

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2021

The Council Meeting of November 3, 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; Patrick Hitchens, Acting 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.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

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

Presentation

“Help a Single Parent” awards to NFD, NPD and Crazy Aaron’s for support of community events

Councilwoman Moman provided background information about Mike and Katrina Scott of “Help a Single Parent” and introduced the Board members. Councilwoman Sanders read the plaque that was presented to Chief Dillon for the participation of the Norristown Police Department in the events for “Help a Single Parent.” Awards were also presented to Chief O'Donnell of the Norristown Fire Department and Tiffany of Crazy Aaron's.

Announcements

Norristown Fire Department will host its annual “Free Turkey Dinner Drive” on November 23rd. For more info: dlee@norristown.org.

Public Comment

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters shared that Commissioner Shapiro said that “Action for Climate Change” is needed. Mr. Watters said that his action, as a Vet, is to address flooding by sending emails to Council explaining each part of the situation. He has a call in to State Rep Briggs regarding Bridgeport. He also sent an email regarding the history of the danger to Stony Creek caused by flooding (including information about studies that were done.) There was a Veterans Expo regarding Knox Run and a the fact that a Special Field

Hazard Report not taken advantage of. He added that a National Hazard Mitigation Plan may alleviate some of these situations.

Janet Panning of the Office of Public Health, provided an update for the Center for Disease Control regarding the minimum blood lead level in children. She commended Council for the Code changes and she noted that there is a HUD grant that will be open to Norristown in January 2022 to help landlords with the cost of lead remediation.

Pamela Martin, Dekalb Street – Ms. Martin provided information about Expressive Path of Centre Theatre and the proposal of a beautification project called Lafayette Walkway. She said that Public Works have been cleaning up the area.

Colleen Cauley, “Children First” in Philadelphia – Ms. Cauley shared that Pittsburg introduced a Bill regarding the lead issue and the fact that it is an environmental justice issue. She provided printouts of information.

Appointments

Administration of Oath of Office for entry-level Police Officer Lawrence Keys

Judge Gregory Scott conducted the swearing-in of Police Officer Lawrence Keys, who was accompanied by his wife.

Police

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.

Chief Dillon explained that this amendment will improve safety with regard to traffic flow in the area of Hancock Elementary School.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders, to approve the amendment of Chapter 305. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-81: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

Chief Dillon provided the following addresses that are requesting Disabled Parking Spaces:

700 Astor Street
29 East Spruce Street
364 East Moore Street
1232 W. Washington Street

There was a motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, to approve the requests for Disabled Parking Spaces. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

Authorization to advertise and the first reading of Ordinance adopting the FY 2022 budget and establishing the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2022

Finance Director, Kathy Pfister, provided a review of the summary schedule for the 2022 budget for each major

fund. The total for all funds is \$47,591,443.00 with the General Fund summary of \$37,806,998.00. She also explained the Expenditure breakdown with a detailed budget by each expense category. Projections were that revenue was expected to increase by 0.4% and expenses by 3.9% and \$1,272,830.00 from ARPA funds. The millage rate can be lowered but not raised.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to advertise the Ordinance adopting the FY 2022 budget and retaining a millage rate of 16.0. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administration

Request for Municipal Council approval of assessment appeal stipulations agreed upon by the Norristown Area School District

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator, provided the following addresses for which the negotiated rate of \$2,361.58 was agreed upon:

239 East Main Street
241 East Main Street
241 ½ East Main Street

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the agreed upon rate of \$2,361.58. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-84: Award of a contract to Systems Solution, Inc. (SSI) for cabling and phone/intercom services

Crandall Jones explained that an invoice was received from the IT provider and needs Council approval.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the contract with Systems Solution, Inc. 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." **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports

Public Works

Dumpster Clean-up event on Saturday from 6 am to 6 pm at designated locations; alley paving continues; leaf collection will continue until the second week in December; there were some complaints about some of the street lights illumination; Lafayette Street clean-up; getting snow equipment ready – stockpiling salt.

Municipal Administration

Crandall Jones stated that the Stormwater Authority Board will hold their organizational meeting on November 15th; the December meeting will look at adopting their first year budget; will be meeting with the Solicitor's office regarding a Management Services Agreement; year 1 assessment already funded; will be meeting with 3 new Council members; next Executive Session will have 2 candidates for Special Events Coordinator; there are bi-weekly meetings regarding the State Hospital; finalized design documents for demolition and remediation, received NPDES permit; budget amount around \$12 million; regular meetings with County to re-locate the shelter; in the process of eastern end site work at City Hall; work being done on the roof, basement and drain pipes; overhead door delivered; electrical work in place by January 2022; light fixtures work being done. ARPA funds

can be used for: parks, Poley Park can be a skate park – will hold a public outreach to see what they would like; Roosevelt Field acquisition; stormwater issues with Elmwood Park; will get pricing for security cameras for certain areas in the Municipality; look into additional funds for blight remediation. Still have the ability in 2022 to not raise taxes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council