

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2024

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, October 1, 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
William McCoy
Lauren Hughes
Justin Queenan
Thomas Lepera

Also in attendance were:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Norristown Police Chief Jacqueline Bailey-Davis; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Thomas O'Donnell, Fire Chief; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Council Vice President Queenan**, to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2024 Council Work Session Meeting. **The motion passed 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Navigating Medicare" – Oak Street Health will be at the Norristown Public Library to help through the maze of options. Wednesday, October 23rd from 2 pm to 3 pm.

"Homecoming Game" at Norristown High School on Friday, October 4th at 7 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Imani Terry, 410 Arch Street – She said that the Police Chief is being treated in an unjust way and that it is sexist that she does not have her own parking sign.

Jim Catagnus, Norristown – Mr. Catagnus said that this is the first year that the Feast Procession at Holy Saviour Parish did not have Police presence. He said it is a safety issue because the people will respect the Police Officer's directions. He said they almost couldn't have the Procession because of some parked cars. He said a Police Officer came but some of the cars' owners couldn't be found but they were not towed like they were told they would be.

Gretchen S., Norristown – She said it is disrespectful and disgraceful that the Police Chief doesn't have her own parking sign.

Sean Scharsig, Swede Street – He said there are still issues on Church Street near the Courthouse. He asked to be advised about what to do for this problem.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Motion to grant a limited Waiver from Section 133-3(11) of the Norristown Code of Ordinances to Spohn Ranch for the specialty concrete and related specialty work by Spohn Ranch technicians and employees for the Poley Park Skatepark Project.

Mr. Lightner said it is time to move forward with this.

There was a **motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the limited Waiver for the specialty concrete and related specialty work by Spohn Ranch technicians and employees for the Poley Park Skatepark Project. **The motion passed 6-0.**

FINANCE

Resolution 24-99: Request of Council for approval of the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to be budgeted for the Police, Fire, and Non-Uniform Pension Plans for the Fiscal Year 2025.

Kathy Pfister provided these MMO figures: Firefighters \$670,242.00, Labor \$106,132.00 and ICA \$80,332.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Municipality's Pension Plans. **The motion passed 6-0.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 24-88: Granting Final Plan Approval to MMPartners, LLC, and DAJ Main & Dekalb, LLC, for the development of a 7-story Mixed-Use Building at 69 East Main Street.

Solicitor Kilkenny said he had an opportunity to speak before the meeting with the applicant's Lawyer, Mark Kaplan, Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering. Mr. Kilkenny said that the applicant's Lawyer raised some concerns regarding Resolution 24-78, the Preliminary Land Development application and the Review Letter prior to the reading of the Plans.

Mr. Kilkenny added that the applicant is having some difficulty with financing due to the state of the real estate market. He said the applicant is concerned that banks may be looking for "clean" Review Letters. He said the applicant and engineers will go through the letter and take out any extraneous information and a new letter can be issued when all agree.

Mr. Kilkenny said another issue is regarding the Post Development Evaluation of Peak Traffic for impact on the site. Mr. Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering, said that will be addressed after the Post-Construction Traffic Analysis.

Mr. Kilkenny stated there were no other controversial comments from the Review Letter.

There were two Waivers (#7 and #8) that required attention. It was noted that these did not account for the topography of the property. Mr. Kilkenny said that the engineers will get together with the Administrator to agree on a reasonable Parks & Recreation Fee.

Mr. Kaplan had concerns with the Conditions already implemented in the Conditional Use Approval. Mr. Kilkenny said that he hasn't read it since it was drafted and he will take the time to have his office craft a Conditional Use Approval with relevant language.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 24-88 and the Waivers subject to the agreement of the modifications by the parties on the record this evening. **The motion passed 6-0.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police

The Police Chief presented a Power Point highlighting the "Goals, Objectives and Results." The categories were: Community Policing, Educate and provide resources to victims of crime, NPD 49 Victim Support Surveys, the NPD hosted and attended over 12 events, City Police Academy, Organizational Excellence, Proactive and Reactive strategies to reduce crime, Educate Police and Community on crime, August Statistics, YTD Statistics, Snapshot of major arrests which included 2 weapons offenses.

Fire

Fire Chief O'Donnell provided the details of his report: 120 incidents, average response time was 4 minutes, 26 seconds, Tuesday at 10 am was the busiest time, 1 Firefighter injury, 4 Civilian injuries, 58 Inspections, 21 Public Education classes. Year to date: 109 smoke detectors installed, 972 properties visited, 2,216 Service Hours, 4,342 Training Hours.

Incident: On September 10, 2024, 5 people were rescued from a burning home on Cherry Street.

Public Works

Mr. Odenigbo presented a Power Point. The heading was "Norristown Public Matrix for Daily Operations."

Upcoming Events: Leaf Collection October 21-December 9. Norristown Clean Sweep November 2, 2024 6am (9 locations.) An average of 50 Permit applications per month – 421 issued to date; Street Restoration Meeting with PA American Water & PECO, streets milled and overlayed from curb to curb. Potholes – 250 patched monthly with 1460 patched to date. Preparation for In-House Alley Paving, Crack Sealing using the new machine, Street Striping, Street Sweeping, Grass Cutting, Tree Trimming, Trash Collection, Big Belly Cans, Park Maintenance, Removal of old MLK Playground, Snow & Ice Control, Community Clean-Up Walk initiated by Municipal Administrator.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann Santangelo