

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

The Council Meeting of September 6, 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 19401.

There was a **Call to Order** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The following members were present:

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

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Chief Derrick Wood, Norristown Chief of Police; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning/Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes from August 16, 2022. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Council President Lepera announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

Announcements: None.

Public Comment:

Mike Kingsley, 1151 Stergiere Street, Norristown – Mr. Kingsley thanked Council President and Mr. Odenigbo for help with getting some of the homeless out of the encampment. He said there will be a series of town hall meetings regarding the homeless and how to help them.

Patty Tellez, 244 East Oak Street, Norristown – She said she has been trying to get information in Spanish about opening a restaurant. She has contacted Zoning about a location. She said she needs Municipal support. (She was aided by an interpreter.)

Isaura Lucas, 147 East Airy Street, Norristown – She said there needs to be more safety at the bus stop because there were several fights on the bus with the middle school kids last year. (She was aided by an interpreter.)

Perla Delgado, 335 West Marshall Street, Norristown – She volunteers at Unides para Servir Norristown. She said there needs to be support for immigrants in the process of getting a driver's license. (She was aided by an interpreter.)

Denisse Agurto, 335 West Marshall Street, Norristown – She also volunteers at Unides para Servir Norristown. She said she is an organizer and obtained support from the State Rep in Harrisburg, Pa. She said there are also some changes with PennDOT. She said there is a proposal in the works. She said that the Hispanics in Norristown are fighting for it and have been for 5 years. She asked if there could be a Resolution by Norristown Council to continue the fight. (She was aided by an interpreter.)

FIRE

Resolution 22-55: High-Water Vehicle Upfit and Modifications

Fire Chief O'Donnell noted that the cost would be just over \$44,000.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 22-55. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

Historical Architectural Review Board – August 2022

Mr. Singh explained that these applications are for exterior repairs and renovations for the following properties:

23 East Airy Street
602 Noble Street

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve the HARB applications. **The motion passed unanimously.**

POLICE

Resolution 22-57: Motion to approve Civil Service Rules and Regulations Amendment for Entry-Level Testing

Police Chief Wood noted that the Police Department is conducting their own test using the same company.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 22-57 appointing Industrial/Organizational Solutions as administrator for written examinations for entry level police officers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 22-58: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

Chief Wood recommended approval.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve handicapped parking spaces at the following addresses:

631 Noble Street
620 Kohn Street
53 W. Basin Street
1408 Arch Street

The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Report

Chief Wood explained that morale has been based on the building conditions. Crime has gone down slightly. He noted that there is a good pool of candidates regarding the shootings based on a test that was conducted. The department staff is down in number.

Fire Report

Chief O'Donnell reported there were 869 YTD dispatches; Response time: 4 minutes 13 seconds; Busiest time: Monday at 5 pm. There were 660 fire inspections, 171 public education sessions, smoke detectors installed in 619 homes. Improved ISO rating from class 3 to 2.

Code Report

There is a new Compliance Manager; the department has been restructured; the department is down 4 inspectors; there's been a lot of construction; there was a visit to the crane at the courthouse site; there was a Times Herald article regarding the Lead Paint issue; there are 550 homes in Norristown lead-free; since the Ordinance regarding Contractor License Laws, 620 licenses have been issued. It was suggested to have a presentation by the ICC at the high school regarding careers due to the labor shortage. Mr. Singh noted that forms will be bilingual and there will be a bilingual front line and inspector.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to adjourn the Council meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council