

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2024

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 5, 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
Rashaad Bates
Tiffani Hendley
Lauren Hughes
William McCoy
Dustin Queenan
Thomas Lepera

Also in attendance were:

Acting Municipal Administrator, Fire Chief Thomas O'Donnell; 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; Richard Lockhart, Assistant Fire Chief; Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager; Bri'Ana Hawkins, Recreation Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2024 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

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

PRESENTATIONS

Pennsylvania American Water presentation by Senior Manager, Government and External Affairs, Kara C. Rahn

Ms. Rahn, along with the Engineer and Construction Superintendent, presented a Power Point highlighting details about the American Water and PA American Water company, noting it is the largest investor-owned water and wastewater company in the Commonwealth. The presentation covered items such as Operations, Water Quality Awards, Water System Overview, new technology such as Leak Loggers, Investment totals, Infrastructure Updates and Future Projects such as upgrades of older mains

and Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacement. Ms. Rahn also mentioned Customer Assistance Programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Vice President Queenan announced that Jessie is available with headsets for Spanish translation.

2024 Special Events: June 19th – “Juneteenth Street Festival;” “July 4th Parade & Party in the Park;” August 11th – “Taste of Norristown – Back to School Bash;” October 31st – “Truck or Treat;” December 7th – “Winter Fair.”

“Biddy Basketball” – League starts May 6th, ages 5-7. Evaluations April 1st and 8th. Practices at 6 pm on April 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29. \$50 per child. Online registration only at Norristown.org.

“Spring League Basketball” - \$50 per player, online payments and register only at Norristown.org. Evaluations: April 2, 3, 9, 10. League dates: April 29 and June 4th. Ages 8-10, 11-13, 14-16. Evaluations and games at Eisenhower Middle School.

Citizens’ Leadership Academy – 6 to 8 pm on Thursdays from March 21 to May 9 in Norristown Municipal Hall. Contact the Public Information Officer at 610-270-0429 or email ktustin@norristown.org.

“Start the Path to Home Ownership” – Monday, March 25th from 5 to 7:30 pm. Hosted by Council Vice President Queenan at the Norristown Public Library.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Olivia Brady, Stanbridge Street – Ms. Brady commented that the 6-month time period that the County was given to put together an RFI for the former Prison site is not enough time and asked that it be extended.

Jim Watters, Hamilton Street – Mr. Watters had comments regarding Norristown Reservoir issues, pollution from inefficient stormwater treatment, 404 West Airy Street was cleaned up.

Anthony Uhrich, Rosemont Avenue – Mr. Uhrich commented to Chief O’Donnell about the disabled access point at Hartranft & Main Streets. He also mentioned, as he has done for over 5 years, about the need for a curb cut at Rosemont and Washington. He said it is a public safety concern.

Peggy Dellisanti, Bridgeport – She said she agrees that an extension is needed for the Prison RFI. She said there will be a benefit concert in April for the Laurel House by the “True Blue Band” sponsored by Rotation Records. She also asked for contact information about the Summer Concerts.

Cynthia Culbreath, 323 Bristol Avenue, Norristown – She read from a letter that she sent to Council following up on her request to rename the intersection of Coolidge and Brown Streets after Josh Culbreath, a hometown Olympian.

Patrick Monahan, Philadelphia – Mr. Monahan came to talk about the Circuit Trails Coalition, specifically, the Liberty Bell Trail from Upper Gwynedd to Norristown.

Jennie Cho, Barbados & Airy, Norristown – She asked, “How committed are you to making downtown Norristown safer?” She said there are issues all over but specified Main Street, Barbados Street, Markley Street, Airy Street and Marshall Street. She said there are many drifters. She said she is getting signatures for her petition. She also said that more cameras are needed in these areas.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 24-25: Request for Council to approve appointments to Boards, Committees and Commissions

Acting Municipal Administrator, Chief Thomas O’Donnell, noted there was an appointment to the Civil Service Commission.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 24-25. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUILDINGS & CODES COMPLIANCE

Historical Architectural Review Board – February 2024

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

558 Hamilton Street
701 Dekalb Street

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve the HARB applications for February 2024. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Department Update to Municipal Council

Amrinder Singh provided an update from the Building & Code Compliance 2023 Annual Report. He presented a Power Point. He also introduced Keith Gordon, Assistant Code Compliance Manager. The Power Point covered topics such as “Highlights from 2023,” “Updated Department Technology,” “7 Ordinance adoptions,” “Streamlined License Renewal Process,” “The Code Compliance Enforcement Team.” He noted the number of permits, inspections, violations, quick tickets, property transfers, rental licenses and inspections issued. He also commented on 2024 Department Goals.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo