

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The Council Work Session of November 15, 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
Tiffany Hendley	

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Lieutenant Michael Bishop, Norristown Police Department; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Richard Lockhart, Norristown Deputy Fire Chief; Sean Turner, Assistant Planning Director; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks and Recreation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2022 Council Meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Norristown Winter Holiday Fair – December 10th 3 to 8 pm, Fair and Carnival and December 11th 1 to 6 pm, Fair and Ice Skating, Airy & Dekalb Streets – rides, games, food trucks, music and much more.

Oak Street Indoor Winter Basketball – now open to Boys and Girls Grades 3 to 8.

“Feeding Those In Need” – Carver Center – Wednesday, November 23rd from 12 to 4 pm. Hot meals and hygiene products will be given to the homeless.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Watters, Mr. Watters explained that the Power Grid has been cleaned up and he handed out information about the Power Pole. He said that PECO needs to fix everything so that Norristown is a safe and clean town. He also noted that the making of the show “Town” is available to view.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Discussion with Municipal Council on the timeline and evaluation criteria for upcoming request for proposals for a Master Developer for conveyed State Hospital Grounds property

Rebecca Swanson, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority, explained that the Redevelopment Authority is the owner for legal purposes but Municipal Council decides how to proceed with proposals.

Ms. Swanson explained the process which includes public and developer input. She suggested to be as broad as possible and to set parameters for what is wanted and not wanted. She said there will be an economical impact regarding hires and financials. She noted that the process includes sending out the Request for Proposals, Site visits, Q&A with the developers and the submission deals. She said that the RFPs should be ready in mid-December and will be presented to Council.

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Public Hearing and Resolution 22-76 of the Council of the Municipality of Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, to consider approving the application of Cerones Management, Inc. for a new economic development restaurant liquor license for premises located at 1700 Markley Street, Suite 10, Norristown, PA 19401.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to open the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Solicitor Kilkenny submitted the exhibits which were: M1 application for the liquor license, M2 newspaper advertisement, M3 copy of Resolution.

Salvatore Gambone, representative for the applicant, was present. Daniel Cerone, applicant, was sworn in by the County Court Reporter.

Mr. Cerone explained that the business was formerly located at 1719 Markley Street and he wants to move it to 1700 Markley Street for more space. He also requested a liquor license.

Solicitor Kilkenny posed questions to Mr. Cerone regarding the business. Mr. Cerone provided the business hours and said there is guitar music on Saturday and Sunday.

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

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the application of Cerones Management, Inc. for a new economic development restaurant liquor license for premises located at 1700 Markley Street, Norristown, Pa. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 22-77: Authorizing the submission of a Grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting \$500,000 in Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment Grant Funding.

Sean Turner explained that this is a request for additional funding and added there are currently 8 assessments underway.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve the solicitation of \$500,000 in funding from the U.S. EPA's Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment Grant to perform environmental reviews of identified sites for the purpose of remediation and reuse planning. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Present proposed FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects and request authorization to advertise a Public Hearing for December 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Sean Turner provided financial information about the CDBG projects. He noted there are expiring funds from HUD, active balances from the Property Owner-Occupied project and Technical Support and proposed budget amounts for the Small Business Assistance and the Main Street Economic Development Initiative. Other programs include Section 108 and Administration.

Mr. Turner explained that based on the 2022 Budget, this information and a Public Hearing need to be advertised.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to advertise the Proposed FY 2023 CDBG Projects Budget and to advertise a Public Hearing for December 1, 2022 at 6 pm. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCE

Ordinance 22-06: approval to advertise appointment of Portnoff as Solicitor for Collection and Fee Schedule

Kathy Pfister noted that fees for collecting delinquent trash fees need updating.

There was a **motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 22-06 approving the appointment of Portnoff as Solicitor, Interest assessment and a revised schedule of Attorney and collection fees. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FIRE

Request for Council to approve Ordinance 22-04 of 2022 regulating the use of consumer fireworks

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Ordinance 22-04. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUILDING & CODES ENFORCEMENT

Historical Architectural Review Board – October 2022

Amrinder Singh requested approval for HARB applications for the following properties located in the Historic District that are in compliance with the Ordinance:

31 E. Jacoby 806 Dekalb Street 808 Dekalb Street

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the HARB applications. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council