

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 4, 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
Rashaad Bates
Rebecca Smith

Also in attendance were:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, February 19, 2025. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIVIC CLINIC: Process of becoming an Elected Official – March 6, 2025 from 6 to 8 pm, SAAC, 536 George Street, Norristown (Reuniting Family Bail Fund)

Young Inventor's Fair, George Washington Carver Center – March 22, 2025 from 10 am to 1 pm, Bee Hives and Engineer Scholarships for ages 5 and up. Place: 249 Jacoby Street, Norristown.

Norristown Public Library, Horror Book Club, March 26th at 6 pm.

Blockson Middle School, Bingo to support the Music Department on March 20th from 5-7 pm.
\$5 per person for one Bingo card with 10 games. Cash only.

March 8th is the last day to apply for the Agility and Written Exam for the Norristown Police Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dominick Jackson, 1029 W. Lafayette Street – He and his partner were evicted on Thursday. He said he spoke with the former Chief of Police about the issue of parking. He said this is his second time here. He received \$600 in tickets. His partner complained that Officer Butterworth is now giving tickets to people parking in spots they've been parking in for 20 years. She said that when they had their "boot" removed, Officer Butterworth did not report the plate stolen. He said they were walking on Main Street with their kids at 10:30 pm in January because their car was towed. She said the Police did not offer them a ride while they had to carry several bags of groceries.

James Watters, Hamilton Street – He had a few issues to comment on including contacting the President of PECO regarding the cable companies, clogged storm drains. He said that everything going on is due to not knowing procedures. He said there is still the issue of flooding and the bridges being out.

Richard McCray, 709 E. Fornance Street – He said that one of his Parishioners is 100 years old and asked if there was a way to recognize her. He also said there are Parishioners getting flat tires due to debris from road work. Also, 2 trees fell last week and another is leaning toward his home. He said his grandkids could have been near the fallen trees. He said he needs direction on who to tell about his neighbor's leaning tree.

Denise Aguro, Marshall Street – She asked if the Facebook page could be bilingual. She said there is no result yet from the Police about the fights at Blockson School. She said that last year's Juneteenth celebration last year was a horrible day. She asked if Council could meet with the Latino community to have a conversation.

April, Airy Street – She said that the Zone C Mon-Sat 4 Hour Parking on Airy Street does not get enforced. She said there is also an overcrowding of apartments and trash is everywhere.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 25-30: Appointment to various Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions

Leonard Lightner stated there are two appointments: Olivia Brady and George Korkus to the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB).

There was a **motion by Councilman McCoy, seconded by Councilwoman Hughes**, to approve the appointments to the HARB. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Motion to award the Bid to the Lowest Responsible Contractor for the Fire Chief's Memorial Bandshell

Leonard Lightner noted that this is very limited so there is no need for an RCO.

There was a **motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the motion to award the Bid to the Lowest Responsible Contractor for the Fire Chief's Memorial Bandshell. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to approve the Resignation of Thomas Lepera, Council Member-at-Large

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Hughes, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the Resignation of Thomas Lepera. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 25-27: Authorizing the submission of a Grant application to Montgomery County requesting \$250,000 in 2025 Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program funding for the continuation of the Arch Street Greenway Corridor Improvements Project

Jayne Musonye presented a Power Point. She said this Grant would be used for things such as sidewalks, curbs, trees, lighting, etc. She said the Project is in Phases. She said that Phase I is complete and they received \$1.5 million from a Federal Program to continue the Project to Oak Street.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council President Smith**, to submit the 2025 Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Program application to Montgomery County to continue the Arch Street Greenway Corridor Improvements Project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 25-28: Request to award Pennoni Associates in the amount of \$144,481 for additional Professional Services for Phases III and IV of the Arch Street Greenway Corridor Improvement Project

Jayne Musonye noted that only Grant Funds from the State can be used. The activities that are to be done were listed including highway lining and getting a NPDES Permit.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to award a proposal in compliance with Section 41.7-713 of the Home Rule Charter and Section 4-35 of the Administrative Code which states, "All contracts in excess of \$23,800 must be in writing and must be awarded by Municipal Council and executed by the Municipal Administrator." **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Public Works

Thomas Odenigbo provided details of his report which included repairing potholes, trimming trees and striping. He said they did not receive any complaints about plowing during the snow storms. He added that they removed 2 tons of trash from Poley Park. He said there will be another Stony Creek Clean Up and Solid Waste Collection.

Building & Codes

Mr. Gordon presented a Power Point which highlighted the Operations Summary Report which included the issuance of Quality of Life tickets, Quick Tiks, Violation Notices for Owner-Occupied and Rental properties. He said that 88 Property Transfers were issued and received and there were 2,039 failed Property Transfer Inspections. There were 211 Permits issued with \$65,211.68 in total fees.

He said there was a walking patrol of Marshall Street, update to ticket violation appeals, update to Blighted Property List, 48 Staff employees trained, assisted outside agencies. There's one new bilingual Code Inspector, 2 new in-service vehicles. He said that interviews were conducted for 2 Code Inspectors and 1 Permit Technician.

Quarterly Update to Council – Special Events Coordinator, Tracie Henry

Ms. Henry presented a Power Point which included the promotion of the Juneteenth Jubilee Street Festival on June 19th from 12 to 6 at Dekalb and Main Streets. She said there will be a cowboy theme and they will be using the Center Theatre as an added venue. She said they are soliciting merchants and food and drink vendors. She noted that the Vendor regulations are from PennDOT and the Norristown Fire Department.

She added another future event is the 4th of July celebration called "Join the Parade." It is on Friday, July 4th starting at 1 pm from St. Francis to Harding Boulevard. She said they are including a Grand Marshall this year.

Farewell from Lauren Hughes

Some of what Lauren said is, as of March 5, 2025, she is resigning from her position on Municipal Council. She thanked her family, residents and employees of the Municipality for their support. She thanked President Smith for the time they spent on Council working toward a common good.

There was **a motion by Council Vice President Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to add the acceptance of the resignation of Lauren Hughes on the next meeting agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Roseann Santangelo