

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 1, 2020**

The Council Meeting of December 1, 2020 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry at 7:30 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

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

**Motion to Approve Minutes**

There was a **motion by Council Vice-President Smith**, seconded by Councilman Lepera, to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2020. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Executive Session Announcement**

Council President Perry announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**Presentations**

**Proclamation recognizing Nicholas Green**

Council President Perry read the proclamation honoring Nicholas Green for giving the gift of life to his father by donating a kidney.

**Announcements:**

The COVID Testing Site has expanded its hours to Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and online registration now opens at 7 am or by phone starting at 8:30 am. Call 610-970-2937.

“Meet and Greet” with Santa at the Norristown Recreation Center on December 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 pm to 6:30 pm.

Council thanked the Norristown Fire Department, the Police Department and their partners for delivering meals and gifts to families in need for the holidays.

“Help a Single Parent” will be holding an NFL Tailgate fundraiser on Sunday, December 6 in “Crazy Aaron’s” parking lot (700 East Main Street) from 12 pm to 7 pm. Tickets are \$50 per car (up to 5 people per car.) Contact Councilwoman Scott-Cooper or Councilwoman Sanders for information.

**Public Comment:**

Rachel Fecho, 715 Noble Street – “I’m thankful to know that the voice of our community has been heard loud and clear regarding the Sewer sale. I thank Vice-President Smith and Councilman Jones for listening to the

people they represent. I encourage the rest of you to follow their example and to learn from the research they have done on the matter as well. I'm heartened to see how the voice of many when working together can be more powerful than the seeming giant of a corporation. But Aqua is not the only private predator with their sights on our Municipality and a lot of work lies ahead for those of us who care about the future of Norristown but we will do whatever it takes to block privatization and gentrification and to seek sustainable ways of funding development and insuring that the development is the interest of all Norristown's diverse residents' future and current and, as always, "I love you Norristown." Thank you.

## **Appointments**

### **Resolution 20-102: Appointments to Stormwater Advisory Committee**

Municipal Administrator Crandall Jones provided background information including the recruitment of Committee members. Allison Lee, Pennoni Engineering, explained the MS4 program which controls rainwater runoff and reduces pollutant loads.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the following appointments to the Stormwater Advisory Committee:

Wally Harris (Community Member)  
Wailani Sosa (Community Member)  
Drew Shaw (Montgomery County Planning Commission)  
Rebecca Swanson (Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority)  
Hakim Jones (Council)  
Christopher Dormer (NASD Superintendent)  
Derrick Perry (Council)  
Thomas Odenigbo (Staff Consultant)  
Kathy Pfister (Staff Consultant)  
Khal Hassan (Staff Consultant)

**The motion passed 6-0.**

## **Municipal Administrator**

**Motion to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 20-21 for the repeal of Norristown Ordinance 20-14, which set forth the dissolution of the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority and to authorize the Municipal Administrator to take any and all actions necessary to resolve any litigation matters or remediate any other actions taken in accordance with Ordinance 20-14.**

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Council Vice-President Smith**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 20-21, repealing Ordinance 20-14, which abolished the Sewer Authority. **The motion passed 6-0.**

**Motion to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 20-22 for the repeal of Norristown Ordinance 20-15 related to the conveyance of the Sewer System of Aqua Pennsylvania Water, Inc. and to authorize the Municipal Administrator to take any and all actions necessary to resolve any litigation matters or remediate any other actions taken in accordance with Ordinance 20-15.**

There was a **motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Council Vice-President Smith**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 20-22, repealing Ordinance 20-15, which authorized the selling of the Sewer Authority's assets to Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. **The motion passed 6-0.**

### **Resolution 20-103: Municipal Hall additions and renovations – awarding Bids**

Mr. Jerry Gorski, Project Manager, and Paul Lenher, Pennoni Engineering, provided information regarding the Municipal Hall project and questions were asked by Council regarding Minority participation in the project.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Council President Perry**, to approve Resolution 20-103. **The motion passed 6-0.**

### **Police**

### **Resolution 20-101: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces**

Police Chief Talbot explained that these residents demonstrated physical limitations that make these requests necessary.

There was a **motion by Council Vice-President Smith, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve Handicapped Parking Spaces at the following addresses:

1302 Arch Street  
632 West Lafayette Street

**The motion passed 6-0.**

### **Building and Codes Enforcement**

### **Historical Architectural Review Board – November 2020**

Codes Manager Amrinder Singh provided the addresses for the applications received, reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB for November 2020:

106 Stanbridge Street  
613 Noble Street

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the HARB applications. **The motion passed 6-0.**

### **Request for Council to approve Ordinance 20-18 to amend Chapter 31 (HARB) of the Municipal Code**

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve Ordinance 20-18 amending the Municipality of Norristown HARB Ordinance (Chapter 31) to amend certain provisions to eliminate HARB Zone B, to redefine the boundaries of HARB Zone A and to restate and revise the Preservation Guidelines Criteria applicable to HARB Zone A under Section 31-10 F. **The motion passed 6-0.**

### **Request for Council to approve Ordinance 20-19 to amend the Municipal Code by adding a new Chapter, Chapter 240 titled “Property Maintenance Quick Ticket Program”**

Director Singh noted the 15 code violations that would be issued a Quick Ticket: accumulation of rubbish or garbage, animal maintenance and waste feces cleanup, disposal of rubbish or garbage/dumping, high weeds, grass or plant growth, motor vehicles unregistered, uninspected, inoperative or in disrepair, outside placement of indoor appliances or furniture, snow or ice removal from sidewalks, storage containers for waste or trash, storing or discarding of appliances, storage of hazardous materials, storage of recyclables, swimming pools, Historic District violations, failure to obtain permits, failure to post permit placard in conspicuous location with

finest being \$50 and severe violations \$100.

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 20-19 to amend the Municipal Code by adding Chapter 240 titled "Property Maintenance Quick Ticket Program" under Part II, General Legislation to establish a Quick Ticket Program for the issuance of fines for violations of certain existing Property Maintenance and Code Requirements and for the Solicitor, Municipal Administrator and staff to come back to possibly amend the fines at a later date. **The motion passed 6-0.**

### **Planning & Municipal Development**

#### **Request authorization to advertise Ordinance 20-20 of 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2021 proposed budget**

Director Musonye provided details of the proposed budget and she noted that it is subject to Congress setting aside funds but first the public needs to be notified.

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 20-20 Community Development Block Grant 2021 proposed budget. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Departmental Reports – November 2020**

#### **Police**

Chief Talbot reported that there were 11 shootings in November; Juvenile arrests down 15%; Traffic accidents down; man-hours were lost due to officers being out due to COVID exposures but the department had 0 infections in November.

#### **Code Enforcement**

Director Singh reported that construction has slowed down so there were less permits issued. Code worked on the Open Permit project with 2,599 open permits from 2013- June 2018 – 85.84% have now been closed. Property transfers – high volume of applications for inspections. Rental inspections continue. There will be a 2021 Property Maintenance Code proposal at the next Council meeting. He noted Code is securing a license to create their own Code. There will be future updates on Property Inspections, Contractor Licensing, Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance. In the future, he will provide reports on outstanding fees.

#### **Public Works**

Director Odenigbo noted that the department is preparing for snow removal; Christmas lights were put up on Main and Marshall Streets and a Banner as well. He added that the Municipal Christmas tree will be put up sometime this week.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council