

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022

The Council Work Session of October 18, 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; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning/Municipal Development; Sean Turner, Assistant Director of Planning; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amanda Ciarlante, Assistant Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2022 Council Meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Council President Lepera announced that Council met in **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss litigation matters.

ANNOUNCEMENT

"Trunk or Treat" at the Norristown Recreation Center on Monday, October 31st. Erica Genuardi, Recreation Director, shared that there was a donation of 250 coats from Auto Dealers of America, sizes 2T up to Youth Large (16-18) that will be distributed.

Open House for the Montgomery County “Junction House” at Dekalb & Lafayette Streets, Saturday, October 22nd from 11 am to 1 pm. There will be public input to find out what the community would like it to be.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters passed out “Town” playbills to each Council member. He commented that the High School students need to see this show and that he spoke with the Superintendent to talk about funding for this. He also commented about the flooding roads that lead to Einstein Hospital. He said he has some ideas and will use his military status to get help.

He shared there will be a “Ida - Unmet Needs” meeting on October 27th at 10:00 at the Human Services Building.

FINANCE

Resolution 22-70: requiring the appointed Tax Collector to waive additional charges for Real Estate Taxes where Notice of the Real Estate Taxes was not received beginning in Tax Year 2023

Kathy Pfister, Finance Director, explained that if a property is transferred in the last 12 months and it can be proven that a bill was not received the fines and penalties can be waived. She added that this action follows State Law and needs to be passed by a Resolution.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve Resolution 22-70. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FIRE

Motion to advertise Ordinance 22-04 of 2022 regulating the use of consumer fireworks

Chief O'Donnell noted there have been many complaints from the community about the use of fireworks and it has become a quality-of-life issue for many. He read some of the highlights of the Ordinance and said this Ordinance is made possible through Act 74 of 2022.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approval advertisement of Ordinance 22-04. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Lt. Bishop said that the Police Department uses the Municipal PIO to get the message out to the community.

Resolution 22-64: approving amendments to Norristown Civil Service Rules and Regulations

Chief O'Donnell stated there are changes in the physical agility testing language.

Resolution 22-64. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 22-63: approving a vehicle lease between the Municipality of Norristown and the Fairmount Engine Co. #2

Chief O'Donnell explained that the Fairmount Engine Co. #2 owns a 2013 Chevrolet Utility Vehicle that Norristown uses for Municipal incidents. He added that the Resolution was prepared by the Solicitor's office.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Resolution 22-63. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

A motion to authorize the Municipal Solicitor to commence legal action against the owner of 701 Stergiere Street to remove encroaching property from land owned by the Municipality of Norristown

Crandall Jones explained that the property owner did not respond after being contacted and the Solicitor's office send a letter that was not responded to. He noted that it's now time for legal action.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve taking legal action by the Municipal Solicitor. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 22-71: approve the disposal of Municipal Surplus Equipment by Online Auction

There was a motion by **Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 22-71 selling the Municipality's surplus Cummins generator valued over \$2,000 for public auction on Municipal's website to make room for new a generator. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Tax Assessment appeal decision for 658 Linda Lane and 730 Astor Street

Crandall Jones explained that the Municipality will do more due diligence and come back before Council.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to table this item. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Presentation of the proposed 2023 Municipality of Norristown Operating Budget

Crandall Jones noted there is no action required by Council. He conducted a Power Point presentation which included an Overview and Input of goals, revenue gap, potential strategies, preliminary budget estimate, budget trend, balancing options, reducing expenses, taxes, ARPA funds. He said there are 3 key dates: Public Meetings – October 24, November 9 and November 21. There will be a potential Final Adoption of the 2023 Budget at the December 6th Council Meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Resolution 22-68: Seeking Council's authorization for the submission of the application for the DCNR Grant Supplemental Round for the Masterplan Development of Elmwood Park

Erica Genuardi stated that this helps low-income parks. The \$100,000 3-year Grant has a 20% match. The application is due by October 27, 2022 and the award date would be by December 2022.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve the application submission for the DCNR Grant. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Elmwood Park Zoo seeking Council support for granting relief by the Zoning Hearing Board from Ordinance requirements limiting impervious surface coverage in the Recreation District

Director Jayne Musonye introduced Al Zone who conducted a Power Point presentation highlighting the impervious coverage for the Elmwood Park Zoo. He noted that the current 16.4% coverage would increase to 17.44% with the proposed development. He stated that the Zoning Hearing Board approved this and he is now seeking Council's support.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to send a letter of support to the Zoning Hearing Board for the increased impervious coverage. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 22-69: The Municipality of Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, certifying PROSOV, LLC's Multi-family Residential Complex Development Project at 1920 Dekalb Pike, 1910 Arch Street and 250 E. Johnson Highway as eligible for a reduction in the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority's Sewer System Tapping Fee

Sarah Peck, Partner, PROSOV, explained that Council offered incentives to make the project possible and they are working on the Final Land Development application. She will present to the Norristown Municipal Water Authority next.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve Resolution 22-69, certifying PROSOV's LLC Project, also known as the "Kennedy Kenrick project" as eligible for a reduction in the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority's Sewer System Tapping Fee. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seeking Council's feedback on the proposal to amend the Sign Ordinance Assessment Fee to exclude Historical Markers

Jayne Musonye noted there are 12 to 20 Historical Markers in the Municipality and the charge is \$15 up to 20 square feet. Councilman Jones mentioned there are Community Churches that have signs.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the amendment of the Sign Ordinance Assessment Fee to exclude Historical Markers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council