

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

The Council Work Session of September 21, 2021 was called to order by Council Vice President Thomas Lepera at 6:30 PM in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23, 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 present:

Sonya Sanders

Rebecca Smith

Thomas Lepera

Derrick Perry (via phone)

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Lieutenant Todd Dillon, Interim Norristown Police Chief; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the Minutes from September 7, 2021. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Executive Session

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

Presentation:

Jumpstart Norristown

Prudence Browne, Founder and Director of Jumpstart Norristown, presented a Power Point highlighting the program including their purpose, mentorship, loan program, partnerships with other organizations. Ms. Browne stated that one of the goals is to graduate 150 local investors in a year and to increase home ownership 37% to 42%.

Announcements

Montgomery County Community College is hosting a FEMA Disaster Center for County residents.

Public Comment

Jim Watters, 900 Hamilton Street – He noted that one of the things flooding has cost him is a water heater. He also believes there is a blocked pipe under James Street.

Cynthia Culbreath – East Norriton – Ms. Culbreath proposed an idea to have a memorial built near the Courthouse honoring past famous people from Norristown. She handed out the details of her proposal to Council members.

Planning & Municipal Development

Public Hearing to authorize Ordinance 21-10 for a proposed Zoning text amendment to Multi-Family Residential District

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to open the Public Hearing. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Solicitor Kilkenny introduced the exhibits: (M-1) Copies of advertisements from 9/6/21 and 9/13/21; (M-2) Copy of proposed text amendment; (M-3) Recommendations from Planning Commission.

Sarah Peck, Owner of Progressive Housing Ventures, explained that the reason for the text amendment is to facilitate the proposed development. She presented a Power Point highlighting the plans and the changes for the property.

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that a copy of her presentation would be submitted as exhibit (M-4).

Public Comment

James Watters, 900 Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters asked about the Stormwater best management practices.

Ms. Peck provided an explanation.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council President Perry**, to close the Public Hearing. **The motion passed 4-0.**

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve a Zoning Text Amendment to the Multi-Family Residential District to actualize the development plan presented to Council at the May 19, 2021 Council Workshop. The developer is proposing a 4 (four) story elevator apartment building (POD) with 192 units and 267 parking spaces, 2.5 89 Townhouses (rental) with 89 parking spaces, 2,3,4 story multiplex (for sale) 90 units with 212 parking spaces. There are 568 parking spaces overall for the development. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Request for Professional Services Change Order for CGP&H's administration of the CDBG Mortgage & Utility Assistance Program

Director Musonye explained that approval from Council is needed to continue with the program.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the increased contract amount awarded to CGP&H by \$16,000 from the initial award of \$38,200, now totaling \$54,200 to account for increased administrative costs for the Municipality of Norristown's Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program. **The motion passed 4-0.**

2020 CDBG CV-1 Substantial Amendment

Director Musonye explained that this is COVID-related funding. She noted that HUD suggested this may be used for Planning Department salaries – 11.5% towards it. She said it would be advertised in the Times Herald, there would be Public input and then it would be sent to HUD and put through the process. She noted it requires approval from Council for advertisement of the change.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council President Perry**, to approve the advertisement in the Times Herald for reallocation of CDBG CV-1 funding structure to create a new project line item for the administration of the CDBG CV-1 funds and to provide for the reimbursement of Planning Department staff executing those administrative duties. The new Administration project funding will constitute 11.5% of total CDBG CV-1 funding and will be drawn from three current CDBG CV-1 projects: PPE and equipment, Legal Aid for renters, and legal assistance for homeowners. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Adjournment

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Council President Perry**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council