

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

The Council Work Session of February 18, 2020 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry 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:

Valerie Scott-Cooper
Thomas Lepera

Hakim Jones
Rebecca Smith

Sonya Sanders
Derrick Perry

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

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the Minutes of the February 4, 2020 Council Meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

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

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to open the Public Hearing. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

Ordinance 20-01 – Public Hearing to consider adoption amending Chapter 320-16.B. Article III Districts Established Boundaries of the CODE of Norristown

Solicitor Kilkenny named the Exhibits to be entered in: M1 – Affidavit of Public Hearing; M2 – Notice of Public Hearing Posting; M3 – Copy of Ordinance 20-01; M4 – Copy of Recommendation by MCPC and the Municipality of Norristown; M5 – Property Zoning Map; M6 – Current Zoning Map.

Public Comment

Loretta Evans, 625 East Basin Street - She asked what the Municipality plans to do with the property. She was told it was privately owned. Ms. Evans asked if it could be open space or a park. Ms. Musonye advised her to make a request through the Planning Commission and go through the process.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to close the Public Hearing. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Marvin Wallace, 538 E. Basin Street - Mr. Wallace thanked Council for their efforts to get the parcel back. He said the residents will work together to do what's best for that parcel.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve amendment of Chapter 320-16.B Article III Districts Established Boundaries of the CODE of Norristown to rezone 600 East Fornance Street or parcel #130011684003 from Commercial Retail to R2 Residential. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Presentations

Presentation on Discrimination – A Public Health Crisis

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to table this item for a future meeting because they were not clear on the request and there was no time to determine what this is about. **Motion failed 2-5.**

Ms. Hudson presented information regarding “Discrimination: A Public Health Crisis.” She asked Council to take steps to address the issue such as considering legislation and forming a Task Force.

Presentation by J. F. Gayl, Inc. / Whitetail Disposal, Inc.

Alan Ray, Esquire, and Paul Brady, Chief Operating Officer, presented information regarding the proposal for Redevelopment of 500, 600 and 700 East Washington Street. They proposed having a recycling plant initially and the second phase would include a mixed-use structure. Council President stated he didn’t think that short-term development would benefit the Redevelopment in Norristown.

Presentation by Finding Shelter Animal Rescue

Ms. Grace Kelly Herbert presented a Power Point regarding Humane Pet Store Legislation and why it should be passed in Norristown.

Announcements

“Kids and Dads” - March 14 - 11:30 to 2:30 at the Norristown Recreation Center.

Camp Registration opened on February 1st. Two locations: Norristown Recreation Center and Hancock Elementary Gym.

Girls Open Gym Night at the Norristown Recreation Center, Wednesday nights from 5 to 9 starting February 19th.

Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services present “Black History Month” on February 26 from 10:00 to 2:00.

PA Career Link on New Hope Street will have a Security Services Hiring Event on February 19 from 11:00 to 1:00. They also have a job fair for hospitality positions at Normandy Farms.

“Amazon Force” on February 20 from 11 to 1 at the Health & Human Services Building.

Madeleine Dean hosts a Census Job Fair on February 20 from 5 to 7 at 115 E. Glenside Avenue in Glenside, PA.

Greater Norristown NAACP presents African American Heritage Culture at the Central Montgomery County

Vocational High School on February 22 from 2 to 5.

Norristown Police Department will be having the 2020 Citizens Police Academy every Wednesday 6-9 pm starting March 11, 2020.

Public Comment

David McMahon, 721 Haws Avenue – He thanked Council for supporting Medicare for All. Regarding Discrimination for public health, he said that access is part of it but being heard by the doctor is not being addressed. He said there should be better local government standards in rental housing and access to good food.

J.P. Mascaro III, 2050 Audubon Road, Norristown – He reiterated that Mascaro is the lowest and only bidder and the proposed new contract represents an increase in service.

Appointments

Resolution 20-18 – Appointments to Citizen Boards and Committees

Norristown Design Review Board

Thomas Lepera (Appointment – member of Council)

Term expiring December 31, 2023

Councilwoman Sanders asked to amend the Resolution to include Rowan Watson to the Recreation Board Committee.

There was **a motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to recommend inclusion of Rowan Watson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Norristown Recreation Board Committee

Rowan Watson (Appointment)

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve Resolution 20-18 – appointments to the Norristown Design Review Board and the Norristown Recreation Board Committee. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Legal

Ordinance 20-05 – Marijuana Decriminalization Fine Amendment – Advertisement

Solicitor Kilkenny noted this is being voted on again due to a clerical error regarding fines when it was first voted on.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to advertise Ordinance 20-05. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – January 2020

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the January 2020 HARB applications recommended for approval. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 20-17 – Certified Local Government Program

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 20-17 for the Municipality of Norristown to sign a new certification agreement with the PA SHPO (Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.) **Motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 20-16 – Stormwater Utility Implementation Services

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve Resolution 20-16 for the purchase of professional consultant services for stormwater utility implementation services from Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$100,000, \$20,000 of which would be used for a “fly over” if the 2015 footage is not usable. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MOA – Municipality of Norristown & AFSCME Local 317

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Norristown and AFSCME Local 317 detailing the agreed-upon terms of a four-year labor agreement covering the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Council consideration of the award of a 3-year Waste Hauling and Recycling Contract to Mascaro and Sons in the amount of \$11,898,948

There was a Power Point presentation regarding “Basis for New Contract,” “Facts About the Contract,” “Specific Additions to this Specification.”

Solicitor Kilkenny advised Council that they may accept the bid for a new contract, vote on an extension to the existing contract or reject everything and go another direction.

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry with no second** to consider a 3-year contract.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to consider a 1-year extension option to the existing 5-year contract. **Motion passed 6-1 with nay from Councilman Jones.**

Finance

Ordinance 20-02 – amending the Administrative Code

Director of Finance, Norman Butts, explained that this would remove obsolete language and it allows flexibility.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Ordinance 20-02. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 20-05 – adopting Financial Policies & Goals

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve Resolution 20-05 to incorporate the Municipality's financial policies. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 20-03 – awarding contract for leasing 24 vehicles to Enterprise Fleet Management

There was a **motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to approve Resolution 20-03 to award a contract to Enterprise Fleet Management. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

Resolution 20-19 – request for a Minor Subdivision approval – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Norristown State Hospital, 1001 Sterigere Street

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 20-19. **Motion passed 6-0 with Councilwoman Sanders not present for voting.**

Resolution 20-20 – Montgomery Park Senior Living Phase II LERTA application

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to table this item. **Motion passed 6-0 with Councilwoman Sanders not present for voting.**

Ordinance 20-06 – Authorization to advertise a Public Hearing for April 21, 2020 to consider adoption of Ordinance 20-06 to permit Multi-family Residential Development consisting of new construction within the Limited Industrial Mixed Use (LIMU) District by Special Exception

Director Musonye noted that the Public Hearing date was changed from March 17, 2020 to April 21, 2020.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to approve Resolution 20-20. **Motion passed unanimously.**

358 East Washington Street Land Development Concept Plan and Discussion

There was a Power Point presentation by Paul Lepard, Landscape Architect, highlighting the Riverfront Site Plan for 358 East Washington Street which includes a multi-family building, sports barn, raised deck with lap pool and podium parking. Representatives from T. Lowe Enterprises LLC were also available to answer questions.

Residential Parking Permit Discussion for development proposal for 410 Dekalb Street

A representative from StyerGroup presented to Council the idea of parking permits for residents of a proposed mixed-use development at 410 Dekalb Street.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Work Session Meeting by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Jones**. **The motion passed 6-0.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council