



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
7:07 P.M.
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6:00 Executive Session – Police & Personnel

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 7:07 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
 Scott Holbert, Solicitor
 Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary (via telephone)

Not in Attendance: Brud Anderson, Mayor

3. Announcements and Presentations

- There were no Announcements or Presentations this evening.

4. Public Comments

1. Rev. Tom Dingwall – *146 Harrison Avenue*
He thanked Council for approving the block party for this Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Harrison Avenue between Baker and Coleman. He invited everyone to attend.
2. Gary Wallace – *719 Crown Street*
He stated that this fall the MEAC is planning another successful tree planting event which has been submitted for Council’s approval. He stated the funding will be on the MEAC not the Borough and they appreciate Council’s consideration and approval. He stated that he is interested in the Alternate Zoning Hearing Board position and he submitted a letter of interest.



3. Holly Harman – 571 Plaza Blvd.

She stated she watched the zoning hearing meeting last week regarding Americana Apartments wanting to erect an eight-foot wall or fence around their property because of the unruly overgrowth that is on Borough land. She stated that she took a look at it and it is out of control and she doesn't understand why the Borough can't take care of the property especially since they aren't doing as much MMA work right now.

Mrs. Danko replied that there was an incorrect notation at the Zoning Hearing Board and that the Borough does not own any land in that area. She stated that she is working with the Code Department and Zoning to inform the people that were at the hearing and of the accurate information.

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 July 18, 2023.

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

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 Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

7. Reports

7A. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's Report this evening.

7B. Police Chief's Report

Chief McClay reported that the National Night Out was a good success despite the storms. He thanked the major sponsors Britton Industries and Parks Casino and all the volunteers who made the event possible, Zachary Mahon from the Solid Rock Youth Center, Tom Wisnosky and the folks from Imagine Morrisville, the volunteers of the Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club and Nick's Pizza and Anthony's Pizza who donated pizza, without them that event could not go on. Next year's event will be held again the last week of July which is July 30th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The National Drug Take Back will be held at the Police



Department on October 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. we have the standalone box downstairs that is open when the Borough building is open. He reminded residents to lock their car doors and remove their key fobs from their cars. He stated that 80% of car thefts are because people don't lock their doors. He reported that on July 10th, Morrisville Police along with the Bucks County Drug Task Force conducted an investigation at the 200 block of South Washington Avenue to investigate weapons and narcotics. The South Central SWAT team served an early morning search warrant at the property and they seized items and they were able to charge the male that lived there. It was a very good operation that was going on probably for the last six months. On August 3rd the cigarette store on South Delmorr was robbed at point of gun at approximately 8:30 in the morning, at this point it is very confidential, by the next time we meet we will have a lot of progress. He reported that they have two out of the three new vehicles in and the third vehicle will arrive in a couple of weeks. He stated that Council will not have to buy another police vehicle for years to come except a Chief's vehicle, the current one has 100,000 miles. He stated that they will have a crossing guard meeting tomorrow and they are fully staffed, but they are always looking for subs throughout the year.

7C. Manager's Report

Manager Danko reported on the Bridge Street Project and noted the traffic pattern changes. She reported that they are hoping for a ribbon-cutting ceremony possibly in November or December. She invited the MEAC to be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony if approved by Council. She gave an update on the tree planting project that the MEAC is proposing, she asked for a waiting period until after the planning meeting takes place on August 22nd so that she can regroup with the MEAC to discuss any new information or ideas. She spoke about the 2023 Roadway Paving Project that consists of paving Hillcrest Ave. from Barnsley Ave. to Stockham Ave. and North Lafayette Ave. from Hillcrest Ave. and Clymer Ave. The total cost is \$215,685.96 and construction will start very soon. She stated that the roof project at Borough Hall will begin shortly, we just completed the sewer project and hopefully the electrical plans will begin shortly as well.

Discussion ensued regarding street paving in the Borough.

7D. Committee Reports

• **Community Choice Aggregation**

Mr. Manness reported that they met last Monday and it was very productive and we were able to establish at least the goal of the committee which is to determine if Community Choice Aggregation is not only right for the Borough but also a valuable thing to do both environmentally and fiscally. He looks forward to further meetings and hopes it will be beneficial for the entire town.

• **Parks and Recreation**

Ms. Price Engelhard reported that their July meeting was cancelled because it was the same night as National Night Out and a lot of the people who regularly attend the meeting wanted



to support our Police and Community and attend the National Night Out. She mentioned the upcoming public meeting to discuss Williamson Park and she stated that Save Williamson Park Committee has sent out surveys just to get a larger picture and input from people who might not be able to attend the meeting so we'll be gathering that information. She stated that she wants to make it clear that this is not a meeting whether we're keeping or have a Williamson Park, we have a Williamson Park now we want to see the different things the community would like to have in the park and we need to have a plan so that we can write grants to help fund the different projects.

- **Joint School Board Council**

Mrs. Sherlock reported that the minutes that were delivered in the packet were not the updated ones, the public member was Stephanie Schmidt not Sarah Stern, she wanted to make note of the correction for those who may have read the minutes. Most of what was talked about was regarding the sale of Manor Park, it's not finalized yet because they had done an updated agreement. Damon Miller had asked that the Borough, John Later and the Chief test the school lights and that we have the crosswalks painted. She stated that the light at Trinity is still a bit of a problem, I know it's older, but it was on a lot this summer and they are concerned that people won't know when it will be on or off. Regarding the painting of the plywood of the former Capital View School, there is a plan being worked on and they're trying to do it in stages and they also want to include the students. She stated that they asked about the Bridge over North Pennsylvania project that's supposed to start in 2025. She is wondering if there is any way that date can be moved up a bit, it's been way too long and it does have a gap. She wanted to let people know that it is not a sidewalk project it is an entire bridge project, the whole thing needs to be replaced. She stated that the condition of the ADA ramps at West Palmer and Grandview are older and they requested that they be replaced if possible for safety reasons.

- **Finance**

Mr. Lubin reported that there will be a Finance Committee meeting in August and the public is invited to attend.

- **Civil Service**

Mr. Robinson stated that he spoke to one of the men from PennDOT and he didn't seem too enthusiastic about the bridge on Pennsylvania Ave being worked on any earlier. He reported that the Civil Service had a meeting last night and that they certified a young man William McDonald, we're going to vote on him later this evening and hopefully we will have a new full-time police officer later on this evening.

8. Action Items

- 8A. Motion to approve planting of trees at Williamson Park, condition upon Public Works Superintendent and Borough Manager approving a planting plan.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.



Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

- 8B.** Motion to contract with Quiver Farm Projects, Inc. for a traveling zoo for the Octoberfest event on Saturday, October 7, 2023, in the amount of \$795.00.
Motion made by Mrs. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 6-2. (Nay votes being Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Robinson)
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- 8C.** Motion to advertise to sell two police vehicles with a minimum bid of \$5,000 for each vehicle; Vehicle #1: Number 4610, former police chiefs and unmarked vehicle VIN#: 1FM5K8AR6EG50204, Year: 2014, Make: Ford, Model: Explorer, Mileage: 108,845, Vehicle #2; Number 4608, former patrol Vehicle, VIN#: 1FM5K8AR1FGA35413, Year: 2014, Make: Ford, Model: Explorer, Mileage: 72,757.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8D.** Motion to accept Civil Service Full Time Police Officer Eligibility List.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8E.** Motion to approve Chief McClay to begin the process of Act 57 to hire a Full Time Police Officer, per Borough Council's directive for consideration of employment in 2023 per Borough 2023 budget, to replace an officer that resigned.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8F.** Call for a motion to provide a conditional offer of employment per Act 57 to hire Full Time Officer William Todd McDonald.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8G.** Motion to retain the services of SRW Strategies at a rate of \$125 per hour.
Motion made Mr. Lubin and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
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Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Council Committees/Board & Commission Appointments:

Zoning Hearing Board: One appointment as an “Alternate” for the remainder of six-year term – expiring January 8, 2024. *Letter of interest from Mr. Gary Wallace.

Nomination of Gary Wallace for the term expiring 1/8/24 made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Murray.

Vote to appoint Gary Wallace to the Zoning Hearing Board carried by voice vote 8-0.

9. Other Business

9A. There was no other business this evening.

10. Borough Officials

- Mrs. Sherlock thanked Mary Hrenda for her time on the Environmental Board over these years she has been very much a part of the successes that the MEAC has achieved over the years so she’s resigned and I wish her well. We all wish her well.
- Mr. Paul stated I second that I really appreciate all the service that Mary has given to this municipality.
- Mrs. Sherlock thanked Dawn Mellor who recently retired from the Library she worked there for over 20 years. She also thanked Sue Neff who has worked at the Library for many years as well and she will be retiring from the Library at the end of this month.
- Ms. Price Engelhard stated, when I came on Council, President Ted Parker asked me if I would takeover Morrisville Restaurant Week, so Corryn gave me the Facebook and I’ve been promoting business and stuff and so we’re looking at probably the second week of November to have a Morrisville Restaurant Week in town.
- Mr. Paul asked what do you need form Council?
- Ms. Price Engelhard replied, I don’t know. I don’t think anything at this time. I’ll start having meetings with the various restaurant owners.
- Mr. Paul asked, do you want us to declare it Morrisville Restaurant week?



- Ms. Hlahol stated, Andrew I am not discounting that we shouldn't have that but I thought the MBA was going to be doing Restaurant Week.
- Mr. Lubin replied that's what I was going to suggest we never quite got around to that but maybe you want to work with the MBA because most the restaurants are members already.
- Ms. Price Engelhard replied, yes great idea.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, on October 21st there's a Nature Walk with Mary Ann Borge down at the Preserve at 10:00 a.m.
- Ms. Hlahol stated I'd just like to reiterate that this Saturday the 19th of August from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. will be the block party down where the old Italian American Club was so I hope that the residents come and enjoy themselves.
- Ms. Price Engelhard stated, we have the Jazz Festival this Sunday and we're hoping for great weather, we have great bands, come out and enjoy yourself.
- Mr. Paul stated, before we adjourn I just want to point out that we've got two upcoming committee appointments available. There's one 3-year appointment for the Economic Development Corporation and one 3-year appointment for the Environmental Advisory Council.

11. Adjournment

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

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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