

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

The Council Work Session of March 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	Hakim Jones	Sonya Sanders	Heather Lewis
Rebecca Smith	Thomas Lepera	Derrick Perry	

Also signed in were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Police Chief; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, 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 Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Minutes from March 2, 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

Council did not meet in Executive Session.

Presentation

Proclamation honoring the historic 180th Anniversary of Ebenezer Methodist Church

Council President Perry read the Proclamation honoring the 180th Anniversary of Ebenezer Methodist Church.

Pastor Albert Jarman, Sr. was present at the meeting.

Announcements

Council President Perry announced that there will be a Food Drive at the Norristown Recreation Center in collaboration with “Incarcerated Minds” on March 26, 2021 from 11 am to 4 pm.

Public Comment

Michael Ludwig, 600 Gary Lane.

How are possible violations of the Home Rule Charter enforced?

Kurt Martin, 245 Buttonwood Street.

I want to know more about how Norristown plans on handling the stormwater this year. Every year there is water rushing from the corner of Airy & Buttonwood, across Main down to the Schuylkill River and from Forrest Avenue down Lafayette down to Buttonwood and Noble. My street looks like Niagara Falls every year. My tax money should be spent on repairing this issue. I’m begging you guys to please fix this.

Appointments

Resolution 21-27: Appointment to the Stormwater Advisory Committee

There was a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, to appoint Sunanda Charles to the Stormwater Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-25: Appointment of Entry Level Police Officers

There was a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Moman, to appoint James McAlvane and Lawrence Keys as entry-level Police Officers. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-26: Destruction of 2000 Arrest Records

Chief Talbot explained that the law allows for the destruction of these records due to the timeline.

There was a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, to approve Resolution 21-26. The motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Administrator

Stormwater Advisory Committee update by Bruce Hulshizer of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

Mr. Bruce Hulshizer, HRG, provided a presentation regarding an update on the work of the Advisory Committee in advance of the public engagement phase of the project.

Request for Municipal Council to approve Ordinance 21-05: Ordination and Acceptance of Lafayette Street into the Official Plan of the Streets of the Municipality of Norristown

Lauren Zumbrun, HRG, noted that due diligence has been done and she explained that the maintenance and upkeep of Lafayette Street belongs to the Municipality.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve Ordinance 21-05 ordaining the tracts of land described in the resolution to extend Lafayette Street as a public street, a private access easement and a drainage easement in the Municipality of Norristown. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning & Municipal Development

Public Hearing

There was a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera, to open the agenda for a Public Hearing regarding easements for the County for the construction of the Justice Center. The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Tustin, Public Information Officer, provided a Power Point image of the letter received from the county requesting temporary access and perpetual access at Dekalb and Main Streets in order to have ingress and egress to the county property for demolition as part of the Justice Center project.

There was no Public Comment given.

There was a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera, to close the Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the acceptance of \$100,000 for easements as part of the Justice Center project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Preliminary/Final Land Development approval for 15-17 East Fornance Street

Mr. Joe Clement, Attorney, provided a presentation about the project and reviewed the requested Waivers. Joe Estock, Engineer, and Joe Venezia, Developer, were available.

Planning Director, Jayne Musonye, provided the timeline for the project.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the Preliminary/Final Land Development request with the Waivers for 15-17 East Fornance Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Preliminary/Final Land Development approval for 26 & 36 West Wood Street

Director Musonye provided a timeline of the project and the applicant, Joseph Venezia, provided a Power Point with the project details.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Preliminary/Final Land Development with the six (6) Waivers and include that the alley issue be discussed between the Municipal Engineer, Municipal Administrator and the Municipal Solicitor. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Proposal of a Community Garden at Thomas Barone Park

There was a project presentation by Mr. David Genova of the Norristown Community Garden proposing a Community Garden in collaboration with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, Division of Health Promotion.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the proposal with the condition that Councilwoman Sanders obtains additional resident signatures in favor of the Community Garden. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request authorization to advertise proposed Notice of Amendment to the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan

Director Musonye provided the details and noted that if this is approved for advertisement for 30 days, any comments received will be forwarded to HUD.

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the advertisement of the Notice of Amendment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seeking Council support for a Zoning Hearing Board application to add outdoor dining for an approved beer brewery that includes retail, manufacturing and a tasting room at 1210 Stanbridge Street

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Council President Perry**, to approve a ZHB application requesting outdoor dining for the 1210 Stanbridge Street brewery. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion on proposed maps for the new Re-TAP and M-TAP Tax Abatement programs

Director Musonye narrated the Power Point proposing the Re-TAP and M-TAP zones. She noted that if Council

is satisfied with the proposed areas, the Municipal Engineer will provide the boundaries to include in the Ordinance for advertisement. Council President Perry commented that Mixed Use should be at the discretion of Council and Council Vice President Lepera noted that there should be a one-time abatement per property if not in the district. Director Musonye said it could be included in the Ordinance.

There was no Public Comment given.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to direct Jayne Musonye, Planning Director, to work with the Municipal Engineer to provide the boundaries for the Ordinance to be advertised. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council