

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2025

The Council Work Session of Wednesday, February 19, 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; Lieutenant Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Lieutenant Dumas, Norristown Police Department; Richard Lockhart, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Robinson amended the Minutes under "Approval of Minutes." She noted that she did not initiate or second any Motion at the January 21, 2025 Council Work Session. The corrections should read:

Resolution 25-17: Motion by Dustin Queenan. Second by Rashaad Bates.

Resolution 25-15: Motion by Lauren Hughes. Second by Rashaad Bates.
Resolution 25-05: Motion by Thomas Lepera. Second by Rashaad Bates.
Resolution 25-09: Motion by Rashaad Bates. Second by Thomas Lepera.
Resolution 25-13: Motion by Rashaad Bates. Second by Dustin Queenan.

Adjournment: Motion by Thomas Lepera. Second by Rashaad Bates.

There was a **motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the amended Minutes from February 19, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Smith announced that Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to the Council Work Session.

PRESENTATIONS

Enhancing resident engagement: presentation to Council for submitting community concerns

Leonard Lightner noted that this is an enhancement to Norristown.org. He said it is a way to track complaints.

Sean Chin presented a Power Point which included “Submitting Concerns,” “Key Benefits of the Enhancement,” “What’s Next?,” “Introducing chatting with “Izzy,” which answers questions outside of working hours 24/7. Mr. Chin said there are over 200,000 pages of data. He said “Izzy” responds in 82 languages.

Mr. Chin provided a live demonstration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Summer Camp” registration is open. There will be fun and educational activities. He also noted there are summer employment opportunities available such as Camp Counselors and support staff.

“Spring Basketball League” – Provides a fun, competitive and community-driven environment for young athletes to develop their basketball skills.

“Elmwood Park Master Plan” meeting at the Recreation Center and online.

“Black Owned Business & Networking Expo 2025” sponsored by Councilman McCoy. February 28th from 5 to 9 pm at the George Washington Carver Center. Register online.

Updates from Councilman Queenan on Thursday, February 27th from 5:30 to 7 pm at the Norristown Public Library. RSVP to Councilman Queenan at dqueenan@norristown.org.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Simpson – He noted that voting by Councilman Lepera is inappropriate. He said that if Councilman Lepera does not live in the Municipality, he should not be dealing with any business. He said he should morally make the right decision to leave.

Denisse Aguto, 335 West Marshall Street – She thanked Council for supporting their event on Saturday. She also asked that Council keep the Latino community aware of events or programs that are coming up. She said that they did not receive any notice of the Elmwood Park Master Plan meeting. She also noted the most of the Latino community does not go to the website so they are unable to take part in the Chief of Police Survey. She asked Council for a better relationship with the Latino community.

Valerie Moman – She said she agreed with remarks from Gary Simpson. She also said that when she was on Council and had issues where she could no longer dedicate herself to Norristown, she finished her term but did not run again. She told Council they can’t work together if there is bickering and not respecting each other. She said that the public will get wind of it. She said she encourages whoever needs to step down to do so. She said that being on Council should be a stepping stone and other things should not be more important.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Resolution 25-21: Request for Municipal Council to approve an Information Technology Services Agreement between the Municipality of Norristown and Marc Meschurle, Jr.

Mr. Lightner noted that bids went out and 18 responses were received. There were 3 viable bids and it was brought down to one.

He said this person worked with Police and this bid included a need for a cyber security credential.

There was **a motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve the Information Technology Services Agreement between the Municipality of Norristown and Marc Meschurle, Jr. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Motion to advertise Ordinance 25-01 of 2025 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Deputy Chief Lockhart explained that the use of EVs is considered “green” but risky when damaged. He said the Ordinance reduces the size of the power and gives distance requirements. He said it is preventative and doesn’t include family single-residence.

There was **a motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 25-01 of 2025 restricting the charging of EVs when parked in a parking garage. **The motion passed unanimously.**

POLICE

Resolution 25-23: Request to award AXON a 5-Year Contract for BWC

Lieutenant Angelucci explained that the Police Department chose to go with AXON as the most efficient and reliable system after a trial testing and evaluation. He said they are seeking to renew the body-worn camera for an additional 5 years and operate on the manufacturer’s recommendations.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve Resolution 25-23. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-25: A Resolution of the Council of the Municipality of Norristown authorizing the submission of a Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) requesting \$950,000 in the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) funding for the Safe Marshall Street Corridor Crime Reduction Plan.

Lieutenant Dumas explained that they are asking for permission to submit a formal application for the Grant. He said that the Crime Reduction Strategy has different stages.

Councilwoman Robinson noted that this Plan requires a partnership.

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

Resolution 25-22: Request of Municipal Council to approve Handicapped Parking

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Handicapped Parking for:

300 West Wood Street
131 Buttonwood Street
619 East Elm Street
1421 Locust Street
915 West James Street
538 Kohn Street
30 Rosemont Street
1220 Tyler Street
1338 Pine Street
731 Astor Street

These are all located in Norristown, PA.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 25-26: Request the approval of the MOU between the Municipality and The Lincoln Center for Family and Youth

Lieutenant Dumas said they are focused on obtaining a mental health coach.

There was **a motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Lepera**, to approve Resolution 25-26. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 24-24: Request the disposal of Municipal Property

Lieutenant Dumas said the Police Department has a surplus of equipment and meters.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 24-24 for the disposal of a surplus of equipment and meters from the Parking Enforcement Division of the Norristown Police Department (hereinafter referred to as “Municipal Property”) that is no longer needed for public use and is not otherwise dedicated or restricted pursuant to law. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution 25-20: A Resolution of the Council of the Municipality of Norristown authorizing a purchase in the amount of \$84,330.50 from (Co-Stars) Stephenson Equipment, Inc. for One Bandit 15XP Chipper

Thomas Odenigbo said one use is to trim the trees on Dekalb Street.

There was **a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve Resolution 25-20 to authorize the purchase of a One Bandit 15XP Chipper. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Councilman Lepera read his resignation speech. He said his resignation is effective February 21, 2025 which is when he is moving out of Norristown.

Council President commented that she and Thomas Lepera worked together for many years and got a lot of things done together. She added that Thomas did things that he didn't want recognition for.

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that a vote on Councilman Lepera's resignation will have to be put on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

There was **a motion by Council President Smith, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to approve moving this to the next Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was **a motion by Councilman Lepera, seconded by Councilman McCoy**, to adjourn the Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo
Clerk of Council