

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
APRIL 19, 2022

The Council Work Session of April 19, 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	Tiffani Hendley
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 and Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Allison Lee, Municipal Engineer.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve the Minutes from April 5, 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 real estate and litigation matters,

Announcements

"Budget Forum" in the NASD Administration Building May 9th 6:30 pm. Contact the School Board President for information.

"Pathways to Healing" on April 23rd from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Norristown Recreation Center. There will be dinner to go, restorative circles, health screenings, giveaways and more. For more information, call Heather Lewis at 484-222-0437.

"Rock the Block Earth Day" at the Norristown Farm Park on Saturday, April 23rd from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be tree planting and other activities. Council members Tiffany Hendley, Rashaad Bates and Dustin Queenan will be there.

"Job Fair" at Citizens Bank Park. Multi-county – 80 employers. April 21st from 9 am to 2 pm. Bring a resume. Councilwoman Lewis noted there will be bus transportation from the Intermediate Unit. Contact her for information.

"Career Fair" sponsored by the Norristown Police Department at Norristown High School on April 26th. Businesses will be present. Geared towards Juniors and Seniors.

"Second Chance Resource Fair" on April 27th from 10 am to 12 pm at PA Career Link at the Human Services Center.

Public Comment

Adjua Robinson, 26 West Basin Street – Ms. Robinson complained that there is no permitted parking on the left side of her block (Basin & Powell) especially on Wednesday between 8 am and 12 pm for street cleaning and due to construction of a new curb but cars park there anyway. She said she is concerned for ambulances and fire trucks not being able to get through.

Fire

Resolution 22-25: 700/800 MHz Public Safety Communication Network at Municipal Hall

Fire Chief, Thomas O'Donnell, explained the inability of the Police Department to communicate outside of the Municipal Hall due to construction so there's a need for a new communication system. He received price quotes from COSTARS for \$72,943.12 and non-COSTARS for \$69,786.23. The choice is the non-COSTARS with Antenna Systems of New Jersey.

There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the installation of a public safety communications network antenna system at Municipal Hall by Antenna Systems of New Jersey. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Planning & Municipal Development

Consider granting Preliminary/Final Plan approval (Resolution 22-24 of 2022) to George A. Korkus, Jr. for a twenty-six (26) unit townhouse development at 1421 Green Valley Road, Norristown, PA

Director Jayne Musonye provided a the history of what transpired so far with this proposed development. She noted that a recommendation by the Design Review Board was made with conditions such as: use recycled materials unless not deemed appropriate by the Municipal Engineer, a darker brick-style look to match the surrounding area and updated plans for the third and fourth story layout.

Solicitor Kilkenny cited some of the Waivers from the Resolution which included relief from slopes and relief for 9 feet of open area between the curblineline and the outside wall. Allison Lee, Municipal Engineer, recommended support of the Waivers. John DiPasquale, Jr., JD Signature Homes, and George Korkus presented a Power Point with renderings highlighting the 13-building, 26-unit project. Mr. DiPasquale explained the design change which entails using brick on retaining walls and modular construction which, he noted, cuts back on the end time.

Mr. George Korkus said that the neighbors received letters regarding the project.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to grant the Preliminary/Final Land development plan approval for the 1421 Green Valley Road Project (Resolution 22-24 of 2022). The project consists of demolishing an existing one-story ranch dwelling and a detached garage to construct twenty-six (26) new townhomes with attached one (1) car garage parking as well as roadway cartway, stormwater management and other related improvements. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Seeking Council authorization to begin the amendment of the Zoning Ordinance to require a Masterplan for the development of tracks over five (5) acres in the following zones: Commercial Retail District (CR), Institutional District (IN), Recreation District (RE), Gateway Redevelopment Overlay District (GRO), and the Downtown Riverfront District (DR).

Director Musonye explained that phased planning has no smooth adaptation of a plan. A Master Plan guides the development and becomes part of the Zoning Ordinance.

Solicitor Kilkenny provided information about some local mall redevelopments that did not want “piecemeal” development.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the amendment of the Zoning Ordinance to require a Masterplan for the development of tracks over five (5) acres in the following zones: Commercial Retail District (CR), Institutional District (IN), Recreation District (RE), Gateway Redevelopment Overlay District (GRO) and the Downtown Riverfront District (DR). **The motion passed 6-0.**

Public Works

Discussion about amending Sections 274-2, 274-60, 274-62, 274-63 and 274-68 of Chapter 274, titled “Solid Waste” of the Norritown Municipal Code; providing a Severability Clause; repealing all inconsistent Ordinances and providing an effective date.

Director Odenigbo explained that these Sections are no longer relevant. He added that a Resolution will be brought before Council at the next Council Meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for road/street milling services between Kehoe Construction, Inc. and the Municipality of Norristown.

Director Thomas Odenigbo explained that this MOU is a good solution to a paving issue. Kehoe Construction offered to help with the in-house paving by removing old asphalt on streets that Public Works is already working on and Kehoe Construction would not have to obtain parking permits. Solicitor Kilkenny explained that an agreement was drawn up and executed which includes adhering to all laws, Kehoe providing their own insurance and holding Norristown harmless.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for road/street milling services between Kehoe Construction, Inc. and the Municipality of Norristown. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council