



6:00 Executive Session – Personnel and Possible Litigation

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Special 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 (via phone)
 Kathryn Price Engelhard
 Scott Robinson
 Nancy Sherlock

Borough Officials: Judith Danko, Borough Manager
 Scott Holbert, Solicitor
 Chris Gerber, Solicitor
 Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary

3. Public Comments

1. Hal Wilcox – *52 Harrison Avenue*

He stated I spoke at the last meeting and I think I told you how I feel about the Chief, he's always been here for this town, I don't know why it's coming to this for somebody that's put his life into this work I just doesn't understand why it has come to this. It's embarrassing.

2. Peggy Walsh – *444 Stockham Avenue*

She stated I have been here for 40 years as a taxpayer. The last time I was here I expressed my upsetness at what I have perceived to be unprofessional, childish, partisan behavior by some members of this current Council and their seeming disregard for doing what it takes to make our Borough a place where young families want to live and raise their children. I said that it seemed to me that rather than working for the good of the Borough many of you were interested in petty grievances, circulating vicious lies and self-promotion. Obviously my remarks fell on deaf ears because at that very meeting the same disturbing behavior and comments were on display and the vicious Council election in the second ward which was



MEETING MINUTES
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SPECIAL MEETING

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riddled with lies and self-deception also proved my point. Tonight I want to reiterate that I'm here in support of our Chief and to reassert my disappointment that you have spent my tax dollars to pay a lawyer to target him. I find your actions especially upsetting because you found money to bring a frivolous lawsuit while deciding to totally gut our Library Children's Program you did this without consulting the Library Board Staff to see what they might do to reduce their own budget you just slashed away until there was nothing left in the budget for our children. All of the other libraries in Bucks County prioritize their children's programs because they realize how vital they are to the community. As I stated last time you have no problems paying for the rent and travel of our Borough Manager and that's not to disparage her but it's a fact, who already makes \$140,000.00 a year a salary that seems way out of line for a financially struggling Borough like Morrisville. Part of the problem is your total lack of transparency and collaboration about what you're doing behind those closed doors of your executive sessions, for budgets, to hiring to lawsuits. The funny thing is that the discussion of these meetings mysteriously appear on a certain resident's Facebook page, this resident is known for her vitriol and misinformation but she definitely has an in on this Council. Again, I know you have a hard job but you ran willingly so you should take responsibilities for your actions. I don't know what you have decided regarding Chief McClay, once again I ask you to stop wasting Borough tax dollars on needless lawsuits, try being more collaborative, supportive and transparent as you work through budget issues and disagreements, stop encouraging the rumor mill in the Borough or actually starting rumors yourself. Morrisville has many strengths, but if you're caught up in infighting power struggles, politics and ego stroking you will not be fulfilling your duty as Council members. Thank you.

3. Diane Lanahan – *548 Barclay Avenue*

She stated I came here tonight so that everyone on the board can see my face and know that I put a letter of interest in to become the appointed Mayor to fulfill the remainder of the Mayor's duties for the next two years and I just wanted to be here so that you could see me and let you know that I'm very interested in obtaining the position for the next two years to show this Borough that for the 10 years I've been here I've worked hard in this town to help people to try to bring people together. We're too small to have D's and R's after our name we are too small of a town to be fighting over our voting lines it's ridiculous, we're 1.7 square miles of human beings. We need to bring this town together and do what it takes to make this town better. If every other town around us can do it we can do it, we need to stop fighting. I've always been bullied my whole life and this town's got a lot of bullies and I was part of that sometimes and I've grown and I've made amends with people and I'm still making amends but I want you to know that I am here as a better person and I want to make this a better town and I would hope that everyone on this board would consider voting for me to be the interim Mayor for the next two years. I would really appreciate all of your votes. Thanks. Have a good night.

4. Margaret Conners – *539 Stevens Road*

She stated I am not a Morrisville Borough citizen but I attend all the Morrisville Borough activities and I see the Chief around all the time. I see him on his bike, I see him at community activities. It would be a terrible loss to lose him.



5. Gary Taylor – *Hamilton Boulevard*

He stated you've all seen me before, I think you've seen the letter I sent you all so you know where my feelings are on this particular matter. I encourage you to look back at that again I have copies if you'd like to see it. I want to thank those who are in support of the Mayor. I do want to honor you folks I recognize you don't get paid very much to do your job and I know it takes a lot of time so I thank you for that regardless of whether I agree with you or not. I know you try to spend a lot of time overseeing our Borough and I thank you for that. I am a Veteran retired from the US Army as a Colonel, I've got a daughter who served in Iraq, I've got a son-in-law with two purple hearts, I've got a son who works in Federal Law Enforcement, I think I know the type of individual and the type of work that this type of individual should do with my background and my families background. I want to say that Chief McClay has done community policing since before community policing became a thing, before we ever talked about it, before George Floyd and all this other kind of stuff he was out there with our community doing that community policing and I appreciate that. He's been at the Halloween things we've had, he's been at the National Night Out, he's been in the dunk tank at these places, so he's not one that just stays in his office and orders other people around, he's actually out there with the people you won't be able to find that any place else. His experience in Philadelphia as a police officer has given us the big town operations experience that allow him to be the little town Police Chief and I think that we really need to thank him for his actions and I encourage us to be thanking him for what he's done for our community rather than trying to fire him. I don't think you'll find anybody else, I hope you're not finding anybody else that is just a friend of somebody here that if you ever do that which I would highly recommend you don't do that you make sure that you don't just try to bring in somebody else to get the job. Morrisville is known for having family that becomes hired here and that's okay we're a small town and that's good we have a lot of possibilities that way. I can call him anytime I've got a cellphone number he has mine when things go down in the area of the youth center he'll call me and say hey can we get the camera feed for what's happening down there and we'll give them the camera feeds. If there's something happening around here we have cameras at the church, he'll ask for camera feeds, we always try to support him and he tries to do his best. I just would encourage you to do that. I don't have a planned speech tonight other than that and I think this Borough Council will be known for this decision tonight, this is the primary decision that I think this Borough Council will be remembered for so I urge you to make the right decision not the wrong one. Thank you.

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

4. Action Items

- 4A. Motion to terminate the employment of Chief George McClay effective immediately in accordance with Borough Code and Civil Service Regulations.

Motion made by Mr. Paul 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)



5. Other Business

5A. There was no other business this evening.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Paul announced that Council was going back into executive session; there will be no further action so that's it for tonight's meeting. Thank you.

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