

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Re-Organization Meeting of January 6, 2025 was called to order by Council President, Thomas Lepera, in Municipal Hall, 235 East Airy Street, Norristown.

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

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were in attendance:

Rebecca Smith
Rashaad Bates
William McCoy
Lauren Hughes
Mydera Robinson
Dustin Queenan
Thomas Lepera

Also in attendance:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Tom O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Keith Gordon, Building & Codes Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heather Lewis - Ms. Lewis made reference to the Home Rule Charter regarding Elections and questioned the process that Councilwoman Hughes used to announce her move to a position as Judge in the Court of Common Pleas. She asked that there be more transparency.

Councilwoman Hughes commented that she is in full compliance with the Rules regarding her Notice.

Gary Simpson – Mr. Simpson remarked that not all 13 candidates’ resumes were looked at or given an opportunity for an interview for the open Council position. He asked Council when they voted and said it should have been made public about what action was being taken.

Yvonne Platts – She said she has hope for the future and asked that the public be more involved. She said that tax dollars are being spent on the search for a new Police Chief and said that Council should work more with the people.

Council Vice President Queenan remarked about the issue of the validity of a meeting regarding choosing a new Council member. Solicitor Hitchens said an objection should not invalidate a meeting assuming the Charter Section 41.303.4a was taken into consideration. He said he will work with the Municipal Administrator and take a closer look.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of Vice President of Council

Councilman Lepera nominated Rashaad Bates for Vice President of Council.

Councilman McCoy nominated Dustin Queenan for Vice President of Council.

Councilman Lepera asked 3 more times if there were any more nominations.

There were no more nominations.

Results for Councilman Bates:

Rebecca Smith	yes
Rashaad Bates	yes
William McCoy	no
Lauren Hughes	yes
Mydera Robinson	yes
Dustin Queenan	no
Thomas Lepera	yes

Voting In favor 5-2.

Election of President of Council

Councilman Queenan nominated William McCoy for Council President.

Councilman Lepera nominated Rebecca Smith for Council President.

Councilman Lepera asked 3 times if there were any other nominations.

There were no other nominations.

Results for William McCoy:

Rebecca Smith	no
Rashaad Bates	no
William McCoy	no
Lauren Hughes	no
Mydera Robinson	no
Dustin Queenan	yes
Thomas Lepera	no

Voting not in favor 6-1.

Results for Rebecca Smith:

Rebecca Smith	yes
Rashaad Bates	yes
William McCoy	yes
Lauren Hughes	yes
Mydera Robinson	yes
Dustin Queenan	no
Thomas Lepera	yes

Voting in favor 6-1.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Judge Hakim Jones performed the swearing-in of Rashaad Bates who was joined by family members.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Judge Hakim Jones performed the swearing-in of Rebecca Smith who was joined by family members.

President Smith thanked her parents for their support and told the Council members and community members that they will work together.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk-of-Council

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025
MUNICIPAL HALL, 6:30 PM
235 EAST AIRY ST., NORRISTOWN

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting of January 6, 2025 was called to order by Council President, Thomas Lepera.

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

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were in attendance:

William McCoy
Lauren Hughes
Mydera Robinson
Dusting Queenan
Thomas Lepera
Rashaad Bates
Rebecca Smith

Also in attendance:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Municipal Development; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Lt. Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Keith Gordon, Building and Codes Manager; Tom O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the Minutes from the December 17, 2024 Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the Minutes from the January 2, 2025 Special Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Smith announced that Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Vice President Bates noted that State Representative will be sworn in tomorrow at 12 pm. Go to [PaHouse.com/Live](https://www.pa.gov/government/legislature/pa-house).

Council President Smith announced that there are Spanish translation headsets available in the back of the Chambers.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation recognizing Norristown Bengals Youth Football Team

President Smith read the Proclamation that honored the Bengals who placed 2nd nationally in the Pop Warner Division. President Smith read that January 7th will be recognized as "Norristown Bengals Football Team Day."

Presentation on implementing the Clean and Safe Program in designated Business Districts between the Municipality of Norristown and Norristown Chamber of Commerce

Municipal Administrator, Leonard Lightner, presented a Power Point about the Program. It covered topics such as, "What Could Your Program Look Like?", "How We Build Your Team", "Creating Ambassadors," "Block by Block Culture Club," "Operations," "Reporting."

The area to be cleaned was outlined on the slide presentation.

Mr. Lightner said that the Municipality can either be a partner or an organization can run it. He said there are available funds. He said he would like to partner with the Chamber of Commerce for a 2-year pilot program in order to collect data on how the business owners and the community respond. He said there is no written commitment from the

County. He recommended starting with a company that has run this kind of program before.

Councilman McCoy requested to table this item because there is no Police Chief but Mr. Lightner noted that this program wouldn't get going for 6 to 7 months.

Mr. Lightner suggested partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to run the program and allocate funds.

Councilwoman Robinson asked about the scope of the work involved.

Mr. Lightner said that the Ambassador would work 7 days a week and would also provide feedback and additional safety. He added that the Municipality does not have the means to run the program and that the initial investment would be \$300,000 from unallocated ARPA funds and it would be \$100,000 per year after the pilot program.

He said he receives calls regarding cleanliness in the town to attract new businesses.

Councilman Queenan asked about fund allocation. He asked how there was funding left if committed to projects. He suggested using people already working for the Municipality.

Presentation by Help A Single Parent Organization

Valerie Scott-Cooper and Gary Simpson came to the podium. Valerie noted that her son, Michael, started this organization 15 years ago. She said there is a "Community Day in the Park" every year. She said that the Norristown Police Department and the Norristown Fire Department help them. She said that her and Gary are here to present Commendations to them for their service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brad – He said that some people don't feel safe walking around Norristown. He said he hopes for a bright future and that they need uniformed Ambassadors.

Gary Simpson, former resident – He asked about the size of the "Block by Block" project and noted that the biggest cost would be the administrative costs. He said that "tabling" the item makes sense. He said until the facts are presented, he doesn't advise pushing it forward. He suggested making the project smaller.

John George, Five Saints Distillery – He said that if we work together, we can address issues and identify options. He said he is here to help.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to swear-in new Probationary Police Officer Justin Bates

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve swearing-in Justin Bates. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Judge Hakim Jones swore in Justin Bates who was joined by some family members.

Resolution 25-08: reappointment to various Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions

Jason Dennis was appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board and Amber Queen-Curnew was appointed to the Planning Commission.

There was **a motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Council Vice President Bates** to approve the appointments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 25-01: Appointment of Professionals for 2025

Leonard Lightner read the list of Professionals to be appointed for 2025.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve Resolution 25-01. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-02: Request for Municipal Council to approve a policy regarding allocation and expenditure of funds provided to Municipal Council

Solicitor Hitchens explained that this makes it easier to answer questions.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve Resolution 25-02. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Municipal Council to approve the Subrecipient Agreement between the Municipality of Norristown and the Norristown Chamber of Commerce to provide

and/or encumber American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to the Norristown Chamber of Commerce

There was **a motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to table this item. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request for Municipal Council to approve an agreement with PMT Consulting, LLC, for Parking Management Related Services

Mr. Lightner said this is for the placement of pay stations and residential parking.

There was **a motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve the agreement with PMT Consulting, LLC. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Public Hearing: request adoption of Ordinance 24-09 for the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposed budget

Director Musonye noted that the projects were advertised in the paper and on social media. The available budget is over \$247,000.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the adoption of Ordinance 24-09. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Request approval of the Five-Year (2025-2029) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Plan

Director Musonye provided the time line for the Plan including Public Hearings and advertisement of the Draft. She said that Housing is still a priority as well as Infrastructure.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve the Five-Year (2025-2029) Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan. **The motion passed unanimously.**

POLICE

Resolution 25-03: Request to purchase Uniforms from 911 SE

Lieutenant Angelucci said there is a need for the uniforms including 4 for Parking Enforcement and 11 new.

There was **a motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve Resolution 25-03 in the amount of \$73,816.75. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-06: Request to approve the purchase of ten (10) T2/Digital Payment Cosmo Pay Stations with Mag Swipe CC Terminal and one (1) year IRIS Management and Digital Data Communications from Integrated Technical Systems

Lt. Angelucci said that this is the 2nd phase of 4 phases for improved parking management.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-06. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-10: request of Municipal Council to approve Handicapped Parking

There was **a motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve Handicapped Parking at:

803 Noble Street
844 Kohn Street
633 Noble Street
522 Noble Street

And to remove Handicapped Parking at:

722 Noble Street

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 25-11: request Municipal Council to approve a Resolution of the Municipality of Norristown awarding the Towing Contract to Morello, Inc. Towing and EVB Towing

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve a 3-year agreement for services with towing companies to provide towing services to include removal and impounding of illegally operated or parked vehicles within Norristown. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was **a motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk-of-Council