

MINUTES

MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2010

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday February 16, 2010 at 7:35 PM in Council Chambers of the Morrisville Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA as a Regular Council Meeting with the following in attendance:

BOROUGH COUNCIL: Nancy Sherlock, President
Kathryn Panzitta, Vice President
Victor Cicero
Rhonda Davis
Eileen Dreisbach
Fred Kerner
Todd Sanford

BOROUGH OFFICIALS: Mayor Rita Ledger, Mayor
Todd Eisenberg, Solicitor
Dorothy Gaydula, Acting Borough Manager
Robert Seward, Acting Assistant Borough Manager

Ms. Sherlock brought the meeting to order. Ms. Sherlock began with a moment of silent prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dorothy Gaydula took roll at this time.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

The MEAC made a presentation on the Southern Riverfront. They would like to rezone four parcels at the Southern End of the Riverfront for CS-2. This area is in the waterway. It can not be built on; they would like to have walkable natural trails in this area. There is no deadline to make this decision, but the longer they wait, the more grants they are losing.

Motion (ADDED) to give the MEAC the authority to proceed with the submittal of the grant for the properties along the river to redetermine the eradication of knot weed and riverfront restoration.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Sharon Hughes, 121 Mercer Avenue: Ms. Hughes wanted to thank the EAC for the work that they do. Ms. Hughes thinks their work is admirable and monumental. She also wanted to say thank you for the snow removal. She appreciates the great job!

As no one else wished to speak, the public session was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2009, with corrections.

Ms. Sherlock reviewed the changes with Council.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2009.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion to approve minutes of the Special Meeting of January 12, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Kerner and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion to approve minutes of the Special Meeting of February 2, 2010, with corrections.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach and seconded.

Ms. Panzitta said that on page one it references to see attached list; however there is no attached list.

Ms. Sherlock said that there is no list attached. It will be included in the revised copy. Ms. Sherlock read the names that were supposed to be on the attached list.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report: the Mayor's Report will be given at a later date.

Manager's Report: the Manager's Report was included in the packet.

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 included in the packets.

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.

Mr. Seward included a map for the flea market that was previously approved last year. All vendors will be in the storage units, not in any parking areas.

Ms. Dreisbach asked where the people coming to the flea market will park.

Mr. Seward said either on Mr. Franklin's property or on the public street. Mr. Seward said they really need to see how Mr. Franklin sets up for the first weekend in order to see if it is in compliance. Mr. Seward is going to find out the times.

Ms. Sherlock stated that Morrisville Baseball League will be hosting the State Tournaments this July. Mr. Rossi will get together with the local businesses and Council.

Solicitor's Report: There is no Solicitor's report for this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Public Works Committee: Mr. Rivella reported that this committee met in January. They discussed street repair. They are going to continue to repave. They also discussed a tree trimming program. It is going to start on one end of the Borough and go street by street. There will be an ongoing list. This is not a top priority, so whenever there is time they will complete it. They also discussed the leaf pickup and the Christmas tree pickup. The Borough equipment is getting older, so a plan must be made.

Emergency Services: Mr. Rivella said that the Fire Department recently met with their architect to discuss changes to their proposed new fire station. There were only 47 nighttime sirens last year. Ms. Davis brought up some aspects she wants on the Borough website. These items are now on the website. Mr. Rivella encourages all residents to look at this website.

Ms. Sherlock asked if Mr. Seward could comment on Tyburn Road.

Mr. Seward said that Tyburn Road is a mystery in Falls Township. No one was notified. There are detours up to detour the trucks. This detour brings trucks down Pennsylvania Avenue. The police chief and Mr. Seward followed the current route. They were trying to have the detour reroute traffic down Philadelphia Avenue. The problem with that plan is the bridge on Tyburn Road is not marked with a height. This would be a problem for trucks. The ramp is also not conducive to trucks. Mr. Seward said that PennDOT is going to fix every bridge from where they are now down to Pennsylvania

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Avenue. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will get a letter from Penndot. Mr. Seward said that we should write someone in the State to get some compensation.

Ms. Gaydula is going to look into it and write a letter in approximately two weeks.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Diretto-Weik read the Treasurer's report.

FINANCE

Motion 8A to pay bills.

Motion made by Ms. Panzitta and seconded.

Ms. Panzitta asked about a \$1200 charge.

It was to fix the library railings. It was approved last year and fixed this year.

Motion carried by roll call, 8-0.

Motion 8B to award the Bid for the Library Central Air-Conditioning Installation, CDBG Project #09-33.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by roll call, 8-0.

Motion 8C to submit a letter to the Bucks County Office of Community & Business Development requesting transfer of \$21,045.98, the remaining funds in the CDBG Project #05-37 (Storm Sewer Project) to CDBG Project #09-33, the Morrisville Library Central Air-Conditioning Installation.

Motion made by Ms. Davis and seconded.

The library will be closed for one month starting on May 20, 2010.

Motion carried by roll call, 8-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Rivella wanted to talk about the trail at Williamson Park. Council wanted to move forward with that through grants and a line item. Mr. Rivella said that he thinks Council can do the trail and get a lot more for their money. If we can use some of the Open Space Money and some of the line item money, they can get a \$200,000 project for less money. This would help them have money to fix up other areas of the park as well. Mr. Rivella wants the Council to explore other options.

Ms. Sherlock is concerned about spending all of the money.

Mr. Rivella just thinks that if we are going to spend money already, they should look into other options as well.

Ms. Panzitta asked if the exploration of the Southern End refers to the property they don't own.

Mr. Rivella said absolutely not.

Ms. Panzitta said that Mr. Rivella should put all of his thoughts down, and then everyone can look it over.

Mr. Rivella just thinks it's a tremendous value worth exploring.

Ms. Sherlock is not comfortable giving up all the grant money.

Mr. Rivella thinks we should have dialect with the DCNR first.

Ms. Sherlock does not think that we should turn down the other grant right now.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to the Civil Service Commission for one 6-year term to expire 1/31/16.

Ms. Dreisbach nominated Ms. Maria Buckman and Mr. Cicero nominated Frank Merk.

Mr. Merk received six votes and Ms. Buckman received two votes.

Motion 10A to appoint Mr. Frank Merk to the Civil Service Committee for a 6-year term to expire 1/31/16.

Motion made by Ms. Davis and seconded.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-2, with Ms. Dreisbach and Mr. Sanford voting no.

Appointment for the Vacant Property Review Committee. This is a Planning Commission member. It is a four year term.

Motion to appoint Mr. Don Diretto to the Vacant Property Review Committee as a Planning Commission Member for a four year term expiring January 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Mr. Rivella went to the last Planning Commission where Mr. Diretto was nominated. Mr. Sanford was also there.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 10B to approve the Employment Agreement with John P. Johns, Chief of Police.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 10C to appoint Police Chief Jack Jones as the Right-to-Know Officer, and Judith Frigerio as the Alternate for the Morrisville Police Department.

Motion made by Ms. Davis and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 10D to ratify a new AFSCME Contract using the existing collective bargaining agreement save for the duration which is years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and the wage increase which is 3%, 3%, 3%, 3%, 3.5% over the exiting wage.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Mr. Sanford was concerned about the length of the contract especially if people do not stay.

If this was not passed, negotiations would have to start all over again.

Ms. Panzitta feels that Mr. Eisenberg was not the solicitor when this started. She is just wondering why the discussion came up now.

Mr. Eisenberg said that Mr. Downy is right on certain issues. He could review the contract if needed but he does not feel any reason why the Council can't move forward. He doesn't see any problems with the contract.

There is a letter from Mr. Downey in the packet.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Mr. Rivella was approached by a resident over the snow. The resident was concerned about vacant houses not having their walkways shoveled. This makes walking dogs very difficult. Since we are a walking district, it makes it very hard for students to get to school. Mr. Rivella thinks that we should consider having the same ordinance as we do for the grass.

Mr. Seward said that they will remove the snow from the vacant properties. They are catching up with the Borough sidewalks tomorrow and then the vacant properties will be shoveled.

Mr. Rivella thinks that something needs to be done. Maybe even hiring an outside contractor to help with snow removal.

Mr. Seward said that they have to foot the bill first for an outside contractor, and then get their money back when the house is sold.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sherlcok said that a local resident has an art exhibit open at the Bucks County Vistor's Center. She went to see the exhibit and it is very good. It is there until 2/20/10. Some of the work is for sale.

Ms. Ledger said some of the exhibit has pictures from the carnival that was in Morrisville. Everyone from Council was invited to attend the closing of the exhibit.

Ms. Ledger wanted to also make sure that everyone in Morrisville filled out their homestead paperwork. It is due in 14 days.

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Ms. Panzitta said that the Rotarians are having their breakfast on Saturday February 20th at the Morrisville Methodist Church. Contact a member of the Rotary Club or purchase tickets at the door.

Mr. Cicero said that the Bucks County magazine only mentioned Morrisville in two small paragraphs. This was insulting to him. He is not sure who is responsible for putting out the magazine, but Council and residents should write to the magazine and let them know how disturbed we are. He feels Morrisville deserves something better.

Ms. Ledger wanted to say thank you to all the volunteers that helped the Boy Scouts of America. They just celebrated their 100 years of service.

The Zoning meeting is canceled for this month.

Mr. Rivella announced that Patrick Murphy is hosting a Higher Education workshop. This workshop helps people find grants, financial aid, and other ways to help pay for College.

Also, there is a tax rebate program at the Senior Center on March 5, 2010.

Mr. Rivella stated that he had the opportunity to meet with the Bridge Commission. They were very open with working with the Borough.

Ms. Davis said on February 25, 2010 there will be the first meeting for the Green Committee. All are welcome to attend.

Ms. Davis said that she had the pleasure of going to Leadership Training. She said that she would like to see a particular protocol for meetings that are affected by the snowstorm. She would like to be called.

Ms. Panzitta said that usually it is up to the President's discretion to call Council; however whenever there is an issue Council should not hesitate to call the President. She said that she can see how a phone chain could alleviate one person calling eight people in specific instances though.

Ms. Sherlock thinks there would need to be four different scenarios in order to make this work properly. Sometimes it is just easier to split it up among the administration.

Ms. Ledger said the meeting that Ms. Davis is referring to is a meeting that she called. Ms. Ledger said there is a group referred to as the team. The team is comprised of certain people of the Council as well as Mr. Seward. There are certain titles assigned to people of that team. In the past, not all of Borough Council is included in these meetings; just certain individuals.

Ms. Davis was concerned that residents may ask specific questions about a meeting that a Councilperson has no idea about.

Mr. Eisenberg recommended that you have just enough Councilmembers in the meeting to deal with what you need to deal with and then those members can give the information to everyone else. This way you do not get caught into an issue that there wasn't enough notice given.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by:
Dorothy Gaydula
Borough Secretary