

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION

June 16, 2020

The virtual Council Work Session of June 16, 2020 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry at 6:30 PM by way of the GoToMeeting.com application.

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

Valerie Scott-Cooper
Thomas Lepera

Hakim Jones
Rebecca Smith

Sonya Sanders
Derrick Perry

Heather Lewis

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

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2020 virtual Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Perry announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

Presentations

Presentation by Donna Fabry, Senior Open Space Planner, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Trail Access, Diversity & Awareness Plan

Ms. Fabry presented a video outlining the project overview of the County trail system. It included the goals, census data, existing conditions of the trails, pedestrian and bicycle counts, access points and enhancement of the green space. She noted the outreach to organizations and the public include a Resource Fair, National Night Out and a focus group. Recommendations made included involving the community in the decision-making, increase public/private partnerships, improve marketing of the trail, educate people on how to use the trail, improve signage, public art and programming. She explained that specific recommendations for Norristown include better signage and connectivity, gateway improvements and public art and use of the green space on the Lafayette Street Extension.

Announcements

Council Vice-President Smith noted that the number of COVID-19 cases in Montgomery County has surpassed 1,000. Please continue safe practices.

Councilman Jones acknowledged Councilwoman Lewis and all the organizations involved in supporting the NASD class of 2020.

Councilwoman Lewis thanked all involved in recognizing the NASD class of 2020 and shared that a video is being put together of the graduates as well as a gift bag is being presented to the students, which includes contributions from several organizations.

Public Comment

John Kraus 525 E. Airy St.

I am stating that I am against the sale of the sewer system.

This is a short-sighted decision.

This will cost all property owners in Norristown more money going forward in the future.

This was the conclusion made by both Chester and Plymouth Township after further analysis.

Maccabee Hirsch, 1745 N. Hills Drive

Hello Council members,

My name is Maccabee Hirsch and I live in Norristown. I want to speak to the potential sale of our sewer authority.

Firstly, I ask you to please delay your vote to adopt the ordinance 20-11, or vote simply no. The public deserves transparency when it comes to the process that has led us here. The opposition to the for-profit privatization of our public utility, which is growing every day, has requested documentation that support the many claims of Crandall Jones, Aqua America, and the PFM findings. It's been over 30 days and we have still not received any of the requested materials. It is my understanding that they are now being denied. There are also conflicting public statements from sewer authority representatives that speak to the capacity for growth. It is only fair and in the best interest of your constituents to delay this vote, or vote no. Discovery and public awareness must continue before a vote to approve a sale is adopted. To not do so is willfully ignoring red flags raised by concerned members of this community.

Secondly, public awareness is on the rise and we owe it to the public to allow more time. I have started an awareness group on Facebook named Water Rights Awareness of Pennsylvania. Some of the council are members. There you will find plenty of evidence that Aqua America is not who they claim to be in the sales presentations. This is a poorly rated company in every state they operate. The employee reviews on Glassdoor are terrible. The union relationship with management have been reviewed as toxic. I have heard from residents in other municipalities that are beyond frustrated with having Aqua as their utility provider. Aqua touts their JD power rating. JD power is notorious for being a bought rating company that mainly serves the automobile industry. Their involvement in utility companies is relatively new and should not be heavily weighted in considering them a reputable company.

Finally, I can understand the motivations of the council to fund projects they believe will benefit the community. However, this is not the way. The sale proceed is not a profit. This is a debt. This is a tax in the form of rate hikes on every resident and business in Norristown. A tax that we will have no local control over forever. On top of that, not allowing for ample time to raise public awareness that would show you that the people you represent do not agree to this sale is undemocratic. Keep the sewer authority local and let them continue providing this essential public service to Norristown at an affordable rate.

One question for council; this sale is one of four recommendations from the NRN report in regards to revenue strategies. Which other NRN revenue strategies have you pursued and how successful have you been?

Beck Bowersox, 823 W. Oak St.

I am writing to express my concern about the upcoming vote regarding the sale of the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority to Aqua America. This process is moving very quickly in the midst of a chaotic time and leaving very little opportunity for the community to give input. I fear that the short term gain from the sale will have long term negative impact, and I would like the opportunity to hear more about the council's motivation and plan for the money that will be received.

Please delay this decision and take more time to consider the options and help the community feel comfortable with this process.

Peter Bowersox, 823 W. Oak St.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my reservations about the potential sale of Norristown's sewer service to an outside, for-profit company. The timing of the proposed sale is a significant concern for me. The current social restrictions are greatly restricting the community's ability to get information, dialogue about the proposal, and have questions answered.

I am especially concerned about the future costs to residents that may come when the company chooses to raise rates. At that point we

will have no recourse to choose another provider as we might with trash pickup or electrical providers. Please delay the decision, if not reject the proposal entirely.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Peter Bowersox.

Robert Richart- 726 W. Germantown Pike, East Norriton (Business owner in Norristown)

To whom this may concern,
This sale should be voted on by the taxpayers not some scam artist, spoiled kid with a dumb idea looking to forward their career with the water company.
If this sale goes through will there be lay-offs in our community? Our taxes will go down? Unemployment will go up? Stop this “BS” and improve our community not destroy it.
Heads will roll. I'm a taxpaying resident and I own a business in this town.

MaryEllen DiGregorio- 564 E. Main St.

Dear Council,
As a resident and home owner I am opposed to the sale of the Norristown Waste Authority, and request my statement to be submitted into the minutes of the June 16 Virtual Council Meeting. I feel that you have denied proper input by all residents during this pandemic, we have many senior homeowners that are not connect to technology or to the mass media to be able to voice their input on the sale of the Municipality Waste Authority. Your actions show that you're not allowing all residents to exercise their rights and strip them from giving input, by performing this meeting over the internet. Selling off our last asset with no solid revenue created in over 10 years is only setting up the future of Norristown into financial failure again. This will hurt the community in the long run. There should have been more involvement with all residents with more information to know more about this pending decision.
Sincerely,
MaryEllen DiGregorio

Patrick McLaughlin- 554 Stanbridge St.

I am stating that I am against the sale of the sewer system.

Fernando Feliciano, Jr.-

Good evening Council.
As a long-time resident and Board member of the NMWA, I must object to the sale of the Authority and in the manner this process was conducted. The sale will jeopardize the most vulnerable of our residents. The rates will double easily if not more. Any other privatization done in the region has been quickly followed by rate increases. Does the council want to be remembered for this? I would also like to say that this process of even considering a vote of this magnitude during a pandemic where most of our residents are still not able to attend a meeting is absurd.
The council must let the people be heard. Stop hiding the process.
I also ask that the authority's board be allowed to present our case for keeping the authority within community control.
Thank you,
Fernando Feliciano Jr.
Treasurer - Norristown Municipal Waste Authority

Daniel J. Rogan- 1709 N. Hills Drive

Dear Council,
The proposed sale of Norristown's sewer system to Aqua America is extremely alarming to me: I demand that you give Norristown residents the full 60 days before the final vote on the sewer sale, release the sale contract for public review immediately, and ultimately vote against it.

It is unconscionable for the Council to give the minimum notice required, 7 days, and speed through selling off one of our borough's biggest assets, our sewer system, during a global pandemic. The online public hearings have not been published on the Council meetings page, are not adequately advertised, and are inaccessible. Additionally, the terms of the sale were posted online for public review

on June 10th, only 6 days before the final vote.

Selling assets to cover budget shortfalls in the short-term leaves our community desperate in the future. This process that Council is using has been entirely centered around the benefits that the sale to Aqua America will bring. I fear that the Council has not fully considered the ramifications for our community that would result from this deal. Selling a major asset to pay for short-term budget gaps is poor fiscal management. I understand that Aqua America has offered Norristown \$82 million, which you hope to use to address budget shortfalls. This is not free money, but should be thought of as a loan that residents will have to repay with interest through hikes in their sewer bills. Aqua America will be able to justify rate increases to recoup the money paid to the city.

Privatization of our wastewater systems typically leads to skyrocketing rates, decreased quality of service, and loss of transparency and accountability over a service essential for public health. Aqua America is beholden first and foremost to their shareholders, and have at many points betrayed their promises to elected officials and to the public. Private companies will put their profits ahead of our needs. Please: do not sell our sewer system.

This is part of Aqua America's attempted takeover of our region's municipal water and wastewater services. The company has pitched a similar deal to nearby Chester and Plymouth. In Chester, attempts to privatize have been met with an injunction to stop the sale. The Plymouth Council decided against the deal citing that, despite the large upfront sum promised by Aqua, the rate projections showed that the rates would be 2 to 3 times higher than their current rates. They found that it would cost residents less to raise taxes to meet budget shortfalls than it would to sell the sewer system.

I demand that you give Norristown residents the full 60 days before the final vote on the sewer sale and release the contract for public review. I ask you to reject the privatization of our public wastewater system.

Sincerely,
Daniel Rogan

Erin Caskey- 450 Green Apartments, Forrest Avenue

Hello, I reside in Norristown and am very concerned about the rush to privatize the Norristown sewer system. Since Aqua has a guarantee that they will recoup their purchase price through increased rates, I am very aware that your vote in favor of this sale is actually a vote to raise my rates. If you want to pay for public goods in Norristown, there are other ways to fund them than perpetual rate increases on residents who cannot afford it! This simply puts money in the pockets of the Aqua owners.

I am requesting that you postpone the vote so that all sides of this potential rate increase can be presented. While I currently rent in Norristown, we are looking to buy a house - and this is really not a good move to attract homeowners!

Thank you.

John Milligan

My name is John Milligan and I am a resident of Norristown. I just today became aware that the Municipality's council is very close to a vote to sell our sewer system to Aqua America. This information is alarming to me because of the enormity of the transaction without adequate public input and transparency. I cannot form an opinion on the benefits of the transaction to Norristown because sufficient information simply has not been shared.

Normally a transaction of this size and nature would take at least a year with several opportunities for residents to receive, consume and question the details of the transactions and the Municipality's due diligence. I have been informed that this public discussion only began after the Covid-19 pandemic, at a time that everyone knows the public is distracted. One can certainly understand that an instinctive question that comes to mind is this hastily arranged sale intended to minimize public input.

At this time, I am not taking a position either for or against the sale. I simply don't know enough about the transaction to know if it is good for Norristown. I am a Certified Public Accountant with extensive experience in these type of transactions, and I know that this is not normal. I am simply asking that Council delay the vote on this transaction until the public is able to understand and question the transaction.

Thank you,

John Milligan

Tracey Spaventa

Dear council members,

I am writing to inform you I am against the sale of our sewer system for many reasons. I feel as though this process is being rushed and quite honestly, being kept a bit too quiet during the COVID-19 quarantine. This is absolutely no way to make a public decision of such importance. The sale to AQUA will no doubt double or triple our rates, stifle growth in our already struggling community and ultimately lead to even less business in our town. The AQUA shareholders alone stand to make huge ongoing profit from this sale. Surely we can find a better solution if we take the time to research this properly.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Best,
Tracey Spaventa

Rachel Fecho (rhymes with Echo), 715 Noble St.

Dear Council:

As you already know, I do not believe that the privatization of the sewer authority is the right thing for Norristown. Regardless of my belief, I don't believe that the public has had ample opportunity to learn about and weigh in on this issue. I try to keep abreast of all that is going on in Norristown, and yet somehow I still did not know about the proposed sewer authority sale until last month. If someone who tries to pay attention doesn't know, then you can be sure that people who don't actively seek information out don't know. For something this big, a much bigger effort should be made to inform the public and to solicit their thoughts on the matter. The three public meetings that were advertised said the purpose of the meetings was "to present to the results of the detailed exploration process that the Municipality conducted over the past 2 1/2 years." These three meetings did not present any summary of the exploration process and others options explored. These presentations were not even from the Municipality or Council. They were sales pitches from Aqua. The public deserves to know about the other options as thoroughly as Aqua discussed the privatization option. I know that Council says there was plenty of opportunity for public input. I would like to remind Mr. Perry of an informal meeting in November with Mr. LePera at Coffee Talk. Discussion of the Norristown State Hospital property came up, and Mr. Perry said, "I can't talk about it yet, but stay tuned because big things are coming. Big things!" Why would he not talk about it with the public? This was a great opportunity to discuss it, but he made it sound like a secret. I was curious then, but now it all makes sense.

If the public knows too much, they might not agree and there might be push-back and it might not go through. This is not the way it should be. Nor should these or any other virtual public meetings be on such a closed platform. Make public meetings as close to the real thing as possible (i.e. don't shut us out of video meetings). Treat "bad actors" the same way in a video meeting that you would in person. You don't preemptively shut the doors to the public in Municipal Hall; you deal with problems if they come up. Do the same for virtual meetings. There are ways of dealing with it, and if I, as a public librarian, can figure it out, surely a Municipal Administrator can. In addition, publicity for tonight's meeting was insufficient. Until yesterday afternoon, the agenda item about the sale was a copy and paste from the last meeting, not indicating the correct information for tonight's meeting. And even after it was fixed, it still says "to consider the purchase agreement," and nowhere uses the word vote. I'm begging Council, because I believe you truly do care about Norristown, to offer the public more information and to help make this a ballot question instead of a decision made by Council alone. Don't be railroaded by Crandall Jones, Aqua, and the too-good-to-be-true promise of quick money. At the very, very least, delay this vote until the public knows more.

Respectfully yours,
Rachel Fecho

David McMahon- 721 Haws Ave.

Members of Norristown Council,

This workshop meeting tonight, June 16th, 2020 will be a uniquely defining one. What is at stake is local oversight and administration of a valuable publicly created, publicly funded utility - the sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment facility servicing Norristown and West Norriton. But what will be demonstrated tonight is what model of governance the residents of Norristown can expect from this Council and this Municipal Administrator. Will we see a rushed, top-down process that fosters disengagement in a community and turns residents into mere consumers to be turned over to unaccountable profiteers and shareholders? Or will we see a process that furthers and helps along an increasingly activated public whose attention and support is absolutely necessary in achieving those very goals Council is hoping to accomplish with this sale? Goals that may in fact actually be undercut by the unnecessarily costly and uncontrollable rate increases that are sure to come from Aqua Pennsylvania.

We applaud the efforts Council has shown in creating a wide-ranging vision for a responsive, vibrant and sustainable Norristown and we understand the need and search for funding strategies for the worthy projects they are developing. However, the members of Council have a fiduciary responsibility to the residents of Norristown to secure the best deals for the municipality, and this massive, public-funded indebtedness to Aqua Pennsylvania does not meet that test.

The public has been given neither sufficient access to appropriate information nor adequate time to directly investigate the issues this sale is intended to solve, what alternatives have been presented to and considered by this Council, what manner of cost/benefit analysis has been conducted, and what other processes of due diligence have been carried out. Supporting documents have not been forthcoming, timely requests have been denied, and the Asset Purchase Agreement itself was not released until after the final public presentation.

This flawed and hurried public outreach is reflective of the overall rush to privatize water utilities throughout Pennsylvania since 2016, when legislation was passed shielding water companies like Aqua PA from any risk in buying systems like ours because they would be guaranteed to recoup their costs through PUC approved rate increases. So while Council presents this sale as a windfall for Norristown, it is in fact a backdoor loan through a water company at an unknowable, non-negotiable but absolutely increasing future rate. And with total loss of local accountability.

We prefer to see a local government that would engage us in a fully transparent process so that we would knowingly adopt any funding increases that might be necessary to implement the intriguing development ideas Council has been considering. If Council does not vote down this proposal outright tonight, We hope they will at least use the 60 day advertising maximum to allow full discovery and due diligence by the public. This has so far been unconscionably denied.

Sincerely,
David McMahon

Maccabee Hirsch

**Public Comments: Municipal Council Consideration of Ordinance
20-11 related to the potential sale of the Municipality of
Norristown's Sanitary Sewer System to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc.,
for \$82,000,000**

Honorable Members of the Norristown Council,

The proposed sale of Norristown's sewer system to Aqua America is extremely alarming to me: I demand that you give Norristown residents the full 60 days before the final vote on the sewer sale, release the sale contract for public review immediately, and ultimately vote against it.

It is unconscionable for the Council to give the minimum notice required, 7 days, and speed through selling off one of our borough's biggest assets, our sewer system, during a global pandemic. The online public hearings have not been published on the Council meetings page, are not adequately advertised, and are inaccessible. Additionally, the terms of the sale were posted online for public review on June 10th, only 6 days before the final vote.

Selling assets to cover budget shortfalls in the short-term leaves our community desperate in the future. This process that Council is using has been entirely centered around the benefits that the sale to Aqua America will bring. I fear that the Council has not fully considered the ramifications for our community that would result from this deal. Selling a major asset to pay for short-term budget gaps is poor fiscal management. I understand that Aqua America has offered Norristown \$82 million, which you hope to use to address budget shortfalls. This is not free money, but should be thought of as a loan that residents will have to repay with interest through hikes in their sewer bills. Aqua America will be able to justify rate increases to recoup the money paid to the city.

Privatization of our wastewater systems typically leads to skyrocketing rates, decreased quality of service, and loss of transparency and accountability over a service essential for public health. Aqua America is beholden first and foremost to their shareholders, and have at many points betrayed their promises to elected officials and to the public. Private companies will put their profits ahead of our needs. Please: do not sell our sewer system.

This is part of Aqua America's attempted takeover of our region's municipal water and wastewater services. The company has

pitched a similar deal to nearby Chester and Plymouth. In Chester, attempts to privatize have been met with an injunction to stop the sale. The Plymouth Council decided against the deal citing that, despite the large upfront sum promised by Aqua, the rate projections showed that the rates would be 2 to 3 times higher than their current rates. They found that it would cost residents less to raise taxes to meet budget shortfalls than it would to sell the sewer system.

I demand that you give Norristown residents the full 60 days before the final vote on the sewer sale and release the contract for public review. I ask you to reject the privatization of our public wastewater system.

Sincerely,

	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code
1	Maccabee	Hirsch	Norristown	PA	19401
2	Robert	Richart	Norristown	PA	19403
3	David	McMahon	Norristown	PA	19401
4	Albert	Antonelli	Norristown	PA	19401
5	Scarlett	Herbert	norristown	PA	19401
6	Adam	Gilbert-Cole	Doylestown	PA	18901
7	Fredrick	Silverwood	Norristown	PA	19401
8	Erin	Caskey	Norristown	PA	19401
9	Raylene	Fuchsel	Norristown	PA	19401
10	Daniel	Rogan	Norristown	PA	19401
11	Sharon	Imgrund	Norristown	PA	19403
12	Emily	Vazquez	East Norriton	PA	19403
13	Sherri	Muldoon	Norristown	PA	19401
14	Tracey	Spaventa	Norristown	PA	19401
15	Jason	Bradshaw	Norristown	PA	19401
16	Efrain	Vazquez	Norristown	PA	19401
17	Maryrose	Hughes	Norristown	PA	19401
18	Bria	Brown	Norristown	PA	19401
19	Elliott	Gougeon	Norristown	PA	19401
20	Turea	Hutson	Norristown	PA	19401
21	Catherine	Perez	Norristown	PA	19401
22	Steve	Connerton	Norristown	PA	19401
23	Allison	Ojeda	Norristown	PA	19401
24	Sherwin	Forde	Norristown	PA	19403
25	Patsy	Morningstar	Norristown	PA	19401
26	John	Larson	Oley	PA	19547
27	Todd	Rosenberg	Norristown	PA	19401
28	John	Kraus	Norristown	PA	19401
29	Shane	Van Buskirk	Norristown	PA	19401
30	Irvin	Althouse	Fleetwood	PA	19522

	First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code
31	Bruce	Kratz	Norristown	PA	19401
32	Harold	Disk	Norristown	PA	19401
33	Sabrina	Bel	Norristown	PA	19401
34	Dale	Herschlag	East Norriton	PA	19401
35	Paula	Chendorain	Norristown	PA	19401
36	Courtney	Hughes	Norristown	PA	19401
37	Jaques	Golson	Norristown	PA	19401

38 Fernando G	Feliciano	Norristown	PA	19401
39 Fernando	Feliciano	Norristown	PA	19401
40 Brian	Walker	Norristown	PA	19401
41 Charles	Kierklo	NORRISTOWN	PA	19403
42 Stefanie	Fulford	Norristown	PA	19401
43 Catherine	Perez	NORRISTOWN	PA	19401
44 Dennis	Eaton	Norristown	PA	19401
45 David	Van Buskirk	Norristown	PA	19401
46 Denise	Van Buskirk	Norristown	PA	19401
47 Mary	Ellen DiGregorio	Norristown	PA	19401
48 Patrick	McLaughlin	Norristown	PA	19401
49 Karen	Killen	Norristown	PA	19401
50 ARTHUR	Henry	Gilbertsville	PA	19525
51 Deborah	Braak	Eagleville	PA	19403
52 Robert	Richart	Norristown	PA	19403
53 Pamela	Miller	NORRISTOWN	PA	19403
54 Jacob	Madrid	Norristown	PA	19401
55 Shawn	Catlow-Sidler	Norristown	PA	19401
56 Melissa	Retano	Norristown	PA	19403
57 Rachel	Fecho	Norristown	PA	19401
58 Heather	Rivera	Norristown	PA	19401
59 Brian	Culbreath	Norristown	PA	19401
60 Beverly	Williams	NORRISTOWN	PA	19401
61 Ericka	VanBuren	Norristown	PA	19401
62 Jessica	Parkinson	Norristown	PA	19401
63 Kenneth	Boyle	norristown	PA	19401
64 Dustin	Queenan	Norristown	PA	19401
65 Francis	Saylor	Norristown	PA	19401
66 Ersel	Peterson	Norristown	PA	19403
67 Richard	Strunk	Collegeville	PA	19426
68 Denise	Goodman	Norristown	PA	19401
69 Kim	Mcnamee	Norristown	PA	19401
70 Rebecca	Bowersox	NORRISTOWN	PA	19401
71 Edith	Murray	Norristown	PA	19401
72 Lyzel	Buella	East Norriton	PA	19401

First name	Last name	City	State	Zip Code
73 Peter	Bowersox	Norristown	PA	19401
74 Enrique	Iglesias	Norristown	PA	19401
75 Pamela	Feliciano	Norristown	PA	19401
76 Lynn Marie	Auriemma	Norristown	PA	19401
77 Charles	Morrione	Norristown	PA	19401
78 Naya	Butler	Norristown	PA	19401
79 Michael	Comfort	Norristown	PA	19401
80 Shane	Springer	Norristown	PA	19401
81 Melissa	Steeley	Norristown	PA	19401
82 Francis	Wakefield	Norristown	PA	19401
83 Mathew	McCracken	Norristown	PA	19401

84 Kenneth	Boyle	Norristown	PA	19401
85 Stephanie	Huber	Norristown	PA	19401
86 Tina	Frangiosa	Norristown	PA	19401
87 Tina	Arobone	Norristown	PA	19403
88 Shannon	Stalker	Hatfield	PA	19440
89 Stephanie	Liebert	Norristown	PA	19401
90 Antoinette	Stockton	Norristown	PA	19401
91 Rosalie	Jones	Norristown	PA	19401
92 Jennifer	Feldman	Norristown	PA	19401
93 Anne	Donlon	Norristown	PA	19401
94 Nicole	Mariano	Norristown	PA	19403
95 Alicia	Carlin	Norristown	PA	19401
96 John	Kraus	Norristown	PA	19401
97 Stacey	DeGirolamo	Jeffersonville	PA	19403
98 Suzanne	Maloney	Norristown	PA	19401
99 Lisa	Copertino	Norristown	PA	19401
100 Robert	Halfpenny	Norristown	PA	19403
101 Devin	Concannon	Norristown	PA	19401

Municipal Administrator

Crandall Jones prefaced this discussion by saying there were multiple presentations over a period of a couple of years or more with Council about this potential sale.

Municipal Council's consideration of Ordinance 20-11 related to the potential sale of the Municipality of Norristown's Sanitary Sewer System to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. for \$82,000,000

Each Council member provided their opinion regarding the sale of the Sewer Plant, which took into consideration the public comments regarding transparency and possible rate increases. There was **a motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 20-11. Councilwoman Smith and Councilman Jones voted against. **The motion passed 5-2.**

Resolution 20-42 – awarding a contract for \$69,781 to Pennoni for CIP-related work

Mr. Jones, Administrative Administrator, stated that this is part of the Liquid Fuels budget. There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve Resolution 20-42, awarding a contract for \$69,781 to Pennoni for engineering, project management and field inspection services related to road paving, ADA ramp construction, storm inlet repairs and curb and sidewalk replacement. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

ProChamps Agreement Renewal

Mr. Singh explained that this is the last additional one-year agreement expiring in July 2021. There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the extension of the ProChamps Agreement. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Finance

Resolution 20-46 – awarding contract for \$32,500 to Pennoni Associates for CIP-related work

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 20-46 to award the Pennoni Associates contract for \$32,500 for site design and professional engineering services related to municipal parking lot improvements. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 20-47 – awarding a contract for \$87,975 to Pennoni Associates for CIP-related work

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve Resolution 20-47 to award the Pennoni Associates contract for \$87,975 for work on Riverfront Park Phase I, a field survey and engineering, design, bidding and project management services. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 20-49 – Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for \$117,830.00 to Seiler-Drury Architecture

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to approve Resolution 20-49 to amend the professional services agreement. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 20-50 – Professional Services Agreement for pre-construction and construction phase to Gorski Engineering, Inc.

There was discussion regarding the fact this agreement didn't go out for bid. Solicitor Kilkenny suggested that since Administration would like to move forward on this that Council can direct Mr. Crandall Jones. He noted that Council would ultimately decide on the contractors. Councilman Lepera noted that a no-bid contract shows a lack of transparency. Mr. Jones added that Gorski Engineering, Inc. was awarded to be the firm based on their credentials and that they put the plan together. There was a **motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilman Jones** to table this item for further discussion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

Recommendation to approve 2020 AARP Livable Communities Grant

Jayne Musonye provided background information. There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve a \$59,500 2020 AARP Livable Communities Grant to provide legal assistance for up to 30 low-to-moderate income households facing evictions in order to ensure housing stability and improve livability for people of all ages in our community. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request authorization from Council to advertise Legal Notice pertaining to amendment to the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan

Jayne Musonye noted this is in regard to the Blight issue and she explained what funds were moved to get the program going forward. There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to advertise the Legal Notice. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Preliminary Land Development approval – 750 Forrest Avenue

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to table this item

due to the absence of the applicant. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 20-45 – approve or deny requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

Norristown Police Chief Mark Talbot noted there is no longer a need for these parking spaces.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the removal of handicapped parking spaces at: 604 E. Marshall Street, 806 W. Airy Street, 553 Buttonwood Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Public Works

Request to advertise revised specifications for residential Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Collection

Mr. Jones provided details of the revised specifications including a 5-year contract and 2 colors for the residential trash bins, There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to advertise the revised specifications. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Following this adjournment, Council will meet in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council