

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

The Council Meeting of October 4, 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
Rashaad Bates	

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Chief Derrick Wood, Norristown Chief of Police; Lieutenant Michael Bishop, Norristown Police Department; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning/Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amanda Ciarlante, Assistant Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Minutes from September 20, 2022. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation honoring the historic 190th Anniversary of Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

Council President Lepera read the proclamation. He noted that the permanent home of the Church has been on Willow Street since 1915.

CIS Recognition plaque presentation to the Norristown Police Department

Michele from the Montgomery County Office of Mental Health commended the Norristown Police Department for making it a policy for the police to complete the 3-day Crisis Intervention Specialist Training Program. She read the plaque that was presented to the Police Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Photo ID Clinic – October 8th 10 am – Norristown Hospitality Center on Church Street.

“Confronting Trauma” – Friday, October 7th 10 am to 1 pm. Ltd. Michael Bishop is one of the presenters. Location: Kingdom Builders Deliverance Ministries, 810 East Marshall Street. Register by email, phone or Eventbrite.com.

“Pitching for Unity Softball” – Eisenhower Middle School, Saturday, October 15th 12 pm to 4 pm - \$20 due by October 3rd. Contact Phyllis Mason 610-272-7480 or Police Chief Wood.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Percy Thompson, 205 E. Wood Street – Mr. Thompson said he is still getting parking tickets on his street since the new apartments were occupied. He also complained about not seeing the lines in the street on Dekalb between Wood Street and Basin Street.

FIRE

Resolution 22-66: request for Municipal Council to approve a Resolution supporting a staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant

Crandall Jones noted that this will be sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the next round. Council Vice President Lewis said that she contacted State Representative Dean’s office for support.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to support the submittal of a SAFER Grant application. **The motion passed unanimously.**

POLICE

Resolution 22-65: request for Council to approve the promotions of Police Officer Andrew Bixler and Detective Louis Geiser to Police Corporal

Chief Wood stated that these promotions will “fill voids and boost morale.”

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 22-65. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a swearing-in ceremony by Judge Phillips. Officer Geiser was accompanied by his wife and baby and Officer Bixler was accompanied by his mother and girlfriend.

FINANCE

Resolution 22-67: approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to be budgeted for the Police, Fire and Non-Uniform Pension Plans for Fiscal Year 2023

Kathy Pfister shared that the total for the non-uniform pension plan is \$3,247,838.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Resolution 22-67. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 22-59: request Council to approve an agreement for purchase of Document Management Services and Laserfiche Software from Scantek in the amount of \$310,688.50

Crandall Jones stated this was put into the budget last year. He also explained that coded and documented records are better for Right-to-Know requests.

Mr. Jones presented a Power Point listing all the files and documents that are being stored in boxes and information regarding Scantek which included the security measures they provide.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 22-59 to enter into an agreement with Scantek. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Council approval of a waiver of the Noise Ordinance to allow for limited early hours work at the Justice Center construction site

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve two large concrete pours scheduled for September 28 and September 30 2022, starting at 5 am. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Departmental Reports

Monthly Updates to Council on the August 2022 activities within the presenting Departments.

Finance

Kathy Pfister noted that Council was provided with the Budget Variance Report for year-to-date August 2022. She said that the EIT was higher - \$500,000 - which helps to offset the fuel and

maintenance costs of the heavy duty equipment. She noted they are on track to be within budget with the support of ARPA funds.

Planning

Jayne Musonye presented a Power Point highlighting the current Economic Development Projects in the Municipality which included the State Hospital, Main & Dekalb Streets Mixed-Use Development, Montgomery Park Senior Housing Phase III, Arbor Knoll Townhomes, Housing Rehab Program, Von C Brewing, 257 East Main Street, Elmwood Park Zoo improvements, Royal Farms with carwash, Benjamin Court, 1421 Green Valley Road, 1417 and 1419 Green Valley Road, 15 and 17 East Fornance Street, 26-36 West Wood Street, 820 Thomas Street, 1437 Dekalb Street, Curren Terrace, Stinson Hall, Sandy Hill, Montgomery County Justice Center, Kennedy-Kenrick High School Redevelopment, Lafayette Street Project, Markley Street Reconstruction Project Phase II, King of Prussia High Speed Line, Arch Street Greenway Project Phase I.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council