

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
JANUARY 19, 2021**

The Council Work Session of January 19, 2021 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry 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 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; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Norman Butts, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman, to amend the January 5, 2020 Minutes to add a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 20-17. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the amended January 5, 2020 Minutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss litigation issues.

Announcements

"Facts Not Fear" COVID-19 vaccines and the black community", virtual Town Hall – January 21st at 7 pm. Register at montcopa.org.

Crazy Aarons is hiring for their "Land of Dough" department. Resumes can be sent to jobs@puttyworld.com.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Appointments

Resolution 21-02: Appointments to Boards and Committees

Request for Council to approve the following appointments:

Recreation Committee

Pamela Martin (Appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2025

Planning Commission

Willie Anderson (Re-appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2024

Blighted Property Review Committee

Rebecca Swanson (Appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2024

Zoning Hearing Board

Darchelle Pierce (Re-appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2025

Historical Architectural Review Board

William Ward (Re-appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2022

Gale Bresnehan (Re-appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2023

Doug Seiler (Re-appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2024

Municipal Sewer Authority

Gary Hayward Simpson (Appointment) – Term expiring December 31, 2025

There was a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, to approve Resolution 21-02. The motion passed unanimously.

Building & Codes Enforcement

Request authorization to advertise Ordinance 21-01 to amend Article III of Chapter 239 (Abandoned Real Property) of the Municipal Code

Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, provided an explanation of the amendment and he explained the purpose is to help prevent and reduce blight in Norristown.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 21-01 amending Article III of Chapter 239 (Abandoned Real Property) of the Norristown Municipal Code to amend Section 239-7 (relating to definitions), Section 239-8 (relating to registry) and Section 239-10 (relating to violations and penalties.) The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

Resolution 21-03: award contract in the amount of \$173,400 to NJS Concrete, LLC for 2019 ADA ramp installation curb and sidewalk replacement project

Mr. Norman Butts noted that this was presented to Finance on December 14, 2020 and needs to be ratified.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman, to approve Resolution 21-03. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-04: amend the 2021-2025 Capital Improvements Plan to add a project providing for the repair of recreation capital assets damaged by recent flooding and to delete projects whose source of funding was to be “legacy funds” from the sale of the sewer system.

There was a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to amend the 2021-2025 Capital Improvements Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-05: amend Section VIII of the 2021 Consolidated Fee Schedule (Zoning and Development.)

There was a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve Resolution 21-05. The motion passed unanimously.

Police

Resolution 21-07: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

There was a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, to approve Handicapped Parking spaces at the following addresses:

1108 Swede Street
700 West Elm Street

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-08: Motion to approve the Civil Service Entry Level Police Officer List and granting permission for the Chief of Police to identify and have offers of conditional employment sent to four identified candidates on the entry level eligibility list.

Chief Talbot explained that the need for 4 Police Officers is a result of 3 retirements and 1 termination.

There was a motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, to approve Resolution 21-08. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning & Municipal Development

Presentation for proposed mixed-use development at 579 E. Lafayette Street

Director Musonye explained that this project is in the conceptual stage. There was a Power Point presentation by the applicants, Herb Schultz, Joseph Grasso, and Joseph Grasso, Jr.

Municipal Administrator

Request of Municipal Council to approve notification of Intent to Award for Municipal Hall addition and renovation bids for sprinkler and remediation contractors

There was a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Moman, to approve the notification of Intent to Award to Gordon H. Baver, Inc., in the amount of \$381,200.00 for sprinkler services and Plymouth Environmental Co., Inc. in the amount of \$89,400.00 for remediation services. The motion passed unanimously.

Council discussion on potential Residential Tax Exemption Program for residents

Crandall Jones shared information about 3 specific Residential Tax Exemption programs via Power Point. He provided an explanation of each program which are New Home Construction Local Tax Abatement Act, Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property and the Tax Exemption and Mixed Use Incentive program. There was an in-depth question and answer discussion by Council and the Municipal Solicitor.

There was a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Moman, to choose the 3 Residential Tax Exemption programs. The motion passed 5 to 2 (with Councilman Jones and Councilwoman

Smith voting nay.)

The Municipal Solicitor explained that the questions posed by Council regarding time frames, abatement, etc. will be followed up with a draft legislation before moving forward to advertise.

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