

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 19, 2021**

The Council Work Session of October 19, 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:

Valerie Moman	Hakim Jones	Sonya Sanders	Heather Lewis
Rebecca Smith	Thomas Lepera	Derrick Perry (via phone)	

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

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes from October 5, 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

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

Presentations:

Presentation by Dr. Marilyn Howarth at the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania and Janet Panning, the Interim Deputy Administrator for the Office of Public Health (OPH) in Montgomery County regarding lead poisoning hazards in Norristown

Christina Miller, Office of Public Health, read a letter containing comments from Director Howarth to support Ordinance 21-14. She provided statistics about the health risks to children exposed to lead poisoning.

Janet Panning provided comments and information regarding the importance of testing for lead poisoning in children and their environments. She noted that the benefit of a grant could expand the work of the Montgomery County Lead Task Force.

Presentation by Colleen McCauley, Health Policy Director at Children First (formerly PCCY) and Nelly Jimenez-Arevalo, Executive Director at ACLAMO regarding the benefits of Lead Safe Certification Ordinances

Colleen McCauley provided information regarding lead poison prevention and the Philly Coalition of the Lead Task Force. She also provided details of the proposed Ordinance.

Nelly Jimenez-Arevalo of ACLAMO provided a breakdown of statistics related to different cultures.

Announcements

Trunk or Treat on October 31st from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Recreation Center. Volunteers and candy are needed.

Contact info: hlewis@norristown.org.

Meet the New Police Chief – Public Meeting – October 28th 5:30 pm at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 2 West Lafayette Street.

Public Comment

Jim Watters, 900 Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters commented there is a need for dredging due to back flooding. He provided information about the Comprehensive Plan from 1967 regarding flood retention. He advised that it should be studied and certified to prevent further damage.

Jamie Ridge, 411 Carpenters Lane, Downingtown, PA – Ms. Ridge of Suburban Realtors Alliance, wanted to see the Ordinance regarding lead poisoning before commenting on it but was advised by Council that this was the time for her comment. She was concerned about the details and the expense for inspections.

Anna Santoro – she read a letter about attending the Norristown Development meeting on October 14th where she said someone was told to leave. She commented it is inhumane to have development while there are those living on the street. She said that the highest priority should be affordable housing. She gave out written recommendations.

Building & Codes Enforcement

Request for Council to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 21-14 to amend the Municipal Code by adding a new chapter, Chapter 200 titled “Lead Poisoning Prevention and Lead Hazard Control”

Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, commented that this is a significant step to a lead-free Norristown. Mr. Singh provided details of the Ordinance including requirements for rental properties as well as all properties changing hands that they must be lead-free or lead-safe.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 21-14 of the Municipality of Norristown, Montgomery County, PA, to amend the Norristown Municipal Ordinances to add a new chapter, Chapter 200 titled, “Lead Poisoning and Lead Hazard Control” under Part II, General Legislation to establish Lead Poisoning Prevention and Lead Hazard Control Regulations and to request authorization from Council to advertise proposed Ordinance 21-14 for adoption. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administrator

Presentation of and request to advertise the proposed 2022 Municipality of Norristown Operating Budget

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator, provided a Power Point presentation that included Goals, Overview of 2021 and 2022 Fiscal Projection. Mr. Jones said that Council’s vote tonight is not for advertisement but to make the budget available to the Public for review. Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance, provided the 2022 Revenue Summary stating that the Total Revenue Preliminary for 2022 is \$36,518,968. As far as the 2022 Preliminary Budget Estimate options to balance include reducing expenses, use of ARPA funds, not use the fund balance or raise taxes.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the Proposed 2022 Municipality of Norristown Operating Budget for Public review. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

600 E. Fornance Street – 26 Townhouses proposal presentation

Mr. Glenn Harris, Renew Design Group, representing the owner, provided a site plan presentation regarding the proposed development, which is only conceptual. He noted the property has been re-zoned as residential and he came before Council to get feedback.

Montgomery Park Phase III – proposed Senior Housing Apartment Project

The applicant, on behalf of the builder, stated he came before Council to get feedback on the project and provide details on the process of the proposal.

Resolution 21-80: a Resolution of the Council of the Municipality of Norristown authorizing a construction contract in the amount of \$133,282.98 with BP Patterson, Inc. out of King of Prussia for Rapp Alley Stormwater installation

Planning Director Musonye provided the timeline of the process which lead to the contract including a Specification Survey and Environmental Review.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to award a contract to BP Patterson, Inc., King of Prussia, PA, the low bidder, in the amount of \$133,282.98 for the Rapp Alley Stormwater installation. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 21-79: motion to approve the Civil Service entry-level Police Officer List and granting permission for the Chief of Police to identify and have offers of conditional employment sent to three candidates on the entry-level eligibility list

Acting Chief Dillon provided information regarding the process of offering conditional employment for candidates on the entry-level eligibility list.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve Resolution 21-79 in order to maintain the current budgeted Police Department manpower of 69 officers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 21-13: amending Chapter 305 titled, “Vehicles and Traffic”, Article II, Section 305-10, titled “Prohibited turns at intersections” of the Norristown Municipal Code to prohibit certain turning movements near the intersection of Arch and Summit Streets

Acting Chief Dillon provided an explanation.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve Ordinance 21-13. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council