

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2021**

The Council Meeting of April 6, 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 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; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief, 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 March 16, 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

Council did not meet in Executive Session.

Announcements

The Norristown CTC for Youth is offering free QPR training for adults to help recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to get help. For more information email twilliams@accessservices.org.

Grace Kelly and Finding Shelter Animal Rescue will be holding a free pet vaccine clinic for Montco residents only at the Elmwood Park Zoo on April 11th and April 18th from 10 am to 4 pm. Find more information at www.findingshelter.org.

Support for the Asian American Community organized by several Asian community leaders and business owners throughout the county will be held virtually on Sunday April 11th at 2 pm at the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Public Defender's Office is hosting an Expedited Marijuana Expungement program for non-violent and non-criminal cases. Will be held at the county parking lot on Saturday, April 24th. Further details to come.

Virtual Town Hall regarding a proposed Community Garden at Barone Park will be held by David Genova of the Montgomery County Health Services on April 13th. Councilwoman Sanders will be present.

Public Comment

Denise Hall, 1317 Arch Street – Good afternoon. I hope you and your families are doing well in this season. I would like to publicly recognize the Zoning Hearing Board for their expertise, time, service and commitment to do right by the residents of Norristown and our desirable community. Specifically, on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, I attended the meeting in its entirety and witnessed the Board interviews in great detail of a number of

Zoning applicants asking good questions. They verified their understanding of the responses and obtained the Municipality's input along with the legal counsel to come to their conclusion. The meeting went from 7 pm til close to 1 am Wednesday morning. Throughout the meeting, the Board treated every applicant with respect as they performed their due diligence. At around 11:30 pm they recognized how late it was and how many applications were remaining and they agreed to continue instead of delaying the review of the last 2 applicants who had been patiently waiting their turn. Based on my observation and participation, you have selected the right individuals for this role. They are ensuring that our future will be better than our past for which they deserve our recognition and support for their service to Norristown, our community, our hope. Sincerely, Denise Hall.

Rachel Fecco, 715 Noble Street – I would like to follow up on an email I sent to Council about the protocol for things that happen after you have voted on something. I received several replies from Councilwoman Sanders but none of them answered my specific question which was, "Are you allowed to change the stipulations of a vote after it has occurred?" You all voted to approve the Thomas Barone location for a community garden pending the addition of (I forget) what number of signatures. Then I found out afterwards that more requirements were added to have a survey done and I don't think that it's appropriate. Maybe not legal. I don't know...to change the stipulations of a vote after the fact especially without informing the public. So, I just wanted to state that I think it was inappropriate and I don't know if there are other things going on behind the scenes. I received an email from Councilwoman Sanders saying the County pulled out and they're looking at something else. Then she's announcing a Town Hall to discuss it. So, it just seems as though there is a lot of unclear things going on and I'm just hoping for some...not at this meeting in particular, but if someone would please respond to my email and answer my specific question as to whether or not the stipulations can be changed after a vote has been made.

Councilwoman Sanders responded by saying: "...1. If we could get together to discuss this. 2. Council is not leading this project. This project was initiated by the County and, in turn, had decided to take other avenues after not following proper protocols which then, hence, is the reason for the Town Hall to do the due diligence that was supposed to be done in the first place. There was nothing else that was done behind the scenes. Council had nothing to do with that. Again, this was run by David Genova of Montgomery County Health Services. That is where your questions are to be directed to. Thank you."

Ms. Fecco commented, "My question still remains about the vote and the protocol which you still haven't answered."

Councilwoman Sanders responded, "The vote had nothing to do with that. If the County changed direction and they didn't receive the number of signatures which they knew they weren't going to get, that is why they changed their direction. After this, I have no further comment."

Fire

Heroism Commendation for James "Cowboy" Johnson

Norristown Fire Chief Thomas O'Donnell read and presented a "Heroism Commendation" to James "Cowboy" Johnson for saving a resident trapped in a fire at 1017 Swede Street, Norristown. Chief O'Donnell also read the citation from State Representative Matthew Bradford's office. A thank you card and a check from the victim's family was also presented to Mr. Johnson.

Representative Bradford attended the online meeting to thank Mr. Johnson and said, "This is the best of humanity and the best of Norristown."

Resolution 21-31: Purchase of Fire Hose and Adapters

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the purchase of a 4” Fire Hose and Adapters to ensure safe and reliable equipment during emergencies. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-32: Purchase of backup Public Safety Emergency Communications System for Police and Fire

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the purchase of a backup Communications System for use during a system outage . **The motion passed unanimously.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – March 2021

Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, provided the addresses for the applications received: 504-06 Swede Street, 559 Buttonwood Street and 1009 West Main Street.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the HARB applications received, reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB for March 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 21-33: Bid Award for Sawmill Run Creek Culvert Replacement

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator, provided details and Ted Dymtryk, Municipal Engineer, was available for questions.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the contract with JPS Construction Company in the amount of \$719,000 for Sawmill Run Creek culvert replacement services. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Municipal Council approval of Assessment Appeal Stipulations agreed upon by the Norris-town Area School District

Crandall Jones provided details of the Assessment Appeal Stipulations.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Stipulations for 1830 Arch Street for a refund of \$4163.60, 1000 Regatta Circle for an underpayment of \$168,513.75 and 701 Dekalb Street for a refund of \$6184.40 that have all been agreed to by NASD, the County, the Taxpayer and the Board of Assessments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports

Erica Genuardi, Parks & Recreation Director, shared details of her report which included updates on Latshaw, Bartash and Little League fields, Recreation Center updates regarding plumbing and heater replacement. The Summer Camp has 16 sign ups so far and May 1st is the start date for sports teams and interleagues.

Kathy Pfister, Finance Director, noted that Real Estate Taxes are coming in as well as the EIT and Business Privilege Tax and also noted it is Audit time for the DCED.

Planning & Municipal Development

Jayne Musonye, Finance Director, reported on the following: funds received by the Small Business Association; mapping for the R-tap and N-tap zones and preparation of an Ordinance for advertisement; the Mortgage and Rent & Utilities Act Program received 32 applications and payments will be made to 10; the Annual Performance Report was uploaded; there are future Keystone Community Grant programs; a developer is interested in the Kennedy-Kenrick property; a developer is interested in 600 East Fornance Street – there will be a meeting with local residents; the development was approved for the 200 East Logan Street project and the 1417-19 New Hope Street project.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council