

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

The Council Workshop of February 19, 2019 was called to order by Councilman Perry, in the absence of Council President Sanders and Council Vice-President Lewis, at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

There was a **Moment of Silence** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**. The following Council members were present:

Olivia Brady	Valerie Scott-Cooper	Hakim Jones
Derrick Perry	Rebecca Smith	Heather Lewis (via telephone)

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Police Chief; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning & Development; Norman Butts, Director of Finance; Amrinder Singh, Code Manager, Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2019. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Councilman Perry announced that Council discussed real estate and litigation issues in Executive Session.

PRESENTATIONS:

Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board

A Power Point presentation was conducted by a representative of the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board which provided information about their mission, vision and marketing events.

People R Us

Representatives from the People R Us organization proposed opening a home at 1321 Arch Street for teens in need of well-being, safety and permanency.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to open the agenda to include a vote for the special exception sought by People R Us and to have Public Comment on this matter. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Theresa Lauer, 1330 Arch Street - Ms. Lauer stated she is "not comfortable with transient children" but she will attend the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting regarding this matter.

Richard McCray, 709 E. Fornance Street - He noted he was Pastor of the House of God and has met with People R Us. He agreed there may be concerns and worries about this but it should be welcomed.

Jayla McCray, 709 E. Fornance Street - She believes this home will benefit the Norristown community and that it is time for a change.

Marcellus Bowie - He stated that Council has an opportunity to make a change in the community. He

commented that you must be part of the community to be on Council.

Cherrifer Lusane - She noted that she understands both sides and would like to see a forum to educate people about this type of program.

Bernice Davis - 1424 Arch Street - She stated that she is not in favor of the home and noted that the building has been empty for years.

Councilman Perry put up for Council's consideration a motion to allow the Solicitor's office to approve the People R Us application. There was no motion.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to send the Solicitor to oppose the People R Us application. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learn how to own a food truck business - Small Business Center-sponsored. February 27th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Contact norristown.org for information.

Latino Small Business Road Show - Tuesday, March 12, 2019 from 6-8 pm at the ACLAMO, 512 West Marshall Street. More info: 215-845-5456.

PHS and Keep Norristown Beautiful invite you to become a Tree Tender. September 5, 12 & 19 from 6-9:15 pm at Municipal Hall. Fee \$40. Register at: <https://phsonline.org/events/montgomery-county-tree-tenders-basic-training-fall2019>.

Black History Live at Norristown Municipal Hall on February 24th. Doors open at 4:30 pm. There will be exhibits, music, spoken word and vendors. Hosted by Norristown NAACP. Contact: NORRISTOWNNAACPYC@gmail.com.

Montgomery County Community College - Manufacturing Technician Training. Learn how to read blue prints, industrial math and other related jobs. Contact Gary Heinz 610-718-1974.

NASD Prom Fair on March 30th. Please donate prom items. Contact: 610-630-5000.

Montgomery County Human Services, Black History Month celebration on Wednesday, February 27th from 10-2 pm. Open to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David McMahon, 721 Haws Avenue - He provided information about "Medicare for All." He noted his goal is to obtain as many signatures as possible.

Jamaica Mitchell, 319 Centre Avenue, Norristown - She has a concern regarding the road conditions on Swede Street, Chestnut Street between Dekalb & Green and Basin & Oak Streets. She asked if they were in the works?

COMMUNICATION

There were no communication items.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Capital Improvement Plan: Facilities Update

Jerry Gorski of Gorski Engineering provided Council with copies of proposals with costs for the design phase of the Norristown Municipal Hall renovations. He recommended Seiler and Drury Architects because their mechanical and electrical engineer came prepared and their proposal is under budget.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to authorize Gorski Engineering and the Municipal Administrator to sign the proposal from Seiler & Drury Architects not to exceed \$325,500.00. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Advertisement of Ordinance 19-01: Fireworks Use

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to advertise Ordinance 19-01. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 19-111: Reaffirmation of PA Sustainable Communities

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to authorize Resolution 19-111. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Services Agreement Award - 2 Noble Street

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to award a professional services agreement to Langan Engineering to complete a site characterization at 2 Noble Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 19-105: Land Development - Zoo Parking Lot Expansion

Municipal Engineer, Khal Hassan, Attorney Cullen and Martin Eustace, PE were present to review the conditions of the compliance of the Norristown Zoological Society and the 21 waivers from the Norristown Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Waivers #9, #10, #11, #17 and #18 came off the list and are no longer waiver requests.

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that the applicant will provide a revised Resolution for Council before the next Council Meeting. Council was in agreement not to waive the drainage application fees per the recommendation of the Municipal Engineer.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to table Resolution 19-105. **The motion passed unanimously.**

RECREATION

Park and Recreational Facility Improvements Update

Erica Genuardi, Park and Recreation Manager, provided Council with 2 proposal packets regarding improvements to Ackey's Field & Park, Scagg Cottman Park, Riverfront Park and Latshaw McCarty Field.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to approve a total CIP funds request for park updates in the amount of \$430,800. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to table the Departmental Reports presentation. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Brady. The motion passed unanimously.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council