

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, September 17, 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
William McCoy
Lauren Hughes
Dustin Queenan
Thomas Lepera

Also in attendance were:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Norristown Police Chief Jacqueline Bailey-Davis; Sean Turner, Assistant Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Richard Lockhart, Assistant Fire Chief.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2024 Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Lepera announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Vice President Queenan said that a Spanish translation of the Council meeting is available through headsets provided in the rear of the Chambers.

Dustin Queenan announced that donations are now being accepted for the Memorial Bandshell rebuild. He said there is a flyer on the table in the rear of the Chambers. For information contact: ktustin@norristown.org or 610-270-0429.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Yvonne Platts, 410 Arch Street, Norristown – Ms. Platts read her speech saying that there seems to be hostility towards the Chief of Police because of the removal of a personalized parking sign for the Chief. She said it “undermines her authority.” She quoted from the Bible and said she and others “will continue to stand” for her. She asked that the parking sign be returned in order to show respect to the Chief.

Susan Smith, 36 Hartranft Street, Norristown – She said that the tree she complained about before is still an issue. She said the people receive tickets for it and ignore them.

Colleen Keller – She suggested putting in a Butterfly Garden in Riverfront Park in memory of Robin Parker, Founder of the Dragon Boat Club.

Becky (Denise translated) – She thanked those who made the recent Festival a success and the Police support. She asked for support in the future.

BUILDINGS & CODE COMPLIANCE

HARB Certificates of Appropriateness

Mr. Gordon noted the following addresses submitted HARB applications and were approved:

626 West Airy Street
622 West Marshall Street
524 Dekalb Street
515 West Marshall Street
1333 Dekalb Street

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Hendley**, to approve the HARB applications. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 24-98: Request to destroy records

Mr. Gordon said there are records that have been in storage since the Municipal Building renovation and they can't be read.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to destroy the applicable records. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 24-92: Granting amended Land Development Approval for 1340-42 Markley Street

Sean Turner explained that revised plans were submitted on May 15, 2024 and there were 2 additional Waivers under SALDO.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve an amendment to Resolution 09-106 granting Final Land Development approval to Andre Diprinzio for Plans prepared by Irick Eberhardt Mientus, Inc. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Sean Turner said he will be providing information for 5 separate applications and that, under the LSA requirements, there is a separate Resolution for each proposed project.

Resolution 24-93: Authorizing the submission of a Grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) requesting \$1,000,000 in Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Funding for the Norristown Food Hall Project

Sean Turner explained that the applicant plans to complement the development in the area.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to authorize the submission of an LSA Grant application to DCED to complete the Norristown Food Hall project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 24-94: Authorizing the submission of a Grant application to the PA DCED requesting \$1,000,000 in LSA Grant funding for the Firehouse Consolidation Project

Sean Turner noted this would be used towards items such as additional office space and sleeping quarters.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to authorize the submission of an LSA Grant application to DCED to complete the Fire House Consolidation Project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 24-95: Authorizing the submission of a Grant Application to the PA DCED requesting \$1,000,000 in LSA Grant Funding for the Elmwood Park Recreation Center Project

Sean Turner said that a Master Plan will be conducted for multi-purpose fields including reducing the risk of flooding.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Council Vice President Queenan**, to authorize the submission of an LSA Grant Application to DCED to complete the Elmwood Park Recreation Center Project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 24-96: Authorizing the submission of a Grant Application to the PA DCED requesting \$150,000 in LSA Grant Funding for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan

Sean Turner explained that the Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2009 and is updated every 10-20 years.

There was a **motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to authorize the submission of an LSA Grant Application to DCED to complete the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 24-97: Authorizing the submission of a Grant Application to the PA DCED requesting \$150,000 in LSA Grant Funding for the “Fair Share” Housing Analysis

Sean Turner explained that this helps to evaluate supply and availability.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to authorize the submission of an LSA Grant Application to DCED to complete a “Fair Share” Housing Analysis. **The motion passed unanimously.**

POLICE

Ordinance 24-04: Four Stop Signs at the intersection of W. Roberts Street and Juniper Street

Police Chief Bailey-Davis noted this was advertised.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Queenan, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve the proposal by the Norristown Police Department to convert W. Roberts Street and Juniper Street to a 4-way stop. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to approve the receipt of Ceremonial Rifles

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hendley, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve a gift to the Norristown Police Department of Ceremonial Rifles from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive and Armaments Command for use at funeral ceremonies and other ceremonial purposes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 24-91: Request for Municipal Council to authorize a purchase in the amount of \$30,100.00 for Cellebrite Hardware and Software (40) Unlocks, and (2) Training Certifications

Police Chief Bailey-Davis explained that this helps with investigating crimes and apprehending offenders in a timely manner and it helps with uncovering DNA evidence.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the purchase of Cellebrite Hardware and Software (40) Unlocks and (2) Training Certifications for two individuals. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann Santangelo