

MEETING MINUTES MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL 35 Union St, Morrisville, PA

7:00pm TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 Council Chambers morrisvillepagov.com

1. Pledge of Allegiance Recited

2. Roll Call

Elected Officials:

Helen Hlahol, President
Scott Robinson, Vice President
Melissa Johnson
Marie Kelso
Dennis Kinney
Andrew Lubin (absent)
Luke McKee
Kathryn Price Engelhard
Gary Wallace, Mayor

Borough Admin/Officials:

Jim Dillon, Interim Borough Manager Randy Flager, Solicitor Rich Ciampa, Chief of Police Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary

Mr. Flager stated the agenda was posted on the Borough website at 7:15pm less than 24 hours before the meeting and a (15 minute late) technical violation of section 709 C1 of the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law. We apologize. Bills need to be paid and motions voted on. Section 712.1 E of the Sunshine Law authorizes council (by a majority vote) to add any item to the agenda. Recommend a council member makes a motion to adopt the agenda in full as posted in order to move forward with the meeting. Is there such a motion? Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.

No discussion took place. **Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

3. Community Announcements/Presentations

- a. Stockham Building Architect Plans Presentation
- b. Senior Center Parking Lot Closure
- c. Do Not Block Box at Washington and East Bridge \$500 fine
- d. § 400-2. All owners of single-family detached dwellings, two-family buildings, single-family semidetached dwellings, two-family detached dwellings, single-family attached dwellings, townhouses, multifamily dwellings, and apartment houses (hereinafter "rental dwellings") intending to rent their rental dwelling or a portion of their rental dwelling in the Borough of Morrisville to nonfamily members shall make application to the Office of Code Enforcement of the Borough of Morrisville for licensing on an annual basis. Applications shall be available for inspection at the Borough of Morrisville Office of Code Enforcement.
- e. Reminder: Jan 1st extended Borough Hall hours from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
- f. Reminder: PECO to work on gas lines in the next 2 years. PECO will send a letter and if you are thinking of getting gas, please contact them sooner rather than later.

4. Community Outreach

- a. No CAC meeting December resume 2025. Second Thursday every month at 7pm.
- b. Board Openings: email letters of interest to Office@MorrisvilleBoro.org
 Planning Commission / Zoning Board / Economic Development Corp (MEDC)
 Municipal Authority (MMA) / Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

5. Council Discussion Items

- 2025 Budget workshop Monday, November 25th at 7pm council agreed workshop is not necessary.
- **6. Engineer Report** No report this evening.



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- 7. **Borough Manager Report** thanked the staff for helping with the budget especially the police chief and council president for working closely with him; excellent budget to start guiding the town into the future.
- 8. Solicitor Report/Randy Flagger wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- **9. Police Chief's Report/Chief Rich Ciampa -** reported on crime stats, fines. Trunk or Treat and Halloween was a success. Reported on the future truck ban. *Discussion took place*.

10. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from the 10/15/24 council meeting.
- b. Approval of bill list from 10/1/24 to 10/31/24 in the amount of \$643,461.09.
- c. Approval of the 2025 Borough Holiday Schedule.
- d. Approval of the 2025 Library Holiday Schedule.
- e. Approval of the 2025 Library Meeting Schedule.

Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.

No discussion took place. **Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

11. Action Items

a. Motion to approve the Morrisville Road Program – Phase A to begin bidding early 2025 using a Bond Issue to fund the project.

Motion made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. McKee.

Discussion took place.

Kathy Panzitta – Hillcrest Ave asked if it is a bond issue that council is going out for more money for the Road Program and were all the other bond issues completely funded out and closed.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

b. Motion to approve the proposed layout/equipment for the Manor Park playground as shown on the Gilmore & Associates, Inc. Aerial Concept Plan, dated October 17, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Kelso.

Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

c. Motion to adopt a resolution to apply for a Local Share Account (LSA) grant through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and designating officials to execute documents for the purchasing of a new street sweeper for the Public Works Department.

Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

d. Motion to authorize Gilmore & Associates, Inc. to prepare and submit a Green Light Go Grant application for additional funding for the Trenton Ave and N. Pennsylvania Signal Replacement Project.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. McKee.

No discussion took place.

Jim Schwartz – Rosemar Dr wanted to confirm it was the light on the bank side of W. Trenton and Pennsylvania Avenues.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

e. Motion to purchase Axon Body Worn Cameras for \$86,235 with a differed plan requiring payment of \$31,657.40 in 2024 and the balance paid in four yearly equal installments of \$13,644.60 (2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028).

Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.



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f. Motion to purchase a Live Scan Fingerprint Machine and Establishing a Central Booking Center for \$35,250 (estimated yearly revenue of \$48,000, annual maintenance fee of \$6,582, annual Pennsylvania State Police CLEAN line of \$5,200.

Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Ms. Kelso.

Discussion took place. **Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

g. Motion to proceed to develop a schematic to construct a Sally Port for the MPD – Sally Port is a controlled entryway for a secure environment to transfer detained individuals.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

Discussion took place. **Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

h. Motion to hire Architect Hacienda Design, Inc. to develop the schematic for the planned Sally Port at a rate of \$125/hour.

Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

i. Motion to authorize purchase of a new vehicle for the Chief of Police in 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

j. Motion to adopt the 2025 Preliminary Budget and authorizing advertising the preliminary budget that is available at Borough Hall for public inspection.

Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.

No discussion took place.

Kathy Panzitta – Hillcrest Ave stated the E.I.T. brings in the same as your previous millage rates and people that did not want it it's like doubling your 30 mil. Asked if there were plans to pay off the other loans that council is paying debt service charge. Asked when the council received a copy of the budget and if they wrote into the budget issuing the bond to pay for the streets.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

k. Motion to send Solicitors, Flager and Associates to the December 2nd Zoning Hearing Board Meeting to oppose the variance request at 400 W. Bridge Street.

Motion to amend made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

No discussion took place. **Motion** to amend carried by voice vote 7-0.

1. Motion to send Solicitors, Flager and Associates to the December 2nd Zoning Hearing Board Meeting to contest the variance request at 400 W. Bridge Street and 406 W. Bridge Street.

Motion made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.

No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

m. Motion to amend the truck ordinance to add additional streets.

Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Kinney.

Discussion took place. **Motion** to carried by voice vote 7-0.

12. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- **1.** Jane Burger Maple Ave. spoke about the Stockham Building and asked if there was going to be a right of way for the little area out back. Kudos for all the hard work for finally getting this done.
- 2. Jimmy Schwartz Rosemar Dr. he is pleased with the direction of council, thanked the Chief and wished him the best. Asked council to help get the Pennsylvania Ave paving fixed from Bridge St to Philadelphia Ave. Asked council to help fix the strong gas odor on Delaware Ave in the Manor.
- **3.** Susan Dingwall Harrison Ave. lives near Dacey's, and she smells the gas odor often even when she is walking around town. Spoke about the speeding trucks on Pennsylvania Ave. and is concerned that the trucks will tear up the new roads.



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- **4.** Jesse Wright Park Ave. spoke about April 25th, 2021 incident. Brian Welch came to his home threatening him and his girlfriend then Brian called 911, Bill Smith responded, and Brian filed a false police report. He turned himself in when he found there was a warrant for him and George McClay refused to listen, there was a custody hearing and trial. His oldest son moved in with him; but his youngest son is still not with him as he feels he is in danger. Asked what changes or policies are being made other than the officers not here anymore, how do we protect children in the future.
- **5.** Holly Harman Plaza Blvd. Asked if the council was actively looking for a full-time Borough Manager and if it was being advertised. She is happy that Bill Smith is no longer here.
- **6.** Kathryn Panzitta Hillcrest Ave. spoke as the chairperson of the Senior Center she wanted clarification of the parking lot and where the line is between the County and Morrisville Borough. She wants to properly document with the County and/or the Borough if there is an incident.
- 13. Mayor Comments it is a year since he was appointed, and he is filled with gratitude for the trust placed in him. His vision has been to foster a stronger, more trusting bond between officers and the people they serve. It is crucial our children feel comfortable reaching out to the police when they need help. Spoke about the successful community events that took place this year. Stated we are committed to addressing community concerns ensuring Morrisville remains a place where families and businesses can flourish. Morrisville's greatest strength is its people, and honored to serve as your mayor.

14. Council Member Comments

Mrs. Johnson: reminded everyone about Winterfest on December 7th with a rain date on Sunday the 8th and for more info go to mymorrisville.com.

Mr. Kinney: Halloween was a great night, the Chief and officers went by a few times commenting on the decorations.

Mr. Robinson (phone): you may not see physically see him but he's attended 100% of the meetings. Wished the Mayor a Happy One Year Anniversary and thanked Mr. Dillon, Helen, the RDA, and the developers that are working on the Stockham Building. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

15. Committee Updates

Ms. Price Engelhard: reported about the last Parks and Recreation Meeting for the year. Thanked the community and volunteers that come every month and support the activities that happen in town. She announced the cleanup at the preserve on Saturday the 23rd at 12 pm.

Ms. Hlahol: reported the budget shows a 2 ½ mil decrease in taxes and that is on top of the 5 mills from last year so that is quite a savings over the last two years.

16. Adjournment at 8:25 p.m.

https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUU51KqvgD4