

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, February 6, 2024 was called to order by Council President, Thomas Lepera, at 6:30 PM in Municipal Hall Chambers, 235 East Airy Street, Norristown, PA.

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

The following Council members were in attendance:

Rebecca Smith
Tiffani Hendley
Lauren Hughes
William McCoy
Dustin Queenan
Thomas Lepera

Also in attendance were:

Municipal Administrator, Crandall Jones; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Police Chief Jacqueline Bailey-Davis; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager; Bri'Ana Hawkins, Recreation Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2024 Council Work Session. **The motion passed 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Lepera announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to the Council Meeting to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Vice President Queenan announced that it is Councilwoman Hendley's birthday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Watters, Norristown – Mr. Watters noted there have been 3 floods in 3 weeks. He said there was a PUC Hearing regarding a rate increase. He noted the waterways are 50 years old and that our streams are the foulest in the state. He added that information from the Port Indian Association shows a chart to prove flooding issues. He said that the DEP didn't do its job, there were constitutional violations and there was no jurisdiction to stop pollution.

John Hewitt, 307 W. Roberts Street – Mr. Hewitt said he has a homelessness and drug comment directed to Crandall Jones and Police Chief Bailey-Davis. He was directed to speak with the Chief after the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 24-15: Request for Council to approve appointments to Boards, Committees and Commissions

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator, noted that Mr. Buck Jones was appointed to the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority for a term ending 12/31/28.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve Resolution 24-15. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 24-13: Request for Council to approve the promotions of Officer Joey Bianchimano to the rank of Police Corporal and Corporal Edward Rambo to the rank of Police Sergeant and Administration of Oath of Office

Chief Bailey-Davis introduced Edward Rambo as a 28-year veteran, serving as both Patrol Officer and Community Relations Officer.

Judge Hakim Jones performed the administration of the Oath of Office for Edward Rambo to the rank of Police Sergeant.

Judge Hakim Jones also performed the administration of the Oath of Office for Joey Bianchimano to the rank of Police Corporal.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve Resolution 24-13. **The motion passed 6-0.**

POLICE

Resolution 23-78: request for Council to approve the updated Fee Schedule for parking enforcement

Chief Bailey-Davis said that this will change the way parking tickets are processed. She noted it will reduce personnel hours and provide more street enforcement. She explained some of the details and how the tickets are processed.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve Resolution 23-78. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 24-12: request for Council to approve the Collections Service Agreement with UpSafety, Inc.

Chief Bailey-Davis explained this will provide more access to the violators.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve Resolution 24-12 which should decriminalize the Parking Ticket, reduce the amount of time Officers are monitoring Norristown's thruways, reduce the total cost for the parking violation and increase the total revenue collected. **The motion passed 6-0.**

BUILDINGS & CODES COMPLIANCE

Historical Architectural Review Board – January 2024

Amrinder Singh noted that 2 applications were received, reviewed and recommended for approval by the HARB for January 2024. The addresses are:

507 George Street
1213 Dekalb Street

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the HARB applications for January 2024. **The motion passed 6-0.**

FINANCE

Resolution 24-14: Purchase of Bulk Electricity

Kathy Pfister explained that bids were solicited for energy providers which was narrowed down to the 3 lowest. She provided a Power Point highlighting the current contract and renewal recommendations as well as the next steps. She noted that the contract needs to be signed by 3 pm tomorrow.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve Resolution 24-14 to authorize the Municipal Administrator to enter into a contract on behalf of the Municipality for the purchase of approximately 3 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually for up to 48 months, provided the rate per kilowatt hour is 6.7 cents or less. **The motion passed 6-0.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Motion for Council to approve Livestreaming of Council Meetings scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month

Crandall Jones explained that he has found from experience that it would be better if Council made a motion to approve the Livestreaming.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve Livestreaming of Council Meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Resolution 24-16: request Council approval for payment of \$135,000 to Cedar Electric for Closeout Labor Costs related to the Municipal Hall Renovation Project

Mr. Jones noted that recommendation is suggested for the extended labor hours.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 24-16 for a payment request to Cedar Electric in the amount of \$135,000 for additional labor cost incurred to complete the electrical work at Municipal Hall. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Request Council to approve the allocation of \$1.3 million in ARPA Funding to the Final Phase of the Sawmill Culvert Repair Project and initiating the bid process for repairs to Sawmill Culvert at an estimated cost of \$1,552,338.

Mr. Jones explained that there are infrastructure issues to be dealt with and if this is approved, there will be a Resolution at a later Council meeting.

There was a **motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the allocation of funding and to move forward with the bid process for Phase III repairs of the Sawmill Culvert at an estimated cost of \$1,522,338 to the Municipality. The repairs to the existing building and parking lot are required to preserve the structural integrity of the building per the attached engineering report. **The motion passed 6-0.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution 24-11: Award Letter to Pine Run Construction Corporation

Mr. Jones noted that an approval will be for an updated estimate.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Queenan**, to approve Resolution 24-11 for an Award Letter to the apparent low bidder, Pine Run Construction Corporation, for the bid amount of \$62,000.00 for an underground storage tank (UST) removal as directed by the DEP. **The motion passed 6-0.**

Motion of Council to extend Mascaro's contract for Residential, Recycle and Municipal Solid Waste Collection for another 2 years (2024, 2025), commencing April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2026. The total cost of the contract is \$8,363,844.00.

President Lepera commented that Mascaro has been doing a good job for the last 3 years.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to extend the Residential, Recycle and Municipal Solid Waste Collection Contract to Mascaro from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026. **The motion passed 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo