

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

The Council Work Session of February 16, 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 signed in to the meeting:

Valerie Moman
Rebecca Smith

Hakim Jones
Thomas Lepera

Sonya Sanders
Derrick Perry

Heather Lewis

Also signed 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; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Norristown Fire Chief Thomas O'Donnell; Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the Minutes from February 2, 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Presentations

Presentation by Robb Miller, Vice President of Sales, at Buxton

Mr. Miller conducted a Power Point presentation regarding identifying opportunities in the market using "Intelligent Economic Development" which utilizes data sets and technology.

Announcements

J.P. Mascaro will be providing new trashcans to residents on their regular trash day.

The Department of Health & Human Services continues with its virtual panel discussions for Black History Month. The topic of discussion is "Parenting and Families." Wednesdays in February from 12 noon to 1:15 pm. Information on the County website – montcopa.org.

The Recreation Center will host "Share Food" on February 27th at 11 am. Food will be given out to families in need.

Public Comment

Earl Hoisington, 908 Haws Ave.

My name is Earl Hoisington, I am a taxpaying homeowner and live at 908 Haws Ave.

I wish to voice my disgust with how public works neglects my neighborhood, not only with plowing but street cleaning and storm preparation. I have spoken with the public works numerous times in the last week-and-a-half about the roads not being plowed properly and my trash not being picked up. The borough plows left a mountain of snow in the middle of the road in the middle of the

block and as of this email the plows still haven't done any snow cleanup. Intersections still are narrowed with an extra eight to 10 feet of snow past the curb blocking safe traffic thoroughfare, all the while a borough plow truck cleared the 900 block of Buttonwood Street curb to curb. My tax dollars are apparently being used for other things and I get no service. Another thing I was told by public works is that the alley behind my house will not be plowed since it is "Private Property", so is Hope Alley in the 900 block really "Private Property" or was that another lie from public works.

Jim Watters, 1 E. Indian Lane, West Norriton

The Storm of August 4th, 2020 brought to light the urgent need to address stormwater control. Damage to the Elmwood Zoo, ball-fields, bandshell and the Parks and Rec Building was unprecedented. Creation of the Stormwater Committee was timely, and documentary video has been started to educate the public on the extent of the damage in the Stony Creek Watershed. The video will also show where the stormwater, in the west branch of the Stony Creek Watershed, comes from. Several documentary videos have been created in the past that explain the many aspects of stormwater. Three such videos have been sent to your Public Information Office that can be shared with council. Roads flood in West Norriton, and Norristown blocking access to Einstein Hospital is a public safety matter. Storm drains clogged with trash or tree roots, property damage - private and public - are devastating to Norristown and West Norriton. As the past chair of the West Norriton Environmental Advisory Council I am at your service to share everything that was learned about stormwater, and the MS4 regulations. Not everyone can live upstream
Sincerely,
Jim Watters

Sarah Peck, Developer. Ms. Peck said she is impressed with Council's business-mindedness and aggressively encouraging revitalization and development in Norristown as witnessed by the Buxton presentation. She commented on the agenda item regarding the Tax Abatement saying that it will make a big difference for those like her and her financial partners to make projects economically feasible. She said that the high taxes can be an impediment to projects so the Abatement could be the deciding factor.

Earl Hoisington - He explained that snow plowing is a routine problem with his block. He said they barely see a plow truck and hardly ever see a salt truck, except when it comes and disperses salt off of the spinner. A plow truck moved six inches of snow but the mountain of snow that makes it hard to turn around was not moved. He said that trucks from the business at the end of the road come through and almost hit the parked cars because there is not enough space. He asked if they could be opened up just like Buttonwood Street.

Fire

Resolution 21-18: Fire Safety House Donation

There was a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to request that the Municipality's retired 1993 Fire Safety House be donated to the Girardville Volunteer Fire Department located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 21-16: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

There was a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera, to approve Resolution 21-16 to establish a Handicapped Parking space at the following address:

11 E. Brown Street

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-17: Motion to approve a contract for Rapid DNA Testing Services with BODE Cellmark Forensics, Inc.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the continuation of the contract for Rapid DNA Testing Services with BODE Cellmark Forensics, Inc. which aids in investigations of violent crimes and is part of the crime reduction strategy. It also expands the array of crimes which DNA would be utilized such as property crimes, weapon offenses and drug offenses. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Council discussion on potentially publicly posting Rental Property Owner, License and Inspection information.

Code Manager Amrinder Singh explained this could benefit residents who may not be aware if a rental building is a registered rental property and if it is safe to live in because they do not know the inspection information. A public posting would give them a resource. The posted information could include their Code Department account number, address, # of units, status of license, property owner's name and address, date of last inspection and status, fees paid or unpaid and open warnings or notices. If Council decides on this, a formal Resolution must be adopted detailing the information that would be publicly posted and the frequency of information being updated and how and where it is to be posted.

Council had a discussion regarding the display of the address of the landlord.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to draft a Resolution to bring to the next meeting which would include not posting the landlord's address. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Parks and Recreation

Request of Municipal Council to approve notification of Intent to Award or Notification of Award for Recreation Center and Fields Flood Damage bids to contractors

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to award Option 2 which would waive the 12 days notice and to send Notification of Intent to Award contracts to the following bidders for:

Park O'Rourke Associates for painting in the amount of \$100,276.

Park Inc. DBA Klinghoffer Carpet for flooring in the amount of \$69,900.

EC Fence & Iron Works, Inc. for fencing in the amount of \$128,760.

James R. Kenney Excavation & Paving for fields in the amount of \$89,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

Planning & Municipal Development

Resolution 21-09 of 2021: authorizing a contract (purchase) in the amount of \$35,000 with (from) Buxton for Consumer Impact Dashboard and Scout solution.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to award a contract in the amount of \$35,000 with (from) Buxton for Consumer Impact Dashboard and Scout solution in compliance with Section 7-713 of the Home Rule Charter and Section 4-35(A)(6) of the Administrative Code which states, "All contracts in excess of \$21,000 shall be in writing and shall be awarded by Municipal Council, and the contract shall be executed by the Municipal Administrator." **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not present for voting.)

Resolution 21-19: Request for Final Land Development approval for 200 E. Logan Street.

Director Musonye provided a timeline of the process. Municipal Engineer Khal Hassan provided explanations of the four (4) Waivers requested by the applicant.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to grant Final Land Development approval for New Century Builders, LLC for the Land Development project at 200 E. Logan Street including the four Waivers. **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis not available.)

Zoning Hearing Board Decision appealed – 918 West Marshall Street

Council Vice President Lepera took over the meeting.

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to send the Municipal Solicitor to defend the Zoning Hearing Board's decision that denied a duplex use at the property located at 918 West Marshall Street. **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis not available.)

Resolution 21-20: Request for Minor Plan Preliminary/Final Land Development approval – 1417-19 New Hope Street

Director Musonye provided a timeline. Municipal Engineer Khal Hassan provided an explanation of the one (1) Waiver regarding piping.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Council President Perry**, to approve the request for concurrent Preliminary/Final Minor Plan Land Development for 1417 & 1419 New Hope Street by New Hope 1719, LLC plus the one (1) Waiver. **The motion passed unanimously.** (All members available.)

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 21-15: Amend Resolution 20-16 for Professional Consultant Service from HRG (Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.) for Stormwater Utility Implementation Services not to exceed \$100,000.

Crandall Jones provided an in-depth explanation regarding the Stormwater Utility Implementation Services.

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to amend Resolution 20-16. **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Moman left the meeting.)

Council discussion and consideration to approve advertisement of Draft Tax Abatement Ordinances 21-02, 21-03 and 21-04.

Solicitor Kilkenny provided a Power Point presentation highlighting the details of the Draft Tax Abatement programs in order to get feedback from Council based on questions they had.

There were three (3) options to consider: ReTap, Newtap and NTap. The Solicitor put together Ordinances for the 3 options.

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to implement Norristown's ReTap to include new construction under a 5 year tax abatement that decreases incrementally 20% each year. **The motion passed 6-0.**

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the

Mixed Use Ordinance with a 10 year tax abatement which decreases 10% each year. **The motion passed 5-1.** (Councilwoman Smith voted nay.)

Solicitor Kilkenny explained that a decision about Zoning boundaries/districts will be discussed at a future meeting.

Adjournment

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis,** to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council