

MINUTES

MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 15, 2010

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday March 8, 2010 at 7:34 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 – Absent
Victor Cicero
Rhonda Davis
Eileen Dreisbach – Absent
Fred Kerner
Todd Sanford

BOROUGH OFFICIALS: Mayor Rita Ledger, Mayor
Todd Eisenberg, Solicitor
Dorothy Gaydula, Borough Secretary, 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

Mr. Frank Merk, III was sworn in this evening as a member of the Civil Service Commission by Mayor Ledger.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Marlys Mihok, Delmorr Avenue: Ms. Mihok stated that after listening to Ms. Schell, she felt that she needed to be at this meeting. Ms. Mihok asked Ms. Sherlock if she left the Municipal Building with the tape of January's Council meeting. She also wanted to know why there are always problems with the technology needed to tape and broadcast the meetings. Ms. Mihok wants her statements attached to the minutes just like Ms. Schell's.

Ms. Sherlock does not remember Ms. Mihok asking in January for her statement to be attached. They can be given to Ms. Gaydula if she can't find them. Ms. Sherlock said that she asked Ms. Schell because Ms. Panzitta wanted a copy.

Ms. Mihok wants her statements from tonight's meeting attached.

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2. Nancy Szemborski, Bucks County Housing Group: They came here tonight to discuss the First Ward Wachovia Regional Foundation award. They want to give background information and answer questions. She gave information to the First Ward Council Members. They provide first time homebuyer counseling, foreclosure counseling, etc. They have a number of housing programs. They provide renters training. They are working with Warminster township to bring military housing there.
3. Meg Quinn, Bucks County Housing Group (Property Manager):
4. Barbara Halpern, Bucks County Housing Group (First Ward Community Development Coordinator): Ms. Halpern said that they are committed to the betterment of all of Morrisville. Ms. Halpern has integrated the residents at Robert Morris into Morrisville programs. She has worked with Morrisville Baseball. She is going to make sure there is a hospitality table at the Baseball Tournaments this summer. She is also going to work with Mr. Fletcher in order to get volunteers to work at this table. This will make the visitors aware of the places of businesses in Morrisville. Ms. Halpern also wants to make a community website. This will be a central website where all organization can enter in their upcoming events. Ms. Halpern is also interested in making a community garden. She has identified two landscape architects who are willing to donate. Maybe even have a children's garden. Their next meeting is March 18, 2010 at the Senior Center. They would love to have new members.
5. Bill Setzer, 806 Crown Street, EAC: Mr. Setzer stated that he was not sure of how attachments to the minutes works. Ms. Sherlock said that when asked, they are always attached. Mr. Setzer said that one cleanup will be on April 17 and it is sponsored by the Friends of the Delaware Canal. It starts at 9:00 a.m. The second cleanup is May 1 from 9:00 until 12:00. The meeting place will be at the corner of Delmorr and Philadelphia Avenue. The third cleanup is May 15. This is the Greystone Woods cleanup. Every Sunday in April, Mr. Setzer is giving guided walks in Greystone Woods. It is open to all ages. The EAC is sponsoring an annual Earth Day poster contest. The theme is recycling. The entries are due at the end of April. Hopefully the winners can be announced at the meeting in May.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of the Special Meeting of February 9, 2010.

Motion made by Ms. Davis and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report: the Mayor does not have a report.

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.

Solicitor's Report: No report for this evening.

Committee Reports: No committee reports this evening.

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

FINANCE

Motion 8A to pay bills.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

Motion 8B to award the Bid for the Canal Foundation for Steps off the Delaware Canal, to John Feher Concrete Construction for the proposal of \$6,900 under the D & L National Heritage Corridor Grant.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by roll call, 6-0.

Motion 8C to authorize the Acting Borough Manager to contact our Borough Engineer to review the DCED Emergency Generator Grant and determine our needs for a generator at the Municipal Building, and possibly, the Ambulance Squad.

Motion made by Ms. Davis and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion 9A to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare the Ordinance and Zoning Map Changes to rezone the following tax parcels: TP #24-012-067, from R-4 to CS-1; -and- TP #24-012-083; #24-012-083-1; #24-012-083-2; and #24-012-084, from CS-1 to CS-2, for Natural Lands Preservation.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Ms. Ledger asked if any of these parcels are in Morrisville.

Ms. Sherlock said all of these parcels are by the river and the train tracks.

Mr. Eisenberg said you will not see this ordinance for two months because it is a long process.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to the Library Board for one 3-year term to expire 3/1/13.

Mr. Rivella nominated Mr. Fred Kerner and Mr. Kerner nominated Mr. Scott Evans.

Motion 10A to appoint Mr. Fred Kerner and Mr. Scott Evans to the Library Board for a 1-year term to expire 3/1/13.

Motion made by Ms. Davis and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

Motion 10B to grant permission for the National Jr. Tennis League of Trenton (NJTL) to post a banner in Williamson Park off N. Delmorr Avenue for their 2010 Summer Program.

Motion made by Mr. Kerner and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

Motion 10C to approve the Rotary Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday March 27, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., in Williamson Park; rain date: April 3, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

Motion 10D to adopt a Resolution (of support) approving the application for funding from the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission's Compact Authorized Investment Program for a Project Grant to implement the Landmark Towns of Bucks County strategic way finding signage plan as requested by the Landmark Towns of Bucks County provided the Grant is not a reimbursable grant.

Motion made by Mr. Kerner and seconded.

Ms. Gaydula said in the past we were reimbursed. We need to make sure we do not need the money upfront because we do not have it.

Ms. Sherlock said she is not sure if the criterion is the same as in the past. This is a way of protecting ourselves. This is for the signage program. It is not a cheap program.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion 10F (TAKEN OUT OF ORDER) to approve the proposed Morrisville Rotary Mini-Carnival; May 13-16, 2010, provided all the details for proper security are met.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Mr. Rivella asked if Mr. Fletcher ever responded to the letter they sent out.

Mr. Seward said he did not respond to date.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

Item 10E to adopt a resolution authorizing the proper Borough Officials to prepare and submit Grant Application(s) to the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission due by March 31, 2010, for projects which must be completed by December 31, 2010.

No motion was made at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sherlock announced that the PSAB sent a legislative action contact sheet. She is urging everyone to fill it out as soon as possible.

There are also new 2010 resolutions that are being adopted throughout Pennsylvania. The actual outcomes will be given at a later time.

There is also a letter from Ms. Hughes in the packet. The state aid for the library has been cut. Hours of operation for the library may need to be cut. More details will come later.

The Real Heros breakfast is honoring two Morrisville people: Chris Piwonski and Matt Weidenhafer. It is Thursday March 18, 2010. This is a county wide breakfast.

Ms. Gaydula is setting up two interviews for April 13, 2010 for the EDC (Economic Development Committee).

There is a Historic Preservation meeting in May. This will be open to the public.

Ms. Mihok is providing Ms. Gaydula with dates for the joint School Board and Council meeting. The last meeting was cancelled due to illnesses.

Ms. Davis spoke about the Green Committee. The first meeting was February 25, 2010. They discussed Morrisville going green and what other communities are doing. They discussed the possibilities of having speakers come to Morrisville. They also talked about LED lights and solar panels. They are going to put together a pilot program regarding energy savings. PECO provided a lot of information regarding rebates and grants. These are open to residents as well. They also talked about having vendors come to town to discuss their products. The next meeting is Thursday March 25, 2010.

Mr. Rivella said that March is National Poison Prevention Month. Please lock up all poisonous products

Also March 15-21 is Fix a Leak Week. Leaks waste a lot of water.

Ms. Sherlock talked to Mr. Seward about the trucks on Pennsylvania Avenue due to the detour on Tyburn Road.

Mr. Seward said that they have been in talks with Penndot. A couple of weeks ago he found out that Amtrak will not speak with Penndot in order to coordinate what they are going to do over the main line. Mr. Seward said Penndot is in limbo until they get confirmation. Mr. Seward has left numerous messages but does not have any answers.

Ms. Sherlock suggested sending a letter.

Mr. Seward said that we can try. He suggested we wait until we get exact dates. Mr. Seward said the only issue is that it is a state highway.

Ms. Sherlock asked Mr. Seward to give an update about the trees in the Borough that are down.

Mr. Seward said that they were just about caught up after the snow storm. Now with the wind and the rain three major trees fell. The Borough worked with the homeowners.

One of the trees that fell was Ms. Davis' neighbors.

Mr. Rivella was impressed with how quickly they were taken care of.

Ms. Sherlock said that there will be a quick five minute executive session regarding litigation after the meeting.

Ms. Ledger said that it is a sad day for this town when we turn down a grant opportunity that can free up money.

Ms. Sherlock said she was not sure why it did not get approved.

Ms. Ledger then stated that she is sure Ms. Sherlock does not know why.

Mr. Cicero asked when the attaching of public statements to the minutes was started.

Ms. Sherlock said that it has been a few years.

Mr. Cicero said that are we going to allow any statements attached? How can they determine which are sensible and productive?

Mr. Eisenberg said they can attach whatever the Council wants to attach. The Council has final say in what is attached.

Mr. Rivella said there is a brief synopsis in the minutes; they just want them verbatim attached to the minutes.

Mr. Cicero thinks that there should be criteria.

Mr. Eisenberg said that most statements are already in the minutes. It is a good idea to have criteria set.

Ms. Sherlock said that to do the minutes verbatim would make each meeting 35 pages long.

Mr. Eisenberg said that minutes are for synopses. It should be a fair summary of what the speaker is saying. Your minutes should accurately reflect what is being said. You can take it on a case by case basis. Some presentations might include graphs that should be included in the minutes.

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Ms. Davis said that in regards to the grant issue, she did not feel comfortable voting for item 10E because there was not much information about it. It is not that she wants to lose money; she just needs to learn more about it.

Ms. Sherlock said that the motion needed to go on in order to have discussion. General information was in the packets. Ms. Sherlock then asked Ms. Ledger to clarify her statement.

Ms. Ledger said that she said what she said. Take it for what it is worth.

Ms. Sherlock said it is worth nothing to her and that it was insinuating.

Ms. Ledger said that she can take it for what it was and all she said was that it was a sad day for this town to turn down grants.

Ms. Sherlock then asked what Ms. Ledger said.

Ms. Ledger in turned asked her what she said. Ms. Ledger asked why everything has to turn into a conflict.

Ms. Sherlock asked why Ms. Ledger was choosing to not even continuing to have this conversation.

Mr. Rivella asked how much money is left in this grant.

Ms. Sherlock said 2-3 million dollars.

Mr. Rivella said his only concern is that they have to finish the project by the end of the year. Are there any projects that they could use this money for? Mr. Rivella asked if they could keep it generic and not specify a project, but still pass the motion.

Mr. Eisenberg said it is a motion to let the Borough Officials decide.

Ms. Sherlock said that when they met as a group last week, she said that they, as a group, needed to think of projects for this money.

Ms. Ledger asked if it was the same grant as the one from January.

Ms. Sherlock wasn't sure.

Ms. Ledger asked if they could please look into that.

Mr. Rivella said it is a separate issue. Mr. Rivella said if they keep it generic enough, he will make the motion.

Ms. Gaydula said everything is due by March 31, 2010 so they would need a separate meeting.

Mr. Koehler, the Borough Engineer, said that the grant has to be related to transportation. Sketches and cost estimates are needed with this grant. He suggests street scaping (sidewalks included) or resurfacing. He said that they only have two weeks. There is not much time to wait.

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Motion 10E to adopt a resolution authorizing the proper Borough Officials to prepare and submit Grant Application(s) to the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission due by March 31, 2010, for projects which must be completed by December 31, 2010.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

Ms. Sherlock answered Ms. Davis' questions from last meeting regarding emergency meetings. Ms. Sherlock stated:

At our last meeting on February 16 there was discussion at the end of the meeting regarding a meeting that was called by the Mayor regarding residents whose power was out due to the storm. Ms. Davis asked who should have attended and asked who was invited. Morrisville Borough has an Emergency Management Plan and a resolution #739 that addresses our procedures. This plan has provided to Bucks County Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. This plan calls for all meetings to be called by the Council President. If the Mayor would like to call a meeting, procedure calls for the Mayor to contact the Council President. The Mayor's position does not permit her the opportunity to call meetings of Council personnel or emergency services. The Mayor does oversee the police department and can and should call meetings with the Police Chief whenever necessary.

Ms. Ledger said she called that meeting that day due to the emergency. If you had questions you should have asked her. She has documentation she could have provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Rivella and seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote, 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by:
Dorothy Gaydula
Borough Secretary