **Request of Council to adopt Resolution 25-95: 2026 Consolidated Fee Schedule**

Kathy Pfister noted that updates to the Consolidated Fee Schedule are included in Council's meeting packet. She said this was discussed at the last three Council meetings.

**There was a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to adopt the proposed 2026 Consolidated Fee Schedule. The motion passed 5-0.**

#### **Request Council to adopt the 2026 Budget Ordinance 25-08 establishing the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2026**

Kathy Pfister had a Power Point showing the 2026 General Fund Budget. She noted that on October 21, 2025, the Department Heads presented their Budgets.

Kathy Pfister presented a Power Point highlighting the dates of the Budget Presentation: 10/21/25 Preliminary Budget Presentation; 11/05/25 Proposed Budget Presentation; 11/18/25 Received permission to advertise the Budget.

The Revenues total is \$45,610,056; Expenditures total is \$47,065,480; the Budget Gap is \$1,455,424.

Ms. Pfister noted that the 2026 Operating Budget includes the General Fund, the Fire Fund and the EMS Fund.

Councilman Queenan had questions regarding Projections and Promotions. He said he spoke with the Labor Attorney and he said there are concerns about how the Municipality is doing Promotions. He asked if new jobs are being created with this new Budget?

Leonard Lightner said there are some new positions.

Councilman Queenan said they should be opened up for anyone to apply.

Leonard Lightner said they will be.

Councilman Queenan said it sounded like we were promoting.

Leonard Lightner said there are some promotions and some new positions.

Councilman Queenan asked, "Aren't the promotions creating new jobs?"

Leonard Lightner said, "And more responsibilities."

Councilman Queenan said, "That's the problem with this Budget. When you create a new job, it has to be open for anyone to apply."

He added, “That’s what the Civil Service representatives were talking about. You can change the title but when you have a wage increase, it’s a new position that can’t be handed to somebody. That falls into a Labor Law issue.”

He suggested taking time to make sure “we’re not breaking any law.”

He noted there is still one more meeting left for the year.

Councilwoman Griffen noted that “In light of the Civil Service comments tonight, it would be best to move this to the next meeting agenda.”

Leonard Lightner commented that he spoke with the Labor Attorney and he said there are two different groups – Bargaining and Non-Bargaining. He said that with the Non-Bargaining, they are not creating new positions. He said that when someone gets promoted with additional responsibilities, Human Resources has been okay with it and he said that Labor has also signed off on it.

Council President Smith asked the Solicitor if he had any legal insights?

Solicitor Kilkenny said, “I’m not a Labor Attorney but does Councilman Queenan have a specific question about a specific lawsuit?” Solicitor Kilkenny agreed that if a position is created, others need a chance to apply for it.

Councilman Queenan reiterated that if you change the title with an increase, it is creating a new position.

Councilwoman Griffen said she sees no harm in further research in saving ourselves from potential lawsuits.

Councilwoman Griffen said she feels they are getting pressured not to do their due diligence.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to table this until the December 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. **The motion passed 4-1.** (Council President Smith voted no.)

## **Request of Council to adopt Ordinance 25-09: establishing the Fire and EMS Tax Rate for 2026**

There was a motion by Council Vice Presidente Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to table this until the December 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The motion passed 4-1. (Council President Smith voted no.)

### **MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **Resolution 25-91: request for Municipal Council approval: Dell Monitors purchase - \$47,365.00**

Marc Meshurle, Technology Officer, helped explain to Council the need for the Monitor purchase and the needs they will fill for the staff at a better bargain. He said they did some extensive research with Dell and some other vendors using Amazon based on requests for large purchase items. He said that some of the items we got back, some were discontinued by the Vendors and told that those items would not be beneficial to the Municipality. He said they decided on Dell for the Single-Monitor with a docking station including cameras and speakers. He said they were cheaper as an option as compared to buying Dual-Monitors with cameras and speakers. He said the larger purchase was cheaper per unit with a government discount and they come with warranties. They will also be ready for use this year as one standardized product.

Council Vice President Bates said he is not against the purchase but concerned with the expense. He asked if it is possible to do it in phases - replace the first 20 now and the next 20 later.

Councilman Queenan said that you can get the monitors cheaper. He added that, "Unless something special is needed, it is not necessary to spend more."

Council President Smith asked for a Motion to approve but there was no action.

Council Vice President Bates made an alternate motion to purchase the monitors in phases.

Mr. Sean Chin, Assistant to the Municipal Administrator, noted that the quote expires on December 10<sup>th</sup> and the price may increase. He said if purchased now, it will ensure that everyone has the same ability to have virtual meetings and training.

Council President Smith stated that there has been a lot of due diligence taken to obtain the most cost effective purchase.

There was a **motion by Council President Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-91 to replace existing monitors with upgraded units that integrate video-conferencing technology and docking station functionality. To consolidate work space setups by using a single larger monitor, eliminating the need for dual monitors. To leverage Dell bulk-order pricing for cost savings and include 3 years of Pro-Support/advance exchange. **The motion passed 4-1.** (Councilman Queenan voted no.)

#### **Resolution 25-102: Request for Municipal Council to approve the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule**

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the 2026 Council Meeting Schedule. **The motion passed 5-0.**

#### **PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Resolution 25-101: Request for Minor Preliminary/Final Land Development approval for 807-821 Haws Avenue (Kingdom Hall)**

Director Musonye provided a history of the process up to this point. She said it has gone before the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board, both giving their approval. She said the Applicant's representative, Michael Horn, is present.

Mr. Horn explained that they paid for permits that were granted but then was revoked. He said he was told it was granted in error so he asked if they should be re-imbursed? He said they asked Code Enforcement and were told no refunds. They came to ask Council for their input about this.

Council President Smith said this is the first time they're hearing about this.

Jayne Musonye asked, with the permission of the Administrator and Solicitor, to allow to continue with the Permit that was approved because they met every requirement.

The Applicant also asked permission to go through their company, using their volunteers, rather than through a contractor.

Council President Smith said those are questions for the professionals.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-101. **The motion passed 5-0.**

### **Applicant's grant of an extension for Conditional Use Hearing for 11-17 East Airy Street – MM Partners**

Jayne Musonye noted that an application for Conditional Use was presented before Council on October 6<sup>th</sup> and the Applicant appeared before the HARB asking to demolish the building and put up a Mixed-Use building. She added that they appeared before HARB on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the application for demolishing was denied because it was incomplete and the case was tabled until December 17<sup>th</sup>. She noted that date would fall after the date for the 60-day period for approval or denial of the Conditional Use so she asked the Applicant to give an extension so all issues would be resolved prior to the due date. She added that the application was reviewed by the County Planning Commission and on November 10<sup>th</sup>, there was an advertised Public Hearing for November 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The Conditional Use application for 11-17 East Airy Street was originally scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> and an extension was received but the Public Hearing would have to occur on or before February 28, 2026. She added we will be hearing back from them once we have gone through the process and get approval from Council.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to grant the extension for Conditional Use Hearing for 11-17 East Airy Street. **The motion passed 5-0.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann Santangelo  
Clerk of Council