

NORRISTOWN MUNICIPALITY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2018

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 Vice-President Perry asked everyone to join in for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council members were present:

Derrick Perry, Council Vice-President, At-Large
Olivia Brady, Councilmember At-Large
Hakim Jones, Councilmember 4th District
Valerie Scott-Cooper, Councilmember 3rd District
Rebecca Smith, Councilmember At-Large

Also present were:

Crandall Jones, Municipal Administrator
Patrick Hitchens, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Chief Mark Talbot, Norristown Chief of Police
Jayne Musonye, Director of Municipal Planning and Development
Rochelle Rawlins, Assistant Director of Finance
Thomas Odenigbo, Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Workshop Minutes from 05-15-2018

All in favor. Motion carries.

There was a motion by Olivia Brady with a second by to Motion to approve Minutes from the May 15, 2018 Council Workshop. A Roll Call Vote resulted in:

Ayes: Brady, Jones, Perry, Scott-Cooper, Smith

Absent: Lewis, Sanders

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUCEMENT

Council Vice-President Perry announced that Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

PRESENTATIONS:

NASD Proposed 2018-19 Budget

Representatives from the Norristown Area School District will be presenting Council with their Proposed Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year.

Anne Rohricht, Chief Financial Officer of the Norristown Area School District, presented the NASD Proposed 2018-19 Budget with a Power Point Presentation including topics such as Budget Process, Property Tax Relief, Legislative Update and NASD Points of Pride, Timetable of where we started, when we started, and how we got to where we are today.

Ms. Rohricht noted that the NASD School Board charged Administration with developing a budget without a tax increase.

She presented details of the January 2018 Preliminary Budget Adoption including March strategies to close the budget gap, 2.5 million dollar shortfall in April, Special Meeting was held, adoption of the adopted proposed final budget in May and a deadline of June 25 to adopt the final budget.

She provided highlights of the proposed final budget which included a revenue pie chart where 71% comes from the community and 24% from the state, revenue focus on increased assessed and property values, new job opportunities and advocating to the state on behalf of the Norristown Area School District.

Ms. Rohricht presented some NASD Points of Pride which included Tele-Health with CHOP, one of 2018 Best Communities for Music Education, 5 year technology plan and a bronze medal for academic performance.

Construction Manager Update

Council will be presented with an update from Gorski Engineering regarding their recent appointment to serve as Construction Manager for projects associated with Norristown's Capital Improvement Project.

Crandall Jones introduced Mr. Gorski of Gorski Engineering, who was appointed by Council at their May 15th meeting as Construction Manager for several upcoming construction projects for the Municipality.

Mr. Gorski presented information regarding residents' questions concerning using local union in their projects. He commented that his company is project-focused and makes sure that the plan and the inclusion of qualified skilled labor is high priority and to be sure they involve skilled and safe contractors and labor.

Crandall Jones explained that a thorough investigation was conducted and that he spoke with various managers, one of which is the manager in Limerick because Gorski Engineering is managing a project there. He noted it was made clear that this firm was top rated.

He stated that Gorski spoke clearly about the inclusion of local labor. He also informed Council that once a plan of action is in place, the specifications for how those documents go out still comes back to Council for approval.

Fourth of July Celebration Update

Council will be present with an update from the Norristown Chamber of Commerce for Fourth of July plans relating to the Parade and Block Party on Main Street.

Kym Ramsey, President of the Norristown Chamber of Commerce, and Ms. Tenee King, Event Coordinator, presented the Norristown Chamber's 2018 Plan for Norristown's Fourth of July Celebration.

She noted there was a year of commitments from businesses, new materials for outreach, and engaged a contract for a contract coordination.

Ms. King noted the exciting events for the Fourth of July Celebration: a parade, a block party and a concert and fireworks at Elmwood Park.

She said that reminder emails have been sent out and there was a meeting with the police and fire department. Banners will be hung on June 11th as well as one at the Valley Forge Convention Visitor Bureau as well as posts on social media.

Lafayette Street Project Update

Council will be presented with an update from Montgomery County Planning Commission regarding the Lafayette Street Project and their plans for construction related to the project in the near future.

Matt Edmond, Montgomery County Planning Commission Transportation Section Chief, presented a Power Point highlighting the construction update for the Lafayette Street Extension Project.

Mr. Edmond provided details of each phase, noting that phase 4, the interchange, may be open in 2020. They are currently working on phase 3, complete construction between Barbados Street and Ford Street.

Rebecca Levan, JBC Associates, noted that one stage was removed to improve the time line. She stated there will be a new park area, new water lines, sidewalks, driveway aprons, striping.

She commented that the bottom line will be improvements for the businesses and residents on Lafayette Street.

For more information on the project: www.lafayettestreetproject.com

Citizen's Police Academy Certificate Presentation

Council and the Norristown Police Department will be presenting certificates to the graduates of the 2018 Citizen's Police Academy.

Chief Talbot and Reverend Jones presented certificates to the graduates of the 2018 Citizen's Police Academy.

The Academy's representative provided details about what they learned at the Academy such as community policing, tours, learning about firearms, ride-alongs, handling of investigations.

ANNOUCEMENTS:

NORRISTOWN GARDEN CONTEST - Enter before June 25 for a chance to win prizes. Forms are available in Municipal Hall, at the Norristown Public Library and online.

JUNE IS BLOOM - Presented by the Norristown Garden Club. Saturday, June 9th from 10-3 in the State Hospital multi-purpose building. There will be Flower Show and Craft Market.

TIRE COLLECTION - June 9th from 9-12 at Montgomery County Community College. Drop off old tires to be shredded and re-purposed.

MAKING HISTORY GREATER SERIES - June 9th from 12:30 to 2pm. The Historical Society of Montgomery County presents a history of trolleys in Montgomery County.

SUMMER CAMP - Registration on June 9th and June 16th from 10-11 at Municipal Hall. \$300 Resident, \$400 Non-Resident.

BATTLE OF THE BADGES BLOOD DRIVE - June 12th from 9-7 at the Human Services Center Community Room. Sheriff's Department vs. the Norristown Fire Department and Police Dept.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - Sundays at 7 pm at the Elmwood Park Bandshell. Free. Funding by the Arcadia Foundation.

JUNETEENTH - July 3rd at 10 am. Iron Age Theatre presents a walking tour of Norristown and there will be a Social Mix at the Theatre Horizon.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION - The Municipality and the Norristown Chamber of Commerce will host a parade, block party and fireworks. Contact: tenneking@gmail.com.

HEALTH FAIR - Carver Center on June 9th from Noon to 3pm. Free health screenings and treats for the kids.

FREE FOOTBALL CLINIC - presented by the Men of Excellence on June 23rd from 9 to 2. For ages Kindergarden through 12th. Former college athletes will be present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Solicitor Hitchens provided information regarding Public Comment.

Tommy LePera - Mr. LePera provided information regarding the value of contractors that have an apprenticeship training.

Al Johnson - Mr. Johnson said he was here last year about 338 East Penn Street. The property is not being maintained. He said he tried to get something done with Ms. Starks. He said that Code Enforcement needs to handle this. He commented it is part of beautifying Norristown.

Tyrone Baker - He stated he is a proud union member for the last 28 years. Doesn't approve of Gorski. He said we need the safety of the community at stake.

Jackie Yates - Temple University Hospital nursing union member. She asked if there were people of color and diversity with the officers in the trade union.

COMMUNICATION:

There were no Communication items.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR:

Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Partners Grant Application

Request of the Municipal Council to ratify the submission of a grant application to the Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Partners Program requesting \$20,000 for a Keep Norristown Beautiful beautification project downtown.

Crandall Jones explained that this is a request of Council to ratify the submission of this grant application. He noted that Norristown is the only affiliate in Montgomery County with Brandon Ford as the Norristown Executive Director. He explained that when the grant became available, the deadline was May 29th but there was no Council Meeting at that time to present this.

He stated this grant does not require a match and they are only made available for Keep America Beautiful affiliates. Mr. Jones also added that the focus is on redevelopment in downtown.

He noted that he attended a meeting in Easton, PA where they have an alley a lot like Strawberry Alley that was created into a public gathering place.

He said that the grant is for creative ways to make attractive places.

Motion passes 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M. Santangelo