

**NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 3, 2017**

**\*REVISION NOTE:**

**The minutes from the Municipal Council Meeting on October 3, 2017 were revised as motioned to do so at the request of Council on November 8, 2017 to reflect that Councilman Jones voted AGAINST authorizing the drafting and advertisement of Ordinance 17-16: Acquisition of 340 Harding Blvd.**

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.

Council President Sanders asked that everyone stand for a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council members were present:

Sonya Sanders, President  
Derrick Perry, Vice-President  
Valerie Scott-Cooper, 3rd District  
Hakim Jones, 4th District  
Heather Lewis, 2nd District

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator  
Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor  
Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Police Chief  
Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Development  
Chenora Burkett, Director of Finance  
Chief Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Fire Chief

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Workshop Minutes from 09-19-2017

There was a motion by Derrick Perry with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve the Workshop Minutes from September 19, 2017. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Gardiner

**Motion carried 6-0.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUCEMENT**

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

## **ANNOUCEMENTS:**

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR - October 28 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Elmwood Park Bandshell. Costume contests up to age 13.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL affiliation meeting - October 19 from 2:30 to 6:00 pm. There will be an overview and training information. The public is welcome.

COFFEE WITH A COP - October 4 from 8:30 to 10:30 am at Dunkin Donuts on Main Street in Norristown.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - October 5 at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room to present Economic Development projects.

MUSICFEST - October 14 at 12:00 pm on Main Street between DeKalb and Arch Streets.

CAR SHOW - October 14 at 10:00 am on Main Street from Barbados to DeKalb Street.

NHS HOMECOMING - October 7 at 1:00 pm against Methacton High School football.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*Percy Thompson, 205 East Wood Street*

Mr. Thompson came back regarding the issue with his roof that was damaged by a contractor sent by the Municipal. Mr. Simsonson explained that he told the contractor to contact Mr. Thompson who said his insurance company told him they cannot deal with the contractor. Mr. Crandall Jones noted that Mr. Thompson can seek civil action and the Municipality would be able to supply papers for support or be witnesses. Solicitor Kilkenny offered to speak with Mr. Thompson after the meeting.

*James Watters, East Norriston Resident*

Mr. Watters complemented the Municipality on the Hamilton Street handicapped ramps. He said it was nice to see Elmwood Park erosion control using river stones. He commented that the Riverfront Park plantings seem to be dying. He contacted the Audubon Society. Regarding a flooding issue: he noted that the Sewer Plant is not being reimbursed by FEMA. He said that this last flood was the 3rd worst flood caused by Blue Marsh. He provided video documentation to Council President. He stated he intends to get money back for that damage.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

There were no Communication items.

## **ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

### **Municipal Council**

Resolution 17-155: Opposition to PA Senate Bill 6 of 2017

Council will be publicly declare their opposition to Pennsylvania Senate Bill 6 of 2017, which results in an unnecessary hardship on Norristown and Pennsylvania residents who are most in need of assistance.

The Bill passed the Senate and If approved, Governor Wolf will consider. Council is opposed because of the \$100 penalty, which results in a hardship for residents who work for low wages.

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve/disapprove Resolution 17-155: Opposition to PA Senate Bill 6 of 2017.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Gardiner

**Motion carried 6-0.**

### **MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR:**

Authorization to Draft & Advertise an Ordinance to Acquire 340 Harding Blvd

A request of Municipal Council to authorize the Municipal Solicitor to draft and advertise an ordinance pursuant to Section 41.4-401(12) of the Norristown Home Rule Charter to acquire 340 Harding Boulevard, Norristown, PA for a purchase price not to exceed \$225,000, plus the payment of the seller's legal costs associated with the transfer, and for Council to take all actions necessary to acquire the property.

Mr. Crandall Jones explained that Council was approached because of the direction of the recreation programs. He noted that the PAL Board approached Council to take ownership of the building so that recreation services can be expanded and to make better use of the building. Mr. Jones noted that due diligence has been done and the acquisition would cover outstanding debt. He added that Phase I which is a structural assessment has been done but roof work is still needed. He requested that Council authorize the Solicitor to draft an Ordinance to acquire the building plus payment for legal and administrative costs for transfer to Council.

There was a motion by Heather Lewis with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to authorize to draft and advertise an Ordinance to acquire 340 Harding Boulevard.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Nays: Jones

Absent: Gardiner

**Motion carried 5-1.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Resolution No. 17-156: Handicapped Parking

Motion to approve or deny Resolution No. 17-156 regarding requests for disabled parking spaces.

Chief Talbot provided the following properties and noted that the residents have physical limitations that warrant the Handicapped Parking:

1216 W. Washington Street  
218 E. Jacoby Street  
211 E. Penn Street  
639 E. Moore Street

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve/disapprove Resolution 17-156: Handicapped Parking. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

**Motion carried 6-0.**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

HARB Certificate of Appropriateness - September 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 information regarding requests for HARB Certificates for the following properties:

342 West Marshall Street for a wall replacement  
223 East Oak Street to install stucco  
526 Noble Street replace porch and trim  
724 George Street for a new door and windows  
1036 West Airy for vinyl siding  
217 E. Elm for repair of wood  
639 Chain Street to replace windows  
800 West Main Street to replace porch  
932 West Main Street to remove and replace slate shingles

There was a motion by Derrick Perry with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve HARB Certificates. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

**Motion carried 6-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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

Absent: Gardiner

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo

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