



6:00 Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7:06 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: Kathryn Price Engelhard, President
John Vitarelli, Vice President
Helen Hlahol
Melissa Johnson
Marie Kelso
Andrew Lubin
Scott Robinson

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

Mr. Flager stated prior to the meeting tonight we met in executive session to discuss personnel, litigation, police matters including the situation with the Chief. Thank you.

3. Public Comment

1. Anna Langer – *610 Prospect Avenue*

She stated good evening Morrisville Council and fellow Morrisville residents. I have been a resident of the fourth ward for approximately 9 years. I am here because I am interested in being appointed to fill the recently vacated seat in my district. I consider it a privilege to serve. I believe everyone has my resume which explains what I can bring to the table. I fell in love with Morrisville when I was working for Curtin & Heefner years ago. During that time I became acquainted with Morrisville and I made myself a promise that one day I would be a resident of this town, well I kept my promise. I do not take commitment lightly. I evaluate pros and cons on every situation before I make a decision. I am receptive to and respectful of all opinions and views. I support and believe in people, communities and diversity. I consider myself to be a professional, capable and enthusiastic and I hope that I will have your support. Thank you for your time to be able to speak this evening.



2. Nancy Sherlock – *West Bridge Street*

She stated I have a couple of questions and I also have a few comments. For more than a year now the agenda has had some very vague motions or non-committal motions like case in point for this evening call for motion to potentially approve. Why are the motions not more definitive? There's also a motion to retain a mediator but there's no information. There's also a motion to consider appointment, all motions are considerations so it should just be a motion to. During the re-org I don't believe it was appropriate to approve Judith as the Borough Manager she's a contracted employee not someone that we should be appointing and her appointment as Treasurer is a conflict of interest, your Borough Manager or your COO should not be the Treasurer that's a conflict. Morrisville has contracted Tom Josiah to balance our books each month. The situation with Jane Burger sitting as a Civil Service Member and also an MMA Board Member has that been rectified and will that hearing be nullified? That was the meeting I think on the 17th. The Canal Bridge Street Project looks great and people are using the crosswalk I think it's great and thank you to all who helped move it along. There is a yellow rail leaning up against the steps that's not secure so I don't know if it should still be there or not. A while back it was noted that there was a flood in the Borough Hall basement and I was wondering if the Borough did a claim for that. At last week's meeting the motion to remove Dave Truelove and his firm didn't mention his first name which would have been a little bit more professional and respectful also I believe it would have been courteous to call them ahead of time to let them know. It is hypocritical to charge the former Police Chief with certain charges that are in my opinion not that fireable but to allow the director of MMA to put his hands on a Councilperson without question. I'm hoping that 2024 will be the year of transparency and going forward I would also hope that the protocol for this body would be to welcome and accept Borough Officials, State Officials etc. to be allowed to give a presentation to this body and to the public. Senator Santarsiero's office and Commissioner Marseglia came here in December they were told that they needed to sign up for three minutes and no presentation would be allowed. Lastly, I implore this Council to do the right thing and listen to the residents of the fourth ward and appoint a democrat to the vacant position. In the past when someone resigned, retired or otherwise Council was respectful and appointed someone in the position of the same party that was elected. I do only wish the best for Morrisville it'll just take some work to get us there. Thank you and have a good evening.

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

4. **Action Items**

- 4A. Motion to approve a temporary waiver of the 60-hour biweekly limit for Part Time Police Officers, to exceed 35 hours in one week, through Friday, 3/8/24 as approved by the Director of Public Safety, Acting Police Chief and the Mayor based on public safety.
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.



- 4B. Motion to retain mediator Walter H. De Treux.
Motion made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Mr. Flager stated he's a very experienced Labor Attorney and Practitioner. He's going to be involved in mediating the dispute between the Borough and the former Police Chief.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.
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- 4C. Motion to consider appointment to fill 4th Ward vacant Council position to complete the remainder of a two year term. (Letter of interest from Luke McKee and Anna Langer).
Nomination of Luke McKee made by Mr. Lubin.
Mr. McKee stated I'm here to work. We need a lot of work. I want to come in here and I want to make things better than they have been. I'm ready to roll my sleeves up and get it done so that's it.
Nomination of Anna Langer made by Mr. Vitarelli.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Vote to appoint Luke McKee carried by roll call vote 4-3. (Votes for Luke McKee were: Ms. Hlahol, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Lubin and Mr. Robinson. Votes for Anna Langer were: Ms. Price Engelhard, Ms. Kelso and Mr. Vitarelli).
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Mr. Flager stated to be official so everyone knows in accordance with the Sunshine Law. This is just a really small change but we need to amend the agenda so that you can vote on changing the Director of Public Safety officially to Interim Chief of Police. Corporal Smith will report to him and all police officers will report to him through the normal chain of command. That's pretty much how it is now anyway but that's to officially just to clarify so that there's no misunderstanding and that's acceptable to you your honor?

Mayor Wallace replied yes.

- 4D. Motion to amend the agenda.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.
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- 4E. Motion to change the Director of Public Safety to Interim Chief of Police.
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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5. Adjournment

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

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku2PTAsRyQQ>