

Norristown Municipality
Council Special Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2026

The Council Special Meeting of Tuesday, July 23, 2026, was called to order by Council President, Rashaad Bates, at 6:36 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 McMahon
Dustin Queenan
Rashaad Bates

Absent:
Mydera Robinson

Also, in attendance were:

Jayne Musonye, Interim Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Municipal Solicitor; Michael Trail, Norristown Police Chief; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Sean Chin, Assistant to the Municipal Administrator; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Richard Lockhart, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, Vincent Poppa Assistant Director of Planning, Ted Dmytryk, Pennoni Engineer; Peter Simone, Landscape Architecture

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Bates announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting for information purposes and potential litigation matters.

Announcements

From Council Vice President Queenan:

The National Night Out event is scheduled for August 4, 2026, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, located on the 500 Block of Haw Avenue.

Public Comments

Gretchen Stine of Hatboro, PA, addressed the Council Members. She plans to move back to Norristown in the next several months. When she resided in Norristown, she had some negative interactions with the Norristown Police and does not want to encounter any more problems with the Police Department.

Municipal Administrator

Motion to approve the Settlement for the Pending Tax Assessment Appeal for 1500 Dekalb Street. Approval of the settlement will result in no change to the property's assessed value for tax year 2026.

Jayne Musonye, Interim Municipal Administrator, provided information to Council about the appeal. The School District of Norristown reviewed and approved the settlement appeal. The Municipal Solicitor reviewed and recommended approval of the settlement.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to approve the tax settlement appeal for 1500 Dekalb Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to approve the Settlement for the Pending Tax Assessment Appeal for 1430 Dekalb Street. Approval of the settlement will decrease the property's assessed value for tax years 2025-2026, resulting in a reduction in tax revenue.

Jayne Musonye, Interim Municipal Administrator, provided information to Council. The School District of Norristown reviewed the settlement appeal. The Municipal Solicitor has also reviewed and recommended approval by Council.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to Approve the Tax Settlement Appeal for 1430 Dekalb Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Authorization to Accept and Relocate 9/11 Memorial to Elmwood Park Near Fire Chief Memorial

Jayne Musonye, Interim Municipal Administrator, spoke about the request to move the memorial. Currently, the memorial is located at the courthouse. Due to the courthouse renovations and the green space requirements, Montgomery County is requesting the Municipality to take over the location of the memorial. It was recommended to move it near the Fire Chief Memorial. Councilman McMahon inquired whether there has been feedback from local first responder organizations on the relocation. The Municipal Fire Chief has reported that the new location will have higher visibility for the families that lost loved ones and the public. Currently, it cannot be seen by the public.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to approve the authorization to accept and relocate 9/11 Memorial to Elmwood Park near Fire Chief Memorial. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Parks and Recreation

Resolution No. 26-65: Request for Municipal Council to Approve a Contract with Cosimo Riccioli & Sons for Installation of Concrete Slab for National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court.

Sean Chin, Assistant to the Interim Municipal Administrator, reviewed this resolution. He reported that earlier this year, Council approved resolution 26-37 to allocate \$25,000 for this project. The lowest responsible quote came in less than \$25,000, and this resolution is before Council for approval to proceed with the installation. Councilman McMahon inquired about the timeline for the project. All equipment is here and once the concrete slab is completed, equipment installation will be scheduled.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to approve Resolution No. 26-65. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

Resolution 26-61: Requesting Municipal Council Approval to Apply for the DCED Multimodal Grant

Vincent Poppa, Assistant Director of Planning and Municipal Development, explained to Council that this resolution will move forward the design phase of the Owen Park Master Plan by requesting 1.5 million dollars in grant monies from DCED. The master park plan was developed by Simone Collins, and Peter Simone was present to answer questions about the plan and the grant application. This application does not require the Municipality to match funds, and the application is due on July 31, 2026. A resolution, giving permission by Council to apply for the funds, is required as part of the application process. Mr. Poppa also reviewed the improvements such as new curbing, new sidewalks, bike lanes, traffic circles, stop signs, etc. that are part of the design. This grant is for the design phase of construction, and the 1.5 million dollars represents about 30 percent of the total construction cost.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to approve Resolution 26-61. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution No. 26-58: Establish/Remove Handicapped Parking

Police Chief Trail commented about this resolution. This is a review of established handicapped parking, and it involves the following: Approving new handicapped spaces, removing handicapped spaces that are no longer needed, and installing signage for new spaces. Councilwoman Griffen questioned the location of the signage – Should placement be in front or back of the parking space? Chief Trail commented that he has seen inconsistency in Norristown regarding the placement and the placement should be consistent. The department is having ongoing discussion about handicapped parking, and this issue needs to be reviewed.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to approve Resolution 26-58. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution No. 26-66: Request for Municipal Council to Approve Payment to Parking Mobility Transportation Consulting, LLC, for April 2026 Invoice.

Chief Trail explained the following: In 2025, Council gave approval to enter into a contract with Parking Mobility Transportation Consulting in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Services rendered by the company exceeded this amount. The April 2026 bill has been reviewed by legal counsel, Chief Trail, and members of the municipality staff. Payment is recommended for approval. President Councilman Bates inquired why the costs were higher than the contracted amount. The consultant was working with the previous Municipal Administrator, and Chief Trail did not have details about how further work was completed above the contracted amount. He did state that no further invoices will be forthcoming because once this invoice is paid, the contract is complete. Any further work by Parking Mobility Transportation Consulting will require a new contract and approval by Council.

Vice President Councilman Queenan questioned how the consultant went above the set amount of the contract. Municipal Solicitor Hitchens confirmed at the end of December 2025, the consultant did not go above the contracted figure. The amount at the end of the 2025 year was \$49,967.87. However, at that point there was confusion as to whether the consultant was authorized to continue working into the new year. The Municipal Solicitor did review the January 2026 through April 2026 invoice and confirmed with the consultant and municipal staff members that the work was performed. Although there is confusion over the contract, he recommended approving payment of the invoice. The Parking Mobility Transportation Consulting group understands that this is the final bill, and no further payments will be made unless Municipal Council approves a new agreement.

Councilwoman Griffen questioned the cap at the time of contract approval. She asked if there was a safeguard that could be put in place for future contracts. Municipal Solicitor Hitchens explained that there seemed to be a misunderstanding with the consultant

about performing work from January through April 2026, and that is why an invoice was never received until April 2026 for the work completed during that time period.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to approve Resolution 26-66. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Works

Resolution No. 26-63: Ratification of Emergency Contract – Marshall Street & Arch Street Bridge Repairs

Ted Dmytryk, Pennoni Engineer, addressed Council with an explanation regarding the emergency repair work. An inspection was completed on March 27, 2026, and a tree was growing out of the wall of the bridge. Pennoni Engineering reviewed the bridge on April 1, 2026, and recommended repair. Since the Public Works Department did not have the resources to complete the repair, Pennoni was contacted to find a local contractor to complete the work. The emergency repair work was completed by Cosimo Riccioli & Sons. The cost of the project was \$13,040 and the completed work was inspected and approved by Pennoni. It is recommended Council ratify the emergency contract to close out the project.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Council woman Colson, to approve Resolution 26-63. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports – Monthly Updates to Council: Police

Chief Michael Trail provided an update to Council members. He and his staff have been working on streamlining a report that will provide monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annual statistics on crime in Norristown. This presentation will also be provided to the public on the police website.

Currently, violent crime continues its multi-year decline. Year-to-date information indicates violent offenses are down 24% again the prior seven-year period. Two categories that moved the wrong way in June include robbery and burglary. Robbery rose from 4 to 7 and burglary from 0 to 5. Auto theft is down over 60% this month, and it is down 52% year-to-date. Drug violations, and assault crimes are also down. Staffing still remains a constraint as there are vacancies within the police department, including officers, professional staff, and crossing guard openings.

During the month of June there were many community events hosted within Norristown that police officers attended to connect with residents, and the police are also increasing their visibility in the community by having their lights on at all stops and almost all unmarked vehicles are now marked. This aids in providing a higher level of awareness of the police presence within Norristown.

Police are using the collected statistics and data to study trends and patterns where crimes are occurring in Norristown to have a better police presence in those areas and assist in crime prevention.

Chief Michael Trail also reviewed the goals of 2026 and the progress achieved in meeting these goals. He also mentioned connecting with the Norristown Area School District to further develop collaboration with mental health assistance and resources.

Council members thanked Chief Trail for the report and expressed appreciation for his leadership in Norristown.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed unanimously, and meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Scott
Municipal Clerk