

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MARCH 15, 2022

The Council Work Session of March 15, 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	Heather Lewis	Thomas Lepera

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, 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.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes from March 1, 2022. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Executive Session

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

Announcements

“Montco Works Now” Job Fair sponsored by the Norristown Police Department and the Norristown Area School District. This event is for employers interested in hiring High School Juniors and Seniors. The date is April 26th. Councilman Jones suggested that Municipal departments set up tables and that he will share a flyer with the Administration Office.

Stormwater Authority Board Meetings for the Community dates: March 29th at Eisenhower Middle School, March 31st at the Hancock Elementary School, April 12th at the Norristown Recreation Center and April 14th at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Municipal Administrator, Crandall Jones, explained that residents should have received by now a letter regarding these meetings which are for educating the community and receiving input from them.

“Norristown Sprouts Community Garden.” Applications are open now to the general public in Norristown. Contact norristownsprouts@montcopa.org.

Public Comment

Chiffon Holmes, 727 High Street – Ms. Holmes came before Council to bring up the issue of speeding at the Oak Street Park. She says there needs to be a crosswalk and something to slow the traffic.

Police

Resolution 22-15: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

Police Chief Derrick Wood stated that these residents need to park close to their home since they have physical disabilities.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Handicapped parking spaces at:

1009 West Airy Street
1305 Markley Street
418 West Freedley Street
302 West Wood Street

The motion passed 6-0.

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – February 2022

Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager, explained that these applications were reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB for February 2022. The addresses are:

308 Haws Avenue
922 West Main Street
554 Stanbridge Street

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the HARB applications. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Public Works

Norristown Traffic Calming Policy

Thomas Odenigbo, Public Works Director, said that this is a discussion regarding the traffic policy. He provided an explanation about the speed humps that he said should be able to be removed for snow plowing and there should be signs and signals to draw the driver's attention to slow down. He explained that the area where the devices need to be installed would be determined by the Police Chief. More studies will be done. He said the determining factors include length and width of the road, the speed limit and it is also based on available funds.

The Municipal Engineer, Khal Hassan, added that other determining factors are accident history and sight distance location.

Crandall Jones advised Council that a Resolution will be prepared and presented at the next Council meeting.

Planning and Municipal Development

Resolution 22-18: Authorizing a contract renewal in the amount of \$35,000.00 with Buxton for Consumer Impact Dashboard and Scout Solution

Director Musonye provided information about the services provided by Buxton. She explained that they can tell you who your customers are and who they can be by tracking habits about the residents and potential customers around 257 East Main Street because redevelopment in the downtown area is the focus and this information can be shared with developers.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the contract renewal with Buxton in compliance with Section 7-713 of the Home Rule Charter and Section 4-35(A)(6) of the Administrative Code which states, “All contracts in excess of \$21,000 shall be in writing and shall be awarded by Municipal Council, and the contract shall be executed by the Municipal Administrator.” **The motion passed 6-0.**

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 22-19: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority

Crandall Jones shared that discussions with the Authority have been ongoing and at the recent meeting with the NMWA Board President Greg Nester and Board member Sonya Sanders, the Authority approved the IGA.

Council President Lepera remarked that “the sewer system is critical to future development.”

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority relating to performance of a sanitary sewer system evaluation by Pennoni Engineering. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-16: Agreement of Sale and Redevelopment Agreement – Main & Dekalb Streets

Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor, read from the Agreement pertaining to uses that are allowed and excluded.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to adopt the agreement among the Municipality of Norristown, the Redevelopment Authority and MM Partners pertaining to the redevelopment of Main and Dekalb Streets in Norristown. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-17: Request for Council to approve the contracts to purchase 11 Police vehicles, 3 Code vehicles and 1 Planning/Zoning vehicle.

Crandall Jones explained that vehicles have high usage and wear and need to be replaced in order to do the jobs they’re intended for. Mr. Jones shared that “Robbie Romano does a great job at hunting deals.”

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the contracts to purchase two (2) 2022 Ford Interceptor Hybrid SUV Police Vehicles, upfitted with all necessary equipment to include camera systems and computer; one (1) 2022 Ford Explorer XLT AWD unmarked Administrative vehicles upfitted; four (4) 2022 Ford Explorer AWD base model SUV unmarked and upfitted for Detectives, four (4) 2022 Ford Escape SUV AWD vehicles for Parking Enforcement; four (4) 2022 Ford Escape SUV AWD vehicles for Code(3) and Planning/Zoning(1). **The motion passed 6-0.**

Adjournment

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council