

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

November 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.

Council President Sanders asked all attendees to rise for a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council members were present:

Sonya Sanders, President
Valerie Scott-Cooper, 3rd District
Hakim Jones, 4th District
Heather Lewis, 2nd District
Olivia Brady, At-Large
Suanne Gardiner, At-Large

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator
Anthony L. Ciuca, Esq., Acting Municipal Solicitor
Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Police Chief
Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning/Municipal Development
Chenora Burkett, Director of Finance
Michael Simonson, Code Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting Minutes from 11-08-2017

Motion Carries (6-0).

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve the Minutes from the November 8, 2017 Council Meeting.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Council President Sanders announced that Council did not meet in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Saturday, December 9, 2017 - Norristown Men of Excellence Annual Awards Banquet at the Carver Community Center. Free to the public.

Saturday, December 9, 2017 - 8 to midnight - Cedar Club Fundraiser for "Help a Single Parent." Tickets \$25.

Mr. Crandall Jones announced that Councilwoman Scott-Cooper was elected to the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no Public Comment.

COMMUNICATION:

Certificate from the National Park Service

This past week, the Municipality of Norristown received a certificate from the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior congratulating Norristown on being a certified partner in the Federal Preservation Program.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

Municipal Council

Resolution 17-167: Prohibiting Category 4 Licensed Gaming Facilities

Council will consider a resolution to prohibit the location of category 4 licenses gaming facilities in the Municipality of Norristown pursuant to Act 42 of 2017.

Solicitor Ciuca explained that in October of 2017, Governor Wolf signed a Bill that would allow Category 4 casinos in the State of Pennsylvania, also referred to as "satellite" casinos with 300 slot machines but no more than 750 slot machines and up to 30 gaming tables. He explained that the new law allows the Municipality to adopt a Resolution prohibiting placement of a satellite casino within its borders. He also noted that if Council approves the Resolution, it would need to be approved and submitted to the Board Secretary by December 31, 2017 with the option to reverse the decision but not back again.

There was discussion concerning the pros and cons including revenue collection, crowds, addiction issues.

Motion Fails (3-3).

Mr. Crandall Jones explained that Staff will obtain more information regarding this matter and

bring the Resolution back to Council by the second meeting in December 2017.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve Resolution 17-167: Prohibiting Category 4 Licensed Gaming Facilities in the Municipality of Norristown pursuant to Act 42 of 2017.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Jones, Scott-Cooper

Nays: Gardiner, Lewis, Sanders

Absent: Perry

Resolution 17-171: Supporting the KOP Rail Extension

Council will consider a resolution to support the proposed SEPTA KOP Rail Extension of the Norristown High Speed Line.

Mr. Crandall Jones explained that there are benefits to Norristown with this rail extension including accessibility to jobs and development of jobs in Norristown as a result of proximity and to attract housing development. He also noted that he has been a representative of the High Speed Rail Sub-Committee for the past 1 1/2 years,

Motion carries (6-0).

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve Resolution 17-171: Supporting the KOP Rail Extension.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

FINANCE:

Resolution 17-169 of 2017 Designate TD Bank, N.A. as Custodian

Resolution 17-169 of 2017 Designate TD Bank, NA. as Custodian for HUD Section 108 Loan Documents

Ms. Chenora Burkett explained these loan documents are associated with a loan by the Municipality of Norristown with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from June 2011 to support a project on the Logan Square property. She noted that the loan "requirements compliance" requires that the Municipality secures a lending institution to take custody of the loan documents and to provide access to HUD for examination requests until the loan is paid in full. She stated that TD Bank offers this service for the annual fee of \$4000.00.

Motion carries (6-0).

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve Resolution 17-169 of 2017 to designate TD Bank, N.A. as Custodian for HUD Section 108 Loan Documents.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Handicapped Parking Resolution No. 17-168

Chief Talbot explained the resident has a medical condition that inhibits their ability to get to their home.

Motion carries (6-0).

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Heather Lewis to Motion to approve Resolution 17-168: Handicapped Parking for 1025 West Lafayette Street.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR:

GSA Professional Services Procurement for Website Optimization

Council will consider authorizing a professional services contract with CivicPlus for optimizing and hosting the Municipality's official website. The new features include, but is not limited to: a Citizen request tracker, a built-in emergency alert system, and personalized profiles for users.

Mr. Crandall Jones conducted a presentation that explained the plan to redesign and optimize the existing Municipal website, contracting with CivicPlus through the GSA schedule. The new features that were explained include a Citizen request tracker, a built-in emergency alert system and personalized profiles for users.

Mr. Jones also explained the cost savings with making the conversion. There was also discussion regarding making payments online and the issue of compliance and security for credit card users.

There was a motion to authorize Municipal Staff to enter into a GSA contract with CivicPlus for optimization and hosting of the Municipality's official website.

Motion carries (6-0).

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to GSA Professional Services procurement for Website Optimization.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT:

Ordinance 17-07 ROW Vacation - Portion of High Street

Consider enact of Ordinance 17-7 of 2017 in order to vacate that portion of High Street laid out as part of the 844 High Street development.

Director Musonye explained this is the legal step that needs to be taken as a result of a project from 2005 and requests from residents to take back the portion of High Street that was part of the project.

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 ROW vacation - portion of High Street laid out as part of the 844 High Street development.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

Ordinance 17-11 E Elm St. - Deed of Dedication

Accept Deed of Dedication for a portion of the ultimate Right of Way (ROW) of East Elm Street.

Director Musonye explained this is the same issue as High Street but this is a dedication, not a vacation.

Motion carries (6-0).

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Suanne Gardiner to Motion to approve Ordinance 17-11 E. Elm Street - Deed of Dedication.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

Advertisement of Ordinance 17-18: Community Development Block Grant 2018 - Proposed Budget Ordinance

Request for authorization to advertise Ordinance 17-18 of 2017, the 2017 CDBG Budget Ordinance.

Director Musonye explained this is the last stage of the request for annual CDBG grant money and there have been a series of Public Hearings. Director Musonye provided the figures for Housing Projects, Municipal Project and Administration which will be submitted to HUD no later than January 15, 2018.

Motion carries (6-0).

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to advertise Ordinance 17-18: Community Development Block Grant 2018 - Proposed Budget Ordinance.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Police Report

Chief Talbot provided details of his report including the Narcotics Audit, which would map out the location of narcotics in Norristown; first meeting of the Police Chiefs Advisory Board; crime statistics.

Fire Report

Officer Remillard provided details of the department activities for the month including Fire Prevention Month, Fire Chiefs Symposium, Smoke Detector Blitz, Canine In-Service, Awards Dinner at the Elmwood Park Zoo, Recovery from Disaster Training, Bills Amount and Collection, 101 emergency calls, no property loss, no injuries, 42 inspections, 6 U&Os, 16 fire drills.

Code Enforcement Report

Mr. Simonson provided details of his monthly report including sending out a Landlord Newsletter, 1350 inspections; billing for rental units completed, RFP for third party Code Enforcement Agency, Permit Fee increase, attended State Symposium, a new employee in Code, increase in rental inspection calls.

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 Council Workshop Meeting of November 21, 2017.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Perry

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo