



6:00 Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 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: Kathryn Price Engelhard, President
John Vitarelli, Vice President
Helen Hlahol
Melissa Johnson (via phone)
Marie Kelso (via phone)
Andrew Lubin
Scott Robinson

Borough Officials: Judith Danko, Borough Manager
Gary Wallace, Mayor
Adam Flager, Solicitor
Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary

Not in Attendance: Bob Perry, Councilman

Mr. Flager stated we just met in executive session where we discussed personnel, litigation and police matters. We also had an executive session on January 11th where personnel matters were discussed.

Ms. Price Engelhard stated, thank you. I will now move on to announcements 3A the presentation concept sketch plan for the car wash; 225 Plaza Boulevard, Olympus Pines, LLC has been postponed to February 20th. We will now have an announcement presentation by Donna Wilson concerning Winterfest.

3. Announcements and Presentations

Donna Wilson thanked everyone who was involved in the 2023 Winterfest Parade as well as the residents who attended. She thanked Council for approving the parade and announced that this year's 2024 Winterfest Parade will be on Saturday December 7th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with a rain date of Sunday, December 8th, 2024 at 1:00.



4. Public Comment

1. Holly Harman – *371 Plaza Boulevard*

She stated I just have two things of concern. One was that the agenda added the vote on replacing the attorney at the last second I believe that deprived people like me from showing up and making comment. I was home ill but I would have made a point of getting here to talk about it. Secondly, the PennDOT meeting at the end of the month I don't recall that being discussed, voted on, advertised or put on the calendar is that going to be a legit meeting because I don't believe that's the protocol?

2. Debby Colgan – *120 W. Hendrickson Avenue (MEAC)*

She stated I am here speaking on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Council. The EAC looks forward to a new year of continued progress and many successes for Morrisville. Morrisville will have many great opportunities throughout the year to become a more resilient and sustainable community and with that we make Morrisville an attractive place to live, work and play. Preservation, protection and improvement of our many environmental, historic and cultural resources work synergistically with other economic endeavors, economic development initiatives to promote Morrisville as the place to be. The EAC has many plans, tree plantings, cleanups, nature walks and programs that support our environment and brings our community together. Seizing opportunities for clean energy infrastructure grants is exciting. Many of these grants do not require any matching funds or grant writing fees and are risk-free. Exploring our options for clean energy at reduced costs through Community Choice Aggregation helps our environment and our wallets. These are initiatives that support our environment while attracting positive economic endeavors. On behalf of the EAC and the Morrisville Bird Town we would like to present this framed Morrisville Bird Town print by Morrisville artist Joe Kemp to be displayed at Borough Hall. Morrisville has been a Bird Town since 2015 participating in the mission to promote community-based action to create a healthier and more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife and people. We look forward to continuing to celebrate and support the rich biodiversity within our borough. The EAC looks forward to working with the Borough and the community on our upcoming events and programs. Thank you.

3. Jane Burger – *90 W. Maple Avenue*

She stated congratulations to those that are coming in. Right thing, right way, right reason, go Morrisville. I happened to be at the Morrisville Methodist Church yesterday and I saw two notices on the outside door that the voting polling places for the third ward and the fourth ward are planned to be held at the Morrisville Methodist Church. I wasn't able to get through to the Board of Elections today I don't know if that applies to the special election for representative John Galloway seated on February 13th, but I just want everyone to be aware that this is happening and I'm not sure how it was initiated because it applies to both polling places that had been the Morrisville schools so if you have any information of why it's the change we can just let people know because our next meeting is after the special election.

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 12/19/23.
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

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. Kelso.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

7. Reports

- 7A. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor Wallace stated good evening everyone I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to Corporal Smith and the Morrisville Police Department for their unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. Their hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team looking out for us. Over the past month we observed an increase in car thefts not only in our community but also in neighboring areas, we are actively addressing this issue and would like to remind everyone to take precautions, lock your car, secure your valuables and be vigilant especially during these cold months. If you need to warm up your car please ensure it's locked if possible if not keep an eye out. I'm pleased to share that thanks to the swift response and the cooperation of our community we were able to identify a suspect linked to multiple thefts within 24 hours. Your willingness to come forward and share information is invaluable and it truly exemplifies the strength of our community. A special note of appreciation goes to Officer Erica McIntyre who has dedicated 24 years of service to the Morrisville Police Department. Erica has decided to retire and we extend our deepest thanks for her years of service. Her last day will be this Sunday, January 21st we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. In my previous mayor's report I mentioned ongoing efforts to improve communication with the community the Morrisville Police Department is working on new and effective ways to share information and we appreciate your patience stay tuned for updates on the Morrisville Police Department Facebook page. I also invite you to follow my social media pages on Facebook and Instagram at Gary E. Wallace for regular updates and news. If you have any questions, concerns or just want to talk please feel free to reach out to schedule some time with me most Tuesdays, my Borough Tuesdays I am available here in Borough Hall and welcome you to stop by and say hello. Thank you for your



continued support and collaboration together we can keep our community safe and thriving. Thank you.

Ms. Price Engelhard stated I'd also like to thank the Mayor because he's the one that built and provided our little archway so thank you.

7B. Police Chief's Report

Corporal Bill Smith stated as the Mayor had mentioned about the vehicle thefts there is a nationwide problem the thefts of Hyundai and Kia increased thefts are due to technology flaw and manufacturing in those vehicles which makes it easier for them to be stolen. There have been several dozen vehicle thefts and attempted vehicle thefts over the past few months. Due to manpower constraints we have not been able to detail an officer on a regular basis specifically to that but Officer Halas was out recently one night he did apprehend three suspects who were subsequently charged with attempted vehicle theft, loitering and prowling at night. The suspects were recorded on video; these suspects are arriving to the Borough being transported by another vehicle and dropped off at several locations. Review of surveillance cameras and video cameras from ring units show that this criminal activity only lasts but a few minutes if not seconds and the vehicles are gone. I'd like to address the commercial motor vehicle crash on South Pennsylvania Avenue that's currently under investigation as everyone knows it took down the traffic lights and the pole at Philadelphia at South Pennsylvania Avenue. Officer Aspromonti has identified the vehicle and the company that is responsible for that damage we have ongoing communication with them and I'm confident at this time that the claim process will begin to cover that damage. Last week Officer Halas conducted a motor carrier enforcement day the results were very good, the commercial motor vehicles were stopped for numerous violations and inspections were conducted that yielded approximately \$15,000 in fines. Please keep in mind that every day that is not going to be the case depending on traffic flow and the condition of the vehicles but he is out there doing that job. The replacement of the platform scale is an ongoing project I'm working closely with Fairbanks companies to come up with a plan to replace the scale. The estimate was higher than we originally budgeted. I've been in close talks with them and I am in the process of putting together a comprehensive plan to present next month where the site of the scale if Council considers to approve it may be considerably cheaper just to give you an idea approximately \$73,000 would be to dismantle the scale in the parking lot where we could move it to another site and save probably three quarters of that money for disassembly and disposal. I would like to provide Council with photographs and measurements so we can all be on the same page and then distribute the information to Council before the next meeting through the manager's office. I want to make sure I measure it, document it properly, talk to the company again so when I come up with a plan I'm hoping it's the final plan. I requested grant money from PennDOT through Bucks County for aggressive driving that was approved the funds will fully reimburse Morrisville Borough for officers to be on overtime patrol at 4 hours at a time during rush hour. These details are designed strictly to address the aggressive driving, red light, stop signs, passing people over the double yellow line on Bridge Street, those types of violations the details will begin shortly and run to the end of the month, this is a trial run but I'm confident that this



will be successful and it will be sustained throughout the years. The last item that I have is based on a little bit of technology and radios, the portable radios that we have are aged a little bit but we need to take care of those by technology upgrades. The radios we have right now need to be turned and aligned for better transmitting and receiving. Additionally, the display screens have a capability of putting the officer's name, badge number and the department's name on it in case it was ever lost in the field if an officer was chasing somebody and it came off his belt for some reason. The estimated cost for that is around \$2,000 that is what the fire department and police departments have paid. I made an agreement with Howard McGoldrick of the 3rd District Fire Company who is a radio technician and he agreed to do that for me for free. That's all I have.

7C. Manager's Report

Manager Danko stated good evening everyone thank you for coming out this evening in this nasty weather. This evening we were supposed to have a sketch plan that was provided to us regarding 225 Plaza Boulevard what will be taking place is a proposal to take down the car wash that is there currently and erect a new car wash. This will be quite interesting so I ask everyone to please pay attention in February when they come to show us the plan that they would like us to talk about and think about. We've closed out the Melvin Avenue Basin retrofit project this was something that we worked on for a year now the information is on the January agenda for approval to pay the final payment I'm happy to close that out. This was a grant that was approved so it was paid for solely by grant funds. We held our annual Christmas holiday lunch for all the employees it was very nice for everyone to celebrate together. We've also been discussing a request for a handicapped parking ordinance. A handicapped parking ordinance will be discussed at an upcoming policy and ordinance committee meeting we've talked to the solicitor about this and I wanted to let Council know that currently the Borough does not have a handicapped ordinance for handicapped parking other than for businesses and development we do not have something in place so it's something that I'll be working with our Solicitor the Policy and Ordinance Committee also our Mayor and our Police Chief and so forth will all be working in coincidence together regarding coming up with a good clear handicapped parking ordinance, an application process, the fee schedule and so forth and who will collect that and follow through with that so to be continued so everyone can please look forward to that. We also had our kickoff meeting regarding our electrical panel work that's going to be done shortly were waiting for the panels to come in that's what is kind of holding us up a little bit but shortly we should hear something and we'll be doing that. The status on the roof is completed the final payment will be coming through for that shortly. All of these are paid by ARPA funds so we're happy to say that we have a brand new roof that is leak free at this time. That's all I have if anyone has any questions regarding my report please don't hesitate to ask.

7D. Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee**

Mr. Lubin reported that we did not have a finance committee meeting recently because all committees ended on December 31st. The last thing we did was approve the budget and we



have money in the budget as you can see Judith is spending it wisely between that, the ARPA money and the EIT we are what is known as, this is Morrisville so hold on, cash flow positive for a change so thank you.

- **Parks and Recreation**

Ms. Price Engelhard reported that the last meeting for Parks and Recreation was on December 26th and yes there were a couple people that attended, we did have a meeting, man you guys are diehards thank you. We did a recap of what we've been talking about in the year, a couple things we addressed are our calendar of events, there's a few things we added and a few things we took out for this next year and we'll be presenting that at the next council meeting. We also kind of looked at the vendor application and wanted to get some ideas to present to Judith, does that go to policy or does it just go to you?

Ms. Danko stated that's something that can just go to me unless policy would like to review it but we do have a lot more important things that should really go to policy and ordinance like the handicapped ordinance.

Ms. Price Engelhard stated we want to take to the policy committee some changes on the alcohol ordinance so that's something that we'll look forward and I'm going to chair the policy and ordinance committee so we won't have one this month but we'll have one next month and anybody else who would like to be on the committee.

Ms. Danko stated, Kathryn that's what I thought that you were talking about when you were talking about applications I thought they were talking about the alcohol ordinance I didn't think you were talking about in house because really we should be in charge of that.

Ms. Price Engelhard stated sorry for the miscommunication. The EAC will request Council to approve for spring tree planting at the southern end of Williamson Park.

8. Action Items

8A. Motion to accept the resignation of Robert Perry as council person for the 4th ward effective January 16th, 2024. Discuss appointment of new council person to fill the unexpired term and or discuss the procedure of appointing a new council member.

Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.

8B. Motion to approve the Annual Winterfest Parade sponsored by Hot Rides, LLC of Morrisville using the previously approved parade route on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10:00 am (rain date of Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 pm).

Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.



Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

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- 8C.** Motion to approve the MEAC request for planting of 8 trees this spring at Williamson Park, condition upon public works superintendent and borough manager approving a planting plan, this will be done at no cost to the borough.
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Mr. Vitarelli.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

Mr. Flager stated as it relates to the vacancy it should really be done within 30 days. Our next meeting the February meeting is outside of that and technically under the code it goes to the vacancy board so it can still be done that way but the code is written to prefer it be done within the 30 days and our next meeting is outside of that 30 days.

Ms. Hlahol asked should we change the date so that we're in the 30 days is somebody really going to come and say oh you guys we're taking it over?

Mr. Flager stated I'm just advising because technically that's what the code provides that it's done within 30 days and if it's not done within 30 days then it goes to the vacancy board to do. The vacancy board is basically Council plus one registered elector that's appointed sans the Mayor.

Ms. Hlahol stated we're going to have a meeting on the 24th of January can we let the public know that we're going to appoint someone on the 24th?

Ms. Price Engelhard stated does that give us enough time, I'm asking the Council?

Mr. Flager stated otherwise you could call for a special election for the purpose of that within the 30 days. I'm just giving you the options because that's what the code states.

Ms. Hlahol stated I'm okay with appointing someone on the 24th I mean the people would know if they want to or they don't.

Ms. Price Engelhard stated its fine with me but is it with everybody else? Let's do it that way then.

Ms. Hlahol stated so for the public to know we are looking for a council person in the fourth ward to take the place of Robert Perry who resigned and we will be making the selection on January 24th, it's a Wednesday, It's a special meeting.

Ms. Price Engelhard stated what most people do is write a letter or send a resume in to Judith and she'll make sure they're posted to all of the council people so we have a chance to look at them.



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024
7:08 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

8D. Motion to approve payment #3-final for Melvin Avenue Basin Retrofit Project in the amount of \$2,252.48 to G&B Construction Group.
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Ms. Kelso.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

8E. Motion to approve entering into a one-year agreement with Hough Associates to collect and submit the 2023 Recycling Performance Grant data for \$4,000.
Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

8F. Motion to approve the Borough Manager's execution of 2024 service agreement with Tom Josiah, Consulting, LLC to assist with borough accounting.
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Mr. Vitarelli.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

8G. Motion to approve payment #1 for Borough Hall Roof Emergency Project in the amount of \$189,990.00 to Pro Com Roofing Corporation.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

8H. Motion to appoint Matthew Wiedenhaefer as Morrisville Borough Emergency Management Coordinator and Gerald Simpson as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Robinson.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

8I. Motion to purchase 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe through costars dealer Fred Beans and outfitter Tryon in the amount of \$79,800.00. Vehicle to be utilized for police services and truck traffic enforcement.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.



- 8J.** Motion to terminate any understanding of business with attorney Truelove and Hill Wallack LLP.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

Morrisville Municipal Authority: One 5-year appointment, expiring 1/8/29. (Letter of interest for re-appointment from Helen Hlahol).

Nomination of Helen Hlahol for the term expiring 1/8/28 made by Mr. Robinson.

Vote to appoint Helen Hlahol to the Morrisville Municipal Authority carried by voice vote 7-0.

Planning Commission: One 5-year appointment, remainder of unexpired term, expires 1/21/28. (Letters of interest from Peter Berkin and Paul Karsevar).

Nomination of Peter Berkin for the term expiring 1/21/28 made by Mr. Robinson.

Vote to appoint Peter Berkin to the Morrisville Municipal Authority carried by voice vote 7-0.

Ms. Danko stated for the Morrisville Municipal Authority we have a one 5-year appointment remainder of unexpired term expires 1/21 that was a typo it should be 27, so I just wanted to make that correction for everyone and then of course the Zoning Hearing Board we have two 3-year appointments expiring 1/4/27 one of the appointments is an alternate position and I hadn't had a chance to speak with all of Council yet but what we have been experiencing is you see we have some things that are expiring in January some in February some in March some in April. What we would like to do is we would like to have these terms go with the year that is here maybe the 27 or the 28 and so forth but we'd like to do them all in January that way we're not having them all over map as I've said some in February some in April, it's really confused a lot of the appointments and I know the MMA has actually helped us with this suggestion I had actually talked with right before the MMA suggested this I actually had spoken with Scott Holbert about this you didn't know that but I said can we please do this because it would really be helpful we wouldn't have to have the advertisements all over every month and so forth too it would really be more uniform to have this. I don't know if Council and Solicitor do I need an agreement of Council to do that, is that something we would need on an agenda or can we all agree that this would be a good way to move on something of this nature?

Mr. Flager stated I think you could do it when you do the appointment for the actual term. Generally the appointment is a certain amount of years.

Ms. Danko stated we could certainly come back with a list.

Mr. Flager stated you have a lot of them already out now going towards a certain term so you would have to vote to change those terms.

Ms. Danko stated just to change the terms to January 31st.



Mr. Flager stated eventually it might take a little bit of time but then you could eventually have it more uniform.

Ms. Danko stated yes does that make sense to everyone? Thank you all. So you'll see some things in the future take place in that manner then, thank you.

9. Other Business

Mrs. Ms. Hlahol asked is there a way to put on the website the dates? I know the people's names are on there and then the date it expires is there a way to put the date that it expires, I've asked this before?

Ms. Danko stated I'm sorry Helen can you please say that again?

Ms. Hlahol stated so we have the Zoning we have the Planning and then the MMA and then you have people's names that are on the boards or the committees is there a way to put their expiration date so that when residents go and look they know something is coming up?

Ms. Danko stated certainly.

Ms. Hlahol stated month and year end date it doesn't have to be like 1/21 you could just say January of 24, December of 25.

Ms. Danko stated certainly.

10. Borough Officials

- Ms. Price Engelhard stated some of you have seen posted after the accident with the truck that happened several weeks ago I was in an event or meeting with our Senator Steve Santarsiero and I was talking to him about it and I said one of my desires is if we could get the people in town and PennDOT and even Northstar to come and have a panel discussion so that they could discuss what they are doing and the public could actually talk to them and let them know of their frustrations and what's going on in their lives and how this is impacting their lives so he said he'd try to get something together I called Judith and we discussed several different dates about it and I said I am hoping to have this meeting when we agreed on a date I called Judith and said we can do this on the 31st we'd like to do it then it was a date open and so that's how this came about and I really thought that it would benefit the community to come and openly discuss with PennDOT. I'd like to hear what they have to say but I also really want them to hear what you have to say so it is open to the public you can bring your questions they said if you can kind of send them to me then I can give them ahead of time just so they can see what questions you're going to ask so I hope many of you come. There's been a real positive outpouring of people in the community and I hope this helps kind of move forward I don't know if it's a solution but I hope it's a chance to move forward and see if we can kind of change the forces that are going on there so that's what that's about.



- Ms. Hlahol stated I'd like to add that I actually wrote a letter last Thursday and I included Steve Santarsiero, Brian Fitzpatrick, the Toll Bridge Commission, the County Commissioners, some people from PennDOT and the DVRPC which is the Delaware Valley Planning Commission and I wrote to them about our issues about the narrow streets I can read the letter but it's rather long but if anybody would like to see it I'm happy to share with it but just about the trucks that are not utilizing Route 13 and Tyburn Road and I'm asking them if they could put signage up if they can help us to try to deviate the trucks from coming down our small streets. There were two 18 wheelers that came down Dieter Avenue, I don't know if you guys know Dieter Avenue but it's a very tiny street you can only get one car down at a time and there were two 18 wheelers I don't even know how they made the turn from Ohio Avenue onto Dieter but I wrote to them I showed them the accident for the house on South Pennsylvania Avenue. I showed them pictures of the traffic accident on Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. I have shown the pictures from the Calhoun Street Bridge. I have pictures here that I've given them about the trash that's left and when the garbage falls off the trucks and what it does to our streets. I have video here about the trucks just one after another after another and how they don't stop at the end of the ramps. I talk about the backups I mean I talk a lot here and at the very end I ask them what they're going to do to help us. I have asked for air quality studies for the first ward, nothing is happening. I have asked for a feasibility study for building a bridge at Tyburn Road nobody has gotten back to me so hopefully when Steve is here you residents can come and ask him and ask him what my letter did for them they're very well aware. I keep notifying them and nothing seems to be working so I ask I hope the public at home knows about this and they come and that they voice their aggravation as much as I'm aggravated.
- Ms. Price Engelhard stated I know that you've really put forth over the last few years and you have kept on them all the time and I think as residents we really appreciate that because you haven't let it go so thank you very much.
- Ms. Hlahol stated I have not and I will not.
- Ms. Price Engelhard stated thank you. I know you won't.
- Ms. Hlahol stated they will be very angry with me, not the residents, the upper elected officials.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tvEUgNiwwM>