

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021**

The Council Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2021 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry at 7:00 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 Moman	Hakim Jones	Sonya Sanders	Heather Lewis
Thomas Lepera	Rebecca Smith	Derrick Perry	

Also joined 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, Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Public Comment

Rochelle Brown, 622 E. Moore St.

Hello, my name is Rochelle Brown. I am emailing unresolved, ongoing issues that the Municipality of Norristown has yet to resolve. I am forwarding an email I previously sent six months ago to all commissioners of Montgomery County & Councilman Derek (sic) Perry. I have informed Mr. Brown, an employee of State Rep. Matt Bradford, Mr. John, supervisor of code enforcement at borough hall, and Councilman Hakim Jones of those issues. I have yet to get a resolution from the elected officials to date. These unaddressed issues have been going on for many years, and this is not the first time I have been proactive to the elected officials to address them. I had a house fire a few years ago because of neighborhood rivalry over a parking lot, 421 E. Airy St., located between 622 and 618 Moore St. These men, "Frankie" and "Juan", whom Councilman Jones apparently knows, have lied to the community for at least the past five to six years saying "I own this lot!". In fact, the owner is Kathern Monosaro. Frankie's junk truck was burnt up as a result of him arguing with the previous neighbor at 618 Moore St. over this property and parking rights, as a result his cars and trucks were set on fire. Furthermore, numerous code violations are being overlooked. These brothers are blocking back yards with their trucks. (See photos.) Also, these cars and trucks, campers prevent my zonal project of putting up a fence to divide my property line to Ms. Monosaro. My project was approved on July 24, 2020 by the zoning department. Can we remove these campers, cars, trucks that have been parked for years and block this property off? Can we enforce no parking on sidewalk because you put a no parking sign on the pole in front of my house? Can we put speed limits from Tremont to Viola because the cars are not held accountable for driving 60 to 70 miles an hour in that short block. Can we do our jobs and come from behind the desk?



Election of 2021 Council Officers

Nominations/Vote for Vice President of 2021 Council

There was a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman, to nominate Thomas Lepera as Vice President of 2021 Council. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 6-1. (Councilwoman Smith voted nay.)

Nominations/Vote for President of 2021 Council

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to nominate Derrick Perry as President of 2021 Council. There were no other nominations. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Oath of Office

Oath of Office for Vice President of 2021 Council

Judge Gregory Scott performed the swearing-in for Councilman Lepera as Council Vice President.

Oath of Office for President of 2021 Council

Judge Gregory Scott performed the swearing-in for Councilman Perry as Council President.

Remarks from incoming Council President

President Perry addressed and thanked each Council and Staff member and remarked to “Keep moving Norristown forward.”

Appointments

Resolution 21-01: Reappointment of Professional Staff for 2021

Municipal Administrator, Crandall Jones, read the names of the professionals and staff members who serve within the Municipality.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 21-01. **The motion passed 6-1.** (Councilwoman Sanders recused herself because she is employed with the Sheriff’s Office (Sean Kilkenny was appointed as Municipal Solicitor.)

Adjournment

There was a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman, to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021**

The Council Meeting of January 4, 2021 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 Moman	Hakim Jones	Sonya Sanders	Heather Lewis
Rebecca Smith	Thomas Lepera	Derrick Perry	

Also joined 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, Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was an amendment made to the December 15, 2020 Minutes because the meeting was not adjourned: “There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**”

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the amended December 15, 2020 Minutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to tonight’s meeting.

Announcements

“Right to plan for a healthier you” seminar sponsored by the NAACP and the Pennie organization on January 5th at 6:30 pm. This is a virtual information session featuring State Reps Matt Bradford, Joe Webster, Tim Briggs and Mary Jo Daley.

Toy and Grocery Giveaway on January 6th at 5:00 pm at 601 West Marshall Street sponsored by Mother Jessie of the Episcopal Church of the Crucifixion. Contact 856-580-7174.

“Montco Strong” 2020 Restaurant Grant Program extension for applications to January 8, 2021. Go to Commerce section on montcopa.org

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Planning & Municipal Development

Ordinance 20-17: Public Hearing to consider adoption amending Chapter 320-16.B, Article III Districts established boundaries of the CODE of Norristown to rezone 700 Sterigere Street (Elmwood Car Wash, LLC) Parcel Number 13-00-35736-00-8 from the current RE -Recreation District to LIMU – Limited

Industrial Mixed Use District

Director Musonye provided a timeline of activity to this point. She noted that staff recommends approval of this amendment.

Solicitor Hitchens marked the documents for the Public Hearing:

“A” Copy of the Ordinance 20-17

“B” Copy of the September 23, 2020 Planning Commission letter

“C” Copy of the advertisement (email) for this meeting, which was advertised for 6:30 pm but it was a no show at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Rob Ratoskey, applicant, was available to answer questions.

There was no Public Comment or comments from Council.

Mr. Rath Geald III, Esquire, asked to add the applicant’s August 20, 2020 letter to complete the record.

Solicitor Hitchens agreed to make the photo of the physical posting of the property document “D” for the record and document “E” would be the copy of the applicant’s August 20, 2020 letter.

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

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Council Vice-President Lepera**, to adopt Ordinance 20-17. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 20-20 of 2020 – Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2021 Proposed Budget

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

Director Musonye provided details of the projects associated with the CDBG FY 2021 Proposed Budget.

There was no Public Comment or comments from Council.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice-President Lepera**, to close the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion by Council Vice-President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to adopt Ordinance 20-20. **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Sanders not present for voting.)

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – December 2020

Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager, provided information for a HARB application for 828 West Main Street. There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the HARB application. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports

Monthly Reports to update Council on December 2020 activities within presenting departments: Finance; Planning & Municipal Development; Recreation.

Norman Butts, Finance Director, provided information for his report including working on year-end reconciliations, sending out W-2s and 1099s, comp time buyback, quarterly reports, year-end budget status, 2020 Financial Statement Audit, working on submission of documents for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence for Financial Reporting. Also working on state required finance reports and invoices to vendors.

Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning, noted the activities from December 2020: final plans will be submitted for 257 East Main Street, a Justice Center discussion, proceeding with Arch Street project and bids will go out for the Main Street project, Section 8 issues with the Housing Authority, Small Business Assistance Center proposals. Jayne will be back with an RFP.

Erica Genuardi noted December was a slow month for activities. She noted that there are orders for playground updates, there will be upgrades to benches, an Arcadia Grant for \$20,000 was received, hopefully there will be concerts. Erica said there are plans for summer camp with COVID considerations.

Adjournment

There was a **motion by Council Vice-President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council