

NORRISTOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Work Session of March 21, 2023 was called to order by Councilwoman Rebecca Smith at 6:30 PM in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23, 2 West Lafayette Street, 1st Floor, Norristown, PA.

There was a **Moment of Silence** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present:

Rebecca Smith
Rashaad Bates
Tiffany Hendley
Dustin Queenan

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Acting Police Chief Michael Bishop; Fire Chief Thomas O'Donnell; Sean Turner, Assistant Planning Director; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Erica Genuardi, Director of Parks & Recreation.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Minutes from the March 7, 2023 Council Meeting. **The motion passed 4-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Councilwoman Smith announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Applications are being accepted for the Norristown Artist Residency Program for the upcoming season with a stipend of \$3,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters said there was a newspaper article regarding the train crash in Ohio and Governor Shapiro of PA's lack of concern for the safety of the Norfolk Southern train line. Mr. Watters said he is concerned with the protection of our drinking water. He said there should be a safety inspection of the train cars. He also said he tried to report to PennDOT a State Road situation where he dialed Webster's office with a question about Whitehall Road and whose liability it is.

Jessica Duffy, 1704 Harding Blvd. – She asked what the plans are for the Elmwood Park Zoo as far as mitigation for flooding and stream re-direction. She asked about their plans for the animals if it floods. She also asked if there was some compensation to the neighbors for taking public spaces.

The Clerk of Council read a letter from Robin Parker, Director/Head Coach, Dragon Boat Club. The letter requests Council's consideration for an Adaptive Sports Program in Norristown. She also asked about getting an adaptive volleyball program started.

POLICE

Resolution 23-20: Request for Council to approve payment of \$29,610.00 to Integrated Security Solutions, LLC

Chief Bishop explained that a community camera project would entail all cameras being integrated to the Police Station where they can monitor them. He said there is a 50% down payment and 50% payment when the project is completed.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Resolution 23-20 to begin a site survey for a community camera project for the Municipality of Norristown. **The motion passed 4-0.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Request for Municipal Council approval of Assessment Appeal Stipulation agreed upon by the Norristown Area School District

Crandall Jones explained that the Norristown Area School District usually takes the lead with re-assessments. He noted that this case would result in a \$1600 tax revenue increase to the Municipality. The property is 501 Swede Street, Norristown.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Assessment Appeal Stipulation agreed upon by the NASD for 501 Swede Street. **The motion passed 4-0.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Presentation of Public Transit Survey & Analysis

Sean Turner, Assistant Planning Director, presented a Power Point highlighting the results of the Public Transit Survey which involves the use of the regular rail trolley and bus routes. He noted that SEPTA wants to expand to a broader ridership.

He said the survey took place from May 17, 2022 to July 1, 2022 and 115 responses were received. He noted that 77% of the respondents were under the age of 45 and that 64% don't consider public transportation their main form of travel and 79% have access to a car. The statistics showed that most preferred the trolley and the least preferred was transportation by car only.

The other issues surveyed were ease of movement, locating stops and stations, distance to stops and stations, accurate schedules and availability and frequency.

He said that SEPTA plans to engage with Council in the future.

Ordinance 23-02: Request authorization to advertise Ordinance 22-02 for the amendment to Chapter 320 Zoning of the Municipal Code to include "Master Plan" section requiring the submission and approval of a land development Master Plan by Council

Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor, explained that this pertains to large-scale development and applies to five (5) Zoning Districts.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 22-02 for the amendment to Chapter 320 Zoning of the Municipal Code to include "Master Plan" section requiring the submission and approval of a land development Master Plan by Council. **The motion passed 4-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to adjourn the Council Work Session. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council