

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

The Council Work Session of April 21, 2020 was called to order by Council Vice President Rebecca Smith at 6:30 PM by way of the virtual gotomeeting.com application.

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

Valerie Scott-Cooper
Thomas Lepera

Hakim Jones
Rebecca Smith

Sonya Sanders
Derrick Perry

Heather Lewis

Also tuned in 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 Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2020. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

There was no Executive Session.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Announcements

COVID-19 Norristown Walk-Up Testing Site will be set up on Wednesday at 1401 Dekalb Street at the Norristown Regional Health Center. Testing is available by appointment from 11 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. It is for Norristown residents only that meet certain criteria. For more information, go to www.norristown.org or montcopa.org/covid-19.

PA CareerLink has job postings for available employment with essential businesses. More information is available on their website.

Presentations

Jumpstart Norristown

Mr. David Stafford and Ms. Prudence Browne provided a video presentation of “Jumpstart Norristown” on their mission to assist Norristown residents by providing education, mentorship and a loan program regarding real estate investment. Ms. Browne noted they are currently building a mailing list so that the information can be shared.

Municipal Administrator

City Hall Renovation Update

Mr. Jerry Gorski, Gorski Engineering, and Khal Hassan, Municipal Engineer, provided information about the Municipal Building update regarding architectural and engineering plans, security cameras, equipment installation, IT, utilities and furnishings. It was noted that Land Development documents will be available in the next few weeks. Mr. Crandall Jones noted there are 2 sites being considered as a temporary building for Municipal business.

Mr. Norman Butts, Finance Director, provided information concerning bonds and the dates for the bond rating, the sale of the bonds and the close on the approval in June.

Discussion on demolition items related to the State Hospital Land Conveyance

Mr. Crandall Jones advised Council that there have been conversations with the State Department of General Services and Human Services regarding the preparation of a demolition schedule for the 68 acres on the State Hospital grounds being conveyed to the Municipality. Mr. Jones asked Council if they would like to see demolition of the storage sheds, concession stands and equipment that were used for football and soccer. Councilman Hakim Jones suggested a meeting with the athletic Board for the teams.

Parks and Recreation

Application for the 2020 DCNR Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant

Ms. Erica Genuardi explained that application for a DCNR Grant needs to be submitted for the restoration, rehabilitation and development of Riverfront Park which would be completed in two phases. Ms. Musonye provided timeline information. Ms. Genuardi added that Riverfront Park was chosen because it has the most capital potential.

Planning & Municipal Development

Ordinance 20-06 – Multifamily Residential Development consisting of new construction within the Limited Industrial Mixed Use (LIMU) District by Special Exception

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to open the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Solicitor Kilkenny marked the Exhibits M1, M2 and M3 which include a copy of the advertisement and a copy of the amended Ordinance.

Ms. Musonye provided details about the proposed new construction.

There was no Public Comment.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to adopt Ordinance 20-06. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 20-08 – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and COVID-19 CDBG Emergency Funding Proposed Budgets

Ms. Musonye provided the breakdown of the proposed budgets. Malyka Sankoba, Director of Programs, Enterprise Center, stated this would help to determine what businesses to help. Ms. D. Clark, also from the Enterprise Center, noted that they are interested in businesses who plan on opening up again.

There was no Public Comment.

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

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to adopt Ordinance 20-08. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 20-31 – Motion to approve or deny requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

To establish a Handicap Parking space at the following address:
759 Sandy Street

Request for removal of Handicap Parking spaces at the following addresses:

520 Walnut Street
639 E. Airy Street
1242 Markley Street
327 W. Fornance Street

Chief Talbot confirmed that this resident demonstrated limitations to warrant the Handicap space. There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 20-31. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 20-33 – Motion to approve or deny a contract for rapid DNA testing services with BODE Cellmark Forensics, Inc.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 20-33. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council