

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 21, 2021**

The Council Work Session of December 21, 2021 was called to order by Council President Derrick Perry 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	

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Lieutenant Todd Dillon, Norristown Police Department; Derrick Wood, 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 Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Minutes from November 16, 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

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

Presentations

Proclamation recognizing Cameron "Cam" Reddish

Council President Perry read the proclamation and the mother of Cameron Reddish was present to represent her son and to accept the proclamation honoring him for his \$10,000 donation to the Norristown Recreation Center.

Proclamation recognizing David Ballard

Council President Perry read the proclamation honoring Mr. David Ballard, who was not present at the meeting, for his assistance during the Hurricane Ida recovery.

Announcements

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Recreation Center at 4:00 pm honoring Cameron "Cam" Reddish for his \$10,000 donation.

Men of Excellence Toy Drive and food giveaway on December 24th from 11 am to 2 pm at the First Presbyterian Church on Dekalb and Airy Streets. There will be 200 X-Box consoles given away.

Public Comment

A letter was submitted by Barry Thompson, Norristown Municipal Waste Authority, 25 E. Marshall Street, Norristown, and was read by the Clerk of Council. It read as follows;

“I met today with the staff at the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority and discussed with them the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between the Authority and the Municipality related to the evaluation of the Authority’s sewer system.

The primary concern is that the proposed study excludes evaluation of inflow/infiltration and capacity to serve potential future developments within Norristown.

These areas of evaluation represent the primary concerns of the Norristown Authority and any sanitary sewer authority. Accordingly, the purpose of the evaluation is unclear. In addition, it is our understanding that the Municipal Manager has agreed to set up a meeting with the Authority and the Municipality’s Engineer to discuss the specifics of the Engineer’s proposal.

Since the new Council and the Authority Board both will be seated in early January, it is respectfully requested that Council’s consideration of the Agreement scheduled for tonight be continued so that each of the bodies, along with their respective professionals, can meet to discuss the concerns and intended purposes of the proposed Agreement. The Authority Administration believes this will be helpful in informing all parties regarding the status of the Authority’s operations and system.

Thank you.”

Appointments

Resolution 21-94: appointment of Norristown Police Chief, Derrick Wood

Crandall Jones noted that Derrick Wood has 23 years of law enforcement experience.

Judge Gregory Scott conducted the swearing-in of Derrick Wood for Norristown Police Chief. He was joined by family members, including his mother.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to approve the appointment of Norristown Police Chief, Derrick Wood. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Administration of Oath of Office for entry-level Police Officers Jason Barish and Tyler Wagner

Judge Gregory Scott conducted the swearing-in of Jason Barish and Tyler Wagner as Norristown Police Officers.

There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the appointment of Police Officers Jason Barish and Tyler Wagner. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administration

Resolution 21-91: Montgomery County Cable Franchise Renewal Services

Crandall Jones explained that the Cohen Law Group will represent the Montgomery County Consortium and they will split the fee up to \$10,710.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the legal services of the Cohen Law Group to assist the participating municipalities of Montgomery County (“Montgomery County Consortium”) in a franchise fee audit and cable franchise renewal negotiations with Comcast of Pennsylvania, LLC (“Comcast”) up to \$10,710. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-93: request for Council to approve the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule

Crandall Jones noted a modification in the schedule in that all regular Council and Workshop Meetings will begin at 6:30 pm with the exception of the Re-Organization meeting which will begin at 7:30 pm. He also noted there will only be one meeting in July 2022 which will be the Workshop Meeting.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule with the modifications. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-96: consulting contract with Contractual Special Events Coordinator

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve a consulting contract with Tracie Henry as Contractual Special Events Coordinator. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-97: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to table this item to a future date. **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Sanders recused herself because she has been appointed to the Sewer Authority.)

Resolution 21-98: allocation of \$675,000.00 in ARPA funding for the engineering services and capital work related to the Norristown Sewer System evaluation

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve a allocation of \$675,000.00 in ARPA funding for the engineering services and capital work related to the Norristown Sewer System evaluation. **The motion passed 6-0.** (Councilwoman Sanders recused herself because she has been appointed to the Sewer Authority.)

Resolution 21-99: request for Council to authorize ARPA funds to construct a skatepark at Poley Park

Crandall Jones explained that this skatepark would improve an underutilized blighted piece of property. He introduced, via Zoom, professional skateboarder, Jimmy Gorecki, who is Norristown born and who helped design the proposed skatepark. Mr. Jones commented that there is a whole science and culture surrounding skateparks.

Khal Hassan, Municipal Engineer, noted that there will be discussions with the skate community. He described three concepts in compliance with Code aspects through a Power Point presentation.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to allocate the ARPA funds to construct a skatepark at Poley Park. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

Request authorization to advertise Ordinance 21-17 of 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2022 proposed budget

Director Musonye provided a timeline of the CDBG budget process. She noted there were 4 Housing projects, Municipal and Administration projects and a citizen participation process.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 21-17 of 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2022 proposed budget. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 21-95: A Resolution of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Norristown to authorize the submission of a formal and complete Redevelopment Assistance Application including a Grant Agreement for the release of a \$2,000,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding for the Norristown Mixed Use Redevelopment at Main and Dekalb Streets

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Moman, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders**, to authorize the submission of a formal and complete Redevelopment Assistance Application including a Grant Agreement for the release of a \$2,000,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program funding for the Norristown Mixed Use Redevelopment at Main and Dekalb Streets. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 21-92: request for Council to approve a contract with 911 Safety Equipment, Inc. as an approved uniform vendor for the Norristown Police Department

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Moman**, to approve a contract with 911 Safety Equipment, Inc. as an approved uniform vendor for the Norristown Police Department. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The 3 Council members whose terms have ended provided parting words:

Councilwoman Moman: “I will miss everyone in this setting. It’s been a pleasure and an honor.”

Councilwoman Sanders: “I will continue to be involved in the community and I will be with the Sewer Authority.”

Councilman Perry: “It’s been a pleasure. We shared what the vision and goals were.”

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