

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

The Council Meeting of February 1, 2022 was called to order by Council President Thomas 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	Rebecca Smith	Rashaad Bates	Dustin Queenan
Tiffani Hendley	Heather Lewis	Thomas Lepera	

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; 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; Fire Chief Thomas O'Donnell.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes from January 18, 2022. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session

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

Announcements

"Love Bonds" – Monday, February 14th from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at the von C Brewing Company, Norristown.

Public Comment

Percy Thompson, 205 East Wood Street – Mr. Thompson came to make Council aware of the parking situation on the 300 block of Poplar Street. He said that both sides of the street have the same cleaning schedule and parking is hard to find. He said they don't clean often, so why move his car?

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – (this was submitted to be read) – There are several modifications for stormwater control that will stop the flooding of Whitehall Road, damage to the bridge over Stony Creek, property damage to Stonybrook Condos and reducing the damage to the zoo and Elmwood Park. A) Expand stream buffer, (B) Stormwater basin, (C) Stormwater basin at Burnside Avenue and Eagle Drive would be the first defense against East Norriton uncontrolled stormwater. The combination of the Farm Park Master Plan of 1992 and stormwater control on the Norristown High School grounds would keep the state roads open to Einstein Hospital.

Dominick Giuffrida, 1419 Boyer Blvd. – He said he works with Jim Watters to promote technology to improve polluted and toxic water. He said that free patents are available to duplicate the purification process. He offered his services to put the Norristown water supply through the process.

Rocco Romaniello, 844 Kohn Street – Mr. Romaniello complained about his neighbors that have 4 or 5 trucks that take up the parking spaces. He complained about this before and didn't hear back. He also filed a lawsuit. He said the neighbor cancels the court appearance.

Appointments

Administration of Oath of Office for entry-level Police Officer Justin Bossard

Justin Bossard, joined by a few family members, was sworn in by Judge Greg Scott.

Fire

Resolution 22-05: Rescue-Engine Purchase

Fire Chief O'Donnell said that a new addition is needed. He provided details about the truck and said there is a 55% savings if ordered by February 2nd. The price is \$737,500.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 22-05 for the purchase of a Rescue-Engine for the Norristown Fire Department. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Police

Resolution 22-02: Destruction of 2001 Arrest Records

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 22-02 for the destruction of the 2001 Arrest Records per the Adopted Records Management Process. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 22-06: Approve/Deny ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Municipality and the Laborers' Local Union 57 and authorizing the Municipal Administrator to sign this and the revised labor agreement document

Crandall Jones provided some of the changes which were administrative in nature such as payments and language regarding seniority and hourly increases for 2021 to 2023.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 22-06. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – January 2022

Amrinder Singh, Building & Codes Manager, provided the addresses for which HARB applications were submitted:

826 West Main Street
922 West Main Street

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the HARB applications that were received, reviewed and recommended for approval. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Planning & Municipal Development

2015 & 2021 CDBG Budget Substantial Amendment

Director Musonye provided the timeline to the present and said that approval is needed to advertise.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the advance of general funds in the amount of \$21,330 to remit to HUD for expended 2015 Community Development Block Grant administration funds which exceeded the 20% expenditure cap for administrative costs for the given grant year. The advance of general funds will be reimbursed with funds from the 2021 CDBG administration budget. Once reprogrammed, HUD will re-credit the Municipality's 2015 grant year for the full reimbursement amount of \$21,330. These funds will then be allocated to the Municipality's 2022 Section 108 Loan Repayment program for disbursement. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports

Monthly Updates to Council on the January 2022 activities within presenting departments

Administration

Crandall Jones provided updates on four projects:

Municipal Hall – construction is 40% complete and there is a tentative move-in date of January 2023. The sewer line is sagging; availability of materials issue; permanent electric power established; water connection to street. The Police Department should be open before January 2023.

State Hospital – Continue bi-weekly meetings with State Hospital people. They are transitioning away from the Shelter so residents will need to vacate; there are contracts for demolition with the Redevelopment Authority; in February there will be an Agreement of Sale and Deed of Conveyance; construction slated to be done by February 2023; an RFP will be prepared and per Director Musonye, it can go out while demolition is being done because the Redevelopment Authority gets priority.

Sewer System Evaluation – a proposal was sent to the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority to give the go ahead but they haven't discussed it yet; need to meet with the NMWA regarding scope of work.

Skate Park – The Municipal Engineer and the Municipal Administrator will meet regarding the preliminary project schedule – a draft will be presented to Council; working with design firms; will have community meetings.

Adjournment

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council