

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

The Council Meeting of June 1, 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: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Police Chief; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Chief Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2021 Council Work Session Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Perry announced that Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to the Council meeting.

Presentations

Citizens' Leadership Academy

Kevin Tustin, Public Information Officer, provided the names of the residents who completed 5 of the 7 classes. They received Certificates of Completion for the Spring 2021 class.

Announcements

Council will meet in person starting June 15, 2021 at the MCIU, 2 West Lafayette Street.

“Put Your Pardon in the Pipeline” on Saturday, June 5th at 2 pm at Buddy's Barber Shop, East Penn Street.

“Battle of the Badges” on June 8th at 7 pm at the Recreation Center on Harding Boulevard.

Habitat for Humanity “Rock the Block” on June 5th at 8 pm.

Public Comment

Ana Santoyo, 1230 Astor Street – Dear Council members, I first want to thank my current 3rd District Council representative, Valerie Moman and every Norristown Council member past and present for their years of dedication to the community. It is a big responsibility and time commitment. I want to congratulate Dustin Queenan and Valerie Moman for their success in an exciting and competitive primary election campaign. As a PA licensed social worker, trauma professional, and Spanish bilingual, please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of service to you and members of the Norristown community anytime in the future. I am resubmitting

two items I would like Norristown Council to consider and provide me with a timely written response: 1. 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. In my opinion, first priority should be given to transitional and permanent supportive housing for the current homeless population of Norristown. Second priority should be to children with high risk factors and their caregivers, including investing in summer and afterschool programs so parents can go to work and children are safe and nurtured. What is planned for the use of these and future federal pandemic related funds? 2. I recommend Norristown Council work sessions should also be videotaped and held to the same standards as the monthly 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 accountable for their actions in these meetings. I also recommend future in-person Council meetings and work sessions should continue to be available to residents virtually and telephonically to encourage greater participation by Norristown residents. Thank you for your time and consideration of these recommendations. I look forward to your thoughts and decisions on these ideas. Respectfully, Ana Santoyo

Jarel Elder, 120 Stanbridge Street – I was wondering if funds were still available from the lead rehabilitation program. Is there a time frame on when federal funds must be released? Are there records kept on how much of these funds were used?

Fire

Firefighter Appointment

Council President Perry conducted the swearing-in of Ryan Conboy as the new entry-level firefighter for the Norristown Fire Department.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to appoint Ryan Conboy as an entry-level firefighter. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Police

Resolution 21-53: Approval of contracts to purchase and upfit four new Police vehicles

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve the purchase of four 2021 Ford Interceptor Hybrid SUV Police vehicles and have them upfitted with necessary equipment to include in-car camera systems and computer. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Public Works

Request for Council to approve Ordinance 21-09 – Chapter 278 Ordinance update

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the amendment of the Municipality's Chapter 278 "Streets and Sidewalks" to include adding insurance requirements for contractors, creating procedures for homeowners to provide surety for right-of-way projects, creating contractor registration requirements, and updating outdated terminology. **The motion passed 4-2 with Councilman Jones and Councilman Lepera voting nay.**

Municipal Administrator

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to open the agenda for **Resolution 21-56**. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Municipal Administrator, Crandall Jones, provided the details regarding an 18-month Lease with Weber Real Estate Holdings for a temporary location of the Municipal Salt Barn Facility which is currently onsite in order to allow space for construction of the parking lot during Municipal Hall renovations.

There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 21-56 to proceed with the 18-month Lease for space at 1310 Stanbridge Street, Norristown, for the temporary location of the Salt Barn Facility. **The motion passed 6-0.**

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to close the agenda. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 21-30: request of Council to approve a 3-year Lease Agreement with IPS Global for Photocopiers in the amount of \$110,000.00.

Crandall Jones explained it is the end of a 5-year Purchase Agreement and they will now pursue a Lease Agreement.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve a 3-year Lease Agreement with IPS Global for photocopiers in the amount of \$110,000.00 **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 21-55: Recognizing June 2021 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month

Council President Perry read the proclamation.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to recognize June 2021 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Finance

Resolution 21-54: request for Council to approve policy to authorize and grant the Municipal Administrator and Director of Finance Settlement Authority in certain tax, lien and fee matters

Finance Director, Kathy Pfister, provided a detailed explanation.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 21-54 implementing a Tax and Lien Settlement Authorization Policy in an effort to more efficiently address and resolve Minor Act 511 Taxes and Trash Fee settlement matters. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Departmental Reports

Police

Chief Talbot stated that there is a plan in place to minimize the impact on the Police Department during the current Municipal Building renovations. He noted that crime statistics are flat overall – the numbers are in range. Retail and vehicle thefts are down.

Code

Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, provided a comparison to January 2020 to June 1, 2020. In 2021, 1,403 Quick Tickets were issued, 240 rental inspections were conducted, 361 property transfers were completed, 434 permits

were issued and 807 permit inspections were done. Revenue collection is up 19%. The department is working on updating the Property Maintenance Code – the information will be provided at the next Council Workshop on June 15th as well as additional proposed updates on Chapters 241 and 251.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council