

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET SESSION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015
7:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, December 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Borough, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Special Council Meeting, Budget Session.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, I will ask everyone to stand for a moment of silent prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Sherlock asked, may we have a roll call please?

Mr. Bates took roll at this time.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Nancy Sherlock, President
Fred Kerner, Vice President
Victor Cicero
Corryn Kronnagel
Ted Parker
Todd Sanford (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)
Debbie Smith

Borough Officials: Mayor Dave Rivella
Tom H. Bates Jr., Borough Manager

Not in Attendance: Jeffrey Johnson
Robert A. Seward, Assistant Borough Manager/Code Enforcement
Alyson Fritzges, Solicitor Scott J. Stoddard, Borough Engineer
George McClay, Chief of Police
Anna C. Zuckerman, Junior Councilperson

Mrs. Sherlock stated, we have no special presentation, next we have the hearing of the public. If anyone would like to speak please come forward and state your name and address.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Georgia Cinq-MarsTashjian - 227 W. Franklin Avenue
She stated, the wreaths are up, thank you, they look great.
2. Jane Burger - 90 West Maple Avenue
She agrees we should contact Presbyterian Towers. Her reaction about an Assistant Borough Manager, why do we need an assistant? The sinking fund can only pay the loan. One mil for open space, keep it in, to pay for M. R. Reiter. Capital Reserve Fund, trucks out of service? Sanitation coming down is a good thing. Fire and Safety inspections we can not continue to do it for free. She mentioned the qualifications of the candidate for Borough Manager.

There being no more public comment, the public comment portion was closed.

Some discussion about the budget ensued.

Put the \$2,000 back in the police budget from traffic lights, police department. Tom will take it from Tree Maintenance. Debbie asked about grants to repair the Library, get a grant to fix the pointing and the windows.

***Council went into executive session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss personnel.
Council returned from executive session at 9:21 p.m.***

We started discussing the funds, after Nancy addressed a couple of Jane's concerns. The sinking fund is being paid back, this budget reflects that. Regarding Fire & Safety inspections, the Borough sends out a letter every year to all businesses asking for their certifications regarding: safety, when and if a business does not respond with their credentials, Bob Seward will visit that establishment. A number of years ago it was suggested to charge each business \$100.00 for an inspection, but after consideration it was viewed as an extra tax on our small businesses, we only have 1 large business that is Toll Brothers.

Discussion

Library Fund - is a bit higher due to salaries there is \$3,000 in Technology for any new i-Pads, the equipment line is for new furniture, or racks and shelves.

Recreation Fund - A question was asked about park labor, why is it so high? Tom explained that is all the parks, and grass cutting includes right of ways. There is extra money in there for maintenance of the levee, it needs repairs. Debbie asked about special park events, why is there extra money? Long discussion about baseball fees, Fred passed out a financial sheet with their budget numbers.

Sinking Fund - It has been reduced to 1 mil. and the JCI money that Tom paid out, it has been replaced.

Street Fund - A question was asked, why is snow plowing so high, labor and materials. Tom explained you need to be prepared for a storm and have the material. There is a little more there for street signs, and a little more for street repairs.

Recreation Fund - We added a line matching grant funds of 1 mil. in order to use for any grant. We left the open space grant line for history purposes.

Highway Fund - Questions about the street sweeper, Debbie said Todd was correct the sweeper is too small and it doesn't do a good job. Discussion ensued and Vic said too often cars are in the streets, unless we hire someone to follow the sweeper around and post signs of "sweeping days, no parking", you are not going to hit all streets. Should we keep the service? It was decided to not eliminate it.

Highway Aid - Equipment purchase was decreased by \$50,000 no need at this time, we have purchased new trucks.

Capital Reserve - Discussed the benefits of the Capital Reserve, Debbie would like to use the Capital Reserve instead of raising taxes. Tom said it does not reflect the \$13,000 we will take out for police radios or the \$40,000 still due for the new truck. The transfer from the general fund of \$20,000 was money for the police radios. It was from 2010 or 2011 that was earmarked for the radios but never put in the correct location. Todd suggested we sell our equipment, we don't need so many trucks. Tom stated our trucks were 20 years old.

Debbie believes we should cut back on administration costs. The Chief did a great job with his budget and thinks the Chief should do the budget for the Council members that are approving this budget. He worked within his budget.

We discussed the proposed budget and the increase. It appears it will be 2.75 mils above the cap.

Jane Burger came to speak when we opened public comment again before the motion. Jane said, budgets are difficult, thanks for doing it.

We proceeded with the motion to approve the preliminary budget and advertise such in order for the public to review for a period of 10 days. Motion passed 5-2, Smith and Sanford voted no, Sherlock, Kerner, Parker, Kronnagel and Cicero voted yes.

At the beginning of the meeting, Nancy told everyone where the payment to Dorothy Gaydula came from. This was for 2014, 50% came from water contingency and 50% came from sanitation contingency (MMA voucher)

MMA voucher expense is the money paid to the Borough for the time spent from MMA employees who have a certain percent of their time allotted to the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 5A - Motion to approve a preliminary budget and advertise such in order for the public to review for a 10 day period.

Motion made by Mr. Cicero.

Mr. Kerner seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, are there questions or comments on the motion? May I have a roll call, please.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 5-2 (nay votes being Mr. Sanford and Ms. Smith).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Cicero and seconded by Mr. Kerner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.