

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2021

The Council Meeting of December 7, 2021 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry 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	

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; Finance Assistant; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager, Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; John Remillard, Assistant Norristown Fire Chief.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2021 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Perry announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss litigation issues.

Announcements

"Help a Single Parent" will be delivering Christmas presents to families of single parents on Christmas morning. If anyone knows of a single parent family that is in need, please contact Councilwoman Moman or Councilwoman Sanders.

Crandall Jones announced that Norristown Fire Chief Thomas O'Donnell was appointed by the Wolf Administration to serve on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 9-1-1 Advisory Board.

Public Comment

Angel Class, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration, announced that Friday, December 10th is the deadline for receiving Federal assistance from damage sustained from Tropical Storm Ida.

Ms. Tamika – She provided the FEMA Hotline # 800-621-FEMA or one can register at disasterassistance.com. December 10th is the deadline.

Appointments

Resolution 21-86: Appointment to Citizens Boards and Committees

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to appoint Al

Zone, representing the Elmwood Park Zoo and the Norristown Chamber of Commerce, to the Keep Norristown Beautiful Committee with the term expiring on December 31, 2023. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Fire

Awards Ceremony

Council President Perry read the Citations that stated there were 42 service calls, including water rescues, on September 1, 2021 for the Norristown Fire Department due to Hurricane Ida. The following Firefighters received awards of merit and valor and unit citations for the rescues in which they acted professionally and with compassion: Charles Scott, Ryan Hunsicker, Ryan Conboy, Kevin Murphy, Robert Spitko, Ryan O'Donnell, Anthony Molchaney, Zachery Santiago, Chief John Remillard, Captain Barbato, Assistant Chief Hicks, Andy Storti, Richard Jones, William Epright.

Resolution 21-87: Firefighter Appointment

Council President Perry conducted a swearing-in ceremony for Robert Peterson to fill a vacant position in the Norristown Fire Department.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the hiring of Robert Peterson as a Norristown Firefighter. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 21-89: Request for Council to approve the Norristown Police Department's participation in Montgomery County Police Chiefs' Mutual Aid Plan

Chief Dillon explained that this Plan allows all Police Departments to come together when it is needed. An example he gave was the Pope's visit.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve Resolution 21-89. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Finance

Resolution 21-88: Maillie LLP Audit Services Contract

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 21-88 approving a 3-year professional audit services agreement with Maillie LLP. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-82: adopting the 2022-2026 Capital Improvements Plan

Crandall Jones explained that there was one change: the Fire Engine purchase will move to 2022 because of supply issues and it won't be ready until 2023.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 21-82 in compliance with Section 4-24(A)(2) of the Administrative Code which requires "a capital plan for the next five or more fiscal years, which shall contain, as a minimum, all proposed capital improvements, identified by project, the year of acquisition or construction, proposed funding and the impact upon the operating expenses, debt structure and borrowing limitations of the (Municipality)." **The motion passed unanimously.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Request for Council to approve Ordinance 21-16 to amend Chapter 241 (Property Transfer & Sewer Lateral Inspections) of the Municipal Code

Amrinder Singh explained that this amendment will simplify and facilitate the property transfer process for newly constructed residential buildings. He added that this was properly advertised.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to approve Ordinance 21-16 amending Sections 241-2 and 241-9 of Chapter 241 titled, "Property Transfer and Sewer Lateral Inspections." **The motion passed unanimously.**

Historical Architectural Review Board – November 2021

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Historical Architectural Review Board application received, reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB for November 2021 for 525 George Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administrator

MOA – Municipality of Norristown & Lodge 31 of the Fraternal Order of Police

Crandall Jones explained that there is a mutual agreement to delay negotiations until the new Police Chief is in office. The agreement will extend for another year. There will be a 2.85% wage increase.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement between the Municipality of Norristown & Lodge 31 of the Fraternal Order of Police and to extend the current Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MOA – Municipality of Norristown & Local 2335 of the International Association of Firefighters

Crandall Jones noted that due to the mutual agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police to delay negotiations, the Firefighters' negotiations will be delayed another year and Mr. Jones stated that he spoke to the AIFL about the extension.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Council Vice President Lepera**, to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement between the Municipality of Norristown & Local 2335 of the International Association of Firefighters and to extend the current Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Review Nine MontCo Tax Claim Bureau Repository Tax Sale Bids

Crandall Jones provided information regarding parcels in the repository that previously were made available for sale to the general public due to delinquent taxes but they were not sold. He named the guidelines for the sale of these parcels such as there is no guarantee or warranty provided. The available properties which are vacant lots are:

310 Basin Street
324 Moore Street
624 E. Basin Street
355 Moore Street

534 Norris Street
301 Marshall Street
900 Jackson Street

Mr. Jones added that the property value remains as assessed before the purchase.

Solicitor Kilkenny said that agreements will be prepared to use for the sale process.

Departmental Reports

Police

Chief Dillon provided details of the November report: Violent crimes increased as well as property crimes. There were 213 Part 1 crimes. Wolf pack robberies reduced 26%. Auto thefts doubled with most cars being recovered. 13th non-fatal shooting on George Street. There were 4 homicides. 47% decrease year-to-date with youth arrests. Repeated victimization domestic violence reduced by 15%. Reduction in opioid dependence. Traffic safety – reduced injuries by 53%. Police Department was under budget for November.

Fire

Assistant Fire Chief Remillard provided the report details: 111 service calls, 1,230 year-to-date. Response time: 4 minutes 3 seconds. Property loss \$80,000. Busiest time – Monday 12 midnight and Thursday at noon. No firefighter injuries, 1 civilian injury, no civilian deaths. 56 inspections, 14 public education events, installed 4 smoke detectors and 7 combination detectors.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Singh shared that due to Crandall Jones and Council, Code was able to achieve many things including 7 new Ordinances, creating more safety requirements.

He also shared that the Lead Ordinance was called the most protective Lead Ordinance in the country. It is a Model Ordinance due to the requirements of Lead Safe and Lead Free certification at the time of the property transfer.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Councilman Jones, 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