

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

The Council Workshop of September 20, 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
Tiffani Hendley	Thomas Lepera

Also present were:

Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Chief Derrick Wood, Norristown Chief of Police; Richard Lockhart, Norristown Deputy Fire Chief; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning/Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Ted Dymtryk, Municipal Engineer.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes from September 6, 2022. **The motion passed 6-0.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

“Trunk or Treat” at the Recreation Center on Harding Boulevard. Monday, October 31st from 4-7 PM. Looking for boothers and volunteers to give out candy. Information can be found on the Events PA post on the Municipal website or contact hlewis@norristown.org.

“Jazz Show” at Centre Theatre. Free events. Doors open at 6 pm. Q&A and refreshments. Also continuing is the Charles Blockson on September 23rd and “Time” Documentary on September 25th.

“Ted Talk” with the Norristown Men of Excellence at the Norristown Area High School on September 24th at 6 pm. There will be 5 speakers. Contact hjones@norristown.org or Men of Excellence “Ted Talk.”

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters read a wish list put together over a 2 year period regarding the idea of a show which came to be “Town.”

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Public Hearing to consider approving the application of Via’s Pizza, LLC for a new Economic Development Restaurant Liquor License for premises located at 1803 Markley Street, Norristown, PA 19401

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

Solicitor Kilkenny introduced the Exhibits: M-1 (Application), M-2 (Advertisement), M-3 2nd Public Hearing Advertisement (9/12/22)

Three representatives from Via’s were present. One of the men provided a brief history of the business. He noted that the construction is complete for their restaurant on Markley Street and now they need approval for a liquor license.

There was no Public Comment for this.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to close the Public Hearing. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-56 of the Council of the Municipality of Norristown Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, to consider approving the application of Via’s Pizza, LLC for a new Economic Development Restaurant Liquor License for premises located at 1803 Markley Street, Norristown, PA 19401

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Resolution 22-56. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-62 granting Preliminary Land Development Plan approval to PROSOV, LLC for 325 units of multi-family development at Kennedy Kenrick: 1920 Dekalb Pike PARID: 13-00-09848/TMID: 13119007, 250 Johnson Highway PARID: 13-00-17824-00-1/TMID: 13119012, 1910 ARCH STREET paid: 13-0017564-00-9/TMID: 13144 b040, Norristown, PA

Sarah Peck, Developer, presented a Power Point highlighting floor plans for the apartments, townhomes, homes for sale, row homes and clubhouse, landscaping requirements and the steps to be taken after Preliminary Land Development Plan approval.

Solicitor Kilkenny suggested going through the Waivers with Council with comments about each from Ted Dymtryk, Municipal Engineer.

After the reading of the Waivers (including those provided but not read) and the responses from the Engineer, Solicitor Kilkenny asked Mr. Dymtryk if he had any objections to what is contained Resolution 22-62. He did not.

Solicitor Kilkenny asked Ms. Peck if she had any objections about what is contained in Resolution 22-62. Ms. Peck responded that she did not have any objections but wanted to confirm that the language in the September 8th Comment Letter pertaining to “prior to final approval,” be included. Solicitor Kilkenny confirmed there was no objection to that.

Councilwoman Smith asked about the time frame for the project. Councilman Jones suggested Town Hall Meetings to get the information out to the public. Council Vice President Lewis asked about the buffer between this development and the one next to it on Arch Street.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Resolution 22-62. **The motion passed 6-0.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 22-61 requesting Council to approve the Agreement for \$75,000 with Hanover Research Council to conduct organizational and structural leadership analysis of Municipal Operations

Council President Lepera shared what Council is looking for: a Structure Study and the Recreation Center Design. Councilman Jones added that Council needs to know how they’re doing, what’s lacking, what’s working?

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 22-61. **The motion passed 6-0.**

FIRE

Council discussion and consideration to advertise Ordinance 22-03: Sprinkler and Fire Extinguishing Systems Ordinance

Deputy Fire Chief Lockhart explained that buildings with 3 or more apartments are required to have sprinklers. He said that it is a 12 year phase-in program.

Councilman Queenan added that Norristown will be one of the first to enforce this.

Council President Lepera noted that Pennsylvania is the #1 leader in fire deaths.

Council had a discussion on how to implement this. It was suggested to target larger developments. Solicitor Kilkenny suggested being more indiscriminate.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to table this item until the next Council Meeting after more discussion before advertising. **The motion passed 6-0.**

POLICE

Approval to file and accept the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant for the purchase of a Municipal Camera System

Police Chief Wood explained that Council's approval and the signing off by the Municipal Administrator and Solicitor are needed to file and accept the PCCD Grant. He noted that the cameras will be placed in hot spot crime areas.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the filing of the PCCD Grant. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 22-60: Motion to approve the purchase and upfitting of (5) Ford Interceptor SUV Patrol Vehicles

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the purchase of (5) Ford Explorer Police Interceptor Hybrid SUVs that have been approved through the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) presented by the Police Department to replace (5) current fleet vehicles. **The motion passed 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to adjourn the Council meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council