

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

The Council Meeting of August 7, 2019 was called to order by Council Vice President Heather Lewis at 7:30 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

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

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the Work Session Minutes from July 16, 2019. **The motion passed unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Vice President Lewis announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate matters.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Norristown Summer Concerts continue at the Elmwood Park Bandshell on Sundays at 7 PM. The next performances are "The Morning After" on August 11th, "High Noon" on August 18th and "Touchee the Band" on August 25th with Norristown's own Alana Nelson. Free to the public.

"Norristown Play Street" - Creating a safe environment for children to play in their neighborhoods. Next event is on August 14th on the 500 block of Norris Street from 12 pm to 4 pm. Sponsored by the Norristown Recreation Department, the Norristown Police Department and the Norristown Fire Department.

The Citizens Leadership Academy is now open for registration. The 8-week program is an opportunity for residents to gain insight on the ins and outs of local government. It is open to residents and business owners on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications online or email pio@norristown.org.

"Help a Single Parent" will be hosting an annual community day on August 25th at Simmons Park from 12 noon to 6 pm. They are seeking vendors. There will be activities for children, free book bags with supplies and free health screenings.

Job Fair at Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia on August 13th from 11 am to 2 pm. Many local companies will be there.

"First Student" is looking for bus drivers. Information at the Career Link, 1855 New Hope Street on July 18th from 11 am to 1 pm.

PennDOT jobs information session on August 21st from 10 am to 12 pm at the Human Services Building, 1430

Dekalb Street, Norristown.

“Dragon Boat Club Family Fun Day” on Saturday, August 17th from 12 pm to 5 pm. Free food, band, activities, boat-building contest, water safety demonstration.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dalbert Harrison - He voiced his concern over the lack of improvements to Simmons Park and no lights at Skag-Cottman Park. He claims that the dirt on the soccer field is toxic and believes it was not tested by the DEP. Mr. Crandall Jones noted that the soil was tested and the results are public record.

COMMUNICATION

Councilman Perry read a letter from resident, Mary Ellen DiGregorio, which also appeared in the Times Herald.

APPOINTMENTS

Resolution 19-139: Appointment to Various Boards and Committees

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Smith**, to approve Resolution 19-139 which appoints Kabir Hossain to the Planning Commission and Laura Smith and Blayne R. Pierce to the Recreation Committee. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ITEMS FOR ACTION

BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Brady**, to approve the June Certificates of Appropriateness recommended by the Norristown HARB for 11 East Elm Street, 13 East Elm Street, 17 West Airy Street, 529 George Street, 800 Arch Street and 219 East Jacoby Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC SAFETY

Resolution 19-137: Appointment of David A. Hicks, Jr. to Assistant Fire Chief

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 19-137 promoting and appointing David A. Hicks, Jr. to the position of Assistant Fire Chief of the Norristown Fire Department. **The motion passed unanimously.**

The Oath of Office was administered by Council Vice President following the adoption of the Resolution.

Fire Service Mutual Aid Agreement with Upper Merion Township

Fire Chief O'Donnell noted that 25 agreements among local fire companies have been established that would provide mutual assistance to the parties for control of fire, fire prevention, emergency medical services, hazardous materials control and/or other emergency support in the event of a major fire, disaster or other emergency and the goal is to form an alliance on a regional level.

Resolution 19-138: Reserved Disabled Parking

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilman Jones**, to approve Resolution 19-

138 which authorizes the approval of sign installation at 8 Forest Avenue, 716 Astor Street and 1717 Willow Street and the removal of the sign at 1025 West Lafayette Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 19-135: Request for Preliminary/Final Land Development

Director Musonye explained the process the applicant completed before this request.

Solicitor Kilkenny noted they have received approval use from the Zoning Hearing Board and has met the legal requirements for Subdivision and Land Development but the application for the Charter School is being appealed by the school board and is contingent upon state approval. He added that if it is not approved, the applicant has the right to bring this case to the Court of Common Pleas at a cost to the Municipality.

Councilman Perry asked, “Does Municipal law trump State law?” The Solicitor responded “no.”

Councilman Jones stated he is opposed to the nature of the project, Councilwoman Scott-Cooper said she would prefer land use other than a Charter School.

There was a **motion by Councilman Perry, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis**, to approve Resolution 19-135 which grants preliminary and final plan approval for development at 50 West Brown Street. Councilwoman Smith voted nay. **The motion passed 5-1.**

FINANCE

Ordinance 19-09: Appropriation of Funds for Properties

There was a **motion by Councilwoman Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper**, to approve Ordinance 19-09 which authorizes and reaffirms the appropriation of funds for the purchase by the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County of the following properties located at 75 East Main Street, 77 East Main Street, 79 East Main Street, 81 East Main Street, 87 East Main Street, 313 Dekalb Street, 319 Dekalb Street and 321-323 Dekalb Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion to adjourn the Council Meeting by Councilman Perry, 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