

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2021

The Council Meeting of October 5, 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.

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 (via phone)	

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Lieutenant Todd Dillon (Interim Chief of Police), Norristown Police Department; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager; Erica Genuardi, Director of Recreation.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2021 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council Vice President Lepera announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss real estate issues.

Announcements

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

With over 1,700 participants, the Municipality of Norristown has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January 01, 2021. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by the Municipality.

6th Annual "Trunk or Treat" at the Recreation Center. October 31st from 4 to 7 pm. There will be an award for the best trunk.

Public Comment

Alexandra Macaluso, 28 West Main Street – Ms. Macaluso shared that she lives in a rooming house and there is a woman in this rooming house who sometimes blocks the stairs and she also attacks her. She said she was issued a citation. She said she still does things like creeping up behind her. She was told to try to avoid her but she says she lives in fear. She was told by Council Vice President Lepera that they will follow up with her.

Parks and Recreation

Resolution 21-73: approval of furniture for the Recreation Center basement that was lost in the flood on

August 4, 2020

Recreation Director, Erica Genuardi, explained that the flood of August 4, 2020 took out contents including the furniture. She noted it will now be put in safer places. She noted it is covered with insurance funds.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the purchase of furniture for the final phase of the Recreation Center Basement rehab project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-78: Change Order for EC Fenceworks for Latshaw McCarthy Field and The Little League Field Complex

Ms. Genuardi explained there are underlying safety issues that have to be remedied first such as using flood doors to help with future damage.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve a Change Order for EC Fenceworks for Latshaw McCarthy Field and The Little League Field Complex. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Building and Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – September 2021

Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager, provided the information regarding properties seeking compliance with the Municipal Ordinance:

23 East Airy Street
520 Church Street Part 1
520 Church Street Part 2
542 Swede Street
543 Astor Street

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the HARB applications received, reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB for September 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Finance

Resolution 21-77: Approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to be budgeted for the Police, Fire and non-uniform Pension Plans for Fiscal Year 2022.

Kathy Pfister, Finance Manager, provided details regarding the MMO. She said the total is \$3,151,881.00. She also noted there is \$500,000 less to contribute this year.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Municipality's Pension Plans. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports

Police

Acting Chief Todd Dillon provided such details as Serious Crimes were down; there were 543 Part 1 Crimes; reduced robberies by 28%; 3 Fatal Shootings, 6 Non-Fatal Shootings. Chief Dillon provided more details regarding the shootings. He noted that the Bail Reform needs tweeking. Some criminals are not able to be incarcerated due to COVID. He noted that many of the shootings are done by juveniles, ages 15-19; there was a fight at the High School involving 8 juvenile girls; there was a 6-7 times uptick in juvenile crime from 2019-20; year to date, 1 homicide; arrests in 60% of shootings; there are gun investigations involving straw purchases. Chief Dillon noted that the High School is not in favor of Police involvement.

Crandall Jones commented that a conversation needs to be started regarding the use of funding to deal with all violence involving youth. He said he will put together a package for Council's consideration.

Recreation

Erica Genuardi explained that the first floor was opened at the Recreation Center; the floor and ceiling tiles were salvaged; getting the fire alarm back in place; the HVAC system will be put on platforms; less supplies were lost; Latshaw was hit the hardest; the Little League field held up well; some damage to the Riverfront; other parks no damage; free movies and concerts are successful; there will be Halloween and Christmas Nights.

Planning & Municipal Development

Director Musonye shared the following: finishing up the loose ends of projects, advertised the Mortgage Assistance program – next meeting Ms. Musonye will share how many participants; Greater Valley Forge Management Association may be getting some funding for the trolley; waiting to hear from MM Partners who are going through the process with the Redevelopment Authority; attended the National Association of Housing Development; there was a pre-construction meeting regarding Zachary's restaurant – Chef Taylor provided bids. Council will receive updates.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council