

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 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:

Olivia Brady
Valerie Scott Cooper
Hakim Jones
Suanne Gardiner
Derrick Perry
Sonya Sanders

The following Council members were absent:

Heather Lewis

Also present were:

Natasha Taylor-Smith, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning/Development
Chenora Burkett, Director of Finance
Michael Simonson, Code Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting Minutes from 05-02-2017

There was a motion by Derrick Perry with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve the Minutes from the May 2, 2017 Council Meeting.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Sanders announced that Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss litigation matters.

PRESENTATIONS:

Letter of Support for Edible Forest Grant Proposal

Ms. N'ann Harp, , will be asking Council for a letter of support to include in a USDA grant proposal Edible Forest will be submitting to fund training materials and resources for a perspective community garden in Norristown's 4th District.

Ms. N'ann Harp, representing Edible Forest Urban Farm (located between Main & Marshall Streets), asked for a letter of support to include in a USDA grant proposal that Edible Forest will be submitting to fund training materials and resources for a perspective community garden in Norristown's 4th District.

Council President Sanders noted that Council has the letter of support, which will require approvals and signatures.

ANNOUCEMENTS:

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce 12th Annual Expo

May 24th from 3 to 6 pm at the Elmwood Park Zoo. Free parking. Tickets or zoo admission.

July 4th Parade

Begins at 10 am, festivities from 12 to 9 pm. Contact Municipal Hall if planning on being a participant or email NorristownPaEvents@gmail.com

Bike Marathon Update

There will be 2 Public Workshops: Tuesday, May 23rd from 4 to 7 pm at the Skippack Township Building and on Wednesday, May 24th from 4 to 7 pm at the Upper Dublin Township Building.

Help a Single Parent Fundraiser

Saturday, August 12th at the Norristown Cedar Club. \$25 per ticket.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Terry Hill, 1500 Markley Street

Mr. Hill represents the SE Pa Mental Health Recovery Center. He noted he works with the homeless but is now in need of resources. He was asked to meet with Jayne Musonye after the meeting to inquire about County, State and Federal resources.

COMMUNICATION:

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT:

Resolution 17-129 - 219-221 W Main St - Prelim/Final Land Development

Approve Resolution 17-129 of 2017 granting preliminary/final land development approval to David Sereny for the properties located at 219-221 W. Main Street, Norristown, PA

Motion Carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Suanne Gardiner to Motion to approve Resolution 17-129 of 2017 to grant preliminary/final land development approval to David Sereny for the properties located at 219-221 W. Main Street, Norristown, PA.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Resolution 17-130 - 1529 Dekalb Street - Preliminary Land Development

Request for preliminary land development approval from Progressive Housing Ventures for the development of 34 townhouse units.

Sarah Peck, Developer, representing Progressive Housing Ventures and Judy Memberg, Executive Director of Genesis Housing were present to provide information about the events up to this point.

Motion carries. 6-0

Sarah Peck asked for Waivers to be added but the motion had already been made.

Director Musonye deferred to the Municipal Engineer, Khal Hassad, who provided information about the Waivers: 282.304.6.12 Aerial View of the property and 282.411.4 Removal of top soil from the property.

Council President Sanders noted that Council will review these Waivers and bring this request back to the next Council Meeting on June 6, 2017.

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve Resolution 17-130 to request preliminary land development approval for Progressive Housing Ventures for the development of 34 townhouse units at 1529 DeKalb Street, Norristown, PA.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Resolution 17-132 - ELON at Montgomery Park - LERTA Application

Approve Resolution 17-132 of 2017 approving ELON at Montgomery Park's LERTA application.

Mr. Vargas, Developer, noted he met with the NASD School Board and had 22 public meetings regarding ELON. Council posed questions regarding sustainability, using local unions, eviction process and garage parking.

Motion carries 6-0

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by to Motion to approve Resolution

17-132 - approving ELON at Montgomery Park's LERTA application.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Ordinance 17-05 - 220 W Main Street - ROW Vacation Public Hearing

Public hearing to consider the adoption of a petition outlined in Ordinance 17-05 of 2017 vacating a 4 foot ROW traversing 220 W. Main Street.

There was a motion to table this item until the June 6th Council Meeting.

Motion passed 6-0.

There was a motion by Derrick Perry with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Public Hearing - Motion to consider the adoption of a petition outlined in Ordinance 17-05 of 2017 vacating a 4 foot ROW traversing 220 W. Main Street.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Montgomery County: Food Truck Waiver

Montgomery County is requesting a waiver to allow food trucks on Swede Street between Lafayette and Marshall on Fridays from June 2 through September 1, 2017.

The Norristown Special & Cultural Events Committee requested waivers to allow food trucks and sponsoring signage at Elmwood Park on July 4th.

Councilwoman Brady asked how to go about amending the Food Truck Ordinance so Council wouldn't need to amend the Ordinance for these events. Director Musonye provided an explanation of the Ordinance.

Motion passed 6-0.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Suanne Gardiner to Motion to approve a Fourth of July Food Truck and Signage Waiver. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Fourth of July Food Truck and Signage Waiver

The Norristown Special & Cultural Events Committee will be requesting waivers to allow food trucks and sponsorship signage at Elmwood Park on the Fourth of July.

Montgomery County requested a Waiver to allow food trucks on Swede Street between Lafayette and Marshall Streets on Fridays from June 2 through September 1, 2017.

Councilman Jones suggested a fee for setting up business in busy parts of town.

Motion Carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Suanne Gardiner to Motion to approve a Montgomery County Food Truck Waiver.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

FINANCE:

Ordinance 17-06 PA Infrastructure Bank Loan

To accept loan of \$3,500,000 from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank ("PIB") to be used for the multi-year municipal road project.

Ms. Burkett explained that the funds will be supplied by the Liquid Fuels Funds to cover Phase I.

There was a motion to approve advertisement of the Ordinance followed by a Roll Call Vote which passed 6-0.

There was a motion by Suanne Gardiner with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 17-06 which would accept a loan of \$3,500,000 from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank ("PIB") to be used for the multi-year Municipal Road Project.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Resolution 17-131 - Disabled Parking

Motion to approve or deny Resolution No. 17-131 regarding requests for disabled parking spaces as well as removal of a disabled parking space.

Council President Sanders, on behalf of Chief Talbot, noted a Handicapped Parking Space needs to be added for 36 Hartranft Avenue and removed from 127 Buttonwood Street.

Motion Carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Suanne Gardiner with a second by Derrick Perry to Motion to approve Resolution 17-131 regarding requests for disabled parking spaces as well as removal of a disabled

parking space.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Resolution 17-133 - Civil Service Rules Amendment

Motion to approve an amendment to the rules and regulations of the Norristown Civil Service Commission, pertaining to section 3.6(a) (general qualifications – applicants for promotion – police department); section 4.6(c) (additional points – entry level police department).

Motion Carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Suanne Gardiner with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve Resolution 17-133 - an amendment to the rules and regulations of the Norristown Civil Service Commission, pertaining to section 3.6(a) (general qualifications - applicants for promotion - police department); section 4.6(a) (additional points - entry level police department.). A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Ordinance 17-07 - Amending Two (2) hour Parking Restrictions in Zone A

Chief of Police has recommended that Council amend Chapter 305 of the Administration Code for the purpose of furthering public safety and enhancing the parking regulations by extending the enforcement times for the two (2) hour parking regulation on residential streets in and around the property located at 1430 DeKalb St.

The Municipal Solicitor noted this was not property advertised so she advised Council to amend the motion to approve to be a motion to advertise.

Motion carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve Ordinance 17-07 amending two 2-hour parking restrictions in Zone A in and around the property at 1430 DeKalb Street.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Police Report

There was no representative for the Police Department.

Fire Report

Assistant Fire Chief, John Remillard, provided the Fire Report details such as Schuylkill River Clean-Up, Task Force Executive Meeting, New Horizons, K-9 Training, HUDD meetings, Red Cross Heroes, Convoy of Hope, apparatus maintenance and statistical data.

Code Enforcement Report

Michael Simonson, Code Manager, provided details of his report such as number of inspections and citations, Work Camp info, off-peak and weekend hours, 3-strike offenses for contractors, short films being done at the Municipality.

Non-presenting Department Reports

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to adjourn the Workshop Meeting.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo