

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
December 28, 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 that everyone join in for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council members were present :

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

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator
Chenora Burkett, Finance Director

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Charles Termine (Norristown resident)

Mr. Termine asked why the need for 3 police officers, 3 firemen and another recreation supervisor and does Council know how many senior citizens are on Social Security in this town?

He brought up the double parking issue and said that if we don't start to enforce it, they will continue to do it. He added there's revenue there.

He continued that senior citizens are on a fixed income and can't make up the extra money for the tax.

He suggested there are tax exempt properties in Norristown and to sell properties that Norristown owns.

He added that trash cans should be off the street other than trash day and also noted that not many residents show up now to speak.

Council President Sanders addressed his questions by stating that Council is trying to bring awareness to the Police Department. She said that the Recreation Center is something for the youth to be involved in and it would actually have a home.

She added that there is a Firemen shortage currently. They have to coordinate with other agencies. The addition of Police is all about Public Safety.

Mr. Termine suggested getting them in phases instead of the burden all at once.

Charles asked, "What am I getting for my tax dollars?"

Councilwoman Scott-Cooper commented that she has noticed a growth in Norristown and they have been addressing the non-profits to hopefully bring in some income so we might not need to raise taxes.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

FINANCE:

Adoption of Ordinance 17-20: Proposed Budget for 2018

Council will consider the adoption of Ordinance 17-20, which would adopt the Proposed 2018 Municipal Budget and establish the 2018 real estate tax millage rate.

Finance Director Chenora Burkett conducted a Power Point regarding the 2018 Proposed Budget.

Some of the highlights of the Power Point included:

- For the Budget: 2 mills would add 1.6 million dollars
- No RE Tax increase would use 3 million dollars of reserves
- No RE Tax increase with No Personnel additions would use 2.5 million dollars
- RE Tax increase with 1 Police and 1 Fire would use \$133,000 lower than proposed budget

The categories covered in the presentation included:

- RE Tax Mills
- Revenue
- General Fund Reserves
- Total Revenues
- Expenditures
- Difference from Proposed Budget

Chenora stated the focus is on pension and funding those obligations that won't go down in order to maintain stability with growth. The desire is also to have good roads and good public safety.

There was conversation regarding low home ownership in Norristown.

Mr. Crandall Jones noted that the homeowners are still paying taxes regardless if renting or not.

Councilman Jones asked if there is a way to track who is living in the rental properties.

Councilwoman Brady noted that Code has made flexible schedules.

Councilman Jones asked that in 2018, he would like to see a breakdown of what that flex schedule has done.

Mr. Crandall Jones said he can have the Code Manager share that info.

Ms. Burkett continued with the Power Point:

Steps taken:

Budget discussion with Council regarding such items as:

- Lease agreement with Sewer Authority
- Retainer agreements with Legal and Engineering firms
- FILOT for non-profits (voluntary)
- Recreation fee changes
- Outsourcing parking services and crossing guards
- Eliminate grant writer position (no value added)
- Revenue from renting facilities (PAL building)
- Consolidate Fire Department
- Revise Fee Structure
- Stormwater utility to offset costs to PW budget (General Fund)

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by Derrick Perry to Motion to adopt Ordinance 17-20: Proposed Budget for 2018.. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

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

Absent: Lewis

Motion carries (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion on the floor with a second to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries 6-0.

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

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

Absent: Lewis

Motion carries (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo