

## **NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 20, 2019**

The Council Work Session of August 20, 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 present:

Olivia Brady	Valerie Scott-Cooper	Hakim Jones	Derrick Perry
Rebecca Smith	Heather Lewis	Sonya Sanders	

Also present were: Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator; Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor; Captain Clowser, Norristown Police Department; 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 Councilman Perry**, to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2019. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Council President Sanders announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss real estate issues.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Reverse Auction Energy Purchasing**

Mr. Eugene Brown provided a Power Point regarding Reverse Auction Energy Purchasing.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

“Norristown Play Street” sponsored by the Norristown Police Department, Norristown Fire Department and the Recreation Department will continue on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 4 pm on the 700 block of Haws Avenue.

Summer Concerts at Elmwood Park. The final show will be on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM featuring “Touche.”

Community Day at Macedonia Church on August 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 5 pm.

Theatre Horizon has been nominated for 11 “Barrymore Awards.”

Census 2020 – There is now a complete “count” committee. Information will be forthcoming regarding meetings and town halls.

Help a Single Parent 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Day on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 6:00 pm at Simmons Park. Over 500 book bags with supplies will be given away. There will be vendors, games, free hot dogs, free health screenings, free haircuts. The Norristown Police and Fire Departments will provide 25 smoke detectors and a \$300 gift card giveaway.

Job Fair for PennDOT jobs including information about training, apprenticeships, women and minorities. It will take place at the Human Services Building, 1430 Dekalb Street from 10 am to 12 pm.

Montco SAAC Open House on 536 George Street, Norristown on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

There were no Communication items.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Resolution 19-142: Appointment to various Boards and Committees**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve the appointment of Dominick Giuffrida to Keep Norristown Beautiful. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

#### **MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **Municipal Hall Renovation Project**

Mr. Jerry Gorski, Gorski Engineering, Inc. and Mr. Doug Seiler, Seiler and Drury Architects, provided Council with a Power Point presentation highlighting the updated plans for the Municipal Hall Renovation Project. Council provided feedback and consent to implement the plans.

##### **Marijuana Decriminalization**

The Executive Director of Keystone Cannabis provided additional information regarding the decriminalization of marijuana in Norristown. Solicitor Kilkenny will consider input from Council and put together an Ordinance for future consideration.

##### **Medicare For All**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to approve Resolution 19-143 pertaining to universal Medicare for all. **Motion passed unanimously.**

##### **Poley Park Termination**

Lee Stivale, Esquire, noted that the Cigar Factory Apartments made a request to terminate the lease of the Poley Park parking lot. He proposed the former Times Herald lot as an alternative for which he needs approval. It was decided that due to a possible safety issue, Council would like to hear from the residents.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to table this item. Councilman Jones voted nay. **Motion passed 6-0.**

### **FINANCE**

#### **Introduction and recommendation of Financial Advisor to Norristown**

Financial Director Norman Butts introduced Joe Mason of Davenport & Company, LLC, as a Financial Advisor to Norristown. Mr. Crandall Jones noted that Norristown would benefit from the technical expertise and financial advice that they offer.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Perry** to recommend Davenport & Company, LLC as Financial Advisor to Norristown. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Resolution 19-141: Governmental Lease Agreement – Postage Meter**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 19-141, authorizing the negotiation, execution and delivery of a governmental lease agreement with Pitney Bowes. **Motion passed unanimously.** Councilwoman Sanders suggested having a comparison of other providers in the future.

#### **PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Resolution 19-140: Request for Preliminary/Final Land Development**

Attorney Marlier, representing the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority, John Larson, Plant Manager, and Nicole Mendinsky of HRG came before Council. Municipal Solicitor Kilkenny reviewed the Resolution and compliance issues. All 11 Waivers were accepted by Mr. ? A proposed 8-foot fence with slabs still requires the approval of the Design Review Board. The Solicitor recommended tabling this item until the Design Review Board decision is made.

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilman Perry** to table this item until a decision is made by the Design Review Board. **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Zoning Hearing Board on August 27, 2019**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to send the Solicitor to the Zoning Hearing Board to oppose an application seeking a Variance for a quadriplex with 3 apartments and 1 above the garage. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Ordinance 19-05: Surety Bond**

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 19-05 which amends the existing surety bond amount requirement. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Residential Solid Waste Collection, Recycling and Disposal Changes**

Public Works Director Odenigbo provided a Power Point regarding Trash Contract changes. Council authorized putting together a Bid Document for advertisement. There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper** to advertise a bid document regarding the changes to the residential solid waste collection, recycling and disposal contract. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Ordinance 19-09: Parking Restrictions – Hospital Zones**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to advertise Ordinance 19-09 eliminating parking time limit restrictions for the 100 block of E. Fornance Street, the 100 block of E. Freedley Street and the 100 block of Summit Street because it is no longer a hospital zone. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Emergency Refueling Agreement**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Perry**, to authorize entering into an agreement with Montgomery County for emergency fueling purposes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Planning**

Director Musonye provided a Power Point demonstrating a more proactive Planning website where parcel information can be accessed on the Zoning Map.

### **Codes Enforcement**

Codes Manager Singh addressed a question from Councilman Jones regarding knowing how many residents live at a particular residence at the time of

application. Mr. Singh also proposed a change regarding trash pickup regulations. He proposed residents may put out trash “12” hours prior to and after pickup instead of “18” hours and buildings with more than 4 units use a private hauler.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to adjourn the Council Work Session Meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo