

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Tuesday, March 19, 2019

The Council Workshop of March 19, 2019 was called to order by Councilwoman Sanders 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	Sonya Sanders

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, Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works, Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Sanders announced that Council discussed real estate, personnel and litigation issues in Executive Session.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mural Arts Program

Councilwoman Scott-Cooper explained that the presenter for the Mural Arts Program contacted her to re-schedule her presentation for April 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE NORRISTOWN RECREATION SOCCER CLINIC - Saturday, April 13, 2019 at Ackey's Fields from 10 am to 12 pm. Ages 3-9 years old (as of 1/1/2019). Contact: recreation@norristown.org or 610-272-8080.

NORRISTOWN DAY - Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Elmwood Park from 9 am to 2 pm. Includes: Beautification Project, Little League Opening Day, Recreation Center Open House, Chamber of Commerce Party in the Park, Municipal Fleet Showcase. Free admission to Elmwood Park Zoo. Rain date is April 7th. Contact: www.norristown.org.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES - As part of their outreach mission, they will be taking part in Keep Norristown Beautiful. Contact knb@norristown.org.

FREE ZOO ADMISSION FOR RESIDENTS - First Sunday of the month. Must show proof of residency. Contact: www.norristown.org.

KEEP NORRISTOWN BEAUTIFUL

TOWN HALL MEETING - Hosted by the Norristown Police Department - topic "Violence Prevention and Quality of Life Issues." Wednesday, April 27, 2019 at the Norristown Public Library at 5:30 pm. Contact: mbishop@norristown.org or rcalderon@norristown.org or call 610-292-8283.

PARTNERS FOR HOME OWNERSHIP HOUSING FAIR - April 6, 2019 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School.

TOWN HALL - Councilwoman Scott-Cooper is holding a town hall on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 1301 Powell Street at the Montgomery Park Apartments. Information about the upcoming census will be provided and Erica Genuardi, Director of the Recreation Department and State Representative Madeline Dean will be present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Municipal Solicitor Kilkenny provided the rules for Public Comment.

Oscar Vance, 212 Cherry Street & Stan Huskey, 208 Dekalb Street - Mr. Huskey came to oppose the Amusement Tax stating that they have rehabilitated the Centre Theater bringing people back to it and he said to consider the downfall of other theaters in surrounding areas. Mr. Vance noted that the theaters are important for children and taxing the adults will have an effect. He asked Council to re-consider.

Wendy Rothstein - She is the VP of the Norristown Zoological Society. She said that the Elmwood Park Zoo has benefitted thousands of people and the Amusement Tax would provide short-term gains with long-term harm. She asked Council to consider delaying it for another year.

Sean Cullen, 40 East Main Street - He noted he would need to have a sustainability event because he is not sure if he would be able to continue with the other events he provides.

Joe Staiber, 1728 Dekalb Street - He is a business owner and has hosted events at the theater. He noted he cannot budget the 10% Amusement Tax. He needs time to prepare.

Al Zone, Elmwood Park Zoo Director - He stated that the Amusement Tax would be substantial and even the "Free Day" residents would be taxed. He said it would change the perception of the consumer because they look for overcharging. He said we need to fight for the consumers.

Eric Reilly, 401 Dekalb Street (Theatre Horizon) - She noted that the Amusement Tax would cost the theatre an extra \$15,000 per year. She said the prices are already pushed to the max and that it could be catastrophic to the theatre. She suggested moving on from the tax and access funds.

COMMUNICATION

There were no communication items.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Resolution 19-114: Reserved Disabled Parking

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Lewis**, to approve Resolution 19-114. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Advertisement of Ordinance 19-02: International Fire Code Adoption

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to advertise Ordinance 19-02. **The motion passed unanimously.**

BUILDING & CODES ENFORCEMENT

HARB Certificates of Appropriateness - February 2019

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the HARB Certificates of Appropriateness for February 2019 for 206 Minor Street, 262 Minor Street, 272 E. Main Street and 276 E. Main Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

RECREATION

Awarding Norristown Recreation Center Contracts

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve awarding the Norristown Recreation Center a flooring contract with Klinghoffer and a painting contract with Hispanic Ventures. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCE

Resolution 19-112: Capital Lease Parking Meters

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to approve the purchase of 445 single space parking meters at an annual cost of \$55,626.59. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Norristown Amusement Tax

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator, conducted a Power Point presentation highlighting the impact and benefits of implementing the Amusement Tax.

Council President Sanders noted that the majority of Council members were open to more conversation about the Amusement Tax.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to amend the law by having more discussion in order to come to an agreement. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Police Report

Chief Talbot reported there was a decrease in Part 1 crimes, violent crimes and fatal and non-fatal shootings. The Police Academy increased membership by 30%. The Police Department was engaged in several youth activities such as TAPS at Norristown High School and Career Day at Renaissance Academy. He noted the challenges include the opioid epidemic.

Fire Report

Chief O'Donnell reported on some of the statistics: there were 204 emergency calls responded to. Estimated response time is 3 minutes 57 seconds. Property loss value \$62,700. Wednesdays at 4 pm was the busiest time. There were 137 training activities. There were no firefighter or civilian injuries or casualties. The NFD received an award for their services in helping the Bridgeport Fire Company.

Finance Report

Director Butts reported on the Budget Status Report. He noted that revenues and expenditures are behind while taxes are coming in. He is in the process of working on the 2018 Audit and hopes to be considered for the Excellence in Reporting Award.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council