

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

The Council Meeting of May 3, 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
Rashaad Bates

Tiffani Hendley
Heather Lewis

Dustin Queenan
Thomas Lepera

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

Motion to Approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2022 Council Work Session Meeting. **Motion passed 6-0.**

Executive Session Announcement

Council President Lepera reported that Council met in Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

Presentations

Proclamation recognizing the Norristown Area High School Athletes

Councilwoman Hendley read the Proclamation honoring the NAHS Indoor Track Team noting their individual achievements.

Council Vice President Lewis pointed out that the team is staffed by former athletes and champions.

Councilwoman Hendley also read the Proclamations honoring the NAHS Varsity Cheerleaders, the Wrestling Team for which the Coaches are graduates and the Varsity Boys Soccer Team who were in the first round of the PIAA playoffs.

Councilman Jones presented a Proclamation to the Varsity Boys Basketball Team and Coach Johnson. He noted that the team made the Pac 10 Final Four.

Announcements

Councilman Jones congratulated Police Chief Wood on a successful Job Fair at Norristown High School.

The Norristown Rotary Club is celebrating 100 years with a dinner on May 12, 2022.

Public Comment

Adjua Robinson, 26 West Basin Street – Ms. Robinson thanked Police Chief Wood for the Police Patrol. She

said there are still issues with residents receiving parking tickets even though there is a lack of parking, even for the new apartment building. She requested there be a Resolution for parking since there is nowhere to park.

Victoria Gonzalez, 34 West Basin Street – Ms. Gonzalez said she received a parking ticket and complained that there is a lack of parking especially when the cars leave gaps between the cars. She said she sometimes comes home with groceries and there is no parking. She said it could lead to fighting over parking. She is thankful for the new paving, She also suggested a speed bump or Police patrol.

Police

Resolution 22-26: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

Police Chief Wood explained there is a need for these Handicapped Parking Spaces.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve Handicapped Parking Spaces at the following addresses:

911 West Washington Street
851 George Street
522 Noble Street
1023 Cherry Street

The motion passed 6-0.

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 22-27: request for Council to approve Professional Services in the amount of \$29,300 to Pennoni for engineering and surveying services related to the Poley Park Skate Park Project.

Crandall Jones provided a history of the project proposal and stated that the Municipal Engineer needs to do Geo-tech work and surveying. He said that an RFP will be drafted and the project will be put out for bids for design and construction. Municipal Engineer Ted Dymtryk provided a breakdown of the costs totaling \$29,300. There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Professional Services to move forward with the Poley Park Improvements Project. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Departmental Reports for April 2022

Police

Chief Wood noted there was a double shooting that is still under investigation.

Auto thefts are an issue due to people leaving cars running.

There are 4 vacancies and 2 retirements on the Police Force. There will be new hires in June and July.

There will be Mental Health Awareness services available for free at the Recreation Center on May 25th.

Youth Advisory Council for ages 14-18 every six weeks.

Crime Bulletin posted online every Monday morning.

Fire

Chief O'Donnell shared details from the Operations Summary:

117 Dispatches

Response time: 4 minutes, 6 seconds

Busiest time: Wednesday 10:00

There were 755 training hours for 55 trainees.

No injuries.

83 homes received smoke detectors.

Code

Mr. Singh reported:

Since the Lead Poisoning Prevention Ordinance went into effect in January, there were over 100 lead-free and lead-safe homes. HUD advised that this Ordinance is a Model Ordinance to be shared in other PA cities.

As a result of the Contractor Ordinance, 355 licenses were issued, of which 210 were residential and 145 for commercial.

Code is busy with Property Transfer Inspections – a 43% increase over pre-pandemic.

Investment properties are being purchased.

Council President Lepera requested a list of contractors update every two weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley. The motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council