

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

The Council Meeting of September 7, 2021 was called to order by Council Vice President Thomas Lepera at 7:30 PM in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 2 West Lafayette Street, 1st Floor, Norristown, PA 19401.

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

Valerie Moman
Rebecca Smith

Hakim Jones
Thomas Lepera

Sonya Sanders
Derrick Perry

Also present were: Lieutenant Michael Bishop, Norristown Police; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 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.

Announcements

Montgomery County Multi-Agency Resource Center: Wednesday, September 8th from Noon to 7 pm and Thursday, September 9th from 9 am to 5 pm at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Building for residents whose property sustained damage last week from the storm.

Public Comment

Andrew Green, 1515 Dekalb Street, Norristown. Mr. Green asked that Council bring back the Human Relations Commission since employment has been down since 2018.

Planning & Municipal Development

Public Hearing: request for Conditional Use to amend the previous approval (10/4/20) for a Mixed Use project at 118-120 East Main Street (Baer Building)

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

Solicitor Kilkenny named the exhibits: M1 – Advertisement of the Hearing; M2 – Copy of Ordinance and Application; M3 – Recommendations from the Norristown Planning Commission.

Director Musonye provided a timeline of the project and explained that the developer requested to change one of the commercial floors into apartments for a total of 17.

Public Comment: None.

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

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the Conditional Use and to amend the previous approval for 118-120 East Main Street (Baer Building). The Residential Mixed Uses include: The eSpot, Brew Pub/Sports Bar, Willis Brothers BBQ, Bike Shop/Car Detail, 17 Residential Units and Rooftop Bar. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Public Hearing on motion to approve or deny the Redevelopment Proposal of M/M Partners for redevelopment of the Main and Dekalb Street parcels conditioned upon M/M Partners executing a redevelopment contract satisfactory to the Municipality and the Redevelopment Authority.

Solicitor Kilkenny named the Exhibits: M1 – Affidavit of the Public Hearing in the Times Herald; M2 – Copy of the July 16, 2021 letter from the Planning Commission; M3 – Copy of the Planning Minutes indicating a vote to recommend the proposal.

Director Musonye provided a timeline of the process.

Rebecca Swanson, Executive Director, Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority, noted that this is a strong proposal and a catalyst for further development.

Joe Zimatore and Chris Boccella, M/M Partners, presented a Power Point regarding their proposal and made reference to other team members, David Waxman and Eli Storch. They shared information about similar projects, particularly Brewerytown.

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that the Power Point presentation is considered Exhibit M4 for the record.

Public Comment

Andrew Green, 1515 Dekalb Street – Mr. Green asked about the rent and what it covers.

David McMahon, 721 Haws Avenue – Mr. McMahon asked about making the building more “green” in the future when it becomes cost-effective to do so.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to close the agenda. **The motion passed 6-0.**

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the redevelopment proposal of M/M Partners for redevelopment of the Main and Dekalb Street parcels conditioned upon M/M Partners executing a redevelopment contract satisfactory to the Municipality and the Redevelopment Authority.

Public Works

Request by the Public Works Director for approval of the purchase of salt canopies for the sum of \$25,897.60.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve the payment of \$25,897.60 to Shelter Vision LLC, 3584 Mercer Auglaize Line Road, Minster, Ohio 45865, for the supply of canopy installation items used for a temporary storage barn at 1310 Stanbridge Street in Norristown,

PA. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – August 2021

Codes Manager, Amrinder Singh, explained that what's being proposed for these properties must be in compliance:

1108 Dekalb Street Main Street Streetscape Project

Mr. Singh added that permit fees for work from the storm damage will be waived and forms are available on the Municipal website.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the HARB applications received, reviewed and recommended for approval for August 2021. **The motion passed 5-0** (Councilwoman Moman not present for voting.)

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 21-74: Quitclaim Deed for Bridge 177 and Sterigere Street ROW

Solicitor Kilkenny explained that the Montgomery County Transportation Authority requested a Quitclaim Deed in order to perform construction on Sterigere Street.

There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve Resolution 21-74 for the ROW and temporary construction easement for the County's bridge work along Sterigere Street. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 21-75: Hurricane Ida Disaster Declaration

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that this Declaration can help when applying to FEMA and the County for disaster aid related to Hurricane Ida.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve ratification and indefinite extension of the September 1, 2021 to September 10, 2021 Disaster Declaration related to Hurricane Ida. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Departmental Reports

Police

Lieutenant Bishop shared the stats for August. Shootings were down. The current shooting incident was solved in less than 24 hours. There are new pattern crimes: stealing catalytic converters and breaking into work trucks for the tools. There was an increase in patrols and a decrease in crime in those patrolled areas. Overdoses were down, homeless situation doing better. There are 2 outstanding aggravated assaults.

There was no Fire Report.

Code

Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, stated there was an increase in Property Transfers. There is 30% less staff due to COVID issues. The 2022 Invoices were be mailed out as well as information about the new Licensing laws.

Council President Perry, Vice President Lepera and Amrinder Singh each thanked and commended the Police, Code and Fire for their efforts during the flooding from Hurricane Ida.

Council President Perry asked about actions against landlords with multiple infractions and was told that the legalities were being worked on.

Adjournment

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Moman. The motion passed 6-0.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council