

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2026

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, January 20, 2026 was called to order by Council President, Rashaad Bates, 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
Natalie Colson
Jasmine Griffen
David McMahan
Dustin Queenan
Rashaad Bates

Also in attendance were:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Michael Trail, Norristown Police Chief; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Richard Lockhart, Deputy Fire Chief; Bri-Ana Hawkins, Director of Recreation; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the Minutes from the January 5, 2026 Re-Organization Meeting and the January 5, 2026 Council Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Bates announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's Council Meeting to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Council Vice President Queenan:

He announced that Jess is in the back to provide headphones for Spanish translation.

"Teen Art Fair" on Saturday, February 7th from 10 am to 12 pm at the Norristown Public Library.

Councilman McCoy thanked the participants of the "100 Men March" for youth violence on Martin Luther King Day. He said, "It demonstrated that people still care about the youth and are willing to show up." He also said, "Yesterday was the pen being placed on the paper for the story and the narrative to be written." He added he welcomes any members in the community or any organization to present to Council. He also thanked Chief Charro for his assistance and Municipal Administrator Lightner. He shared "Write a new narrative as opposed to what's being projected in the headlines."

Councilwoman Griffen said she will be having her first Town Hall on February 12th from 6:30 to 7:30 at the George Washington Carver Community Center. She said that everyone from all Districts are welcome. She said she "can't guarantee solutions on the spot" but she wants everyone to come together as a community. She also thanked everyone for their support during her first few months.

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Leonard Lightner said there were no questions to respond to.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Al Zone, Elmwood Park Zoo Director – Mr. Zone stated that he wanted to speak ahead of the Chamber of Commerce presentation. He said it has been six years since the Zoo has invested in the Center Theatre. He noted that since the "Block

by Block” program, the landscaping has been fabulous and the streets are clean. He said that Brad McLaughlin has done an amazing job. He thanked Norristown and the County for helping execute this program.

Tiffani Todd, Freedley Street – She said there should be recordings from other meetings posted on YouTube. She said there has been an uptick in LLCs buying single family homes and turning them into rentals that the tenants are paying “astronomical rates” for. She said it is “pushing home ownership out of Norristown.”

Tario Mayo, Lafayette Street – She said the Commissioner’s Meeting regarding an investigation into the Civil Service complaint for the FOP (Federal Order of Police) did not foster public trust regarding the positioning of candidates, in her eyes. She said that the Deputy Chief position was voted on, conducted in public and witnessed by print and posted on the Municipal website. She added that the apology statement by Leonard Lightner was a mishap when he said the acceptance of the resignation of the Public Works Director was a poll rather than a vote. She said that a complaint about this will be forwarded to General David Sunday. She addressed Council President Bates about his statement regarding transparency and accountability and then saying he wants to forget the past and move forward. She asked for him to “make it make sense to me.” She added that she feels all Public Hearings should be able to be viewed. She said that the footage of the 12/16/95 meeting should be available because it is public record, not a Right-to-Know. She added that the RTK request concerning Councilwoman Colson’s alleged misuse of her discretionary funds went “under the bus.”

Stephen Forster, Director of Commerce, Montgomery County – He said the Ambassadors is a wonderful program. It’s a great service to residents and businesses. They execute it flawlessly. He said he is grateful for the investment into this program.

Rocio E. – She said she represents the Latino businesses. She said that ICE is very strong and there are no sales, no money for rent and they are saddened by this. She asked Council to do something like support our businesses, eat in our restaurants and encourage other people to do so. She said they are being kidnapped by ICE and they are suffering.

Stephanie Vincent, Montco Community Watch - She said that ICE is rooted in fear, not public safety. She added that ICE is being used as a political weapon to decide who belongs and who does not. She said people are afraid to call 9-1-1 and afraid to send their kids to school. She asked to put on the record that Council will say that the Norristown Police will not collaborate in any way with ICE and commit to transparency by letting the public know if the Norristown Police are working with ICE and why? She told Council that they have power at the local level.

Denise A. - 335 West Marshall Street – She came wearing a mask to show what some of the ICE wear. She said no one knows who the ICE people are and that the Police should be asking for ID. She asked who will support and help them? She said that the Police are always with ICE. She said that no one wants to meet with the members of her community.

John George – He said he is here to support the “Block by Block” program. He said he has seen garbage on the street for 8 years near his business on Main Street. He said that something different is now being communicated. He said he would like to see the program continued and expanded.

Don Ketchum – He owns a cycle shop on Main Street. He said that the Ambassadors go above and beyond what their job is. He said there is a tremendous difference on his block.

Iswella, King of Prussia – She said she has family in Norristown. She said that ICE is targeting us. She said there is violence against women and children. She said to stand with the community and for the Constitution.

PRESENTATIONS

Norristown Chamber of Commerce: Ambassador Program Presentation

Brad McLaughlin, President of the Norristown Chamber of Commerce, noted he got to know some of the members of the Ambassador program over the last six months. He said it’s an honor to address them.

Bill Corbett, business and property owner in Norristown for 40 years, provided an update on the progress of the program.

He provided a Power Point. He said he is positive about what can be done together. He said they are located on Buttonwood Street where there are cool, innovative things to see.

He said that if there is trash on the streets, it is difficult to feel good. He noted that the Ambassadors program is a collaboration between the County and the Municipality and he appreciates this. He said that 17,000 lbs. of trash was moved. He said they provide a connection to the community and provide a sense of safety.

The Power Point covered the following topics:

- Program Scope & Timeframe
- Cleanliness at Scale
- Trash and seasonal demand
- Resident and Visitor Engagement
- Frontline Civic Support
- Business & Downtown Impact
- Accountability & Training
- What This Means for Norristown
- With Norristown Ambassadors vs Without Ambassadors

Mr. Corbett said he is here to promote and make aware what value we think this program brings.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Motion to request Council approval of Grant acceptance in the amount of \$40,000 from the National Fitness Campaign to install a Fitness Court in Elmwood Park

Bri-Ana Hawkins noted they partnered with Blue Cross and will have a “standard model” installed at the park.

There was **a motion by Council President Bates, seconded by Councilman McMahan**, to approve the securing of a Grant from the National Fitness

Campaign providing the financial foundation needed to build a Fitness Court that will significantly improve community health, expand free access to high quality wellness resources and strengthen our recreation infrastructure without placing additional strain on the Municipal budget. This investment promotes equitable fitness opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities, supports our long-term health and wellness goals and positions Norristown as a leader in providing innovative inclusive public spaces that enhance quality of life. **The motion passed 6-0.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution 26-07: request for Municipal Council to Award of Contract – 2025 Paving & ADA Ramp Project

Solicitor Kilkenny advised Council to make a motion to reject all bids and re-bid the project due to information that was provided to staff this afternoon about bidders and found that they were over budgeted.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen,** to cancel all bids and re-bid the project based on information found regarding the Paving & ADA Ramp Project. **The motion passed 6-0.**

NORRISTOWN STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Resolution 26-03: request approval to send a Letter of Intent to Scott Contractors in the amount of \$429,930 for 2025 NSWA Projects

Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineer, advised Council that this project will involve 3 different areas to improve stormwater drainage, including inlets and stormwater pipe. These areas are: Buttonwood Street and West Oak Streets, the Fornance Street bridge, Dekalb Street and East Washington Street. He said this would also include milling and overlay. He noted that the project exceeds the Responsible Contractor Ordinance (RCO) threshold amount so RCO documentation must be completed.

There was a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahon, to approve Resolution 26-03 requesting approval to send a Letter of Intent to Scott Contractors in the amount of \$429,930 for the 2025 NSWA Projects and that, pursuant to Section 133-6 of the RCO, Pennoni requests permission on behalf of NSWA to contact Scott Contractors to obtain the required RCO documents for review. **The motion passed 6-0.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Norristown Small Business Assistance Center presentation – Widener University Small Business Development Center

Jayne Musonye introduced Monica Herrera and Lenin Agudo who provided an update for Council.

Mr. Agudo noted that the Municipality is a great partner. He presented the Annual Report from January to October 2025 regarding the activities of the Norristown Small Business Assistance Center. He noted that they must assist the small business for 20 hours of service per week, specifically CDBG eligible or HUD eligible for low to moderate income and reside within the Municipality. He said he will share highlights of what they have been able to achieve.

He noted they provide consulting, financial literacy training, Government navigation assistance, marketing, e-commerce support and self-assessment.

Some of the highlights of the Power Point included:

- Our Team
- Strategic Goals
- 2025 Performance Highlights
- Client Demographics
- Client Challenges and Barriers
- Client Outcomes and Impact

Monica Herrera provided information about the programs in 2026:

Benefits of the NSBAC

Training Programs Delivered
Calendar of Events 2026

Mr. Agudo said they applied for a Grant to fund small businesses in the amount of \$2,500 to \$5,000.

He said they also help to develop Outreach & Connectivity.

Jayne Musonye also noted there is a link on the Planning website for the Small Business Assistance Center.

Resolution 26-05: Consideration to approve Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Module for 730 Forrest Avenue and authorizing submission to PA DEP

Ted Dymtryk noted this is a concise overview of the Sewage Facilities Planning module. He said this needs approval to direct it to the DEP. He noted that it is a Public Sewer through the Sewer Lateral.

There was a **motion by Councilman McMahon, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to adopt an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Module and authorize its submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a revision to the Borough's Official Sewage Facilities Plan. **The motion passed 5-1** (Council Vice President Queenan voted "no.")

Resolution 26-06: authorizing the submission of a Grant application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) requesting \$300,000 in CDBG-DR Program funding

Jayne Musonye explained that DR stands for Disaster Recovery. Funding was made available due to the declaration by President Biden that areas in Montgomery County were considered a disaster due to the effects of Hurricane Ida in 2021. She said that because of this declaration, they were eligible for the second round of funding and so they are preparing an application.

The Fire Chief noted the most distressed areas are the 200-300 block of East Main Street, 100-500 East Washington Street, 200-500 East Lafayette Street, 100 block

Schuylkill Avenue, 0 block of Dekalb Street, 300 block West Washington Street, 300 block of West Main Street, Water Street and 300-400 block of Arch Street.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to solicit \$300,000 in CDBG-DR funding from DCED to perform scattered site owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects. **The motion passed 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to adjourn the Council Work Session. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council