

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2022**

The Council Meeting of April 5, 2022 was called to order by Council Vice President Heather Lewis 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

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator, Patrick Hitchhens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Derrick Wood, Norristown Police Chief; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Erica Genuardi, Director of Recreation.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Minutes from March 15, 2022. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Executive Session

Council Vice President Lewis announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel, real estate and litigation issues.

Presentations

Proclamation recognizing Henry Jones

Vice President Lewis read the Proclamation recognizing Henry Jones for 40 years in business as Jones Barbershop. Mr. Jones had the honor of cutting former Vice Presidential candidate, Mike Pence's, hair.

Announcements

Job Fair for High School Juniors and Seniors sponsored by "Montco Works Now" on April 26th.

"Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology" at the Penn State Brandywine Campus on Saturday, April 30th from Noon to 5 pm for girls 5th through 10 grade. This is a free event. Contact Councilman Hakim Jones for more information.

"Restorative Cities" hosts an event at the Norristown Recreation Center on Saturday, April 23rd from 2 to 6 pm. "Understanding Loss and Grief."

Public Comment

Cookie Lombardi, 619 E. Oak Street – Ms. Lombardi said she's been a resident all of her life. She commended the Swede Street paving but commented that high profile cases come to the Courthouse and there should be more restaurants and stores and a Police sub-station. She added that the speed bumps on Oak Street would be

helpful. She asked about painting lane lines on Fornance Street and New Hope Street but was told there was no paint at this time. She said that people should be given opportunities to buy homes and there should be more volunteers to help the elderly with household jobs.

Chiffon Holmes, 626 E. Oak Street – Ms. Holmes was here last meeting and asked what the radius is for the petition for the speed bumps on Oak Street. She added there needs to be more signage at all of the parks about being aware of children. She asked if the parks get speed bumps and that it should be a separate policy.

Sean Leis, 329 W. Stergiere Street – Mr. Leis commented about the speeding cars in his area.

Ramon Ochoa, 331 W. Stergiere Street – Mr. Ochoa commented about speeding cars and motorbikes that make it hard to cross the street. He said many cars are taking a shortcut since the Markley Street construction.

Myong Ryu, owner of August Moon Restaurant – She said she hasn't been able to open her restaurant for at least 3 months now because she is unable to get Code permits. She commented that Norristown Code makes it too difficult to obtain permits and it should be changed.

Police

To advise Council on the extension of the Eligibility Lists for Corporals and Sergeants for an additional 12 months

Chief Wood explained that there was an exam in March 2021 to establish and certify the lists. He stated there needs to be a continuity of eligible candidates. He asked this be extended until April 14, 2023. He added that the Civil Service Commission makes the decision and the Norristown Police Department is advised.

Resolution 22-22: Memorandum of Understanding between the Norristown Police Department and Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc. relating to Bode's DNA data sharing permission. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Public Works

Resolution 22-23: The approval of Norristown Traffic Calming Policy – Speed Hump Device

Amrinder Singh, Director of Code Enforcement, noted that the Municipal Administration contacted Public Works for guidance regarding the Traffic Calming issue. There is a report posted on the Municipal website.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve the Speed Hump as the preferred traffic calming device. The rubber-type humps are bolted down on the street pavement and are easily removed. The average cost is about \$2,000 to \$2,500, depending on the width of the street. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Parks and Recreation

Resolution 22-21: Approval to authorize a contract for \$169,950.00 with Miller Sports Construction to resurface Simmons Park Basketball Court, using ARPA Funds (typo on agenda)

Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained that the 4 courts will be connected without the grassy partitions. The backboards will be upgraded.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve a contract with Miller Sports Construction for \$169,950.00 to resurface and replace the existing basketball court at Simmons Park because of damage from heavy use and weather conditions. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-20: Approval to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Community, Recreation and Conservation Planning Grant in the amount of \$25,000

Ms. Genuardi explained that this grant application is for a Master Plan of Elmwood Park. She noted that before any upgrades, there needs to be information on how to go about it effectively. She said there is a 3 year completion stipulation and Mr. Crandall Jones added that this is an auxiliary as part of the Roosevelt Field evaluation. Ms. Genuardi said that after the funds have been received, she will come back before Council.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve the application submittal. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Building & Codes Enforcement

Historical Architectural Review Board – March 2022

Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager, explained that this application was reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB for March 2022. The address is:

38 East Chestnut Street

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the HARB application for repairs on this property. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Departmental Reports

Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works, shared that there was enhanced street cleaning for one week during which they collected 20 dumpsters of trash. The issue of “street bumps” has been communicated to PECO; pest control measures were taken in the parks; there was a citywide trash sweep with dumpsters being placed in different parts of the community; potholes were filled, alleys were paved and there is paint now for striping.

Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks and Recreation, shared that bids were open last week for the Riverfront. It needs to be determined if there is any money remaining after insurance claims from FEMA for Hurricane Ida which was considered a natural disaster. Camp registration is open – there will be 2 “Skills and Drills” clinics. There will be a flyer soon about a “Soccer Skills” clinic at Ackey’s Field. Movie nights are back and so are the Sunday Concerts starting on June 19th.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council