



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023
7:08 P.M.
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6:00 Executive Session – Police, Personnel & Litigation.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 7:08 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Regular Council Meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

All those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

The following Council members and Borough officials were in attendance:

Borough Council: Bob Paul, President
 Helen Hlahol, Vice President
 Andrew Lubin
 Jason Manness
 Carletha Murray
 Kathryn Price Engelhard
 Scott Robinson
 Nancy Sherlock

Borough Officials: Judith Danko, Borough Manager
 Brud Anderson, Mayor
 Scott Holbert, Solicitor
 Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary (via telephone)

3. Announcements and Presentations

- There were no Announcements or Presentations this evening.

4. Public Comments

1. Susan Dingwall – *146 Harrison Avenue*
She requested that Council approves the street being blocked off for safety during the block party on August 19th.
2. James Schwartz – *580 Rosemar Drive*
He supports the block party on August 19th. He wanted to honor his cousin Mindy Bond who just passed away.



3. Deborah Colgan – *120 W. Hendrickson Avenue (EAC)*
She stated that the EAC appreciates Council’s consideration for approving a committee to explore Community Choice Aggregation. She thinks it needs to be a priority and the EAC is willing to participate and assist in any way they can. She stated that we have the power to access a cleaner energy contract at no cost. She urges Council to reach out to other communities and see how it works. She asked if there was a specific reason why three Council members are required for the proposed committee and asked if any of the EAC members can be a part of the new committee and substitute any of the three Council members.
4. Gary Wallace – *719 Crown Street*
He addressed his concerns for 705 Crown Street and how it is being handled by our Zoning. He believes Banyan has manipulated the use of the Fair Housing Act and the ADA and they are just a step to going further in deteriorating the neighborhood. He feels we must protect our residents from companies and or businesses eroding neighborhoods with non-adherence to code. He asks that Council investigates the Zoning Enforcement and issuance of the November 8th 2022 zoning permit for 705 Crown Street. He asked for clarity as to why residents were not made aware of the November 8th, 2022 zoning permit and that moving forward there is transparency in zoning permits and changes in our neighborhood.
5. Holly Harman – *571 Plaza Blvd.*
She is against the Jazz Festival being Co-sponsored. She feels it’s a conflict of interest on Nancy’s part. She stated that Nancy borrowed \$500.00 from the Borough years ago to run the Jazz Fest. She stated that Nancy spearheaded the no alcohol policy at the Senior Center.

There being no further public comment, the President proceeded to the business portion of the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes

- 5A. Motion to approve the Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

6. Finance

- 6A. **Treasurer’s Report**
The Treasurer’s Report was provided in the Council packets.
- 6B. **Approval of the Bill List**
Motion to approve the bill list and pay the bills.
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.



7. Reports

7A. Mayor's Report

Mayor Anderson congratulated the Recreation Committee and everybody involved in this past weeks concert and food festival in the park, it was a huge success. He announced that the NNO is next Tuesday, July 25th it was bumped up a week to get everything we could for the community to enjoy. The 20th Annual Jazz Festival is August 20th. Twenty years in a row that's a huge success, I always enjoy it. Our Annual Labor Day Picnic is coming up. On September 17th we have the Irish Festival and on October 7th that's the next Food Truck Music Festival and hopefully we'll see the block party in August. He gave his condolences to Jimmy and his thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family. He stated that a couple of representative from Republic trash service were here last summer to discuss the issues with trash service and at the meeting they were told by the former Council President if there were any more problems that Council was going to revisit their contract and possibly make a change. The Borough used to service the trash for the town; it wasn't that long ago that it was outsourced. We have a lot of missed trash every week and last week after July 4th trash was missed across the town. He wants to revisit the contract and do something different in the near future. He has been working to staff our Police Department and currently we are below staff. It's a nationwide problem, there are no candidates available. He recommends a Law Enforcement Committee and a detailed plan to hire and retain officers. He announced that our Truck Enforcement Officer has been certified, but needs to write a certain amount of tickets to complete his certification, but we don't have the manpower to put him on the street to do that right now. He thanked the public for their time.

7B. Police Chief's Report

Chief McClay reported that on June 29th approximately 15 catalytic converts were stolen over a couple hour period. We've been able to identify the vehicle along with its license plate that came out of New York. I'm currently working with the Bucks County Detectives and Teaneck New Jersey Detectives to try to get these guys in custody. He reported that 3 people are in custody for the homicide back in December of 2022 on Lenora. He announced the movie night on July 20th at 8:00. He announced that the NNO will take place on July 25th at 6 pm, the movie will be at 8:30 and then fireworks will be at 10:00. It is free to everyone.

7C. Manager's Report

Manager Danko announced the Williamson Park Public Workshop and listening meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 22nd at 7 pm. She announced the Highway Aid project and the 2023 Roadway project which will be underway shortly for paving Hillcrest Avenue from Barnsley Avenue to Stockham Avenue and North Lafayette Ave from Hillcrest Avenue to Clymer Avenue for a project total of \$215,685.96. We will not be awarding Keystone Avenue at this time due to the work that's needed to be accomplished by the MMA and the roadway at this time, once that is completed we will revisit the Keystone Avenue area. She stated that the blighted procedure has been taking place regarding 327 Prospect Avenue, the RDA Board has authorized the condemnation the property's been posted and we'll be just waiting for procedures to follow through with that. She reported that the Eagle Scout



pickleball project is taking place at Williamson Park and she thanked Public Works for helping out with the area.

7D. Committee Reports

- **Parks and Recreation**

Ms. Price Engelhard reported that we had a great event last Saturday. She thanked all the people and the volunteers that made that event successful. The next meeting is on the 25th and we will be discussing the upcoming events, the Jazz Festival, the Irish Festival and the Oktoberfest. On August 22nd, we're going to have a public meeting with Gilmore and Associates to talk about the future plans for Williamson Park.

- **Civil Service Commission**

Mr. Robinson stated we've gotten together for a couple meetings lately; we are down one officer who decided to transfer out to another department. We advertised the position on July 7th, in the paper and on the County Consortium Police website. We hire through Civil Service. The county does a Consortium for those who want to be a police officer where they take a written test and a physical test and they are ranked by the county. As of Friday July 14th we received (2) applications which were both denied. We requested that the job opening be placed on the Borough website. We are advertising ahead of time before the test. The next Consortium test will be on October 28th.

8. Action Items

8A. Motion to approve the issuance of a Loudermill notice directed to the Chief of Police.

Motion made by Mrs. Murray and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-2. (Nay votes being Ms. Price Engelhard and Mrs. Sherlock)

8B. Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Gasoline & Diesel Annual Bid/Contract through the Bucks County Consortium Unleaded Regular Gasoline: Riggins, Inc. @ \$0.189 per gallon (delivery charge) market fluctuation pricing; On-Road Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel: Riggins, Inc. @ \$0.329 per gallon (delivery charge) market fluctuation pricing.

Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8C. Motion to ratify and approve final 2022 – 2025 agreement between the Borough of Morrisville and the Morrisville Borough Police Association.

Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.



8D. Motion to approve new heating and air conditioning package option, in the amount of \$10,300, for the Morrisville Rescue squad building.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8E. Motion to approve Police Directive 116 Patrol Equipment – Uniforms - Body Armor.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8F. Call for potential Motion after discussion, regarding Zoning Hearing Notice for Area Enclosures Inc. of Bristol, Pennsylvania for Americana Apartments at 371 Plaza Boulevard, (BCTMP 24-001-001-002), on whether Council will or will not direct the Solicitor to attend the ZHB meeting on August 7, 2023 on behalf of the Borough.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
No Vote, Solicitor is not going.

8G. Motion to approve Harrison Avenue block party (Harrison Avenue street closure from Coleman Avenue to Baker Avenue) sponsored by New Wine Church on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
Motion made Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8H. Motion to approve Borough co-sponsoring Jazz Festival on Sunday, August 20, 2023 in Williamson Park. (Pending receipt of completed special events involving consumption of alcohol permit application packet.)
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
No Vote, Non-Alcohol Event.

8I. Motion to establish a committee of not less than (3) three council members to explore the program proposed by Community Choice Aggregation. (Presentation made at the June 2023 Borough Council meeting by Dennis Rowan.)
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Manness.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Councilmembers **Jason Manness, Andrew Lubin** and **Nancy Sherlock** volunteered.



Motion to appoint Jason Manness, Andrew Lubin and Nancy Sherlock carried by voice vote 8-0.

9. Other Business

- 9A. 2023 Roadway Project (Highway Aid) award letter will consist of paving Hillcrest Ave, from Barnsley Ave to Stockham Ave, and North Lafayette Ave, from Hillcrest Ave to Clymer Ave, for a project total of \$215,685.96. We will not be awarding Keystone Ave at this time due to work needing to be accomplished by the MMA in this roadway.

10. Borough Officials

- Ms. Price Engelhard stated that the financials look a little different and she likes the format.
- Mrs. Danko replied that it's the same format but if some of the line item codes are not used throughout most of the months and then all of a sudden they're used, you're going to be seeing it's actually growing because there were zeros there before you'll see some more things.
- Ms. Price Engelhard asked if Ms. Danko knew offhand how much the Borough has raised with EIT?
- Mrs. Danko replied I don't know off the top of my head.
- Ms. Price Engelhard stated, it's over one million that has been brought in to this Council, before I came in you were at a \$700,000.00 deficit and now we're not at a deficit. I just wanted to thank everyone and point that out. I think it needed to be recognized.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked when the next financial meeting would be.
- Mrs. Danko replied Andrew and I have to have a discussion about that because there is actually another meeting that's actually in conflict.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, regarding the financials, the format is different but it has no totals, the previous one actually breaks it down to the different accounts, this just goes straight through. I just had a few questions that I hope to discuss, I would love to discuss them tonight but that would take up too much time.
- Mrs. Danko stated, sure when we have our next finance meeting we can do that.
- Mrs. Sherlock inquired about the \$52,000.00 payment that came out of the miscellaneous account; I'm guessing that was the tax refund.



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- Mrs. Danko replied yes and to clarify for you Nancy the reason it was on my report at \$40,000.00 is when I first started my report that's where we were at and then eventually once we spoke with Attorney Holbert and so forth it ended up being more so I apologize for it not being the higher number but it was in the financials as the \$52,000.00.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked, when do we pay out the longevity pay, is that on the anniversary dates or end of year?
- Mrs. Danko replied, I think the Chief might be able to answer that question.
- Ms. Cyphers stated, longevity is paid in June and December and it depends on the anniversary date of the individual officer.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked there was no revenue for trash this month, maybe it just didn't get posted yet?
- Mrs. Danko replied I haven't had a chance to look at it whatever would be on the tax collector's report that I provided.
- Mr. Paul stated, before we close tonight I want to remind everybody that the Zoning Hearing Board still has an opening for an alternate it's a three-year term and it expires January 8th, 2024 so if you're interested please sign up.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, I just wanted to mention that September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and a group of us will be hanging the teal colored ribbons around town if anybody is looking to either do it on their private home that's fine too and I appreciate that Council approved that some months ago to be able to do that on our Borough property so we still can always use help hanging them. I would like to make a quick comment on Ms. Harman's comments. I'm not really quite sure what she's referring to I've never borrowed any money from this Borough, particularly the \$500.00 she's referring to I'm not sure what that is.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, I believe you did there was a time when you were on Council; I believe Ted was Council President, I can look up the meeting minutes but I believe Ms. Harman is correct.
- Mrs. Sherlock replied that I was borrowing money from the Borough, that's not even allowed. For those who really have animus about this whole event I say don't come, stay home. The negativity in town it continues, we've had negativity from a couple people about food trucks why are we doing food trucks all we're doing is taking food and taking money away from our local vendors well that's not true, the purpose of this is to bring people into town from all over the County not just Morrisville and it was well received. Regarding alcohol at the Senior Center, nice of you to think that I have that much power that I can make sure that they don't have alcohol down at the Senior Center but that was not my decision, my objection was that there was going



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to be a private drinking party in the parking lot of the Senior Center that had nothing to do with what was happening inside. So once again, rumors going around. Please inform me about that \$500.00 because I'll certainly pay it back if that's truly the case. Thank you.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQI2PN0jP88>