

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

The Council Work Session of January 18, 2022 was called to order by Council President 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:

Hakim Jones
Tiffani Hendley

Rebecca Smith
Heather Lewis

Rashaad Bates
Thomas Lepera

Dustin Queenan

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Chief Derrick Wood, Norristown Police Chief; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Municipal Development; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief.

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2022 Re-Organization Meeting and regular Council Meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Lepera announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

Announcements

None.

Public Comments

Monica Miller, 1729 North Hills Drive

I am reaching out regarding parking and speed concerns in my neighborhood. North Hills Drive is one of the main arteries in and out of our neighborhood, and people drive much faster than the posted speed limit. In addition, my neighbor from 1727 North Hills Drive parks their minivan or their large work van very close to my driveway. The van obstructs my ability to see cars coming when trying to pull out of my driveway and when combined with people driving above the speed limit, I am very concerned for my safety. I am reaching out in the hopes you can provide assistance with instituting speed bumps and painting lines to formally designate a parking space.

Some additional background information that would be helpful to know regarding the parking challenges I have faced:

The street parking spot outside of our homes is intended to be a one-car spot, with each of our driveways at either end of the parking spot. My neighbors routinely park their van at the entrance of my driveway. At times, they park a car in the front of the spot closest to their driveway, but most frequently, the front spot is left open.

Their minivan does NOT move for the entire week, with the exception of Fridays between 12-4 for street cleaning. To reiterate, the van being parked so close to my driveway jeopardizes my ability to visualize oncoming traffic when exiting my driveway. I really am fearful that I am going to get hit when leaving my driveway.

This parking challenge has been going on for quite some time, approximately three-to-four years. When it first occurred, I approached them and requested that they park evenly in the spot and attempted to explain the safety and visibility concerns that I had when pulling in and out. They responded by yelling in my face and spray painting a red line at the end of my driveway. Since then, the parking of their van has continued with the placement of the van in a position that is parked intentionally in a position to cause me difficulty.

I have had several conversations with Officer Lefebvre with the parking division of the Norristown Police Department who has stated his ability to intervene is limited if the neighbor's vehicle did not block the driveway.

Please understand that escalation to borough leadership is not my preferred method of resolution, but I truly do not feel safe or comfortable addressing my neighbors since their initial reaction towards me was so verbally aggressive and abusive. More importantly, the safety of me and my neighborhood is a major consideration. Installing speed bumps and painting lines to formally designate a parking space would significantly mitigate the safety risks present.

Your time and consideration of the aforementioned interventions is sincerely appreciated. If you need more information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely, Monica Miller.

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street.

The 1992 Master Plan for the Farm Park ponds, pictured here in black, needs to be followed for locations of structures similar to what was installed on Saw Mill Run to stop the damage downstream in Norristown. The 1967 Comprehensive Plan also stated the Stony Creek Basin, another word for Watershed, covers an area of 20.4 square miles, most of which is out of borough limits. Therefore, rain falling on the parking lot at MCCC goes through Elmwood Park. Stormwater flows into The Farm Park from West Norriton, Lower Providence, Worcester, East Norriton, Upper Gwynedd, and Whitpain townships. There are several locations where stormwater could be controlled. One is the Mermaid Lake in Whitpain township. This protection for Norristown needs to be submitted for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Sincerely,
James Watters

Sean Kirkpatrick, accompanied by his peers, family and friends, came to show support for the proposed skatepark. He said he is "ready to help."

Planning & Municipal Development

Initial preview of a proposed 80-85 Unit Apartment Building Development at 722 Sandy Street

Robert Lewis, Attorney for the owner, stated this is the initial presentation for the 722 Sandy Street project proposal in order to get Council feedback. Also present were the architect, engineer and two owners. There was a Power Point highlighting the property. Mr. Lewis noted that the target buyer is a young professional. Council asked questions regarding the exit, retaining walls and stormwater management.

Solicitor Kilkenny asked about tax abatements and whether they viewed their units as "lifestyle apartments?"

Mr. Lewis said they want to be part of the outside community.

Mr. Lewis said he needs support from Council when he goes before the Zoning Hearing Board.

Building & Code Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – December 2021

Amrinder Singh provided information regarding the HARB application for 200 West Marshall Street and he noted that HARB recommended approval.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the Historical Architectural Review Board application for 200 West Marshall Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Fire

FEMA SAFER Grant (Staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Response

Fire Chief O'Donnell provided information about a 3 year Performance Grant to hire six (6) additional firefighters.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to direct staff to apply for the grant. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Execute Mutual Aid Agreement with East Norriton Township

Chief O'Donnell noted that this agreement is with the elected body in East Norriton.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the mutual agreement with East Norriton Township so that each community can mutually assist one another with personnel and resources during emergencies. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 22-03: request for Council to approve an Offer of Conditional Employment to entry level Police candidate, Justin Bossard

Police Chief Wood noted this would bring the staff count to 69.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Offer of Conditional Employment to Justin Bossard to fill an existing vacancy in the Police Department. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administrator

Request for Municipal Council approval of Assessment Appeal Stipulation agreed upon by the Norristown Area School District

Crandall Jones provided the details of the assessment appeal.

There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the assessment

appeal stipulation agreed to by NASD, the County, the Taxpayer and the Board of Assessments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 22-04: Intergovernmental Agreement – Lease and Management with Norristown Stormwater Authority

Crandall Jones provided the timeline leading to the Agreement. He noted that the budget for hiring, equipment and design of the projects is 100% funded by ARPA funds. He added that he will provide quarterly updates and share information from the monthly Board meetings.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Norristown Stormwater Authority. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement. **The motion passed unanimously.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council