

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2017

The Council Meeting of the Municipality of Norristown was called to order by Council President, Sonya Sanders, 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
Heather Lewis
Suanne Gardiner
Sonya Sanders

Also present:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator
Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor
Captain Clowser, Norristown Police Department
Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning/Development
Chenora Burkett, Director of Finance
Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works
Michael Simonson, Code Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Workshop Minutes from 04-18-2017

Councilwoman Brady made a correction under Announcements.

Motion carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Suanne Gardiner with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve the Minutes from the Council Workshop Meeting held on April 18, 2017.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUCEMENT

Council President Sanders announced there was no Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

Norristown Special & Cultural Events Committee

Ms. Alexandra Ferber and Mr. Carl Moman Jr., Co-Chairs of the Norristown Special & Cultural Events Committee, will be updating the Council on the Committee's actions regarding the Fourth of July and requesting waivers to allow food trucks and sponsor signage at Elmwood Park on the day of the event.

Committee Co-Chair, Ms. Alexandra Ferber, updated Council on what participants plan on being part of the Fourth of July Parade. She also requested a waiver to allow food trucks and sponsor signage at Elmwood Park on the day of the event.

Carnegie Hero Award

Eric P. Zahren, Executive Director and Trustee of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, will publicly honor the late Sanford Harling III with the Carnegie Hero medal.

Councilwoman Scott-Cooper read her own words to the family of Sanford Harding III saying he "exemplified the meaning of courage."

Mr. Eric Zahren, Executive Director and Trustee of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, provided details of the history of the Carnegie Hero Award which was presented to the family of the late Sanford Harling III.

Council President Sanders thanked Fire Chief O'Donnell for nominating Sanford Harling III for this award.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NORRISTOWN RECREATION SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM - June 26th through August 4th. Ages 5-13. Hours: 9:00 to 2:45. Register at Municipal Hall on June 3rd or June 10th from 10:00am to 11:30am or sign-up at NorristownRecDesk.com.

HONOR K-9 OFFICER JERRY - May 13, 2017 from 12-4pm at the Maenner Chor. There will be food, music, raffles.

GREATER NORRISTOWN CLEAN-UP - Sunday, May 7th from 9am to 1pm at the Riverfront Park. Contact New Horizons Coordinator, Kristi Barletta at 610-270-0470 or kbarletta@norristown.org.

NORRISTOWN CITIZENS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - Thursday, Sept. 14 through November 2, 2017. Free for residents. Limited to 20 participants. Contact the Public Information Office or gprete@norristown.org.

NORRISTOWN JULY 4TH CELEBRATION - Parade 10am, festivities from 12-9pm. Consider being a sponsor by making a financial or in-kind donation today. Applications must be submitted by June 2, 2017. Contact 610-270-0429 or norristownpaevents@gmail.com.

BINGO NIGHT Norristown Area High School on Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS - Candidate forms available on Thursday, May 4th through the NAACP.

FREE BOOK GIVEAWAY - Carver Center on May 7, 2017 from 1-4 pm.

DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION CLINIC - May 11, 2017. Senator Leach is sponsoring this clinic at the Carver Center from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

PHOTO ID CLINIC - Sponsored by the New Life Plaza Church on May 13, 2017 from 10am to 12pm.

NORRISTOWN MEN OF EXCELLENCE - Gala at the Crowne Plaza. Proceeds for scholarships for Norristown High School students.

CAMP RAINBOW - Now accepting applications for summer camps.

NAACP MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM - May 13, 2017 from 9:30am to 12pm.

HELP A SINGLE PARENT FOUNDATION - May 20, 2017 from 8pm to 12am. CEO Mike Scott will be present at the fundraiser at the Norristown Cedar Club.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michelle Adams, 218 Jacoby Street

Ms. Adams told Council about several hit-and-runs on her street, noting her car has been hit 5 times in the last 4 years. She blames road construction and speeding. She was told to share her findings with Captain Clowser following the meeting.

Rochelle Boggs, 232 Jacoby Street

Ms. Boggs reiterated what previous resident said and added that there are many young children in the neighborhood. She suggested a "Children at Play" sign or speed bumps.

Billy Boggs, 232 Jacoby Street

Mr. Boggs also voiced his concern for the children and stated that the Community Center should be open more often.

Sharon Baptiste, 220 Jacoby Street

Ms. Baptiste passed out her typewritten concerns. She noted that most of the homes are rentals but once were owned. She noted that the landlord for 224 Jacoby Street allowed 12 people in one house with 5 cars which results in a parking issue. Ms. Baptiste asked that the time be taken to investigate speeding and drunk driving. She suggested that maybe some open space can become parking space. She was asked to speak with Code and Public Works.

COMMUNICATION:

There were no Communication items.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

Municipal Council

Resolution 17-128: Board and Committee Appointments

Council will be making appointments to the following citizen advisory boards: Zoning Hearing Board

Crandall Jones announced that Jason Dennis will be made an alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board with a term expiring December 31, 2021.

Motions Carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Suanne Gardiner to Motion to approve Resolution 17-128: Board and Committee Appointments. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

HARB Certificates of Appropriateness - April 2017

For Council to Approve or Disapprove the Certificate of Appropriateness for the properties that applied for review by the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB).

Norristown's Code Enforcement Manager, Michael Simonson noted that the following properties applied for review by the HARB:

- 915 West Marshall
- 556 Noble Street
- 708 Green Street
- 710 Green Street
- 508 Buttonwood Street

Motion Carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Heather Lewis with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve HARB Certificates of Appropriateness - April 2017. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

Motion to open agenda.

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

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

Absent: Perry

Motion to approve/disapprove Zoning Relief for 315 Arch Street

Norristown Planning Director Jayne Musonye explained that a Zoning Hearing Board applicant located at 315 Arch Street is appealing the Board's decision that would allow the applicant to sell auto tires.

Solicitor Kilkenny explained that the Zoning Hearing Board denied relief for this application and Director Musonye noted that the selling of auto tires in the Town Center Zoning District is prohibited.

There was no Public Comment.

Solicitor Kilkenny suggested that a letter be written supporting the Zoning Hearing Board's decision to deny the application for 315 Arch Street.

There was a motion by Suanne Gardiner with a second by to Motion to approve/disapprove Zoning Relief for 315 Arch Street.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion Carries 6-0.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Heather Lewis to Motion to adjourn the Council Meeting of May 2, 2017. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo