

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2022

The Council Work Session of August 16, 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, Norristown, PA 19401.

There was a **Moment of Silence** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The following Council members were present:

Hakim Jones
Rebecca Smith
Rashaad Bates
Tiffani Hendley
Dustin Queenan
Heather Lewis
Thomas Lepera

Also present:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Derrick Wood, Norristown Police Chief; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Richard Lockhart, Norristown Deputy Fire Chief; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Erica Genuardi, Director of Recreation.

Approval of Minutes

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes from the August 2, 2022 Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session Announcement

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

Announcements None.

Public Comment

Mike Kingsley, 1151 Sterigere Street, Norristown, PA – Mr. Kingsley runs the Norristown Hospitality Center. He said that 15 days to advertise is too short of a time period and he is pleading for 2 more years. He said that so many are looking for a safe place to sleep. He shared about the homeless man found dead under the bridge. He said he wants to work to resolve this issue.

Alma Flores, 1233 Markley Street, Norristown, PA – Ms. Flores had an interpreter. She asked that information shared by the Municipality through social media and other ways be provided in Spanish as well.

Mercedes Duante, 314 West Warren Street, Norristown, PA – She also had an interpreter. She said there needs to be more people that speak Spanish in the schools.

Mieta Guadalupe, 314 West Warren Street, Norristown, PA – She also had an interpreter. She said there needs to be a soccer team in Norristown because her kids have to go to other towns to play.

Eric K., King of Prussia, PA – He said he supports helping the homeless and he is from Hope Community Church. He also asked for a 2 year grace period to resolve the issue before passing the dusk to dawn Ordinance.

Missy, Baldwin Avenue – She said she is a voice for the homeless since she was a paycheck away from being homeless. She said they don't have help for their mental issues. She asked for more time to come to a solution.

Appointments

Pennsylvania Municipal League – 2023 Municipal Leadership Summit: Appointment of Voting Delegate/Resolutions Committee Representative

Crandall Jones explained that the Municipality is an active member of the PML and must appoint a voting delegate and alternate in order to participate in the 2023 Municipal Leadership Summit.

Council President Lepera nominated Councilman Queenan as delegate with a second by Council Vice President Lewis.

Council Vice President Lewis nominated Councilwoman Hendley as alternate with a second by Councilwoman Smith.

Municipal Administrator

Request of Council to approve Ordinance 22-02 to establish dusk to dawn hours for the Municipality's Parks and Recreation areas.

Police Chief Wood commented they do not want to be intrusive but need to make sure that residents have access to parks without quality-of-life issues.

Each Council member provided their point of view on the issue, with all agreeing that they need parks that the residents can enjoy.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Ordinance 22-02 which amends Code Chapter 225-2 and establish “dusk to dawn” park hours for the Municipality’s many parks and recreation areas to prohibit overnight activities in Municipal parks and recreation areas and protect the public safety. **The motion passed 6-1** (Councilwoman Smith voted “nay”).

Discussion on Masterplan Proposal for Municipal Parks and Recreation Property on Harding Boulevard

Mr. Crandall Jones conducted a Power Point Presentation. He said they want to submit the Master Plan to the County.

He noted that if the Master Plan is supported then the Municipal Engineer would assess the flood plain area and share the information with Council. He noted this is a collaborative submittal by the Norristown Area School District and the NAACP which supports Council and ARPA priorities. The Power Point covered issues such as Project Concept, Estimated Cost including parking lot improvements, walkways, lighting, landscaping, pool, stormwater improvements and a “roundabout” at Sterigere Street and Harding Blvd.

He added that this is not the final proposal.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to send the proposal seeking ARPA funding. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 22:54: Relocation Services totaling \$26,050 to Hughes Custom Logistics to move Police Department offices

Mr. Crandall Jones said the movers were part of e-Market Place which is part of COSTARS.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 22-54 to move the Norristown Police Department from their temporary offices on the first and second floors of Municipal Hall to the basement and ground floors so upper level construction can continue. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Finance

Resolution 22-53: adopting a revision to Resolution 21-82 for the 2022-2026 Capital Improvements Plan

Kathy Pfister, Finance Director, provided the details of the revisions which will be used for a slide at MLK Park, basketball court at Simmons Park and a retaining wall at Crawford Park.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Resolution 22-53 adopting revisions to the 2022-2026 Capital Improvements Plan in compliance with Section 4-24(A)(2) of

the Administrative Code which requires “a capital plan for the next five or more fiscal years, which shall contain, as a minimum, all proposed capital improvements, identified by project, the year of acquisition or construction, proposed funding and the impact upon the operating expenses, debt structure and borrowing limitations of the (municipality).” **The motion passed unanimously.**

Parks and Recreation

Resolution 22-52: to purchase updated playground equipment at Bartash and McCann Park

Recreation Director, Erica Genuardi, noted that she provided renderings in the package for Council. She said the pricing includes removing the existing surfacing. She added that the goal is safety and to make bigger attractions and play areas. The total price for both parks is \$203,925.00 through ARPA funding.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve Resolution 22-52 to upgrade the equipment at Bartash and McCann Parks in order to bring the playground up to a proper safety standard. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo