

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2026

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, March 17, 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
Mydera Robinson
Natalie Colson
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; Deputy Fire Chief Richard Lockhart; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the Minutes from the March 3, 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 issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Council Vice President Queenan:

He announced that there are headphones in the back for Spanish translation.

"Izzy's Earth Day Party/Earth Day Hoppy Hour" - April 25, 2026 from 12 to 7 pm at the Elmwood Park Playground and vonC Brewery, Harding Boulevard and Poplar Street, Norristown.

"Town Hall" for Council Vice President Dustin Queenan on March 23rd at the Norristown Public Library. He will provide "Black Irish Cupcakes."

Councilman McMahon announced:

"Businesses on Marshall Street" Come shop local on March 28th from 11 am to 7 pm.

Councilwoman Robinson announced:

The Annual "What's the 4-1-1?" on April 11th – in person and also, virtual during the Town Hall. She said there are more details to follow.

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Leonard Lightner said there were no questions to respond to.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jay Bagley and Oscar Vance – Mr. Vance provided information about the Program at 212-214 Cherry Street. He handed out information about what is offered. He said there is also training for the Police Department and Professor Bagley has a Drone Program. He said there are issues with some youths that are afraid to get out of their cars. He said the Center provides positive reinforcement and Drone

training creates jobs. He said some youths are starting their own business. He said “It is a Blessing to be part of it.” He added that it takes some funding and that in 3 weeks there will be classes at 216 Cherry Street including photography, music, art, Aviation.

Councilwoman Robinson recommended to Mr. Bagley and Mr. Vance to look into healthspark.org regarding grants that may benefit them.

Michael Petriga, 1801 New Hope Street – He said that Mascaro’s weekly pickup is not consistent. He said their contract affects the town and the cost is a substantial increase.

Derek Johns, 622 Swede Street – He works with “Pathway to Potential” and he said there is a rumor that they are working with the Police Department. He said “This is very dangerous for me and my staff.” He said that he and his staff do not receive money. He said they know the importance of saving lives.

Olivia Brady, 728 Stanbridge Street – She said she is a member of HARB and the Preservation Society and hopes the HARB Restructuring allows more access for residents who want to beautify their properties.

Amber Queen, 736 Buttonwood Street – She said that “Mascaro trash service is trash.” She said they don’t always pick up bulk items. She asked if Council looked for other bidders? She also commented on the Forensics Contract data-sharing saying they are a private entity and may contract with ICE.

Andi Landis – She asked if Norristown was offered other contracts for the forensics that may be more reasonable and local.

Natalia Naranjo – She said there is no trust for the Norristown Police Department and no community communication. She said that there may be a DUI in the system for a resident and they will be followed by ICE. She said they will take anybody in the system. She said they will even take them in front of children. She said Council needs to change this and people need to see Council doing something.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 26-25: Appointment of Professionals for 2026 – Long Nyquist

Leonard Lightner advised Council that they can make a decision on which way you want to go.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to approve Resolution 26-25 to appoint Long Nyquist & Associates to serve as Government Relations Services. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Council President Bates asked if this was a month-to-month contract than can be cancelled if needed and was told by Leonard Lightner that it was.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 26-24: Recommend Award of Contract to J.P. Mascaro & Sons for Residential Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services

Sean Chin, Officer of Special Projects and Interagency Affairs, presented a Power Point explaining the process. The Power Point covered these topics:

- Background
- Procurement Process
- Through PennBid
- Proposal Evaluation (Scoring Committee) - Mascaro (84.25 out of 100)
- Service Option 1 – Once a Week
- Service Option 2 – Twice a Week
- Cost Comparison
- Resident Feedback (Public Survey)
- Service & Improvements
- Missed Pickup Accountability
- Council Action Required – Option 1 or Option 2

Mr. Chin explained the PennBid process.

Councilman McMahon said he is interested in exploring the idea of Municipal Trash Collection because of the issues with the trashcans and inflexibility.

Public Comment:

Amber Queen – She said one issue is a 6 month wait time for a replacement trashcan and the trash truck sometimes skips houses. She said Mascaro is not worse but not better. She said that Council needs to be proactive in getting other trash hauling companies.

Council President Bates said they will look into this.

J.P. Mascaro, III – He said he appreciates the long-standing relationship with Norristown and he said he will address resident concerns with Council. He said they currently have meetings with Public Works twice a month to discuss complaints. He said he will personally address the issues from tonight's Public Comments. He noted that Council decides on the type of trash cans. He added that Mascaro needs to be more aware of the complaints from the Norristown residents. He noted that Option 2 (twice a week is a cleaner collection.) He said they will continue the dialogue with Council to address trash collection issues.

Al DeGennaro, J.P. Mascaro – He said that J.P. Mascaro has the best infrastructure and they also have bond protection. He passed out information regarding the value for services.

Council had a short discussion.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to approve a contract with J.P. Mascaro & Sons for residential solid waste and recycling collection services using Option 1 (once a week collection.) **The motion passed 6-0.**

Mr. DeGennaro said that the twice weekly option will remain open until the end of the year in case it is decided on. He added that he will send a letter confirming this.

Motion to approve the settlement for the pending Tax Assessment Appeal for 350 West Elm Street

Sean explained both 350 West Elm Street and the following item for 354 West Elm Street.

Motion to approve the settlement for the pending Tax Assessment Appeal for 350 West Elm Street and 354 West Elm Street

There was a **motion by Council Vice President, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to approve the settlements for the pending Tax Assessment Appeals for 350 West Elm Street and 354 West Elm Street. **The motion passed 5-0** (Councilwoman Robinson was not present for voting.)

FINANCE

Resolution 26-11: Request of Municipal Council to authorize destruction of eligible Finance records per Commonwealth and Municipal Records Retention Policies

Kathy Pfister noted this is according to policy set by a Resolution in 2007 and she said there are electronic files for these records.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve Resolution 26-11 to authorize the disposition of specific Finance Department records. **The motion passed 5-0** (Councilwoman Robinson was not present for voting.)

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Request for Extension of Plan approval – 1417 & 1419 New Hope Street

Director Musonye explained this was approved in 2021. It was postponed due to a personal issue with the client. She said now it is past 5 years so he had to come back. Mr. Costa was present for questions and Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering, was present to provide comments.

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that Council can approve a 2-year extension for the recording of the Plan.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to approve the request for a 2-year Extension of Plan approval for the 1417 & 1419 New Hope Street project. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Request Council authorization and approval to restructure the Historic Façade Improvements Program

Director Musonye provided the background using a Power Point. She noted that the County's \$2 million in ARPA Funds will be utilized. She said she came back before Council to increase the architect's fee in order to service more applications.

She noted that the projects that were approved include:

Small Business Association

NSBAC (Norristown Small Business Assistance Center) & NEC Office Fit Administration Services for the staff that works on this program

Norristown Food Hall/Commercial Kitchen

Downtown Redevelopment Area Business Initiative

She noted that the County came and said they were not comfortable funding the Norristown Food Hall/Commercial Kitchen so the program had to be amended. She said they would rather give to the small businesses. She said that changed the amounts but the total is still \$200,000. She said they are working to make the businesses aware of this.

She said the funds need to be used by the end of the year. She said the restructure includes having businesses eligible for \$4,000 and that business owners need to understand this in order to move forward.

She said it is outdated as far as cost for improvements and that rather than a match with \$5,000, and not meet the December deadline, they will consider \$4,000. She added there is \$750,000 left to exhaust the funds but there is a need for about 4 more projects.

Council Vice President Queenan was concerned that he didn't recall Council discussing the \$1 million that was put into the Historical Façade Renovation Program. Leonard Lightner explained the process that resulted in this.

Council Vice President Queenan said he would favor a formal review but he said he realizes that it is locked in now.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to approve the restructuring of the Historical Façade Improvements Program. **The motion passed 6-0.**

BUILDINGS & CODE COMPLIANCE

Request to approve HARB COAs

Mr. Gordon noted these requests are for: 408 West Main Street and 1333 Dekalb Street

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to approve the HARB COAs for the above addresses. **The motion passed 6-0.**

POLICE

Resolution 26-04: Memorandum of Understanding and Purchase Contract between the Norristown Police Department and Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc.

Chief Trail noted that this has been in place in Norristown for several years. He explained it supports evidence testing on swabs from crime scenes. He noted that in the last 2 years, DNA Forensics identified 56 cases of serious crimes. He said it would pose a serious hindrance to Norristown if this is not approved.

Councilman McMahon asked about the contract and Chief Trail said it was a one-year contract. Councilman McMahon said the terms of service for data-sharing is not clear. He said he is reluctant to approve this and would like to explore more options.

Councilwoman Robinson said there should be an alternative to consider.

Councilman McCoy said he would have an issue with a “hiccup” in the contract.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve Resolution 26-04 for the Memorandum of Understanding and Purchase Contract between the Norristown Police Department and Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc. **The motion passed 4-2** (Councilwoman Robinson and Councilman McMahon voted no.)

Resolution 26-18: A request of Municipal Council to approve a contract with the Lincoln Center for a Co-Responder in the amount of \$120,000

Chief explained this is for an on-site Clinician to assist in mental health services for Police Officers. He said that a PCCE Grant is under review by the Justice Department. He said that Police Officers are viewed as victims of the Opioid Epidemic. He said this will help with the residents and Police Officers Circle of Trust.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve Resolution 26-18 to enter into a contract with the Lincoln Center (TLC) to provide a mental health co-responder for the NPD. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 26-19: Establish/Remove Handicapped Parking

Chief Trail noted that the following addresses had Handicapped Parking installed:

1063 Swede Street	1016 Walnut Street
421 W. Stergiere Street	1527 Arch Street
224 Hamilton Street	1535 Arch Street
225 E. Penn Street	1733 Powell Street
1107 Green Street	1234 Tyler Street
126 Hartranft Avenue	104 Stanbridge Street
1431 Powell Street	227 East Oak Street
921 West Airy Street	1051 Swede Street
1317 Pine Street	1112 Green Street

1067 Willow Street
25 E. Fornance Street
114 W. Fornance Street
304 Hamilton Street
600 Walnut Street
636 Kohn Street
826 West Main Street, Apt. 2

726 Noble Street
137 West Airy Street
209 Summit Street
325 W. Wood Street
401 W. Main Street, Apt. 2
20 East Elm Street
804 West Elm Street

Removals:

641 Astor Street

538 Kohn Street

129 Rosemont Avenue

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the established and removed Handicapped Parking as listed. **The motion passed 5-0** (Councilman McCoy was not present for voting.)

Resolution 26-20: Request for Municipal Council approval to promote an Officer to the Rank of Corporal

Chief Trail noted that a vacancy needs to be filled in the Police Department. He said that Officer William Klinger was recommended.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve Resolution 26-20 to promote Officer William Klinger to the rank of Corporal. **The motion passed 5-0** (Councilman McCoy was not present for voting.)

Resolution 26-21: Request for approval to purchase a contract from PERF for Training ICAT

Chief Trail explained that this is a Tactical approach and it is the National Gold Standard. He said it is a 4-day training program and the fee includes all services, travel and food.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahan**, to approve Resolution 26-21 to enter into a contract with

the Police Executive Research Forum to purchase training in the area of Integrating, Communications, Assessment and Tactics. **The motion passed 5-0** (Councilman McCoy was not present for voting.)

Council decided not to hear the Departmental Reports.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to adjourn the Council Work Session. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council