

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY**  
**COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

**February 21, 2017**

The Council Workshop Meeting of the Municipality of Norristown was called to order by Council President, Sonya 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:

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator  
Natasha Taylor-Smith, Acting Municipal Solicitor  
Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Development  
Chenora Burkett, Director of Finance  
Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Chief of Police  
Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works  
Michael Simonson, Code Manager

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Meeting Minutes from 02-07-2017

Councilman Hakim Jones asked that the Minutes be amended to reflect a change in voting results under "Planning and Municipal Development" for Resolution 17-112 of 2017. It should show that Councilman Jones voted "nay."

There was a unanimous vote to amend the Minutes from February 7th.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Heather Lewis to Motion to approve the Minutes from the February 7, 2017 Meeting.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Council President Sanders announced there was an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Vegan Festival Discussion by Mobility for Animals

The group Mobility for Animals is will be presenting to the Municipal Council the idea of having a festival about healthy eating (vegan), the environment, and animals rights in Norristown.

They discussed the idea of having a festival about healthy eating (vegan), the environment, and animals rights in Norristown. They would like it to be a free public event on a weekend in mid to late August. A copy of an Application for Vendors was distributed to Council.

#### Elmwood Park Zoo

Mr. Al Zone, Director of the Elmwood Park Zoo, provided a presentation highlighting the Elmwood Park Zoo and parking proposals.

There was a motion on the floor to offer Staff general support to direct them to proceed with the Elmwood Park Zoo proposal.

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to ELMWOOD PARK ZOO. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilman Perry provided the following Announcement:

**Home repair program.** 610-270-0411 Michael Simonson.

Councilwoman Scott-Cooper provided the following Announcement:

**Municipal Administrator Crandall Jones, Code Manager Michael Simonson and Councilman Jones will be at the Grace Tabernacle Church tomorrow night giving information on the Home Repair program.**

Councilman Jones provided the following Announcement:

**Theatre Horizon - last date is February 26th for "Grand Concourse"** - story about hunger and poverty in our region. Check website for information. Shows: Friday, February 24, Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26. Councilwoman Brady will be part of a panel discussion on Friday night.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Diana and Robert Madden, 708 E Elm Street:**

Speaking on behalf of the 700 block of Elm Street. First to purchase one of the new town houses. Were told their street would be taken care of, including snow plowing. This year, the care has stopped. Reached out and was told by P/W that the road is private. Stop signs and trees are required to dedicate street. Has not happened.

Have deed and site plan. One note states area of ultimate right-of-way. Told that block would be Norristown's not private. Best course of action?

Municipal Administrator Crandall Jones told them it is being investigated. He said there has not been a legal dedication. Have to investigate County information.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

There were no Communication items.

### **ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

#### **FINANCE:**

Motion to open the agenda to include "results of the Concord Bank borrowing RFP"

Mr. Chris Gibbons provided the results including the re-payment time frame, the banks' proposals and interest rates.

**Motion carries.**

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to open the agenda to include results of the Concord Bank Borrowing RFP. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

Bond Issuance / Refinancing

Mr. Chris Gibbons explained the results including the re-payment time frame, interest rates and bank proposals.

Mr. Chris Gibbons provided details about the proposals **All in favor. Motion carries.**

There was a motion by Heather Lewis with a second by Olivia Brady to Bond Issuance/Refinancing. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

Transfer Proceeds from the sale of 770 Sandy St to Credit Reserve Fund

Mr. Chris Gibbons provided details about the proposals.

Director Burkett provided an explanation. She noted this Fund will provide a source of funds for an emergency or a critical need.

There was a motion to transfer the funds from the 770 Sandy Street sale.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Hakim Jones to Transfer proceeds from the sale of 770 Sandy Street to Credit Reserve Fund. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Ratification of Resolutions 17-109, 17-110, & 17-111

Ratify the resolutions appointing Samantha O'Neill, Paul Gaunya, and Stephanie Flynn as Entry Level Police Officers.

Mr. Crandall Jones explained that the Officers were sworn in but need to be ratified.

**Motion carries.**

There was a motion by Heather Lewis with a second by Olivia Brady to Ratifications of Resolutions 17-109, 17-110, 17-111. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

Noise Ordinance Waiver

Motion for Municipal Council to approve or disapprove request for waiver of noise ordinance in order to perform limited night work at SEPTA Elm Street parking lot as par of the SR0202 Section 510 Markley Street project as requested by Thomas G. Storrrs, PE, Project Manager, Burns Engineering, Inc.

**Motion carries.**

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Heather Lewis to Noise Ordinance Waiver. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

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

Montgomery Park - Preliminary/Final Land Development Approval

Requesting Preliminary/Final Land Development approval for Phase 1 of the Montgomery Park project from ELON at Montgomery Park, LP

There was a presentation, using Architectural drawings, which provided a history of the development, including all phases.

There was also an explanation of the requested Waivers.

**Motion Carries.**

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve Preliminary/Final Land Development for Phase 1 of the Montgomery Park project from ELON at Montgomery Park, LP. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

Ordinance 17- 01 of 2017 - Zoning Chapter 320 Amendment

Requesting authorization to advertise a public notice for a public hearing to consider the adoption of Ordinance 17-01 of 2017, amending Zoning Chapter 320 of the CODE of the Municipality of Norristown (Zoning Chapter 320).

Director Musonye provided details.

She and the Municipal Administrator attended a seminar regarding the regulations involving the growing and dispensing of marijuana.

She noted that Staff recommends the advertisement of the Ordinance that states the limitations of growing and dispensing marijuana.

She also noted that omitting Cash Checking businesses is also part of this Ordinance.

There was a motion to advertise the Ordinance with the changes. **Motion Carries.**

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to Request to authorize a Public Notice for a Public Hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance 17-01 of 2017 amending Zoning Chapter 320 of the CODE of the Municipality of Norristown.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

Cooperative Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County (RDA)

Executing a Cooperative Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority as required for the release of the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital (RACP) grant in the amount of \$850,000 for the Residences at Courthouse Square redevelopment project.

Director Musonye provided details. **Motion carries unanimously.**

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Execute the

Cooperative Agreement with the RDA as required for the release of the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital (RACP) grant in the amount of \$850,000 for the residences at Courthouse Square redevelopment project.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

#### Barbadoes Street Connector - PennDOT Request for Waiver from Land Development

PennDOT is requesting a waiver from land development for the construction of the Barbadoes Street connector between Lafayette Street and Washington Street.

The Municipal Engineer, Khaled Hassan, conducted a presentation. He noted this will address a safety issue. He stated that meetings took place between PennDOT, Montgomery County and MCIU. This is expected to go out to bid within 60 days.

#### **Motion carries.**

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Suanne Gardiner to PennDOT is requesting a Waiver from Land Development for the construction of the Barbados Street connector between Lafayette Street and Washington Street.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

#### Public Works Report

- Director Odenigbo presented the goals for Public Works:
- Weed control for Parks, cleaning out of inlets, provide new Street signs.
- He noted that one Street Sweeper broke down and the other has issues.

#### Planning & Development Report

- Director Musonye provided detatils about the formation of a local Chamber, Work Camp, pursuing those that apply for permits but owe taxes, pursuing Developers and working closely with Municipal Administration to pursue funding.
- She provided information about having Pre-Application Meetings to get feedback.
- She added there are 4 different realtors interested in downtown Norristown.

#### Office of the Administrator Reports

Mr. Crandall Jones provided the following in his report:

- **Human Resources**
  - AFSME ratified contract.
- **Public Information**
  - Access Channel is down. Doing upgrade with IT people.
- **Parks and Recreation**
  - Chestnut Hill University will be using parks for baseball. An investment will be made for use.
  - Cabrini and Eastern University will be holding free baseball clinics.

Non-presenting Department Reports

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was a motion to adjourn the Meeting. **Motion carries.**

There was a motion by Heather Lewis with a second by Hakim Jones to Motion to adjourn the February 21, 2017 Council Workshop Meeting.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Gardiner, Jones, Lewis, Perry, Sanders, Scott-Cooper

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo