

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 6, 2025**

The Council Meeting of Tuesday, May 6, 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  
Mydera Robinson  
Dustin Queenan  
Natalie Colson  
Jasmine Griffen  
Rashaad Bates  
Rebecca Smith

Also in attendance were:

Leonard Lightner, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Lieutenant Angelucci, Norristown Police Department; Kathy Pfister, Director of Finance; Amanda Ciarlante, Assistant Director of Finance; Tom O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief; Deputy Fire Chief, Richard Lockhart; Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works; Keith Gordon, Code Enforcement Manager; Bri'Ana Hawkins, Parks & Recreation Director.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Council Vice President Bates**, to approve the Minutes from the April 15, 2025 Council Work Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Council President Smith announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss Litigation and Real Estate matters.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Presentation by City Year**

Marjorie Morris, Senior Director, presented a Power Point showcasing “What is City Year?” which entails City Year AmeriCorps members working in schools, partnering with teachers and principals to create learning environments where all students can build on their strengths and fully emerge in their learning. Other topics include “Agenda” - “City Year History” - “Tutoring and Mentoring.”

She explained that the City Year Americorps members are student success coaches that perform 1700 hours of service. She showed a video titled, “More Than a Mentor.” She said they need to encourage Norristown residents to join.

The next Power Point headings were “How City Year Works in Schools”, “Evidence of Impact”, “Supporting NASD and the Norristown Community,” “Student Success Coach Benefits,” “Funding Sources,” “Recruitment and Outreach,” “Partnership Advocacy Awareness,” “Funding and Support.”

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

“Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-Op” – Community-supported Agriculture – Summer 2025 April 28 to November 1. 27 weeks of local organic produce from small farms. Pickup on Locust Street. Register: <https://lancasterfarmfresh.com/csa-summer-shares/>. Call 717-656-3533 ext. 2.

Water Ice event on May 13<sup>th</sup> with Councilwoman Colson at Joe’s Water Ice.

“Designer Bag Bingo” at the George Washington Community Center on May 17<sup>th</sup>. \$40 general admission.

GWCCC’s 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Normandy Farms on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 8 pm at Normandy Farms, 1401 Morris Road, Blue Bell, PA.

Norristown Library June Jazz Fundraiser @ Mill Grove on June 10, 2025.

Literary Council Event on May 13<sup>th</sup> at vonC Brewery.

Councilwoman Robinson thanked all who reached out to her after her loss of her Pastor who was a father figure in her life. She said she wanted to call out the kindness.

### **RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Lightner said that he is still doing research about the flood gauge and they are working with the Core of Engineers. He was told that all flood gates are operational.

Regarding the residents who represented the SRC (Systemic Reformative Change), he said that 23 “Mutt Mitt” dog waste containers are being placed at the parks that will be installed by

Public Works along with a GIS tracking. He said they are also posting signs regarding the Dog Waste Law.

As far as the stray cats that are getting fed comment by Rocco, Mr. Lightner said that his neighbor has been warned and they will be monitored.

Regarding the comment by Yvonne Platts about her appeal regarding the Police Study, he said they will work with her and others in the community.

He commented that damaged trashcans can be replaced by calling Mascaro within 48 hours.

He said that a new “No Truck Parking” sign that was brought up by Alvina Hamme has been installed in Norris Hills and Parking Enforcement has been made aware.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sean, 500 Block of Swede Street – He came before Council again about the condition of the 500 block of Swede Street with the people living on the street. He said the conditions are worse. He said he would like to meet with Council to strategize ideas. He said that the Municipality is turning a blind eye.

David, 516 Swede Street – He said he is an Attorney and a neighbor of Sean. He said the area is dangerous due to drug use and fighting. He said there are only a few lawyers left.

James Watters, Hamilton Street – He had a printed copy of his study on flooding on the Schuylkill River. He said a Judge needs to be convinced of a Class Action Suit. He said that the Integrated Water Quality Report finds that the Philadelphia Region is the most polluted. He said it is a violation of the PA Constitution.

Rocco, Kohn Street – He said he wants the Handicapped Parking sign that is on Beech & Kohn to be put in front of his house. He said he wants an answer. He said his wife doesn’t feel safe walking to her car.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Resolution 25-41: Motion to appoint and promote Charles Scott, Robert Gelet and Ryan Hunsicker to the rank of Captains**

There was a motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates, to approve the appointment and promotion of Charles Scott, Robert Gelet and Ryan Hunsicker to the rank of Captains. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Oath of Office: Swearing in the Oath of Office for Kayin Nix for the position of Police Officer**

The Honorable Garret D. Page, Magisterial District Court Judge, conducted the Oath of Office for Kayin Nix for the position of Police Officer. He was joined by his wife and child.

### **MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **Request for Municipal Council approval of updated Kilkenny Law Retainer Agreement**

Leonard Lightner explained the request for an increase in the Retainer Fee is due to an increase of Right-to-Know requests, legal opinions and changes in Ordinances. He said that our current flat rate is lower than other areas and that it would now be \$19,000. He said he feels it is a fair request.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the updated Kilkenny Law Retainer Agreement. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Resolution 25-50: Request for Municipal Council to approve the purchase of a vehicle for Parking Enforcement**

Mr. Lightner explained they would use CIP funds for the purchase. He noted that the vehicle was involved in an accident.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the replacement of a Police Parking Enforcement Pickup 52-37 in accordance with the approved 2025 CIP Resolution 24-120. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **BUILDING & CODES COMPLIANCE**

#### **Request of approval of HARB COAs**

Mr. Gordon noted that the COAs are requested for:

1027 West Main Street  
1305 Dekalb Street

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Bates**, to approve the HARB COAs. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **FIRE**

#### **Resolution 25-47: Request for Council to approve the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment from Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc.**

Fire Chief O'Donnell noted this is a budgeted expense in the amount of \$35,898.00.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Resolution 25-48: Professional Services to be performed by Pennoni (Municipal Engineer) for beautification of Main Street and Marshall Street**

Mr. Odenigbo said this needs to be started as soon as possible. He explained the scope of what Pennoni is planning and noted that they will come back before Council.

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilman Queenan**, to approve Resolution 25-48 for Professional Services to be performed by Pennoni for the beautification of Main Street and Marshall Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Resolution 25-49: Advertisement for the award of 2025 Street Paving Project (CIP)**

Mr. Odenigbo asked for the authority to advertise for the bidding process.

Councilwoman Robinson named the streets involved in the project:  
West Fornance Street from Dekalb Street to Harding Blvd.; East Marshall Street from New Hope Street to Arch Street; Buttonwood Street from Marshall Street to Elm Street; West Wood Street from Swede Street to Harding Blvd.; Noble Street from Marshall Street to Airy Street; West Oak Street from Stanbridge Street to Noble Street; East Oak Street from Walnut Street to Arch Street; Fornance Street from Sandy Hill Road to East Fornance Street.

Mr. Lightner clarified that these have to be bid so some streets may or may not be completed.

There was a **motion by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve the advertisement for the award of 2025 Street Paving Project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **NORRISTOWN STORMWATER AUTHORITY OPERATIONS**

#### **Resolution 25-46: Request NSWA Board approve agreement with Pennoni for Professional Services totaling \$42,800.**

There was a **motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Colson**, to approve Resolution 25-46 to request NSWA Board approve agreement with Pennoni for Professional Services totaling \$42,800. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Monthly Updates to Council: Presenting Departments: Finance, Planning and Recreation**

## **Finance**

Director Kathy Pfister explained that, as of April, they began implementing a new HR Payroll system and plan to go “Live” in July. She said there is also a new Stormwater Billing system and the bills should go out next week. She noted the Real Estate discount period ended on April 15<sup>th</sup> and collections were 73%. She thanked Kevin, Public Information Officer, for putting out notices on social media. She added that Tax Certifications were high due to Honey Lane and Kennedy-Kenrick sales resulting in higher real estate revenue and pro-rated real estate tax.

She said the 2024 Audit results were good and the EIT collections were \$700,000. She said that the delinquent BPT had a higher collection as well as the Real Estate Transfers and Bank Interest. She noted that Expenses are \$2 million lower (unaudited numbers) and the 2025 Budget is based on current conditions and they may require using General Fund money for the larger CIP projects.

## **Planning**

The new Senior Planner, in for Jayne Musonye, conducted a Power Point of the Economic Development Projects Story Map. She showed how to view the projects online and Districts such as Commercial, Recreation & Tourism, Public/Government/Medical and a map showing Municipal boundaries. Also present was the new Grants Coordinator.

She also provided updates on some of these projects: State Hospital had a Public Hearing; Arch Street Greenway; Two-Way Dekalb Street; Lafayette Street Extension Project; 14 West Main Street (signage ordered); Historic Façade Improvement Program (5 Grants approved); Justice Center; Arbor Place (Phase 2 underway); Isaac Court (constructed); Montgomery Park Senior Housing; Housing Rehab Program; First Time Buyers; Stinson Hall; 1020 Violet Street; 820 Thomas Street; 1340-1342 Markley Street; 902 Violet Street (Zone Approval received); EP Zoo (public hearing held); Elmwood Park Expansion; Trail Junction Center – had to rebid – bids due by June 30, 2025. She noted that this information can be found on the Municipal website under the Economic Development page.

## **Recreation**

A Power Point featuring “Recreation Spring Events” such as “MLK Day” “Iftar” “Egg Hunt” – gave out 1000 eggs. She showed photos of the Egg Hunt and the Basketball teams with new uniforms. She showed a video of the team learning basketball. She mentioned all the volunteers involved.

She said there will be a Memorial Day Concert on Latshaw Field on May 25<sup>th</sup> with Rotation Records providing sound, lights and booking the bands. She added there will be a pause for repairs at the bandshell so they will not release the bands to the public until everything is

moving forward with the bandshell. The schedule for the summer concerts is from June 29<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>.

She added there will be “Movie Nights” every other Thursday and they will partner with the Norristown Public Library who also has Movie Nights. She also said that their website officially launched and residents can create an account to participate in programs.

She said that Summer Camp is full with 105 participants and there is a waiting list but they will use the Hancock Elementary School for five weeks and they can come back to the Rec Center.

She showed that schedules can be accessed on the website also.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was **a motion by Councilman Bates, seconded by Councilwoman Griffen**, to adjourn the Council Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Roseann Santangelo