

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY**  
**COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 21, 2025**

The Council Work Session of Tuesday, January 21, 2025 was called to order by Council President, Rebecca Smith, 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:

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

Also in attendance were:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; 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, Norristown Fire Chief; Lieutenant Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineering

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was a **motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Minutes of the January 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Virtual First Time Homebuyers, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Email Councilman McCoy at [emccoy@norristown.org](mailto:emccoy@norristown.org).

“Recycle, Read, Repeat”, 208 Cherry Street, Norristown. Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm “How to Write Comedy “ Workshop; February 13 Valentine Book Swap.

Carver Center – “Resume Building and Mock Interview” March 1 and March 15.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Emma Landyn, 335 West Marshall Street – She owns a business on Marshall Street and asked for protection from ICE so the area can be calm.

Jenny Bonilla, 519 George Street – She asked that Council and the Police Department work with the Hispanic community to protect them.

Gerardo Reyes, 624 Astor Street – He asked for help with the information that needs to get out there in case someone is stopped.

Elena Torres, 211 East Basin Street – She asked that the Police do not work with ICE against us.

Denisse Aguto, 335 West Marshall Street – She said there needs to be a plan to keep the neighbors safe.

Heather Lewis, Haws Avenue – She said she is in solidarity with the Hispanic community and all the black and brown community. She shared a new word she learned – “Oligarchy” which means that the wealthy few are in power. She also

noted she is unhappy with how the process of deciding on a new Police Chief does not take the constituents into consideration.

Yvonne Platts, 410 Arch Street – She said that the parking contract was not a good decision. She said there should be feedback from the community for another process and help with the Latino Community.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Resolution 25-14: Appointment of Planning Commission member to the Design Review Board**

Jayne Musonye asked Council to consider the approval of an appointment of Planning Commission member, Amber Queen-Curnew, to the Design Review Board.

There was **a motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve Resolution 25-14. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **FINANCE**

#### **Resolution 25-16: Appointment of Financial Advisor Professional for 2025**

Mr. Lightner requested that the same Financial Advisor Professional be appointed.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to appoint the current Financial Advisor Professional for 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

**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**

Mr. Lightner noted that this was discussed at the last Council Meeting and he provided Council with a handout of answers to questions that were brought up and he included a copy of a draft RFP (Request for Proposal.) He noted that Council has a say as to what goes in the RFP. He said he also sent a link to Council as to what Municipalities run this program.

Councilman Queenan again expressed his concern about the cost. He said there should not be a rush since Public Works cleans the streets now.

Mr. Lightner suggested setting aside the Funds and come back with how the program will work.

Solicitor Kilkenny suggested that if Council wanted to make amendments, they could add the language to the Motion.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve the request for Council to approve the Subrecipient Agreement between the Municipality of Norristown and the Norristown Chamber of Commerce. **The motion passed 6-1** with Councilman Queenan voting nay.

### **Request for Municipal Council to approve amendments to the Norristown Civil Service Rules and Regulations**

Mr. Lightner provided the details of the amendments including 4.7b Agility Test.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve the amendments to the Norristown Civil Service Rules and Regulations. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

#### **Resolution 25-17: Fourth of July Fireworks Display**

Cody Jones asked Council to approve the contract with Zambelli Fireworks to provide a Fourth of July Fireworks Display at a cost of \$27,000.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson**, to approve Resolution 25-17. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Resolution 25-15: Request Council approval to award a construction contract for the Norristown Parks Story Path Pilot Program to Ply-Mar Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$108,000**

Ted Dymtryk, Pennoni Engineer, noted that the parks selected for the Pilot Program are Guardino and Skagg-Cottman Parks. He noted that 9 bids were received on January 6, 2025 with the lowest bidder being Ply-Mar. He noted the contract amount is under the RCO requirements. He said that construction should begin in the Spring and should take 60 days to complete. He recommended the award.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the construction contract for the Norristown Parks Story Path Pilot Program to Ply-Mar Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$108,000. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Council President Smith mentioned that Heather Lewis initiated this program when she was on Council.

**Request for Council to approve an agreement with All Points Reporting to provide stenographer services for the Norristown Zoning Hearing Board**

Ms. Musonye noted that the salary ranges from \$62,000 to \$70,000.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson**, to approve the agreement with All Points Reporting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **POLICE**

**Resolution 25-04: Memorandum of Understanding between the Norristown Police Department and BODE Cellmark Forensics, Inc.**

Lieutenant Angelucci noted that this was put in place last year.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve Resolution 25-04 relating to BODE's DNA data-sharing permissions. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Resolution 25-05: Resolution to add a \$0.37 transaction charge to all credit card, electronic payments and mobile payment methods for parking charges**

Lieutenant Angelucci noted that this is a Technology Fee.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-05 to revise the Fee Schedule, Section 5, Part 13, to add an electronic payment of \$0.37. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Resolution 25-07: Request for Council to approve the purchase of DNA Testing Services from BODE Technologies**

Lieutenant Angelucci said that this is the second part of the agreement. He added that there is a \$40,000 fee per unit pre-paid and that the unused money rolls over.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve Resolution 25-07 to approve the purchase of DNA Testing Services from BODE Technologies. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Resolution 25-09: Resolution for the destruction of specific documents**

Lieutenant Angelucci noted that these are administrative documents and that they are following State Law regarding document destruction.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Robinson**, to approve Resolution 25-09 requesting the destruction of specific documents. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Resolution 25-12: Request of Municipal Council to approve Handicapped Parking**

There is a request to erect Handicapped Parking signs at:

548 Stanbridge Street  
1404 Arch Street, Apt. 1  
1220 W. Lafayette Street  
1235 Swede Street  
311 E. Basin Street  
221 Chain Street  
204 Summit Street  
130 Hartranft Avenue  
25 W. Basin Street

There was **a motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes,** to approve Resolution 25-12. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Resolution 25-13: Reinstatement of Officer Christian Ochoa**

Officer Ochoa resigned from Norristown PD in December 2024 and went to East Norriton Police Department. He said he regrets leaving Norristown and wants to come back because he said he has ties here.

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Councilman Queenan,** to approve the reinstatement of Officer Christian Ochoa. **The motion passed unanimously.**

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

President Smith noted there were no reporting Departments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There was **a motion by Councilwoman Robinson, seconded by Council Vice President Bates,** to adjourn the Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo  
Clerk of Council