

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER:

The Council Workshop of October 16, 2018 was called to order by Council President, Sonya Sanders, at 7:30 PM in the Municipal Conference Room.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

There was a **Moment of Silence** followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

ROLL CALL:

The following Council members were present:

Olivia Brady
Valerie Scott-Cooper
Hakim Jones
Heather Lewis
Rebecca Smith
Derrick Perry
Sonya Sanders

Also present:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator
Sean Kilkenny, Municipal Solicitor
Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Police Chief
Jayne Musonye, Director of Planning and Development
Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works
Amrinder Singh, Code Manager
Erica Genuardi, Recreation Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There was a motion on the floor to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2018 by Councilman Perry with a second by Councilwoman Brady.

All in favor. Motion carries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

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

PRESENTATIONS:

A. **INCLUSIVE SERVICES FOR ALL**

Representatives for Inclusive Services For All noted that at-risk students don't have access to some of the services they need. She explained that they are a non-profit organization offering education, employment and independent living to school children with disabilities and in foster care. They are asking to have community workshops to provide an overview of their services which includes proposing different avenues to graduate. She explained it is a 90-minute presentation at a venue such as the library.

B. IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Bill Sabey, Chair of the Plymouth Township Environment Advisory Board, conducted a Power Point presentation on the topic of renewable energy and that it is achievable in 5 years. He noted that climate change has caused worldwide change. He stated that Clean Energy Resolutions have been passed in 88 counties across the U.S. He suggested that the next step would be to hire an energy planner. He added that the goal year is 2035 and that grants with a 50% match could be obtained to implement solar. His contact information is bill.sabey@yahoo.com or 484-919-7564.

C. NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Councilwoman Scott-Cooper provided information she obtained from attending the National League of Cities. She explained that she is on the Board of Directors for the NLC and attends workshops related to areas she feels affects Norristown. One area is the Race Equity Council. She recommended an assessment of Norristown to see where they stand on equality in education, healthcare and employment.

Another area she mentioned is the Opioid Conference. She stated there is information to be had about using data to make informed decisions about treatment options. It is a preventative initiative.

A third area is helping to engage young people to have employment to keep them off the streets.

She noted that another area to consider is Smart Technology. She stated that it is time to open our eyes and minds to do something positive including climate change.

Councilwoman Scott-Cooper stated that she has contact information for all of these issues and asked for other Council members to work on them.

D. CODES APPRECIATION PROCLAMATION

Members of the Code Department were presented with a Proclamation by Council President Sanders recognizing the members for their dedication and hard work in ensuring the enforcement of Norristown's laws and regulations pertaining to property maintenance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Holistic approach practices at London Hall, 1312 Willow Street on Friday, October 19th from 6:30 to 8 pm. RSVP Chaplain Jones 484-808-7771.

Jack O Lantern Jamboree October 27th 12 to 1:30 pm Elmwood Park 610-270-0467.

Local Car Show, Sunday October 21st Airy Street Parking Lot 1-5 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

William Kerr - Norriswood Apts. - Mr. Kerr noted he planned on presenting before Council information about Norriswood Apts. but there was an issue with the agenda. He passed out information and asked for feedback from Council by November 16th. The address for the

apartments is 1828 Arch Street. He noted that the improvements are to be made on the landscaping, parking lots, creation of a community room but no additional units. He would need a Resolution of Council support by November 16th.

Nancy Tuckey, Ms. Tuckey told Council that she is being taxed for trash collection but she does not use the service because she has a private service for her apartments at Marshall and Selma Streets. She was asked to provide her contact information so that this matter could be looked into with the Finance Department.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. HARB Certificates of Appropriateness - September 2018
- B. Resolution 18-152: Disabled Parking
- C. Resolution 18-154: Destruction of Records
- D. Resolution 18-153: The 2018 Allocations to the Municipal Pension Plans

There was a motion on the floor by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper with a second by Councilwoman Lewis to approve items A, B, C and D under the Consent Agenda. A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Olivia Brady	yes
Valerie Scott-Cooper	yes
Hakim Jones	yes
Heather Lewis	yes
Rebecca Smith	yes
Derrick Perry	yes
Sonya Sanders	yes

All in favor. Motion carries.

PLANNING & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Block Grant 2019 Projects

Director Musonye explained to Council that project ideas were discussed in accordance with the regulations and laws. She asked Council to authorize a proposed budget which needs to be submitted by the end of January 2019.

Director Musonye provided details of the Proposed Budget keeping within the Consolidated Plan - a 5-year plan that is submitted to HUD. She noted that some of the projects have balances and that in 2019 \$60,000 will be set aside. Rehabilitation technical support will be put aside, Fair Housing Council issues will be handled. She noted there is no proposal for the Main Street Economical Development.

She added that \$166,000 will be set aside to subsidize staff salaries for the Planning Department. She stated that they are looking for funding for the Streetscape Project and they applied to Keystone but it would require more of a match. She noted they were advised to go for the Modal Transportation Grant.

There was a motion on the floor by Councilwoman Lewis with a second by Councilwoman Smith to authorize the advertisement of a public hearing for November 5, 2018 and to prepare a proposed 2019 CDBG Budget Ordinance for proposed projects. A Roll Call Vote was taken.

Olivia Brady	yes
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Valerie Scott-Cooper	yes
Hakim Jones	yes
Heather Lewis	yes
Rebecca Smith	yes
Derrick Perry	yes
Sonya Sanders	yes

All in favor. Motion carries.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Planning and Development Report

Director Musonye provided details of her Report. There will be a Special Economic Development Meeting on November 15, 2018. She met with the developer group for the Kennedy-Kenrick project and she also met with the Logan Square townhome development. There is a proposal for a downtown mixed-use 7 story building on Dekalb Street. There are options for the Riverfront development.

Public Works Report

Leaf pick up information is on the website. Brine mixer prepping; Repair of potholes; alleys being paved; excessive dumping issues will be discussed with the Code Department – may need some legal backing.

Recreation Department Report

Pushed back fall basketball, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-12 at Eisenhower next week. Working with Norristown Soccer to have free clinics through November. Awnings are up at the Recreation Center. Getting final estimates on the floor plans. Dugouts got painted, will have a pressbox. Latshaw McCarthy screens. Received a Keep Norristown Beautiful grant to paint the bandshell.

Office of the Administrator Report

The Municipality Building has a new sign. Received LERTA program feedback. Information about Finance Director interviews and searches will be passed on by 6 pm October 23rd. Budget season meetings with staff including presentations and scheduling. Looking at new sources of revenue and reduction of operating costs. Use these as a database of ideas.

Audubon Society donated \$1000 in plants. Received good press on the Riverfront Festival. Won fresh paint competition – used the free paint on the bandshell. Pennoni Engineering finished structural analysis of the Municipal Building. Will put together an Executive Summary in the next few days.

In the final stages of the Audit. Will share a draft with the Auditors on October 29th. Looking to have a “smart” building.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion on the floor by Councilwoman Lewis with a second by Councilwoman Scott-Cooper to adjourn the Council Workshop. All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Roseann M. Santangelo