

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 4, 2021

The Council Meeting of August 4, 2021 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry at 7:30 PM in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 2 West Lafayette Street, 1st Floor, Norristown, PA.

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

Valerie Moman	Hakim Jones	Sonya Sanders	Heather Lewis
Rebecca Smith	Thomas Lepera	Derrick Perry	

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Courtney Richardson, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Chief Todd Dillon, Norristown Police Department; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Erica Genuardi, Director of Recreation.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Minutes of the July 20, 2021 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Perry announced that Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting.

Announcements

Councilwoman Moman announced that "Help a Single Parent" is sponsoring their annual "Back to School" event to provide school supplies and materials for school children on August 22nd from 12 to 6 pm at the Oak Street MLK Park. If interested in donating financially or with school materials, please see Councilwoman Moman or Councilwoman Sanders.

Public Comment

James Watters, Hamilton Street - Mr. Watters said that the Riverfront Park is not in good condition; the flow of the Norristown Dam is not good due to Stony Creek erosion; there's a new fireman at the Fairmount Firehouse; the "stinky water" is due to a low flow because Limerick burns water possibly from the Delaware River; the storm drain in Elmwood Park muddied up the park; there are engineering issues preventing using hydroelectric power at the Sewer Plant; water rate increased - filed complaint to the water company because they do nothing to protect resource it comes from. H received a call from the Director of Source Water Protection and Mr. Watters was told they have no jurisdiction. Why can't a public utility enforce the constitution promising clean air and water?

Nancie O'Sullivan, 1209 Markley Street - Ms. O'Sullivan is following up from her last time at a Council Meeting. She suggested that the crosswalk should be at Fornance & Harding; it's hard to cross to enter the zoo, also difficult to get in and out of a car parked on Harding Blvd. near the zoo; she asked if a stop sign could be installed and if a traffic study could be done; she asked about a grant for playground equipment on Harding Blvd. and when it could be installed.

Anthony Uhrich, Rosemont Avenue - Mr. Uhrich came again for issues he brought up previously. The intersection of Rosemont and Washington have non-ADA issues; the curbs at Rosemont at Lafayette are too high for a wheel-chair to utilize; the crosswalk at Hartranft that turns to Main Street is not clear – he suggested signage.

David McMahon, 721 Haws Avenue - He came with proposed uses for Rescue Plan funds: A Housing Trust Fund, Common Land Trust and a grant-writing team. He also suggested separate bike and auto lanes, an electric vehicle loop to the Transportation Center. He noted that the “Ready for 100” Energy Transition Plan is not being fulfilled. He said to be cautious using the funds for infrastructure and stormwater.

Perry Thompson, 205 East Wood Street - Mr. Thompson said the trash is not being picked up on the 300 block of West Poplar Street; he also said that both sides of the street are “no parking” on the same day which makes finding parking difficult. He asked about what to do when the grass needs to be cut if on vacation. He suggested just a warning instead of a ticket.

Appointments

Resolution 21-64: Appointing members to the Norristown Stormwater Authority

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the following members to the Norristown Stormwater Authority: Michael Ludwig (term expires 12/31/22); Christine Fleming (term expires 12/31/23); Councilwoman Rebecca Smith (term expires 12/31/24); Council Vice President Thomas Lepera (term expires 12/31/25); Matthew Moyer (term expires 12/31/26). **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-66: Promotion of Corporal James Angelucci to Police Sergeant

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the promotion of Corporal James Angelucci to Police Sergeant. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Corporal Angelucci was accompanied by his wife as Judge James Gallagher conducted the swearing-in. Police Chief Dillon was also present.

Resolution 21-67: Appointments to Citizens Boards and Committees

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve the following appointment:

“Keep Norristown Beautiful” Angela Smith (Appointment – member of Community)
Term expiring July 31, 2023

The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

Resolution 21-65: Appointing Business Privilege Tax Collector

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 21-65 appointing Tri-State Financial Group as the Business Privilege Tax collector starting 01/01/22. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administrator

Update to Municipal Council on the American Rescue Plan Act

Municipal Administrator, Crandall Jones, provided a Power Point presentation regarding Phase 1 of utilizing ARPA funds including project recommendations. One category was Health/Social Service related projects. Mr. Jones advised Council that their approval is needed in order to move forward. The Power Point included such items as funding the purchase of 4 Police vehicles; Fund Year 1 of the Stormwater Utility Operations, Assessment of the Sewer System; draft Stormwater program budget. There was discussion regarding consolidation of the firehouses. Councilwoman Sanders suggested not too many non-profits. Council President Perry suggested concentrating on the parks being used and a community pool.

Mr. Jones informed Council that any funding not spent by 2026 must be returned to the government.

Some future considerations include: Elmwood Park, Riverfront Park, Library, Youth Soccer at McCann, Lead paint remediation, Skate Park at Poley Park, Consolidated Fire Station, Stormwater Utility, Adult Soccer Field at Simmons Park, a Social Services project.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the staff to move forward with the procurement process. Equipment and services purchases related to Stormwater Utility would occur after incorporation of the Authority. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

Request approval for CDBG CV-3 program to adjust assistance per participant for its current mortgage/rental and utility assistance program

Planning Director Jayne Musonye provided the information Council requested from the last meeting about what the County provided to renters. She noted there was a gap with no home owner assistance and recommended \$3200 in mortgage/utility funds for home owners. She noted that the CDBG CV-3 program would have to be amended and HUD must be informed.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to table this item to have it be amended and HUD be informed. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Requesting authorization to advertise Ordinance 21-10 for a proposed Zoning text amendment to Multi-Family Residential District

Director Musonye stated that if this advertisement is authorized, it would have to be shared with the Planning Commission, have a 30-day review, have a Public Hearing and new plans be presented to Council.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 21-10 for PROSOV, LLC to make a Zoning text change to the Multi-Family Residential District to actualize the development plan presented to Council at the May 19, 2021 Council Workshop. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports

Finance

Director Kathy Pfister reported they received the Capital Improvement Projects from the Department heads and are trying to determine funding; Operating Budget packages were sent out and the Department Heads meeting will begin in August. She noted that revenue was good in July with the Business Privilege, Real Estate and

Transfer taxes coming in. She added that the expenses are on track.

Recreation

Director Erica Genuardi reported that the 2021 Camp season went well held in the new Recreation Center. There were 50 campers – 9-3 Monday through Friday, field trips twice weekly. Tennis lessons were given by National Youth Tennis. There were gym rentals including the 35+ League. She noted that the field will be closed for 2 weeks for maintenance. There was work done on the floors, walls and ceilings at the Rec Center. Full use of the basement by September 3rd. Basketball starts the week of October 5th. The last phases of Ackey to replace the basketball poles and backboards. She received good feedback regarding July 4th. The movie nights will continue twice monthly through October.

Municipal Development

Director Musonye noted they received a \$300,000 DCED Blight Remediation Grant to address blight with a match with the CDBG funds for the purpose of building market housing; the 2020 Performance Review was completed and under review with HUD; there will be a meeting with J & B Construction for Phase 1 of the Arch Street Greenway project – awarded \$52,000 from 2040 Montco for a crosswalk to connect to the Lafayette Street trail. There was a meeting with Public Works regarding the Section 902 Recycling Program to apply for a grant. There was also a meeting with Congresswoman Dean regarding making a 2-way Dekalb Street. State money is needed for 20%. Private grants available for Historic Church Preservation and a grant to enhance the Zoo trolley.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman. The motion passed unanimously.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council