

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 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:

Sonya Sanders, Council President, 1st District
Derrick Perry, Council Vice-President, At-Large
Olivia Brady, At-Large
Valerie Scott-Cooper, 3rd District
Hakim Jones, 4th District
Suanne Gardiner, At-Large

The following Council members were absent:

Heather Lewis, 2nd District

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator
Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor
Mark Talbot, Norristown Chief of Police
Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Development
Chenora Burkett, Director of Finance
Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works
Michael Simonson, Code Enforcement Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Workshop Minutes from 07-18-2017

Motion Carries. All in favor.

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

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

Absent: Lewis

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUCEMENT

Council President Sanders announced there was an Executive Session before tonight's meeting to discuss Real Estate issues.

PRESENTATIONS:

Norristown Maenner Chor 150th Anniversary Proclamation

Council will be presenting the Norristown Maenner Chor with a proclamation to publicly honor their 150th Anniversary and declare August 2 as Maenner Chor Day in the Municipality of Norristown.

Jack London, Maenner Chor President, and Don Battaglia, Maenner Chor Treasurer, were present to receive a Proclamation from Council President Sanders honoring the 150th Anniversary of the Maenner Chor as well as to declare August 2nd as "Maenner Chor Day" in the Municipality of Norristown.

Rock the Block 2017 Update

Representatives from Habitat for Humanity will be presenting Council with an update on their "Rock the Block" event planned for 2017.

Maryann Lynch, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, provided information on the 4th Annual "Rock the Block" event planned for September which would take place on Cherry Street, Elm Street, Powell Street and also the Carver Center.

She thanked Crandall Jones, the Administration and Public Works for their help in the past and she asked for their continued help in the future. She distributed pamphlets highlighting the map of locations for the event as well as the 23 organizations involved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NORRISTOWN LISTENING TOUR - August 12, 2017 at 12:00 pm at the Carver Center. All are welcome.

FIESTA ITALIA - August 4 through 6 at the Holy Saviour Club on Main Street in Norristown.

THEATRE HORIZON presents, "Hero School." Ages 4-8, 1 and under is free. \$20 adults, \$25 children.

COMMUNITY DAY - August 5 from 12-4 pm, Oak Street Park. Sponsored by Shop-Rite, Keystone First, Carver Center, Norristown Fire Department, Norristown Police Department, Herr's, Hatfield Meats and Wawa. Raindate: August 12.

ELMWOOD PARK - August 6, 2017 free for residents with ID from 2-5 pm.

HELP A SINGLE PARENT - 3rd Annual "Back to School Bookbag & Supplies" from 6-8 pm at Simmons Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Watters, 1 East Indian Lane, East Norriton

Mr. Watters thanked Public Works and the Pennsylvania American Water Company for their clean-up efforts at the Riverfront Park led by Fire Chief Tom O'Donnell over the weekend. He read from a letter he wrote to Council. He said he would post a video he took of the clean-up on You Tube.

Denise Ashe, 1101 Arch Street

Ms. Ashe provided a letter she wrote and photos of a 125 year old tree that fell on the street during the storm. She said there was a delay in response to 911. The Whitpain Fire Company came an hour later along with the East Norriton Fire Police and News trucks after a fire had started. She noted that the Norristown Fire Department and Norristown Police didn't arrive until over an hour later. She was also fined by the Code Department because of the tree blocking the street. She said she found out there was another emergency happening at the same time but asked Council how to handle the situation of 2 emergencies at once in the future. Council President Sanders noted she should be hearing from the Code Manager.

Justin Spencer, 201 Chain Street

Mr. Spencer asked Council to consider giving Tax Abatement to property owners who convert rentals into single homes.

COMMUNICATION:

There were no Communication items.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

Municipal Council

Resolution 17-145: Board and Committee Appointments

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

- Special & Cultural Events Committee

Mr. Crandall Jones provided the names of the appointees for the Special & Cultural Events Committee: Dax Lamar and Denise Hopkins.

Motion Carries. All in favor.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve/disapprove Resolution 17-145: Board and Committee Appointments.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

FINANCE:

Resolution No 17-143 Ratify 2010 Trash Fee Rates and 2010-2013 Administrative Lien/Praecipe Fees

Resolution No. 17-143 Ratify 2010 Trash Fee and 2010-2013 Administrative Lien/Praecipe Fee

Director Burkett noted this is a standard annual process and she explained that there is an increased effort to collect outstanding amounts from prior years and that the 2010 trash fees were not ratified by a Fee Resolution.

Motion Carries. All in favor.

There was a motion by Derrick Perry with a second by Suanne Gardiner to Motion to approve/disapprove Resolution 17-143: Ratify 2010 Trash Fee Rates and 2010-2013 Administrative Lien/Praecipe Fees. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Resolution No. 144 To establish handicapped parking

To establish handicapped parking at the following Norristown address:

1530 Arch Street

218 E Fornance Street

1202 Powell Street

Motion Carries. All in favor.

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by to Motion to approve/disapprove Resolution No. 144 to establish handicapped parking.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

HARB Certificate of Appropriateness - July 2017

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

Mr. Simonson provided the addresses that applied for the Certificate:

- 333 Moore Street for stucco.
- 850 Cherry Street for a porch replacement.

- 530 DeKalb Street for a sign replacement.
- 626 Swede Street for a facade replacement.
- 534 Kohn Street for exterior renovations.

Motion Carries. All in favor.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve/disapprove the HARB Certificates of Appropriateness for July 2017.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT:

Launch of Economic Development Microsite

Preview of Economic Development Microsite

Mr. Crandall Jones provided a slide presentation highlighting items about the new microsite, "NORRISTOWN NOW."

He noted that this microsite is only intended for the business development community. He stated it would be going "live" tonight. The site provides information about the Luxor living community and the PNC building apartments, transportation improvements such as the Lafayette Street Extension project, new businesses, new jobs, incentives for investments such as LERTA and other grants, affordable living, the Elmwood Park Zoo, the bike path and local shopping.

There was also a presentation of a new video also available on the new microsite highlighting Norristown.

Mr. Jones thanked the Planning Department, the Administrative staff and Red Seed Media, who put the video together.

Motion to open the agenda regarding the Chestnut Hill College baseball fields.

Motion Carries. All in favor.

Solicitor Kilkeny provided a summary of the matter. He noted that Chestnut Hill College approached the Municipality to ask to continue the 10-year relationship regarding their yearly capital development plan for Latshaw Field. He noted there is a drafted Motion which he provided to Council President Sanders to authorize the Municipal Administrator to move forward in addition to a formal agreement for Council to review which reflects Council's priorities regarding use of the field, the timing of the use, maintenance and shared costs.

There was no Public Comment.

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

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

Absent: Lewis

Motion to move forward with the Chestnut Hill agreement.

Motion Carries. All in favor.

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to move forward with the Chestnut Hill College agreement for the use and improvement of the baseball fields at Stergiere and Harding Boulevard subject to Staff's formal agreement negotiating.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Motion to close the agenda.

Motion Carries. All in favor.

There was a motion by Suanne Gardiner with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to close the agenda.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion Carries. All in favor.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to adjourn the August 2nd Council Meeting.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo