

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Wednesday, June 18, 2019

The Council Workshop of June 18, 2019 was called to order by Councilman Perry 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 (by conference call)

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, Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2019. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to open the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution 19-133: Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer

Solicitor Kilkenny marked Exhibits M-1 (copy of the Resolution) and M-2 (advertisement of the Public Hearing.) Attorney Michael Sheridan conducted a Power Point presentation and handed out Exhibits A-1 (photographs of the Hacienda Tacqueria Restaurant and A-2 (copies of the take-out and full menus.) The Sole Chair and Director of the restaurant was sworn in as a witness and was asked questions by the Solicitor regarding the reasons for wanting to have a liquor license at this restaurant. Council agreed upon a 12:00 midnight closing time. Attorney Sam Gambone explained why the license was revoked originally. The next step is for the applicant to apply with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

Public Comment:

Doris Smith-Starks - She said she was glad the question was asked of why the applicant lost their original liquor license.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to close the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 19-133: an Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer for Hacienda Tacqueria Inc. to 301 East Main Street,

Norristown, PA, subject to the conditions that were placed on the record from the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Public Citizens for Children & Youth (Under Water), One Montgomery Plaza, Thursday, June 20 from 1 pm to 2:30 pm.

Outdoor Movies at the Elmwood Park Bandshell on Saturday, June 22nd from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Legal Aide of SE Pennsylvania - Free Clinic on obtaining a copy of a Birth Certificate. June 25th from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Call 610-275-5400.

Re-Entry Day sponsored by the Montgomery County Bar Association at the MCIU on Lafayette Street on June 28th from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Arts & Music Festival - September 7th from 2 pm to 6 pm. From the Bandshell to the Zoo.

Trails on Tap - June 26 - 30 - Valley Forge, July 3 - 7 and July 10 -14 - Royersford, July 17 - 21 and July 24 - 28 - Norristown, July 31 - August 4. Contact: trailsontap.com.

Norristown July 4th Celebration: 9:45 am Parade. Block Party at 10:30 and Concert and Fireworks start at 3 pm.

Census 2020 - meeting at 6 pm at Municipal Hall. Take a part to count everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Obed Arango - 208 Dekalb Street - He supports Medicare for All but doesn't support Vision Quest. He said, "The human rights of children need to be respected."

Daisy Romero, 525 E. Marshall Street - She does not trust Vision Quest and she said she is speaking for kids affected by past incidents.

David McMahan, 721 Haws Avenue - He stated that, "As a resident, I hope Norristown declares itself as a sanctuary."

Rachel Fecho, 715 Noble Street - Regarding Medicare For All and Vision Quest, she said to "value people over profits."

Jesenia Sanchez, 519 George Street - Regarding Vision Quest, she said "our community will never go for this."

Al Johnson, 300 block of Penn Street - He complained that there is a neighbor with "grass up to my waist" and curbs are torn up. He said to make every block a part of the beautification.

Nicte Hoi Wuits, Radnor Township - She shared some of the complaints against Vision Quest from CBS and ABC News. She said that Vision Quest "failed the children."

Denisse Agurto, 512 W. Marshall Street - She supports Medicare for All but not Vision Quest. A man with her said that there needs to be legislation for citizenship.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 19-06: CDBG Budget Revision

There was a motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady, to open the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Director Musonye provided details of the process from advertisement of the Ordinance until this Public Hearing.

Public Comment:

There was no Public Comment.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to close the Public Hearing. **The motion passed unanimously.**

There was a motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Brady, to approve the adoption of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget Ordinance 19-06, which would amend Norristown's 2019 CDBG Budget in light of changes in Federal funding allocations. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not available for voting.)

PRESENTATIONS:

Vision Quest

Mr. J. Smith, Program Director, noted they have no formal plans to establish a program in Norristown. He was accompanied by Mr. Steven Bloom, who has retired from Vision Quest. They noted that Norristown was recommended to them because Norristown has served many social service entities and they addressed the issues brought forward by the public comments.

Amusement Tax Taskforce Final Report

Kym Ramsey of the Norristown Chamber of Commerce conducted a Power Point presentation regarding the results of their efforts to identify financing alternatives to the proposed revival of Norristown's Amusement Tax. Ms. Ramsey noted there will be continued collaboration through monthly meetings.

NASD 2019-20 Proposed Budget PPT

Anne Marie Rohricht, Chief Financial Officer for the NASD, conducted a Power Point presentation regarding the Norristown Area School District's 2019-2020 proposed budget.

Medicare For All

Daniel Parker of the Buxmont Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America provided information regarding the proposed Medicare For All. They were advised to put together a Resolution for the Municipality to consider.

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 19-131: Preliminary/Final Approval for Royal Farms

The Attorney representing Royal Farms provided the history of this development. Sam Manaro, Engineer, explained the alternate plan for Royal Farms which is the relocation of 18 parking spaces and the 18 foot

setback of the canopy.

Public Comment:

Attorney Kate Harper provided opposition to this Resolution, on behalf of her client, stating that her client who owns a nearby business, didn't get any notice regarding this land development by Royal Farms and is concerned about the proposed traffic light, for which she filed a complaint to PennDOT. She was advised by the Solicitor that the PennDOT issue is separate.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 19-131: preliminary/final approval for an alternate plan for the Royal Farms on Markley Street. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not available for voting.)

APPOINTMENTS:

Resolution 19-129: Appointment of Entry-Level Police Officer

Police Chief Talbot provided the credentials of Ashley Gaeta and recommended her hiring as an Officer in the Norristown Police Department.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to appoint Ashley Gaeta as an Officer in the Norristown Police Department. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not available for voting.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Lighthouse Sandy Hill, LLC Settlement Stipulations

Resolution 19-130: Disabled Reserved Parking for 918 Arch Street and the removal of spaces from 332 James and 218 Buttonwood Streets

Resolution 19-132: Plan Amendments for improvements at Hancock Elementary

NMWA Land Development Fee Waiver totaling \$21,760.00

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the 4 items under the Consent Agenda. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not available for voting.)

RECREATION

Resolution 19-127: Fee Schedule Amendment

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the incorporation of a monthly fee schedule for the rental of Municipal space/facilities by organizations and adding verbage for league use of Municipal sports fields and facilities and to waive the park and security fees for Trails on Tap July 31 to August 4 event at Riverfront Park. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not available for voting.)

BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

Exterior Property Inspection and Rating Program

Code Manager, Amrinder Singh, conducted a Power Point presentation regarding efforts to assess and rate the exterior of every property in Norristown.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Refueling Services Agreement

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to authorize the advertisement of an Ordinance that would allow Norristown to enter into an agreement with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety for the provision of emergency refueling services for equipment during large incidents. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not available for voting.)

COMMUNICATION

There were no communication items.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to waive the reading of the departmental reports. **The motion passed 5-0.** (Councilwoman Lewis was not available for voting.)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo, Clerk of Council