

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2023

The Work Session of April 18, 2023 was called to order by Council Vice President, Heather Lewis, at 6:30 PM in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23, 2 West Lafayette Street, 1st Floor, Norristown, PA 19401.

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

The following Council members were in attendance:

Rebecca Smith
Rashaad Bates
Lauren Hughes
Tiffany Hendley
Dustin Queenan
Heather Lewis

Also in attendance were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Acting Chief Michael Bishop, Norristown Police Department; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering; 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 Smith, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Minutes of the April 4, 2023 Council Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Vice President Lewis announced that Council did not meet in Executive Session.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by District Attorney Kevin Steele on ShotSpotter Technology and a potential safety project partnership with the Municipality

Mr. Steele presented a Power Point highlighting "Gun Violence Reduction Strategies." He noted that a grant was applied for that also includes Pottstown. He explained the specific details of the technology that provides information of the shot location, the event and audio. He added that the grant ends in two years.

Spring 2023 Citizens Leadership Academy Certificate Presentation

Kevin Tustin, Public Information Officer, presented certificates of completion to 8 participants in the Spring 2023 class of the 9th Cohort of the Citizens Leadership Academy.

Blazin' Body Fitness ARPA Funding request presented by Blayne Pierce

Mr. Pierce presented a Power Point which highlighted his ask from Council for more funding needed for additional equipment, for digital advertising and a need for a part-time employee position.

Theatre Horizon ARPA Funding request presented by Gilberto Vega

There was a Power Point with information about an "Initiative for the Arts Program for schools," "Theatre Productions, "Theatre for Young Audiences Initiative," Residency and a field trip to Theatre Horizon. The presenter said that funding would allow the Theatre Horizon to impact the students involved in the Arts.

Montgomery County Library ARPA Funding request presented by Karen DeAngelo

Ms. DeAngelo informed Council that the Library received a \$15 million grant from the County to renovate the building over a 2-year period. She noted that the inside of the building is up to Norristown. She is asking to create "The Hive" for teenagers that would include moveable furniture and a Teen Lab. She is also looking to have a Teen Advisory Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Norristown Legacy Meet 2023 – May 5, 2023, Norristown Area HS Track. There is online registration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherry Johnson, Beaver Hollow Road – Ms. Johnson said she lives near the river overlooking the bike path. She was part of a clean-up between Haws Avenue and Buttonwood Street. She praised Public Works for taking the trash that was collected. She told Council that there is a PECO property on the river that is a disaster due to an abandoned homeless camp. She asked Council to put pressure on PECO. She said she contacted the State Representatives and the EPA because she said it is a health hazard.

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters spoke of a bullying and anger management problem at the schools. He shared that he attended the School Board Meeting and there will not be a school tax increase. He said that the boarded-up properties are most likely the end result of seniors being overtaxed. He knows of 7 of these houses, including one at 513 Cherry Street. He said he will create a book. He added that he will go to the Board of Assessments to see who the owners are.

Darchelle – regarding Juneteenth. She said she spoke with Tracy who was in charge of the planning of Juneteenth last year. She said she hasn't received any information.

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 23-27: a Resolution of the Municipality of Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, amending Final Plan Approval Grant to PROSOV, LLC for the development of a Multifamily Residential Complex that includes 325 units at 1920 Dekalb Pike, 1910 Arch Street and 250 East Johnson Highway

Jayne Musonye explained that this amendment allows Land Development Phasing to occur concurrently. She added that the staff, including the Engineer and Solicitor, gives their approval.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the amendment of Resolution 22-86 allowing the phasing of the Kennedy-Kenrick Land Development project and phasing of posting escrow. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 23-28: Request Council approval to award a Construction Contract for Main Street Streetscape Phase IV to Marino Corporation in the amount of \$733,967

Jayne Musonye provided details.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the Intent to Award the Construction Contract to Marino Corporation, located in Skippack, PA, in the amount of \$733,967 for the construction of Phase IV of the Main Street Streetscape project. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 23-29: Authorizing a contract in the amount of \$45,000 with Retail Strategies to provide commercial retail recruitment services and support to the Municipality in order to recruit business to Norristown

Sarah Beth Thornton provided a Power Point covering topics such as retail strategies, data and analytics, retail estate analysis, universal site metrics, retail recruitment plan. She said they would report back to Norristown with their information.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Lewis**, to approve the award of a contract in compliance with Section 7-713 of the Home Rule Charter and Section 4-35(A)(6) of the Administrative Code which states, "All contracts in excess of \$21,000 shall be in writing and shall be awarded by Municipal Council, and the contract shall be executed by the Municipal Administrator." **The motion passed 6-0.**

FIRE

Resolution 23-19: Requesting Municipal Council to approve purchase of a 100' Ladder Truck in the amount of \$2,015,000 from Glick Fire Equipment to replace an existing 31-year old ladder truck

Chief O'Donnell presented a Power Point showing a tractor-drawn aerial of a Tiller Ladder Truck made for tight areas.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the purchase of a 100' Ladder Truck in the amount of \$2,015,000 from Glick Fire Equipment. **The motion passed 6-0.**

POLICE

Resolution 23-25: Motion to approve requests for Disabled Parking Spaces

Chief Bishop confirmed that Officer Crawford received the proper paperwork and medical clearances and inspections were done.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve the Handicapped Parking Spaces at 1106 Astor Street and 616 East Moore Street. **The motion passed 6-0.**

PARKS AND RECREATION

Resolution 23-26: Requesting Municipal Council to approve the purchase of park amenities and a park pavilion in the amount of \$70,000 of ARPA Funding to finish Phase 1 of Riverfront Park Redevelopment Project

Erica Genuardi presented a Power Point showing some of the park amenities such as grills, benches, pedestal tables and a pavilion.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the use of \$70,000 in ARPA Funding to finish Phase 1 of Riverfront Park Redevelopment Project. **The motion passed 6-0.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Ordinance 23-03: Request of Municipal Council to approve a Franchise Renewal Agreement with Comcast

Crandall Jones noted that the grant is for \$42,000 paid in 2 payments – a down payment and a 5-year payment. He added there was a Company Equity Provision and free cable to the Municipal and School facilities.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Ordinance 23-03 approving the renewal of the Municipality's Franchise Agreement with Comcast. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 23-30: Requesting Municipal Council approval of an agreement in the amount of \$18,000 plus related travel expenses, with the Center for Public Safety Management for execution of a Police Chief search for the Municipality

Crandall Jones explained that the agency will conduct an assessment and there will be data analysis that will be categorized. He said the next step is to come to Norristown to interview personnel and speak with the community regarding what they need. He noted that assessment panels as well as professionals can put together profiles about the candidates so a decision can be made as to who should be interviewed so the finalists can be chosen. He said he will bring the information back to Council.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve an agreement with the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) to conduct the Police Chief search for the Municipality. **The motion passed 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo