

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 7, 2022**

The Council Meeting of June 7, 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	Rebecca Smith
Tiffani Hendley	Heather Lewis	Thomas Lepera

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator, Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Chief Derrick Wood, Norristown Police Department; Amanda Ciarlante, Assistant Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Deputy Chief Richard Lockhart, Norristown Fire Department; Erica Genuardi, Director of Recreation.

Motion to approve Minutes

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes from May 18, 2022. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Executive Session

Council President Lepera announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss litigation matters.

Presentations

Citizens Leadership Academy

Kevin Tustin, Public Information Officer, presented the Certificates of Completion to the 8 residents of the 2022 Spring Class of the Citizens Leadership Academy. Crandall Jones expressed his thanks to Kevin for a job well done running the Academy.

Announcements

The Reuniting Family Bail Fund presents "Pre-Game for Father's Day – Smoke and Whiskey." June 13th from 6 pm to 10 pm at von C Brewing. There will be an outdoor cigar bar.

"Juneteenth" Celebration – June 19th at 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Main & Dekalb Streets.

Public Comment

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street

The Pennsylvania Constitution Sec. 27.5 states, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation..." PA American (Water) believes they have no jurisdiction to stop storm water pollution. The PA Constitution's "pure water" must be in their job description to protect the Schuylkill River from pollution, not

raise rates when pollution increases.

The Schuylkill River banks are being washed away at the rate of six percent a year. FACT: January 19, 2022 “The Foul State of PA Waterways” by Frank Kummer, Philadelphia Inquirer staff writer. Montgomery County is #4 with 75 percent of the streams impaired.

The Stony Creek watershed is the one closest to the Norristown plant. The receiver of this pollution is Norristown. PA American Water should help reduce the pollution by funding stormwater BMPs in the watershed. One such location would be at the Norristown Area High School located in West Norriton on the west branch of the Stony Creek called Keppner Creek. This location would protect a bridge, fifty homes, a sewer pumping station and, most of all, keep open the main road to Einstein Hospital. The downstream reduction in flow would reduce damage in Norristown. PA American Water should be taking charge to stop the pollution since the DEP has not enforced Storm Water Management Act 167.

Funding a pollution reduction project at the high school would be a teaching aid for those students. Other schools would come to visit the project and attend workshops about storm water control, pollution reduction, and complying with the Pennsylvania Constitution. This would inspire students to careers as engineers and that would make a better community.

Question: Why is it that they can fly to the moon, but they cannot stop the watersheds from being destroyed, causing devastating floods and killing people?

Municipal Administrator

Resolution 22-37: Recognizing June 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve recognizing June 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-38: Recognizing June 3rd as Gun Violence Awareness Day 2022

It was suggested that in the future for Gun Violence Awareness Day, names could be read to honor and memorialize the victims of gun violence. Also suggested was “Wear Orange” Day to recognize gun violence.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve June 3rd as Gun Violence Awareness Day 2022. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-39: Waiver for von C Brewery to have food trucks at June 2022 Events

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve the waiver for von C Brewery to have food trucks at 1210 Stanbridge Street for the noted June 2022 events, which includes “Make Music Day.” **The motion passed 6-0.**

Police

Resolution 22-33: Request for Council to approve offers of conditional employment to entry-level Police candidates

Chief Derrick Wood provided details of the hiring process. He recommended the approval of offers of conditional employment to the candidates in order to fill six vacancies in the Police Department.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the offers of

conditional employment to the entry-level Police candidates. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-34: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

Chief Wood explained that the resident for the following address has a medical condition that warrants parking close to their home:

1209 Tyler Street

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Disabled Parking Space. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Acceptance of the Reducing Underage Drinking and Dangerous Drinking Grant – PaLCB

Chief Wood explained that the grant would be used to pay overtime to officers and civilians and for education.

There was **a motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve a \$40,000 grant for 2 years (2022-2024) for reducing underage drinking and dangerous drinking, through a grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Parks and Recreation

Resolution 22-36: Award Recommendation for Riverfront Park

Director Erica Genuardi explained that an additional \$21,000 is needed to complete Phase 1 of the project. Municipal Administrator Jones added that there would be dusk to dawn hours and a need for an electronic gate.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the Final Award to the lowest bidder, Foresite Concepts, Inc. and waive the 12-day waiting period between the Intent to Award and the Final Award required by the RCO Ordinance. This project needs to be completed prior to the end of October to insure all the landscaping is completed this planting season and has time to get established. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Council Vice President Lewis was not present for voting.)

Building and Codes Department

Approval of Historical Architectural Review Board Certificates of Appropriateness – May 2022 for the following properties:

503 Barbados Street
629 West Main Street
802 Dekalb Street
805 West Main Street

Code Manager, Amrinder Singh, explained that since the new Ordinance regarding the HARB boundaries, it has been easier for homeowners to make exterior repairs.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Certificates of Appropriateness which were received, reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Departmental Reports

Finance

Amanda Ciarlante stated that Revenue (Act 511, EIT) is running higher than the prior 3 years; interest earnings are lower due to an eTrade account in the process of being closed; building permits are lower than budgeted; health benefits expected to be \$150,000 under budget; vehicle maintenance \$150,000 over budget; overall, the 2022 Operating Budget results are tracking well.

Parks/Recreation

Erica Genuardi, Director, noted that she spoke with the contractor and Public Works regarding Simmons Park which has been delayed due to weather and schedule issues. She noted that the barriers are down and four-wheelers made track marks. She stated that Public Works will hopefully be installing new units by July 1st; the Summer Camp is half filled; a final Grant was submitted for the Master Plan for Elmwood Park; Sunday Concerts and Movie Nights will begin; will make the Little League Fields safe to use as green space.

Crandall Jones explained that the Master Plan includes the Recreation Center, the baseball fields and Roosevelt Field (with NASD) in the flood zone. He said there will be community input as to what to do with the space.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council