

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

The Council Work Session of November 16, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 November 3, 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Executive Session**

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

**Announcements:**

Legal Aid of Southeast PA Outreach – can help flood victims retrieve vital records for legal issues.

Men of Excellence – Will deliver Thanksgiving meals, toys, household items from 11 to 1 pm. Contact Councilman Jones for information.

Help A Single Parent – Christmas Fundraiser. There will be two hours of music and festivities that can be accessed via Zoom link. Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11 am. \$25 donation to support this fundraiser. Contact Councilwoman Sanders or Councilwoman Moman.

**Public Comment:**

Janet Panning, Souderton – Ms. Panning passed out a poster which highlights the effects of lead poisoning and how to eliminate exposure to it. She thanked Council for considering an Ordinance to address this issue.

Maeve King, Norristown – Ms. King is from ACLAMO. She provided statistics regarding lead poisoning in children and said the problem can be fixed. She noted that the Ordinance up for vote tonight is one way to do that. She provided information about other boroughs that have the Ordinance. She also provided information about the State Remediation Fund available for landlords that find this is a hardship. She applauded Council for advancing efforts.

Kate Klinger, Montgomery County – Ms. Klinger mentioned that in Maryland there is a non-profit called "National Healthy Homes" that have reduced blood lead levels by 99% through the efforts of parents. She

pointed out the economic return by saving on Special Education costs, criminal justice costs and higher lifetime earnings. She said they worked with communities to put laws into place.

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters said that he emailed Council members a 15 minute documentary regarding lead poisoning. He posed the possibility of a problem with anger management resulting from lead exposure. He said that the video should be put on the Municipal website.

John Bach, local landlord – Mr. Bach said this shouldn't be rushed – there should be more coordinated efforts by other property owners. He said there may be unintended consequences by rushing the Ordinance such as hurting affordable housing.

Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, clarified that the Ordinance was properly advertised and that landlords were made aware.

## **Finance**

### **Resolution 21-83: adopt 2022 Consolidated Fee Schedule**

Finance Director, Kathy Pfister, provided information regarding fee increases and decreases. She provided Council with the entire Fee Schedule.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to adopt the 2022 Consolidated Fee Schedule. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Discussion on Preliminary 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan**

Ms. Pfister noted this agenda item is for discussion only. She stated that the amount for 2022 is slightly over \$21 million. Municipal Administrator, Crandall Jones, said more details will be formally presented in a future meeting.

## **Municipal Administrator**

### **Ordinance 21-15: adoption of the 2022 Municipality of Norristown Budget and Tax Rate**

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to adopt the 2022 Budget of \$47.6 million and a 16 millage rate. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Motion to designate a final candidate for Police Chief and authorize the Municipal Administrator to negotiate an employment agreement**

The Municipal Administrator, Crandall Jones, provided information about the process for selecting the final candidates. He said that background checks will be set in motion for the chosen candidate.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to nominate candidate Derrick Wood and authorize the City Manager to negotiate an employment agreement. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Police**

### **Resolution 21-85: request for Council to approve offers of Conditional Employment to the top three candidates on the Entry-Level Eligibility List**

Interim Chief Todd Dillon noted that Resolution 21-79 originally authorized him to hire 3 candidates and to get background checks.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve offers of Conditional Employment to the top three candidates on the entry-level eligibility list to fill existing vacancies in the Police Department. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Building and Codes Enforcement**

#### **Request for Council to approve 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, Codes Manager, provided details of the Ordinance. He noted that there was input from the Suburban Real Estate Alliance and the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors which will help to prevent another generation of lead poisoning. Mr. Singh noted that a Lead Safe Certificate is applied for every 3 years and a Lead Free Certificate is a one-time application.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Ordinance 21-14 to amend the Norristown Municipal Ordinance to add a new Chapter, Chapter 200 titled, "Lead Poisoning prevention and Lead Hazard control" under Part II, General Legislation to establish lead poisoning prevention and Lead Hazard control regulations. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Request for Council to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 21-16: to amend Chapter 241 (Property Transfer & Sewer Lateral Inspections) of the Municipal Code**

Mr. Singh explained this pertains only to newly constructed residential properties in order to eliminate a second redundant inspection. A U&O is still required. He added that new buyers can move in sooner.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 21-16. **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not present for voting.)

### **Compliance Project Update: Unlicensed Rental Properties**

Mr. Singh noted there are possibly over 700 unlicensed rental properties, some not owner-occupied. He said that notices will be sent out and if no compliance after months pass, then citations will be issued. Jayne Musonye, Planning Director, stated that each case will be individually determined and considered by the Board.

### **HARB Appeal: 542 Swede Street**

Doug Seiler of HARB provided the details of the appeal by the occupant. He stated that according to HARB, the location of the exhaust duct poses a quality-of-life issue, is a public nuisance and it harms the building appearance.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to deny the appeal. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Planning and Municipal Development**

#### **408 West Wood Street – 7 lots Land Development Plan Extension (request to prepare Resolution)**

Mr. George Ozorowski, Attorney, noted he spoke to the Solicitor and requested the extension. Solicitor

Kilkenny advised Council that they have no legal obligation to grant the request. He noted that the first step is to ask the Solicitor to prepare a Resolution. The Attorney provided the history of the property. He asked for a year to prepare the plans to present to Council.

There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to direct the Solicitor to prepare a Resolution for Council regarding the Land Development Plan Extension for 408 West Wood Street. **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