

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 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.

Council President Sanders asked everyone to stand for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council members were present:

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

Also present:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Workshop Minutes from 10-17-2017

Motion carried. All in favor.

There was a motion by Derrick Perry with a second by Heather Lewis to Motion to approve the Minutes from the October 17, 2017 Council Workshop, which includes the correction of the vote (5-1) regarding the PAL acquisition per Mr. Daley's email. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Citizen Leadership Academy Certificate Presentation

Council will be awarding certificates to the 2017 graduates of the Municipality's 8 week Citizens Leadership Academy.

Council President Sanders, along with Norristown Public Information Officer Gabrielle Prete, presented certificates to the 2017 graduates of the Municipality's 8-week Citizens Leadership Academy,

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

"HELP A SINGLE PARENT" ANNUAL UGLY SWEATER WINTER CABARET - Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 8 pm. Proceeds benefit single parents. See Councilwoman Scott-Cooper and Council President Sanders for more information.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no Public Comment because no one signed up.

COMMUNICATION:

Letter of Thanks from the Montgomery County-Norristown Library

Letter of appreciation from the Montgomery County-Norristown Library for Municipal Council financial support of the library.

The Clerk-of-Council read a letter from Kathleen Arnold-Yerger, Executive Director of the Norristown Public Library, thanking the Municipality for their allocation of \$6,500 and also to thank Council for their continued support.

Clarification on Minutes from October 3, 2007 Council Meeting

Clerk will clarify error in the minutes regarding the vote of Council to authorize the advertisement of the purchase of property located at 340 Harding Boulevard.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Ordinance 17-16: Acquisition of 340 Harding Blvd

A request of Municipal Council to authorize (pursuant to Section 41.4-401(12) of the Norristown Home Rule Charter) the Municipality 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 structural assessments as well as a Phase I hazard assessment were completed for the property and the results came back clean. He noted that \$10,000 worth of abatement work needs to be done and the roofs need to be replaced.

Council President Sanders commented that the Norristown Recreation Department now has a home and everyone can add value to the input regarding the acquisition.

Councilman Jones asked that Council be fully transparent and open to the needs of the community and the direction that should be taken.

Crandall Jones commented that the property was assessed at \$800,000+ and that the Board wanted to make sure that the Municipality had this at a price that did not tax the citizens of Norristown as far as a procurement price which is why the Municipality was approached first.

There was a motion on the floor with a second to approve the authorization pursuant to Section 41.4-401(12) of the 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.

Motion carries (6-1)

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve Ordinance 17-16. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT:

104 E Main Street - Economic Initiative Grant Application

Timshel Coffee is requesting an economic initiative grant in the amount of \$35,000.

Director Musonye commented that Planning recommends approval of this grant.

Crandall Jones noted that the process regarding the criteria of the grant involves a stringent evaluation of the financial ability to go through with the project and it also goes through Staff. He noted that the applicants presented to Council at the last Workshop Meeting as to the viability of the project.

129 E Main Street- Economic Development Initiative Grant Application

Five Saints Distilling and International Spirits, LLC is requesting a \$50,000 Economic Development Initiative grant.

Director Musonye stated that the Planning Department recommends approval of this Grant application for which the owner needs for renovations and the addition of an elevator.

Motion carried. All in favor.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Derrick Perry to Motion to approve an Economic Development Initiative Grant Application for 129 East Main Street. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Ordinance 17-17: Oneway Street Redesignation

Council will consider Ordinance 17-17, which would re-designate the 1200 Block of Green Street from Wood Street to Lafayette Street as a one-way street and prohibit parking at all times on Green Street from Fornance Street to Wood Street.

Police Chief Talbot explained that re-designating the 1200 block of Green Street from Wood Street to Lafayette Street as a one-way street and prohibiting parking at all times on Green Street from Fornance Street to Wood Street would alleviate parking problems and traffic congestion.

Motion carried (6-0).

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Olivia Brady to Motion to approve Ordinance 17-17: Oneway Street Redesignation. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Resolution 17-166: Destruction of Police Records

Motion for Municipal Council to approve/disapprove Resolution 17-166 which authorizes Norristown PD to dispose of Court Case Files (Adult & Juvenile) and Juvenile Disposition Sheets from 1997.

Chief Talbot explained that disposing of Cold Case Files (Adult and Juvenile) and Juvenile Disposition Sheets from 1997 is in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual.

Motion carried 6-0.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve/disapprove Resolution 17-166: Destruction of Police Records. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Resolution 17-163 Promotion - Police Lieutenant

Approval of Resolution 17-163 and administration of oath by District Justice Francis J. Lawrence Jr. promoting Kenneth Lawless to the rank of Police Lieutenant

District Justice Francis J. Lawrence, Jr. conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Kenneth Lawless' promotion to the rank of Police Lieutenant.

Motion carried.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Derrick Perry to Motion to approve Resolution 17-163 - Promotion of Kenneth Lawless to the rank of Police Lieutenant. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Resolution 17-164 Promotion - Police Sergeant

Approval of Resolution 17-164 and administration of oath by District Justice Francis J. Lawrence, Jr. for promotion of Daniel H. DeOrzio III to Police Sergeant.

District Justice Francis J. Lawrence, Jr. conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Daniel H. DeOrzio III for his promotion to Police Sergeant.

Motion carried. All in favor.

There was a motion by Valerie Scott-Cooper with a second by Heather Lewis to Motion to approve Resolution 17-164 - Promotion of Daniel H. DeOrzio III to the rank of Police Sergeant. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Resolution 17-165 Promotion - Police Corporal

Approval of Resolution 17-165 and administration of oath by District Justice Francis J. Lawrence, Jr. for promotion of Edward Rambo to Police Corporal.

District Justice Francis J. Lawrence, Jr. conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Edward Rambo's promotion to Police Corporal.

Motion carried. All in favor.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve Resolution 17-165 - Promotion of Edward Rambo to the rank of Police Corporal. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Appointment of Entry Level Police Officers

The approval of Resolutions 17-160, 17-161, and 17-162 and administration of oath by District Justice Francis J. Lawrence Jr. for three entry level police officers.

Motion carried. All in favor.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to Motion to approve Resolutions 17-160, 17-161 and 17-162 and administration of oath by District Justice Francis J. Lawrence, Jr. for three entry-level police officers.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Resolution No. 17-166 regarding requests for disabled parking spaces.

To establish handicapped parking at the following Norristown address:

- 1025 W Lafayette Street

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried.

There was a motion by Derrick Perry with a second by Valerie Scott-Cooper to ADJOURNMENT. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo