

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023

The Council Re-Organization Meeting was called to order by Council President, Thomas Lepera, at 6:00 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	Tiffani Hendley
Hakim Jones	Dustin Queenan
Rashaad Bates	Heather Lewis
	Thomas Lepera

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Esq., Office of Sean Kilkenny; Lieutenant Michael Bishop, Norristown Police Department; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager; Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks and Recreation

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ELECTION OF 2023 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Nominations/Vote for Vice President of 2023 Council

Councilman Lepera nominated Councilwoman Lewis for Vice President of 2023 Council. There was a second by Councilman Queenan. Council President Lepera asked if there were any other nominations for Vice President. There were none.

Councilwoman Hendley nominated Councilman Lepera for President of 2023 Council. There was a second by Council Vice President Lewis. Council President Lepera asked if there were any other nominations for President. There were none.

Oath of Office to Vice President of 2023 Council

Councilwoman Lewis was sworn in by Judge Roberts with Councilman Queenan holding the Bible.

Oath of Office to President of 2023 Council

Councilman Lepera was sworn in by Judge Roberts with Councilman Jones holding the Bible.

Remarks from incoming Council President

Councilman Lepera expressed his thanks for the accomplishments of the past year. He said he tried to be transparent with him and the Council VP as a team. He said he intends to do the same and he is glad to lead everyone into the next year. He said it was an honor to serve with Council Vice President Lewis.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 23-01: Reappointment of Professional Staff for 2023

Crandall Jones provided the names of the professionals and staff that will serve in various capacities within the Municipality of Norristown.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 23-01. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2023

The Norristown Council Meeting of January 3, 2023 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.

The following Council members were in attendance:

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

Also in attendance were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Lieutenant Bishop, Norristown Police Department; Patrick Hitchens, Esq., Office of Sean Kilkenney; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager; Erica Genardi, Director of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2022 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Hendley shared that she was one of 59 passengers who took a bus to witness the swearing-in of State Representative Gregory Scott in the Capitol Building.

Councilman Jones announced that he will be resigning on January 5, 2023 to pursue another career. He shared that he feels blessed and thankful for the last 7 years as a Council member. He thanked the staff and the other Council members for helping him to grow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – He said he found a suitcase dating back to 1991 containing a magazine with information about boats that were utilized on Haws Avenue. He said there was a constant dumping of coal silt. He said the Riverfront area was transformed by the Norristown Boat Club. Mr. Watters said he would like to rewrite history. He also said that he has the Special Flood Hazard Report from 1976. He also wanted to know the status of the speed bumps for Basin & Locust. He said he will get information from the Municipal Administrator's Assistant.

Anthea Lett, West Basin Street- She asked for an update about speed hump installation on West Basin Street between Powell and Swede streets. She has yet to receive a response back on her inquiries to municipal officials. Her contact information was left with the Public Information Officer.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 23-04: Appointments to various Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions

Crandall Jones provided names for the various Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions including a re-appointment to the Shade Tree Committee; William Caldwell, Human Relations Committee and Matthew Light, Code Appeals Committee.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Jones, to approve Resolution 23-04. **The motion passed unanimously.**

POLICE

Resolution 23-02: Request for Council to approve the promotions of Lieutenant Michael Bishop to Police Captain and Sergeant James Angelucci to Police Lieutenant.

There was a motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to approve Resolution 23-02. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Administration of Oath of Office for Police Captain and Police Lieutenant promotions

Michael Bishop was surrounded by several family members as he was sworn in as Police Captain by Judge Roberts.

James Angelucci was accompanied by his wife holding the Bible as he was sworn in as Police Lieutenant by Judge Roberts.

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Request adoption of Ordinance 22-08 for the FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Proposed Budget

Jayne Musonye provided the dollar amounts of the projects financed through the Grant.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to adopt Ordinance 22-08. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Ordinance 22-10: Request for Council to approve an amendment to Chapter 133, Article I titled, "Responsible Contractors."

Solicitor Patrick Hitchens explained that this replaces the old RCO with more clarification regarding Worker Protection and an increased Penalty Fee for non-compliance. This request also includes a Resolution that explains why the changes are necessary.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Ordinance 22-10 and the Resolution explaining the changes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 23-03: Resolution authorizing the Award of a Contract in the amount of \$72,185 plus travel to the Center for Public Safety Management, LLC to provide a Comprehensive Analysis of Police Services for the Municipality of Norristown.

Crandall Jones explained that this Resolution includes an assessment of the Police Department and a search for a new Police Chief. The assessment will address the needs of the Department with a data-driven forensic analysis to determine such issues as what's driving overtime and determining appropriate staffing. Mr. Jones said there will be a Final Report after 105-135 days and Council will have 30 days to review it so they can choose a candidate that can meet the requirements.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Monthly updates to Council on the December 2022 activities within presenting Departments.

Finance

Kathy Pfister said that the Bond for Municipal renovations was received. She shared highlights of the 2022 Budget Status. Council Vice President Lewis asked if the ARPA funds were received from the County for the Recreation Center and was told they were not. Crandall Jones commented that the team is getting ready.

Planning

Jayne Musonye told Council that the 68 acres conveyance of the State Hospital grounds went through. Request for Proposals have been sent out. The developer for the Kennedy Kenrick project was approved for Final Land Development. The Escrow deposit for the Main & Cherry project was completed. The 157 West Farnance Street and 200 Logan Street projects are underway.

Recreation

Erica Genuardi provided a Power Point presentation. She said that the Riverfront project is complete which includes a gate, re-striping, greenery, ADA and regulation paved sidewalks and they are working on the pavilion. Crandall Jones said there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Erica added that upgrades are being completed at Simmons Park. She provided renderings of the Bartash and McCann Parks with proposed playground equipment. Councilwoman Lewis asked if there could be more variety and options in the parks as far as playground equipment with Council and community input. She added that the Norristown Recreation Department congratulated the Middle School League Champions on a billboard.

ADJOURNMENT

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo