

MINUTES

MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 19, 2011

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday September 19, 2011 at 7:31 PM in Council Chambers of the Morrisville Borough Municipal, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for the Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Rivella asked everyone to please join in the moment of silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bates took roll at this time.

These in attendance:

BOROUGH COUNCIL: David Rivella, President
Kathryn Panzitta, Vice President
Victor Cicero
Rhonda Davis – left at 8:38
Eileen Dreisbach
Fred Kerner
Todd Sanford
Nancy Sherlock

BOROUGH OFFICIALS: Mayor Rita Ledger
Sean Kilkenny, Solicitor
Thomas Bates, Borough Manager

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There are no special presentations this evening.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Donna Griff, Morrisville First: Ms. Griff told everyone about the zucchini races at the Mayor's Picnic. She said everyone had a great time. Over 50 people cheered on their zucchinis. Every contest received a ribbon, a medal, or a trophy. Ms. Griff wanted to thank the Farmers Market and the Mayor for the wonderful trophies.

2. Susan Krushenski, 16 Lenora Avenue: Ms. Krushenski is handling the Flea Market on September 24th. The Flea Market will be from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ms. Krushenski thanked the Elks Lodge for allowing them to use their parking lot. There are over 50 spaces reserved. There will be a 50-50,

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kabob vendors, hotdogs from the Rotary and many, many, more vendors. There are vendors from Morrisville, Trenton, and other surrounding communities.

Mayor Ledger thanked Donna Griff and Sam and Susan Krushenski. They went to extreme lengths to pull this off and it is greatly appreciated.

3. Debbie Smith, 221 West Maple Avenue: Ms. Smith said the Mayor's Picnic was a real hoot. She wanted to thank the Mayor. Ms. Smith said that new business was mentioned last month about the pool. Ms. Smith said she knows that this is hard for the Borough, but she thinks it is a shame that the burden of the pool charges fall to the tax payers. They should not have to foot the bill. Ms. Smith would also appreciate if the water drainage was looked into in that area as well.

4. Danielle Larison and Coach Jermaine Jenkins, Morrisville Bulldogs Representation: They are now a part of American League Football. American League Football is looking to raise money to go to tournaments. On October 8th, they are going to have a Family Day. They are looking to have vendors. They want to do a chuck-a-buck. People could toss coins into the boys' helmets. Coaches and parents would help with this. They want to raise enough money to make the organization better. During the month of October they are going to donate money from the concession stand to the Breast Cancer Awareness. The players and cheerleaders will also wear pink this month. Little Bulldogs is opened to other areas, they are not just Morrisville kids.

Ms. Panzitta said that she definitely has a problem with children standing in a busy intersection. She thinks it is dangerous and scary. Those kids are very small to be in the street.

Ms. Larison said the kids would be on the corner, not on the street.

Ms. Panzitta said that the intersection is bad enough, that would be another distraction.

Ms. Larison said she is open to other ideas.

They can do it in a parking lot for safety issues.

Ms. Larison said what if they had adults do it?

Mr. Rivella said Borough Council would have to look into the liability and safety aspect.

Ms. Panzitta said it should be run by the police chief.

Mr. Kerner said that the time does matter as well.

Ms. Sherlock said that intersection is a state highway, so it is not legal. It would have to be an intersection that is Borough owned. She thinks it needs to be thought over some more. Ms. Sherlock said that the kids are very young to be on the side of a street.

5. Pastor Taylor, 405 Hamilton Boulevard: Pastor Taylor shared with council that Youth of the Future meets every Friday night at the Solid Youth Center. They meet from 6:30-9:00 p.m. They try to teach the children in a safe, fun environment. There is a partnership dinner on October 7th at the Sheraton from 7-9 p.m. They are going to inform those who are coming about the challenges of youth. Pastor Taylor invited all of council to the dinner.

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6. Carissa Taylor, 405 Hamilton Boulevard: The Youth Center has been running for six years now. The Solid Youth Center builds character and leadership. The students really have a good time and they have a concert every month. They participate in theme nights, Winterfest, and in parades.

7. Bill Minder, 423 Crown Street: Mr. Minder asked what happened to the overflow valve north of Calhoun Street. He also said the Calhoun Street Bridge walkway is in poor shape. It is all pebbles. Mr. Minder also wants to see the street sweeper up and working again because the leaves are starting to fall.

8. Jane Burger, 90 West Maple Avenue: Ms. Burger talked about the drainage on Plaza Boulevard. She said both Plaza Boulevard and Nolan Avenue are solely owned by the Borough. Ms. Burger also suggested that council discuss any possible ordinance before incurring any solicitor's expense. Ms. Burger also wanted to know what can be used as a tornado warning system. Can we use the fire system?

9. Bill Farrell, 347 North Pennsylvania Avenue: Mr. Farrell wanted to know about the pool money and did we pass a waiver so he represents both sides. He wanted to know if the pool money is in an escrow account or in the general fund.

Mr. Rivella said that he didn't plan on answering the questions during public comment. They will try to answer them later.

No one else wished to speak, so the Hearing of the Public was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 6A to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 20, 2011 and the regular meeting minutes of July 18, 2011.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock and seconded.

Ms. Sherlock found three grammatical errors, but the Borough is taking care of them.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

REPORTS

Manager's Report: The Manager's Report was included in the packet. Mr. Bates wanted to say what a great job Bob Seward and everyone else did during the hurricane and the emergency. The people in Morrisville really acted as a team. No one panicked and everyone helped. Mr. Bates was very proud of the workers. They did a terrific job.

Ms. Sherlock asked about the sanitation delinquent report. There is still a large balance.

Money is coming in and everyone is working to get the money back.

Assistant Borough Manager's Report: The Assistant Borough Manager's Report was included in the packet.

Police Chief's Report: the Police Chief's Report was handed out tonight.

Public Works Report: the Public Works report was included in the packets.

Code Enforcement Report/Emergency Management Report: the Code Enforcement Report/Emergency Management Report was included in the packets.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Kilkenny discussed that the conflict waiver was finished last month with IRS Attorney. He explained his conversations with the IRS and where we stand regarding the pool. They are looking into the liens being reduced. Mr. Kilkenny explained that the item under new business about the police negotiations is a recommendation he made. His company does not do much arbitration, so he recommended others for the job.

Engineer's Report: Delmorr Avenue is under review, but the reviewer keeps calling about drainage. This has nothing to do with curbs and sidewalks.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was included in the packet. Mr. Bates read the bill list.

FINANCE

Motion 8A to pay bills.

Motion made by Ms. Panzitta and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 8B to acknowledge the receipt of the Minimum Municipal Obligation Forms (MMO) for both the Police (Uniformed) and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System by October 7, 2011.

Motion made by Ms. Panzitta and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Dreisbach noticed that under the next section there is an appointment to the EDC. She asked if Ms. Kane asked to be reappointed.

Mr. Rivella said that she did and the letter is in the packet.

Ms. Dreisbach said there are two other letters from other people on the EDC who want to be reappointed and a few from the Recreation Board. How come they are not on the agenda to be reappointed?

Mr. Rivella said the other reappointments have not technically expired yet. They have to wait until next month's meeting until they are actually expired.

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Mr. Kerner said he would like to appoint someone to the Library Board because currently they do not have enough members to meet.

Mr. Rivella said he does not feel a need to move forward with that as of now because the library personnel are in negotiations to change over to be union employees. Mr. Rivella feels that a lot will change with them soon.

Mr. Kerner said could we appoint anyway?

Mr. Rivella said that he doesn't feel the need because they already signed cards, but he doesn't have much more information, but of course if there is still a need to have a library board after these changes take place that council would appoint one.

Mr. Kerner said it is very frustrating to be on a committee that does not have enough members to meet.

Ms. Panzitta said she doesn't know if that has relevance.

Mr. Kilkenny said they voted to be a union and he is working them to come up with a contract. They will be similar to Borough employees.

Ms. Dreisbach asked if members who expire next month should continue to go to their meeting if they fall before the Council Meeting.

Mr. Rivella said no.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 10A to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare a *Draft* Municipal Parking Ordinance.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach and seconded.

Mr. Rivella said that he previously put in the packet a draft ordinance that basically came from another municipality. Everyone said to move forward.

Ms. Dreisbach asked if everything is outlined out already or if the solicitor is just going to draw something up.

Mr. Rivella said that they can certainly give him ideas.

Ms. Sherlock said she returned a copy with suggestions; will they go to the solicitor?

They will.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 10B to consider the requests from Friends of Morrisville Dog Park dated August 5, 2011.

Motion made Ms. Dreisbach and seconded.

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Ms. Dreisbach got a phone call from a resident who was very concerned about what they want to do down at the Dog Park. She wanted to make it known what the request is for. It is a request to put small plaques on the arms of the benches to recognize the people who donated money to the Dog Park. It is nothing elaborate. It is nothing large. Ms. Dreisbach said that there is no reason it should not be approved.

Mr. Rivella said that what Ms. Dreisbach said was very interesting because it was his understanding that those benches were donated to the Park and they were trying to sell sponsorships. Mr. Rivella does not feel it is very clear what they are asking.

Ms. Panzitta said she has the letter. It references kiosks and bench plaques.

Mr. Cicero asked if the motion is for kiosks or benches.

Mr. Rivella said he didn't know if they brought this item up to the EAC. That is the first place they should ask because it involves open space.

Mr. Cicero asked if we have a report from the EAC.

Mr. Rivella said they did not go to the EAC.

Ms. Dreisbach said that a lot of people do not go through the Recreation Board, but they get approved.

Ms. Panzitta suggested that they table the motion.

Motion to table Motion 10B.

Motion made by Ms. Panzitta and seconded.

Motion carried by roll call 6-2, with Ms. Dreisbach and Mr. Sanford voting nay.

Motion 10C to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to submit an application for funding to the Bucks County Department of Community and Business Development requesting funding assistance under Program Year 2012, as due by September 30, 2011.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock and seconded.

Ms. Sherlock asked what was on the application.

Mr. Kilkenny said we have to say what the priorities would be. They have to be very specific. He suggests that Mr. Bates create a list and then amend the motion to reflect.

Ms. Panzitta said that she received a copy of the resolution and there was a question mark next to it. The question mark means it will not be set in stone.

Ms. Sherlock said all should be listed.

Ms. Panzitta said Plaza Boulevard and Nolan Avenue first. These two streets are closer to neighboring communities with a lot of voters.

Mr. Rivella said he asked for repaving and new streetlights, not traffic lights.

Mr. Kerner said should they be separated.

Ms. Panzitta agrees with Mr. Kerner.

They will be separated.

Ms. Sherlock said that they had a wish list, she doesn't have it, but if anyone can recall these items they can be added.

Mr. Rivella remembered LED street lights.

Mr. Cicero asked when it is due.

It has to be done by September 30th.

Mr. Kerner said about the trees by the river.

That needs to be clarified because it might be considered the river.

Mr. Sanford said drainage is very important.

Mr. Cicero said this is very, very expensive. It needs to be realistic.

Ms. Sherlock said drainage has been mentioned in two different areas.

Mr. Rivella said the engineer can look into the drainage.

Ms. Dreisbach said they do not even know what will be on the application.

Mr. Rivella said it has to be approved tonight.

Ms. Dreisbach asked how long we knew we would apply for this. It should have been done sooner.

Mr. Rivella said it comes up every year and it was in the packet. Just because Ms. Dreisbach is unprepared, she cannot be mad at him because he has a list of streets that really need to be worked on.

Ms. Dreisbach said that Mr. Rivella should not catch an attitude with her.

Ms. Panzitta said there is no letter from the county. Ms. Panzitta said that everyone is in a tough position. She never remembers being in this position in her ten years on council. Ms. Panzitta thought they were getting no money. She thinks everyone should work together to come up with items that will not waste the engineer's time or be too high over the threshold. Ms. Panzitta said they could come up with a big list and then pay the engineer to look into them and waste tax payers' money. If council leaves the meeting tonight, they will not meet until after the application is due. This means that they will have to explain to tax payers why they did not even try for CDBG funds.

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Ms. Sherlock said it is back to Wards. It should be thought about globally and everyone in the town should be considered equally. We all drive on the roads in all the Wards.

Mr. Rivella said that he heard Ms. Dreisbach's remarks. He was attacked for the memo. They are just his suggestions. These streets are in need of repair and they qualify. It's not about them being in his ward. He feels that Ms. Dreisbach is trying to sabotage it.

Ms. Dreisbach said she is not sabotaging anything. She said that the sewage problem was just brought to her attention and she feels that it should be checked out.

Mr. Rivella said there is nothing wrong with having it checked out, but they still have to move forward.

Ms. Sherlock said that she traveled that specific road after the storm and she didn't see any issues.

Mr. Rivella said he traveled that road during the storm to get to the river and he didn't see any issues.

Mr. Cicero asked Mr. Bates what are the other items on Mr. Rivella's memo.

Mr. Bates said it was two streets, Nolan Avenue and Plaza Boulevard.

Mr. Cicero asked if anyone else can think of a specific street without mentioning the streets that the engineer needs to go look at drains.

Mr. Rivella said let's add another street. He would like to add Keystone Avenue.

Ms. Sherlock said that Keystone has a very large hole in the street.

Ms. Sherlock said we have to amend the motion to add specific items.

Mr. Bates said right now the projects are Nolan Avenue for LED street lighting, Nolan Avenue for paving, Plaza Boulevard for street lighting, and Plaza Boulevard for paving. Keystone was just added for paving.

Mr. Sanford said West Post Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue could be fixed.

Ms. Sherlock said that Pennsylvania Avenue is a state highway, so that probably doesn't qualify.

Ms. Sherlock amended the motion to include Nolan Avenue paving and handicap ramps, Plaza Boulevard paving and handicap ramps, and LED lighting for both streets. Mr. Cicero agreed to the amended motion.

Mr. Sanford said that Nolan Avenue already has some handicap ramps. Mr. Sanford said that Nolan is a good candidate because it is in bad shape. Plaza Boulevard is really long and not in as bad shape as Nolan.

At 8:38 Ms. Davis left.

Motion carried by voice vote, 5-2, with Ms. Dreisbach and Mr. Sanford voting nay.

Motion 10D to appoint David Truelove, Attorney, to represent the Borough for Police Arbitration.

Motion made by Mr. Kerner and seconded.

Motion carried by roll call, 5-2, Ms. Dreisbach and Mr. Sanford voting nay.

Motion 10E to appoint as follows:

- Morrisville Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) One 3-year Term (Term of Karen Kane expired on 8/18/11).

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sherlock said the Morrisville Fire House is having an open house on October 15th from 2-4. They will have refreshments, fire prevention, and an awards ceremony for the students who won the fire prevention poster contest.

Ms. Sherlock also wanted to talk about trash. We have some challenges, particularly on Bridge Street. People are putting their trash out way too early. There is an ordinance that it cannot be put out until 6:00 p.m. the night before. Many people are putting it out the day before. These people have received notices. Ms. Sherlock feels that people need to be cited and not just warned. People are ignoring the warnings. Ms. Sherlock is pleading with residents to follow the rules. It looks trashy. Our trash company is coming down our main streets first thing in the morning to make our town look better.

Ms. Sherlock also announced there are teal ribbons on the desk for everyone to take. It is for ovarian cancer awareness.

Ms. Sherlock said PSAB is planning to work on transportation funding for the fall, impact fees, and big bills. There is talk about raising the phone quotes limit town by town.

Ms. Sherlock said there was something recently in the paper about Mr. Ferrera from the school board. She feels that the school board has their purpose in the community and council has their purpose. Sometimes they can meet and mesh, but they should be working on their own purposes. There was comment in the paper that Mr. Ferrera said that if they had a problem with the taking down of basketball hoops they should go to city hall. Ms. Sherlock felt that it was a far reaching comment. It was inappropriate. While council tries to provide recreation, it also behooves him that his students have a place to play. Ms. Sherlock said that maybe they can take the M.R. Reiter equipment to the high school. No one is using it and it is getting rusty.

Mr. Rivella said that the Borough just put new nets up at Williamson Park. The courts are in pretty nice shape.

Mr. Rivella wanted to remind people to read the rules at the dog park.

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Mr. Rivella thanked the Senior Center for making the teal ribbons and thanked Nancy Sherlock for spreading them around town.

Mr. Rivella went to the Irish Festival and thought it was a nice event. He thanked Nancy and the Arts in the Park committee for their work.

The library is having a fundraiser on October 6th. This is with the South Jersey Ghost Researchers. Tickets are \$15 in advance. Call the library for more information.

Mr. Kerner said there is the Visiting Nurses yard sale. He encourages everyone to set up their own yard sale.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS REPORTS & DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Cicero wanted to respond to the question about the money collected from the pool. When the budget was constructed, an extra mil was put in the recreation fund to offset any costs that might come up with the pool. The one mil added up to about \$65,000. The Borough can incur liability if they let the pool continue the way it is. The money can only be used towards the Recreation Fund. If there is money leftover, the council can vote to not put as much in with the new budget. The account is not escrowed. It does not have to be. Mr. Cicero hopes this answers questions.

Ms. Dreisbach asked that if we don't have street sweeper, why is there eight hours allotted to street sweeper repairs in the Public Works Report.

Mr. Bates said they will ask Mr. Seward and get back to her.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Ms. Panzitta and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by:
Dorothy Gaydula
Borough Secretary