

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2026

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, May 5, 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
Jasmine Griffen
David McMahan
Dustin Queenan
Rashaad Bates

Also in attendance were:

Jayne Musonye, Interim Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Michael Trail, Norristown Police Chief; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Vince Poppa, Assistant Director of Planning; Tom O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Sean Chin, Assistant to the Municipal Administrator; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Richard Lockhart, Deputy Fire Chief; 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 April 21, 2026 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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 anyone needing translation for Spanish can see Jess for headphones in the back.

"Smoke Alarm Outreach Blitz" in the 4th District Norris Hills area on May 30th at 10 am.

Town Hall with Councilman McMahon at the Hancock Fire House on May 7th from 6 to 8 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tiffani Todd – she said she has issues with the rentals. She thanked Council President Queenan for attending the Zoning Hearing Board meeting. She noted that there was information about lapsed rental licenses for 1460 Dekalb Street and 1711 Willow Street. She said many properties are in arrears but taxes went up. She said the landlords should get the late fees. She asked who to direct her questions to regarding rental licenses.

Rocco, 844 Kohn Street - He said his neighbor was hammering at 1 am and kids were running around. He said cars are parked at Beech & Kohn and you can't get around the cars. He said a Police Officer came but no ticket was given. He said something should be done.

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – He said he had been doing more research on how the DEP isn't doing their job with flood reduction. He said he filed a complaint to the DEP about the Norristown side of the river. He also said that big bucks through tourism were lost when the prison wasn't purchased for renovation.

APPOINTMENT

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to open the agenda to consider the appointment of Terrance Barnes to the Stormwater Authority Board. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion by Council President Bates, seconded by Councilman McMahon**, to appoint Terrance Barnes to the Stormwater Authority Board with his term ending in December 2030. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment: There was none.

APPOINTMENTS

Oath of Office: Corporal Edward Todd

Judge Hakim Jones conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Corporal Edward Todd who was accompanied by his wife.

PRESENTATIONS

DCED Fire Service Study Presentation

Anne Morrow and Scott Little from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development Governor's Center for Local Government Services made their Power Point presentation regarding their Fire Services Study.

Scott Little, Public Safety Consultant, noted that documents were reviewed, sites were visited, etc. which included volunteer members. He said the purpose is to align with Business Best Practices.

He provided a copy of his 39-page presentation to Council members. He noted that the Norristown Fire Department does "outstanding work" with things such as free smoke alarms and the Safety Program. He said that out of 2,036 Fire Departments, Norristown is one out of only 27 to receive a Class 1 or 2 rating.

The Power Point included:

- Study Overview & Objectives
- Purpose & Study Objectives
- Current Fire Service & Status including ISO Rating
- Commitment to Excellence (Response time, staffing capacity, apparatus & equipment, training, standards, facilities and governance & finance
- Strategic Recommendations: One Fire Station Response Model; Increase in service apparatus and staffing; Recruitment & retention; Strong regional relationship; Support staff; Labor management; Quick response service; Apparatus replacement; Reserve unit
- Add-Ons: 20,000-25,000 Volunteers; stand alone Fire Marshall; collaboration; on-duty Firefighters are trained EMTs; create long-range schedule; 1 Ladder Truck if one goes down.

- Summary & Path Forward:
Strong relationships and shared values. Community comes first.

Ms. Morrow thanked Fire Chief O'Donnell for his cooperation. She told Council that she can be contacted directly or through the Fire Chief.

POLICE

Resolution 26-40: Establish/Remove Handicapped Parking

Chief Trail said there are 16 requested spaces but 2 no longer needed were taken away. He said they acquired the necessary documents to obtain the spaces.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to approve the Handicapped Parking spaces at the following locations: 802 Arch Street, 819 West Oak Street Apt. 1, 110 Stanbridge Street, 912 Arch Street, 720 Kohn Street, 734 Noble Street, 217 East Penn Street, 129 Buttonwood Street, 602 West Marshall Street Apt. 1, 1420 Astor Street, 6 Rosemont Avenue, 602 Noble Street, 235 East Marshall Street, 1111 Swede Street, 1310 Redwood Lane, 633 Corson Street and 2 Removals: 623 East Oak Street and 1220 West Lafayette Street.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION

Request to approve a Change Order for the Poley Park Project

Mr. Chin said that construction can now begin. He said the pricing was adjusted with an increase of \$60,700 for the Poley Park Project due to an increase of labor and material costs as well as additional dirt hauling. He said the amount is below the Change Order requirements but they wanted to bring it before Council. It has already been approved under the ARPA funding.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the Change Order for the Poley Park Project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution 26-39: Request for Municipal Council to approve the Resident-Initiated Traffic Calming Program Policy

Mr. Chin said that the department has been working on this for some time and it needs to be more streamlined and efficient and made so that all the streets will be judged on the same standard.

Councilman McMahon noted that Section 7 of the Resolution requires the signatures of 50% of Property Owners but he noted that some Owners don't live there. He asked if there was consideration for it to be 50% of Residents as long as it does not violate the Charter.

Mr. Chin noted it was changed from 75%. He said that owners are more long-term than some residents which makes it easier for a Block Study but he said it gives leeway for the Owners that are affected.

Councilwoman Colson asked if there is an Appeal Process and are they back dating?

Mr. Chin said there is no appeal process but there is a 3-year window for a new review.

Councilwoman Robinson asked who covers the cost of filing an application for a Study? Mr. Chin said it may have to be included in the Fee Schedule but the costs of the work could be covered under different funding sources such as CIP, Grants or donations.

Jayne Musonye said this could be considered during the Budget Season before Council.

Jayne Musonye noted there is no cost at this time to apply for a Study.

Councilwoman Griffen said that those Owners who do not live there are being prioritized. She asked if it could go to Residents.

Councilman McMahon suggested an amendment stating to propose a study be initiated by 50% of residents, not 50% of property owners.

Mr. Chin said there could be situations where there is a Property Owner that lives there. This change is a step to move forward.

Jayne Musonye noted that there would need to be an Engineering Study who would provide a quote based on the location.

Councilman McMahon asked to propose an amendment.

Solicitor Kilkenny noted it would be a motion to amend the Resolution and a vote to approve the amendment.

Council President Bates asked if Council is able to override a decision made after the Study.

Solicitor Kilkenny said they could.

Council Vice President Queenan asked about the cost to Norristown for installing or removing speed bumps.

Jayne Musonye noted that the Engineers know what is required and if the street qualifies for the change.

Councilwoman Robinson asked about the Engineering costs with these studies.

Mark Bickerton of Pennoni Engineering was present as well as Ted Dymtryk. Mr. Dymtryk said there is an hourly rate included in the agreement with the Municipality. He said the rate does not increase per project. Mr. Bickerton noted it is data-driven decision and they would work with the Police Department with the data collection.

There was **a motion by Councilman McMahon, seconded by Council President Bates**, to amend the Resolution to read that the study be initiated by 50% of the Residents who are experiencing the conditions. **The motion passed 5-2** (with Councilwoman Robinson and Councilwoman Colson voting no).

Mr. Chin recommended changing the language to “Property Owners and/or Residents.”

Councilwoman Robinson explained that Council is able to step in and help Residents who can’t get the Property Owner involved.

Councilwoman Griffen said that she wants just Residents.

Council President Bates said that since Council can supercede, he would like to keep it at just Property Owners.

Solicitor Kilkenny reiterated that Council took out Owners and put in Residents. He said that the options for Council are: You can add in Property Owner since Councilman McMahon made a motion to add in “and/or”, Council can Table this or Council can go back to only Property Owner but he noted that “right now what you have in front of you is Residents.”

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Griffen, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to table this item until further notice after more conversation. **The motion passed 4-3** (Councilwoman Robinson, Councilwoman Colson and Council President Bates voted no).

Councilman McCoy asked if there is any record of past comments or concerns from Residents.

Mr. Chin said he would check with the Public Works Department.

ADJOURNMENT

There was **a motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen,** to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council