

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 21, 2026

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, July 21, 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 McMahon
Dustin Queenan
Rashaad Bates

Also in attendance were:

Jayne Musonye, Interim Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Vincent Poppa, Interim Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Norristown Police Chief Trail; Sean Chin, Officer of Special Projects and Interagency Affairs; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Vice President Queenan announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to the Council Meeting to discuss Personnel issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

“Reading is Fundamental” continues through the Summer at the Norristown Public Library.

Councilman McMahon will hold a Town Hall Meeting on August 6th at 6:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, Dekalb & Airy Streets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Petriga (New Hope Street) – He was accompanied by some of the family members and community members of “Montay” Curtis Atkins who served as a US Marine in the Persian Gulf and was discharged as Corporal Atkins. His sisters were in the National Guard. He was a gamer,

he sang and danced, wanted to become a tattoo artist and loved to cook and grill. He was also noted for his unique socks. He told Council that he deserves to be honored with a "Hometown Heroes Banner" near Main & Hamilton Streets, close to where he grew up. Mike Petriga ended with a prayer.

Denise Avery added the Honors he received which were Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, a Certificate of Commendation, Certificate of Appreciation, Expert Rifle Qualifications, as well as other Badges and a Letter from President Biden.

Olivia Brady – She noted that the Heat wave will continue as climate change goes on. She said that a recent study showed that US Trees remove air pollution. They can prevent fatalities from respiratory issues each year. She added there have been studies showing that urban tree canopies are linked to a reduction in crime. She said she was appointed to the Municipal Tree Commission but they have had no meetings since she was appointed. She said she knows of someone who submitted an application but they have not been appointed. She asked, "Maybe you don't know the benefits of trees?" or "Maybe you feel it's a frivolous committee?" She asked Council to appoint members to the Shade Tree Commission as well as other committees in order to start the necessary work to improve air quality and improve crime.

Melvin Faust - He noted that a man was killed on a motorcycle at the intersection of West Airy and Selma Streets a year ago. He said that nothing has been done there since and there is usually about an accident per week. He said, "You know the issue – get something done." He asked if any other Council members have Town Halls besides Councilman McMahon. He asked Council members to come to his block and walk around the neighborhood. Councilwoman Griffen said she was almost "clipped" at that corner. She said that emails were sent requesting a traffic study to be done. Council President Bates agreed that he and Council members will come to the neighborhood and walk around.

Symita Griffen – She expressed her concern about the danger in the streets with the exposed pipes. She said that the streets aren't always shut down. She added there are kids on bikes riding and the trash truck blocks traffic. Councilman McMahon said that the Municipal Engineer is acting as a consultant until there is a new Public Works Director. He said he feels offended that the contractors feel they can do what they want. He added that the Municipality still has the Standards and the enforcement needs to be addressed quickly.

Amber Queen – She thanked Vince Poppa for bringing information about the Data Centers forward and she also thanked Council and her neighbors for taking a pro-active stance on an issue that is already impacting municipalities across the County. She said that caring about this is vital leadership. She read a few comments that suggested this Ordinance is a waste of time. She said that "proactive protection of our community, environment and quality of life is never a waste of time." She said we have the power to enact smart safeguards that shield us from environmental harm and ballooning infrastructure costs. She asked that Council accept the

proposed additions and adopt the amended Ordinance this evening. She said this is something Council can do right now to leave a lasting positive impact on Norristown for generations to come.

Andi Laudison (not a Norristown resident) – Re: Data Centers – She said it leaves the community on the defense. She said she was glad to see it on the agenda. She said we need Ordinances like this to protect our community from industrialization, surveillance, bankruptcy and the environment. She said she is looking forward to Council passing this Ordinance and bringing forward what they do to her own Township as well.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the Council Minutes from the June 16, 2026 Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS

Motion to approve PRDC Properties' Escrow arrangement for Land Development Review Fees related to the State Hospital project.

The Developer noted that his team will be going before the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board in August. He said that the Ordinance, as written, would require an escrow of about \$250,000. He said it's not a Flat Fee or a Cap Fee and you can't accrue interest on it.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the PRDC Properties' request to post an initial escrow in the amount of \$50,000 to cover all legal, engineering and administrative review fees associated with the land development submission and review process. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Proclamation honoring Roseann Santangelo, Municipal Clerk

Council President Bates read the Proclamation. Roseann Santangelo read a few words. She was joined by Council and her family members for a photo.

APPOINTMENTS:

Administration of Oath of Office – Entry-Level Police Officers: Michael McGinley, Dereck Smith and Joseph McAvoy

District Judge Hakim Jones conducted the Oaths of Office for the 3 Officers.

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT (Moved up on the Agenda)

George Washington Carver Community Center Annex Project Presentation

Board Members for the Carver Center noted that the Center has been open for 66 years. They shared it was opened in 1944 because 2 African American kids drowned in a sinkhole because they did not have accessible swimming resources and they were not permitted to swim with the white children.

They said they will be going before the Zoning Hearing Board with their proposal which will include an addition to the building and also, meeting rooms, computer labs, library – not just a gym.

They presented a Power Point with a 3-D rendition of what they are proposing. They noted that they put letters in the neighborhood mailboxes about this.

The Power Point showed the addition of a building and the inside. They said it allows them to use the lower classroom with partitions. They said there can be birthday parties in the entire gym and it is open to other organizations. They can have multiple things going on at one time. They plan on work to begin in the Spring of next year. There will also be an ADA entrance.

Jayne Musonye noted this still needs to go through the Zoning and Land Development process.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 26-04: Data Centers in the Heavy Industrial District

Solicitor Kilkenny marked Exhibits M-1 (Copy of Ordinance); M-2 (Advertisement of Public Hearing on July 6, 2026); M-3 Copy of the recommendations from the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the recommendations of the Norristown Planning Commission.

Mr. Kilkenny recommended to Council to take comments regarding the Ordinance but to not move forward this evening, hold another Public Hearing on this and revise the Ordinance to reflect both Planning Commissions' recommendations and the public comments that were received.

Jayne Musonye commented that the Municipality is protected by the Pending Ordinance Doctrine.

She noted that Vince Poppa will be going through various points that are actually revisions that include the Planning Commissions' comments, public comments, letters to the Planning Department, comments by Councilman McMahon and Councilwoman Griffen and from the discussion with the County Planning Commission. She noted that the addition of these will help make the Ordinance strong.

Vince Poppa provided a history of the process and a brief description of the Ordinance that states the standards, uses, campuses, and requirements, etc. of Data Centers that include such

things as testing, coverage, architecture, energy use, water use, air emissions, emergency response, electrical waste, screening, public information, etc.

He went over some of the Montgomery County Planning Commission Recommendations to be added, which is why another Public Hearing is needed. Some of these include: comments regarding the definition of a Data Center including certain requirements to make it clear it is being run as a Data Center. It also includes building size requirements, the setbacks from the receptors, maximum height and impervious coverage, Mixed-Use overlay in that District, screening requirements for certain equipment and substations and a recommendation for payment of utilities.

There were no Council comments.

Public Comment:

Kaden Begle – He said he supports the Ordinance noting the definition and any restrictions. He read a statement that he wrote. He said he has been researching the impact of Data Centers in the US for the last couple years. He proposed that it's important to have an Ordinance noting what a Data Center is, the restrictions and impacts, community protection, effects on water and air and effect on property values.

Olivia Brady – She said she applauds Council for being complete in the Ordinance. She said she learned from a KOP developer that this would not likely bring employment opportunities once the Data Center is in place.

David McMahon – He questioned how to proceed? He said there are some contradictions in the Ordinance. His concern was that if there was a proposal tomorrow, do we proceed as is and amend? He said he feels there is a risk in passing as is.

Sean – He said that because of the Pending Ordinance Doctrine, we receive a certain amount of protection. He said it is better to oppose and make a motion to re-advertise.

Sean Kilkenny suggested a motion to close the Public Hearing and authorize Staff to advertise an amended Ordinance 26-04 including all comments, etc.

M to close PH DQ/WMc

M to table 26-04 after proper input from Council and re-advertise. DQ/WMc

Resolution 26-62: Request for Council to approve Preliminary/Final Land Development for 1520 Arch Street Extension Project (Hancock Elementary School)

Vince Poppa provided a history of the Application process.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve Resolution 26-62. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 26-60: Appointment of Municipal Clerk – Beth Scott

Jayne Musonye read about Ms. Scott's work history.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the appointment of Municipal Clerk Beth Scott. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE

Keith Gordon presented the HARB COAs for the following addresses:

208 Dekalb Street
53 E. Chestnut Street
513 Swede Street
515 Swede Street
517 Swede Street
408 W. Main Street
1114 W. Airy Street

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the Certificates of Appropriateness. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 26-59: Request for Municipal Council to authorize the annual Microsoft Licensing Subscriptions in the amount of \$47,480.40

Jayne Musonye noted there are more savings when prepaid.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve Resolution 26-59 to authorize the Municipality to enter into an annual Microsoft Licensing Subscription to ensure uninterrupted access to essential systems for all computer-based employees while achieving cost savings. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Municipal Council to approve payment to Parking Mobility Transportation Consulting, LLC for April 2026 Invoice

(This item will be moved to the Special Council Meeting Agenda for Thursday, July 23, 2026.)

POLICE

Resolution 26-55: Request for Municipal Council's approval to hire (5) Entry-Level Police Officers

Chief Trail noted there are close to 60 Officers with this hire.

There was a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen, to approve Resolution 26-55 to hire (5) new Police Officers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 26-56: Request Council's approval to purchase Protective Helmets from Witmer

Chief Trail said that this is an investment in safety and necessary tools.

There was a motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to approve Resolution 26-56 to provide enhanced ballistic and impact protection for Officers during high-risk incidents, including tactical operations, active threat responses, warrant services and other critical incidents where additional personal protective equipment is necessary. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Finance

Kathy Pfister reported: March Financial Status by Department. Highlights include: RE Taxes are 86% collected through June 15th. Parking Revenue is low which may be offset with Expenditures. General Insurance expected to be a little higher. She noted that most Expenditures were spent in the beginning of the year. Police Union Contract is outstanding.

ARPA Update: out of \$20 million received – approximately \$3 million remaining. Largest projects remaining are the Skate Park, Blight Properties, Sewer Evaluation Project (looking to reallocate these funds to the Saw Mill Culvert Project), Public Works Rec Center roof (looking to reallocate for the BandShell), Parks Beautification, Park Upgrades.

2026 Capital Budget: there will be re-vamped CIP Projects in August. There is around \$3 million of unrestricted funds for CIP Projects so all of the projects will be covered. A part of those funds were moved out of the General Fund into the CIP Fund from the savings from ARPA.

She noted that the 2027 Budget Packets will go out and the Stormwater bills will include the 2025 delinquents.

Public Works

Mr. Chin reported:

Last month – 55 potholes filled

764 miles of street cleaning
100 stormwater inlets cleared
Trash recycle: 34 replacement bins
101 repairs

Council Vice President Queenan noted he has an uptick in Mascaro trash pick up issues. Mr. Chin noted that his department is being informed of any complaints through an email printed on the latest Mascaro mailer.

Councilman McMahon shared he feels offended that contractors come in and do substandard work. He said they need to be held accountable.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council