

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL WORK SESSION
AUGUST 17, 2021

The Council Work Session of August 17, 2021 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry at 6:30 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
Rebecca Smith

Sonya Sanders
Thomas Lepera

Heather Lewis
Derrick Perry

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Interim Chief Todd Dillon, Norristown Police Department; 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 August 4, 2021. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Executive Session

Council President Perry stated that Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to the Work Session.

Announcements

“KIND HEARTS” will sponsor a “Father Focus” on October 27th from 6 to 8 pm at the Norristown Recreation Center.

“Help a Single Parent” 2nd Annual Community Book Bag Giveaway – Sunday, August 22nd at the MLK Oak Street Park from 12 pm to 6 pm. Still in need of vendors, donations and help handing out literature. See Councilwoman Moman.

Public Comment

James Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters provided the “good” news saying that the activities at the Bandshell are great. He said the bad news is that the snack bar is closed and no food trucks are allowed at this time. He provided information regarding the stormwater in the conservation district. He provided pictures of activity at an abandoned mine regarding soundings to check the water depth. With regard to Norristown drinking water, he also provided information about the chart of pollution and the need for dredging.

Rocco Romoiello, Kohn Street – Mr. Romoiello said there are 2 rentals on either side of his property and the roof leaks on one of them causing damage to his property for which he retained a lawyer. He said that the landlord refuses to replace the roof. He also said that some of the parking has been taken away on the 800 block of Kohn Street to allow the baking company tractor trailer to make the turn at the corner. He said he was unable to obtain a Handicapped Parking space.

Appointments

Pennsylvania Municipal League – 2021 Summit: appointment of Voting Delegate/Resolutions Committee Representative

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to appoint Derrick Perry as the Voting Delegate for the 2021 Resolutions Committee and Business Meetings. **The motion passed 6-0.**

There was a **motion by Council President Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to appoint Sonya Sanders as the alternate. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Planning & Municipal Development

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

Director Jayne Musonye explained that the average assistance amount would be \$3,700 and up to \$7,000.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the adjusted assistance per participant for its current mortgage/rental and utility assistance program. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 21-69: to award a contract to Legal Aid of Southeastern PA in the amount of \$50,000 for CDBG-CV Housing Legal Services

Director Jayne Musonye explained that the contract provides services to the rental community. There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to award a contract to Legal Aid in compliance with Section 7-713 of the Home Rule Charter and Section 4-35(A)(6) of the Administrative Code which states, “All contracts in excess of \$21,000 shall be in writing and shall be awarded by Municipal Council, and the contract shall be executed by the Municipal Administrator.”

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

Crandall Jones explained that there is a grant available for reimbursement of Police and Public Safety overtime during the pandemic.

Public Comment

Andrew Green, 1515 Dekalb Street – Mr. Green asked that once received, will they be held accountable to the government for anything? Solicitor Hitchens provided Mr. Green with a copy of Resolution 21-72 authorizing the execution of the agreement. Mr. Hitchens explained that the money goes to the state.

There were no questions from Council.

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

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 21-72 for the reimbursement grant for Police and Public Safety overtime during the pandemic. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Request for Council to approve Ordinance 21-11 to amend Chapter 239 (Property Maintenance) of the Municipal Code

Code Manager Amrinder Singh provided information about the amendment of Chapter 239 (Property Maintenance) of the Municipal Code. He said that if approved, this information would be posted on the Municipal website.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve Ordinance 21-11 to amend Chapter 239, Article I titled, "Adoption of Standards; Amendment" of The Norristown Code by adopting the 2021 edition of The Norristown Building Safety, Property Maintenance and Housing Code. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Request for Council to approve Ordinance 21-12 to amend Chapter 251 (Building Contractors) of the Municipal Code

Mr. Singh explained that requirements were created for all contractor types to help increase qualifications of contractors. He noted that 81% of permits issued are for residential since 2013 and there are 409 registered contractors with 165 of them for commercial.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve Ordinance 21-12 amending the Norristown Municipal Ordinances by renaming Chapter 251 "Building Contractors" to "Contractor Licensing" and replacing it entirely by creating new administrative and contractor licensing requirements. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Police

Resolution 21-68: motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve Resolution 21-68 establishing Handicapped Parking spaces at the following addresses:

1617 Pine Street
244 E. Jacoby Street
111 W. Fornance Street
1210 W. Lafayette Street
323 Buttonwood Street

The motion passed 6-0.

Resolution 21-71: memorandum of understanding with the borough of Pottstown for the use and allocation of certain Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program award funds

Interim Chief Dillon explained that the grant amount is \$33,000 for Norristown to be used to employ additional manpower for Police patrol in violent areas.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 21-71 for a memorandum of understanding with Pottstown. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 21-70: Sale of Municipal Property

Crandall Jones explained this is a housekeeping item. He said it saves time and cost of advertising for sale. He added that the PA Code permits a waiver of legal advertising. He also stated that this would put procedures in place so there will be a quick sale and the property must be determined unused, inoperable or outdated.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve Resolution 21-70 to provide the Municipal Administrator with the authority to dispose of Municipal property with a value less than \$2,000. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council