

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY**

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019**

The Council Workshop Meeting of Tuesday, July 16, 2019 was called to order by Council President Sonya Sanders at 6:30 PM in the Council Conference Room.

There was a **Moment of Silence** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

The following Council members were in attendance:

Olivia Brady                  Hakim Jones                  Rebecca Smith  
Heather Lewis              Sonya Sanders

Also in attendance were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator

Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor

Jayne Musonye, Director of Municipal Planning & Development

Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Chief of Police

Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works

Norman Butts, Director of Finance

Amrinder Singh, Codes Manager

There was a motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from July 2, 2019. Motion passed.

Council President Sanders announced that Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to the meeting.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Montgomery County Justice Center Presentation**

Mr. Thomas Bonner, the Capital Projects Program Director for Montgomery County Courthouse Campus, Mr. David Hahn and Mr. Peter Glasson presented a Power Point slideshow highlighting an updated County campus design.

#### **Norristown Recreational Wellness Center**

Mr. Vincent DePaul presented a Power Point slideshow highlighting plans for a recreational wellness center to include a plant-based café and organic grocery market at 118-120 East Main Street.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

“Norristown Play Street” sponsored by the Norristown Police Department, Norristown Fire Department and the Recreation Department will continue on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> on the 1000 block of Willow Street.

“Touch a Truck” on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 PM at 1800 Markley Street.

Summer Concerts continue at Elmwood Park. Shows begin at 7 PM on Sunday evenings.

Trails on Tap brings pop-up beer gardens to different Schuylkill River Trail locations. Royersford: July 17-21, July 24-28 at Riverfront Park 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue; Norristown: July 31-August 4 at Riverfront Park 100 Haws Avenue.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm on the 1300 block of Willow Street. Games, entertainment, free food, giveaways and refreshments.

Wed August 7<sup>th</sup> Education and Diversity Forum – Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Norristown Public Library.

Help a Single Parent 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Day on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 7:00 pm at Simmons Park. Guest speakers, talent show.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Denise Ashe – She said that the Amusement Tax could affect things in a bad way because some can't afford it. Also, she said there was a break-in at her building (the OIC) with cell phones stolen.

Joanne Brandenberger, 1339 Pine Street – She stated that for 10 years, Mascaro has been doing damage on her property when they pick up the trash. She said she was told by Public Works to get her sidewalk fixed. She asked that she not be put on a deadline until she tries to figure out how to stop this.

There were no Communication items.

## **ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

### **MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **Ordinance 19-04: Amusement Tax**

Kim Ramsey of the Norristown Chamber of Commerce explained that this Ordinance would reduce the current tax from 10% to 5% and it wouldn't take effect until January 2020.

Councilwoman Brady recused herself from voting because she is a Board member of Theatre Horizon.

Councilman Jones commented that he thinks there should be a full body Council so he made a motion to table the item but there was no second.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Lewis, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve Ordinance 19-04 for the re-implementation of a local Amusement Tax on the price of admission to entertainment venues. Motion passed 3-1 and 1 recusal.

#### **Gorski Engineering Presentation**

Mr. Jerry Gorski of Gorski Engineering, Inc. and Mr. Doug Seiler, Architect, conducted a Power Point slideshow and presented Council with the draft concept design report for the Municipal Hall renovations. They will return for the August 20<sup>th</sup> Council Workshop with updated plans based on Council's feedback.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Advertisement of Ordinance 19-09: Appropriation of Funds for Properties**

**B. Certificates of Appropriateness for June 2019**

**D. Resolution 19-134: Reserved Disabled Parking**

**E. Resolution 19-136: Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application**

Councilman Jones asked for an update of item C: ProChamps Agreement Renewal which was provided to him by Mr. Singh, Code Manager.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve the ProChamps Agreement Renewal. Motion passed 5-0.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda not including item "C." Motion passed 5-0.

**PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Resolution 19-135: Request for Preliminary/Final Land Development at 50 West Brown Street**

Solicitor Kilkenny noted that Resolution 19-135 was shared by Solicitor Hitchens, from his law firm, with the applicant's attorney and the applicant stated they will comply with the Pennoni Review Letters of 1/4/19, 4/9/19 and 6/26/19. He added they will also comply with the Fire Marshall comments, the Zoning Hearing Board decision in a letter dated 9/25/18, the recommendations of both the Norristown Planning

Commission and the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority, stormwater compliance, payment of all outstanding fees and 3 issues related to parking which were explained by Municipal Engineer, Khal Hassan. The applicant's attorney was present and noted he had no objections to the Resolution. He referred to a previous request to install school zone lights, noting that needs to be approved by PennDOT.

Council President Sonya Sanders asked Director Musonye about rumors from the community that Norristown Council supported this project in the past. Director Musonye explained that it was always in the Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission process without Council acting on it. Council President wants it known that Council does not approve of the "concept" but that they are only being asked to approve the land development.

Due to some concerns from Council, there was a motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to table this item until the August 7, 2019 Council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **Public Works**

Mr. Odenigbo advised Council that Public Works has been working on puddles, alleys and potholes.

### **Recreation**

Ms. Genuardi reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Summer Camp started as well as the Basketball League. She noted that park

rentals increased and the gym floor is finished. She is working with Pennoni regarding ADA compliance. She also noted that the Summer Concerts are well attended.

### **Police**

Chief Talbot commented that Denise Ashe from Public Comment has received feedback from him. He reported that property crimes are up with an increase in stealing cars and he added there is still an Opioid crisis. He shared that the Police Department was involved in events this month such as Touch a Truck, Coffee with a Cop, a water ice event and a Latino community event.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There was a motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith, to adjourn the Council Workshop Meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo