

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

The Council Meeting of May 4, 2021 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers.

There was a **Moment of Silence** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**. The following Council members were present:

Hakim Jones
Rebecca Smith

Sonya Sanders
Thomas Lepera

Heather Lewis
Derrick Perry

Also present were: Captain Clowser, Norristown Police Department; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 Council Work Session Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Perry announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss litigation issues.

Announcements

“Rock the Block” will take place on June 5, 2021 with “Building Communities” activities. Registration online.

Public Comment

Barbara Dixon, 1425 Arch Street, Norristown – Hello my name is Barbara Dixon and I reside at 1425 Arch Street, Norristown, PA. We have had a problem with excessive speeding and people running the stop signs at Arch and Freedley Streets. Our neighborhood has made several complaints to the police department and a few speed traps were made; however, it's not enough! Blinkers need to be placed on these stop signs and more traps. The weather is getting nicer and children are out playing, which will be very dangerous for the children.

I was walking my dog, stopped to cross the street at Arch and Freedley Street and a lady came driving down Freedley Street and drove up over the curb turning right. She didn't even touch her brakes. I had to pull my dog back so she didn't run over my dog or myself. I had 2 kittens get run over trying to follow me walk my dog. We were unloading the car with groceries and had to park across the street. We were crossing the street carrying bags and this big SUV came flying up Arch Street almost striking my sister. I hollered, “slow down” and the woman said, “make me.” We sit in our living room and can hear speeding as the cars blare going down the street easily going 50 miles per hour and above! Cars speed and run the light at Fornance Street and there has been many accidents at this intersection. Someone is going to get killed! With all this said, something needs to be done in the blocks from Fornance and Arch, to Arch and Brown before something happens that could have been avoided!

I thank you in advance for any help and the time listening about the above matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Dixon

Ana Santoyo, 1230 Astor Street

Dear Council members,

There are two items I would like Norristown Council to consider and implement: Public Records show that Norristown will receive over 21 million dollars from the Federal American Rescue Act which must be used by the end of 2024. A plan should be developed and presented ASAP with input from Norristown residents in the assessment and allocation of these funds with priority given to children and their caregivers including investing in summer and afterschool programs so parents can go to work and children are safe and nurtured, as well as transitional and permanent supportive housing for the current homeless population of Norristown. What is planned for the use of these and future federal pandemic related funds? I recommend work sessions of the council be videotaped, the same as council meetings. I attended the last work session where numerous resolutions and votes were held and significant information was presented and discussed. Norristown residents should be able to view these meetings and council members should be held accountable for their actions in these meetings. I recommend future in-person council meetings and work sessions should continue to be available to residents in-person, virtually and telephonically to encourage greater participation by Norristown residents.

Thank you for your representation and for your adoption of these recommendations.
Ana Santoyo

Pastor Craig – He announced that the Greater Norristown Area Ministerium will have a free Vacation Bible School for six weeks. Applications are being accepted for the July 12th to August 20th session which will be held at the Scag Cottman Park. This is the first session which covers the East part of Norristown. Pastor Craig told Council he was looking to defray the \$4000 expense for the cost of this venture so he can go ahead with reservations.

Wally Harris, 618 Noble Street, Norristown – Mr. Harris commented about the excessive speeding at Noble & Marshall Streets, Marshall & Oak Streets and Blackberry Alley. He noted that the money collected in fines could pay for the speed bumps.

Councilwoman Lewis noted that Public Works and the Norristown Police Department are doing surveys regarding the installation of speed bumps in various areas.

Appointments

Resolution 21-43: Request for Council approval to appoint Johnathon Davidson as an Entry-Level Police Officer and administer the Oath of Office

Mr. Davidson was picked from among the top three candidates. Judge Gregory Scott conducted the swearing-in ceremony with Captain Clowser present.

There was a **motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the appointment of Johnathon Davidson as an Entry-Level Norristown Police Officer. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 21-45: Destruction of Records

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the destruction of specific Human Resources and Finance Records according to the Pennsylvania Records Manual.

The motion passed 6-0.

Municipal Solicitor

Resolution 21-46: Taxpayer Bill of Rights regulations

Solicitor Kilkenny provided an explanation.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the amendment and updating of the existing regulations for the collection of Local Act 511 taxes. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historic Architectural Review Board – April 2021

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the HARB applications for the following properties:

511 Hamilton Street

616 Dekalb Street

1117 West Main Street

The motion passed 6-0.

Proclamation recognizing May as Building Safety Month

Code Manager, Amrinder Singh, provided some details about Building Safety Month.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve a proclamation recognizing May 2021 as Building Safety Month in the Municipality of Norristown. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Departmental Reports

Thomas Odenigbo, Public Works Director, provided an update of activity within Public Works for April 2021.

He noted that potholes continue to be taken care of; alleys will be assessed for paving on a 1 to 5 scale; meeting with Mascaro regarding meeting contract requirements; PECO is replacing lines in eight sections of the Municipality; installation of new STOP signs according to new specifications.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**. **The motion passed 6-0.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council