

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

The Council Work Session of December 17, 2019 was called to order by Council President Sanders at 7:30 PM in Municipal Chambers.

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

Olivia Brady
Derrick Perry

Valerie Scott-Cooper
Rebecca Smith

Hakim Jones
Heather Lewis

Sonya Sanders

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Police Chief; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Development, Norman Butts, Director of Finance, Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2019. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Sanders announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss litigation issues.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Councilwoman Olivia Brady for her years of service

Council President Sanders presented Councilwoman Olivia Brady a plaque for her years of serving on Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The New Recreation Center will be having “Holiday Camps” offering Art/Photography, Animal and Environmental Education, Sports Skills & Drills, No Bake Cooking and Arts and Crafts.

“Wild Lights” at Elmwood Park Zoo through January 5, 2020 from 5 pm to 9 pm. Millions of lights shine throughout the Zoo’s 16 acres.

The Norristown Municipal Waste Authority has relocated to 25 East Marshall Street, Norristown.

The Municipality is closed on December 25th and January 1st for the holidays.

Victory Church in Norristown will be serving Christmas Dinner at one of 4 locations on Christmas Day: CHOC, Haws United Methodist Church, King Terrace Apartments and Siloam Baptist Church. Please consider donating for the “Big Season of Service.”

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stefania Luciani, Norristown, PA - She asked for Council’s consideration of the Sign Ordinance and for Mosaic Art on walls in Norristown. She distributed photos to Council. She would also like to include historic buildings as works of art.

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street, Norristown, PA – He thanked staff for addressing his prior concerns. He spoke of defective transformers due to ineffective lightning arrestors. He contacted PECO and they should be replaced in February 2020.

COMMUNICATION

There were no communication items.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 19-171: Council to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedule

There was a motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve Resolution 19-171 to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

BUILDING & CODES ENFORCEMENT

Historical Architectural Review Board – November 2019

Director Singh provided the property addresses for the November 2019 HARB applications. There was a motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilman Perry, to approve the November 2019 HARB applications.

FINANCE

Resolution 19-160: Adopting the 2020 Comprehensive Fee Schedule

There was a motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Jones, to adopt Resolution 19-160 adopting the Comprehensive Fee Schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 19-161: Adopting the 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Plan

Following an overview by Mr. Butts and comments by Council, there was a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Brady, to approve Resolution 19-161 adopting the 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance 19-14: adopting the FY 2020 Budget and Tax Rate

Following an overview by Mr. Butts and comments by Council, there was a motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, to approve Ordinance 19-14 adopting the FY 2020 Budget and Tax Rate. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilwoman Brady voting nay.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 19-164: Purchase of a new Leeboy 1000Paver

Resolution 19-165: Purchase of a Heavy Duty Deckover Trailer 15 Ton

Resolution 19-167: Command Vehicle Purchases

Resolution 19-168: Purchase of Backstop System at Latshaw McCarthy Field

Resolution 19-169: Purchase of new playground equipment at Ackey's Field

Resolution 19-170: Purchase of new playground equipment at Scagg-Cottman Park

There was a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Brady, to approve the Consent

Agenda as listed. **Motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to open the agenda for a new item. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Solicitor Kilkenny explained that conflicts can arise due to his representation of other local areas so he suggested the hiring of the law firm of Royer Cooper Cohen Braunfeld LLC as Special Council in the event of a conflict. There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the hiring of Special Council and to close the agenda for the new item and continue with the regular business. **Motion carries unanimously.**

Solicitor Kilkenny provided his personal comments about Councilwoman Brady saying that she is “a fine person, a committed public servant, an advocate for progressive causes and an honor to serve.”

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Authorization to advertise a Public Hearing for January 21, 2020 to consider adoption of Ordinance 19-15 of 2019 amending Chapter 320-Article XXVII Signs of the CODE of the Municipality of Norristown

Director Musonye explained that this is for convenience stores with gas pumps. There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve Ordinance 19-15 of 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Request for support of Zoning Hearing Board application from MHB Development LLC

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to support the Zoning Hearing Board application from MHB Development LLC. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Brady. The motion passed unanimously.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council