

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

WORKSHOP MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

The Council Workshop Meeting of October 15, 2019 was called to order by Council President Sonya Sanders at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

There was a **Moment of Silence** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**. The following Council members were present:

Olivia Brady	Valerie Scott-Cooper	Hakim Jones	Derrick Perry
Rebecca Smith	Heather Lewis	Sonya Sanders	

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Captain Clowser, Norristown Police Department; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Norman Butts, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works, Amrid Singh, Codes and Building Manager.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from October 1, 2019. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Sanders announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss real estate and personnel issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

“LEAF COLLECTION” October 21 through December 9. Follow street-sweeping schedule. Learn more at www.norristown.org.

“NORRISTOWN FALL FESTIVAL” Saturday, October 26 at Elmwood Park from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Games, crafts, costume parade, food trucks, beer garden.

“FALL YOUTH BASKETBALL” registration is underway. Get more info at norristown.org under Recreation.

“TRUNK OR TREAT” sponsored by CADCOM. October 31st. Vendors needed.

“MEET THE CANDIDATES” sponsored by the NAACP. October 22, 2019 at the new Recreation Center from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. For more info: vscottcooper@gmail.com.

“FREE FLU SHOT” Hosted by Councilman Hakim Jones at the Norristown Public Library on October 29th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Receive a gift card for participating.

Councilwoman Brady announced that Theatre Horizon won 8 Barrymore Awards for excellence in professional theatre in the Greater Philadelphia region.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Perna, 241 West Fornance Street – He asked about the status of the former Bishop Kenrick property. He said he is asking for help regarding getting back a parking space that was taken by PennDOT during the Markley Street project.

Joe Yosua, 411 East Fornance Street – He said there is a problem with speeding on Arch Street. He said something should be done, maybe speed bumps.

Ahmed Abousaraya, 413 East Fornance Street – He also complained about the speeding on Arch Street and said that it is a safety issue for every resident. He also suggested saving money using natural gas lines.

Mary Ellen DiGregorio, 564 East Main Street – Ms. DiGregorio said she would like to comment on item A. under Municipal Council which she was told it didn’t require any action and item A. under Finance. She commented that the Municipality is not in fiscal shape to borrow money.

COMMUNICATION

There were no Communication items.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Discussion of Term limits and Compensation for Future Municipal Councils

After each Council member gave their opinions regarding term limits and salary, Council President Sanders announced that Council will await the ruling of the two Senate Bills before making their decision.

Citizen of the Year

The Municipal Administrator suggested that the Council President choose some Council members to form a committee regarding making a decision for Citizen of

the Year. There were suggestions such as receiving nominations from the public and having awards for 1 male/1 female, give an award once a month and including a younger recipient. Councilman Perry was against this award but he would be in agreement with Council's decision. Council President Sanders said that Council will establish some requirements and have meetings and come back to Council and make it public.

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation to award a Professional Services Agreement to Triad Associates to complete the CDBG 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Action Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan

Director Musonye explained that a 5-year plan for CDBG funds needs to be created. There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to procure a consultant to complete the HUD required 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan. **Motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCE

Street Lighting Upgrade Loan

Council was briefed by Finance Director Butts. He noted that the LED lights are more efficient. There was **a motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis** to advertise an Ordinance for adoption at the November 6, 2019 meeting to borrow up to \$950,000 to pay for the upgrading of the Municipality's street lighting system to LED. **Motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting.)

BUILDING AND CODES ENFORCEMENT

Historical Architectural Review Board Applications for September 2019

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith** to approve the HARB applications for September 2019. **Motion passed 6-0.** Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting.

HARB Consultant Resignation Update

Mr. Singh provided an update to Council on the resignation of Commonwealth Heritage Group in providing planning services for HARB.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Request for Municipal Council to approve Ordinance 19-11: Lafayette Street Extension

Mr. Jones explained that Council needs to accept the Lafayette Street Extension (Ford to Ross Street) into the Master Road System after completion. There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to extend Lafayette Street as a public street, a private access easement and a drainage easement in the Municipality of Norristown. **Motion passed 6-0.** Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting.

Ordinance 19-04: Final Approval of Amusement Tax: Request for Municipal Council to approve Ordinance 19-04 amending Chapter 291 titled "Taxation", Article IV titled "Amusement Tax", add Chapter 163 of the Municipal Code to reduce the Tax imposed (the Ordinance was adopted at the July 16, 2019 Work Session)

This is being voted on again from the July 19th Workshop meeting because it did not result in the 4 yes votes that is required. It has been re-advertised.

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to adopt Ordinance 19-04. **Motion passes 4-1.** Councilwoman Brady recused herself, Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting and Councilman Jones voted nay.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Resolution 19-150: Addendum of programs and rental fees for the Recreation Center

Director Genuardi provided information about an extended rental fee for organizations looking to rent rooms/gyms at the Recreation Center, as well as offering residents and non-residents open gym space to play in. There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the Addendum of Programs and Rental Fees for the Recreation Center. **Motion passed 6-0.** Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting.

POLICE

Resolution 19-149: Handicap Parking

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to establish handicap parking at the following addresses: 914 Arch Street, 1105 West Airy Street, 722 Noble Street, 1444 Stanbridge Street, 54 East Brown Street,

506 Chain Street. **Motion passed 6-0.** Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting.

Resolution 19-151: Destruction of 1999 Arrest Records

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the destruction of 1999 Arrest Records per the adopted records management process. **Motion passed 6-0.** Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Building & Codes Enforcement

Mr. Singh provided information about completed projects, upcoming news, budget, expenses and events attended. He noted there was a significant increase in the Rental Inspection Program. He also provided an update on the Exterior Inspection Rating Program. He stated he will provide information about the actual actions from the HARB meetings and present at the next Council Workshop meeting.

Finance

Mr. Butts provided information regarding the Budget Status Report, Fund Balance, Comprehensive Financial Report, Audits, 2020 Budget Discount.

Mr. Jones acknowledged that the Finance Department received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award.

Planning and Zoning

Director Musonye provided information regarding the September Community Meeting and the “Chat and Chew.” She met with a Riverfront property owner, met with a developer for the north side regarding twin homes, a developer is looking at the Bishop Kenrick property. There were realtor meetings regarding zoning and U&Os. She attended a breakfast meeting with interested developers. There was a NTA meeting at Senator Leech’s office regarding parking. She noted that the Planning department is managing grants totaling over \$6 million. She also met with the County regarding the Justice Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **Motion passed 6-0.** Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was not present for voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council