

MEETING MINUTES  
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016  
7:30 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Borough, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Kerner stated, please stand for a moment of silent prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Kerner stated, before we start with roll call, we are going to go into an executive session to discuss personnel immediately following special presentations before public comment in case you need to comment on anything we come out of executive session with.

Mr. Kerner asked, may we have a roll call please?

Mr. Sooby took roll call at this time.

**Those in Attendance:**

Borough Council: Fred Kerner, President  
Ted Parker, Vice President  
Victor Cicero  
Corryn Kronnagel  
Danielle Larison  
Bill Pepitone  
Todd Sanford  
Debbie Smith

Borough Officials: Mayor David Rivella  
Robert C. Sooby, Borough Manager  
Robert A. Seward, Assistant Borough Manager/Code Enforcement  
Sean Kilkenny, Solicitor

Junior Councilperson: Anna C. Zuckerman

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Chief McClay presented Awards/Accommodations to the following officers:  
Officer Justin Bickhardt  
Officer Erica McIntyre (not present)

Officer Justin Bickhardt  
Officer John Aspromonti (not present)  
Corporal Chris McIntyre (not present)  
Officer Dan Boyle (not present)  
Officer Lee Matthews  
Officer Michael Dilanni

***Council went into executive session at 7:42 p.m.***  
***Council returned from executive session at 8:02 p.m.***

Mr. Kerner stated, added to the agenda will be 10B, motion to approve the contract between the Borough of Morrisville and Bob Sooby to reflect 3 months of severance. We will now begin with public comment.

### HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Mike Yager - *338 Melvin Court North*  
He mentioned that the Morrisville's Annual Carnival starts tomorrow. Saturday is Hands Across the Canal. He stated in reference to the new motion, Bob Sooby is a great guy but this is business, what's the benefit to the tax payer.
2. Madeleine Jones - *Hillcrest Avenue*  
She is following up on the status of the title plates for Council. She asked Council to pick up a pencil and write down in one word why they are sitting in that chair and why they ran for election. Don't look left to right, put it in your pocket. She wants to know how to watch the tapes of the meetings. Everyone doesn't have online capability.
3. Jane Burger - *90 W. Maple Avenue*  
She stated that item 10B Mr. Kerner stated contract, to be consistent with the Boro Code I believe they call it an employee agreement.

Mr. Kerner replied, I had agreement written, but our solicitor had contract.

Ms. Burger stated, be consistent with the Borough Code, there's a reason that they use that particular wording. She question the bill list, the library and street fund had partial charges for the DCED audit being done by the CPA, is there a process to decide how that audit cost is allocated across all of the funds. She wanted to confirm the hours for public works, is it still 7:00-3:30. If anyone is working outside of those hours, I would assume that Mr. Sooby is doing prior approval for overtime. She was pleased to see the street sweeper on her street last Monday but would have been happier if it came later after the trash had been picked up. The draft agenda showed discussion of the Cloverleaf property, it's not on the agenda this evening. There is a lot of history, a lot of reports and a lot of documents. I am the only one in this room that was on Council at that time those plans were done back in 2003. The Borough purchased the Cloverleaf,

we did the demolition. If you are looking to develop that you might want to take the time to look through these documents and not rush into it. It's no secret that Morrisville needs to look at getting a new waste water treatment plant.

4. *Bill Farrell - 347 N. Pennsylvania Avenue*

He talked about the website and he hopes that we move forward with the motion to approve digitaliway and fix the website. He talked about the audit controller expenses and that we are paying more now that we eliminated the controller position. The street sweeper was run for two days down his street which was too much and it was too early. He wanted to know the policy of collecting delinquent garbage bills, they are too high.

5. *Peter Gard - 226 W. Franklin Street, President of Friends of Morrisville Dog Park*

He gave an update on the Dog Park. He talked about the Bucks County Open Space Grant that is allowing the Dog Park to make their improvements, which includes pavers, trees and fountains. They have planted over 2 dozen trees. They currently have money left over from the grant for other improvements.

6. *Bill Setzer - 806 Crown Street - Chairperson Morrisville EAC*

He wanted to thank the 20 volunteers that came to the Graystone cleanup. He hopes more people come next year and year after year.

7. *Kurt Holthenrichs - 300 Melvin Ave North*

He had a question about the 3 months severance for the Borough Manager and he wanted to know who is pushing for it, it seems excessive and it doesn't need to be there.

Sean Kilkenny replied, there is no requirement for any severance, when he was asked he told them that the standard in the industry is 3-6 months. The contract is valid until next reorganization.

Mr. Holthenrichs stated as a taxpayer it doesn't guard us in any way, it seems almost like under a threat. It is excessive for someone who has only been here a few months.

Sean Kilkenny replied, you're technically correct, it does not need to be there, but that's what's before Council tonight.

Mr. Holthenrichs stated as taxpayers in a town that is strapped for cash for many reasons, not our own doing that that not be there. It doesn't aid us as taxpayers to have a three months severance package on anybody pretty much until we are flushed with cash.

***There being no further comments, public comment portion was closed.***

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 6A** - Motion to pass the minutes of the Regular Borough Council Meeting of March 21, 2016.

**Motion** made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, are there any questions on those minutes?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT CONTINUED**

**Borough Manager's Report - Robert C. Sooby** - He stated, that the Borough had a review from their Insurance Company last week and it appears that Imagination Island has some structural damage to it, as of tomorrow we will close it. At our next agenda meeting we will discuss how much it would cost to repair it and Council will decide if they want to repair it or keep it closed.

**Solicitor's Report - Sean Kilkenny** - He stated that over the last month he has worked with the Borough staff on answering several Right To Know requests and several agenda items that will be discussed tonight, most importantly the amendment to the agreement of sale for M. R. Reiter. He also worked on the employment agreement.

**Engineer's Report - Kurt Schroeder** - There was no engineer's report this evening.

**Mayor's Report - David Rivella** - He stated that last month the County participated in the Drug Take Back Program and Morrisville Borough took 45 lbs. of drugs that day which he thinks is very noteworthy. On Saturday May 28th, from 9-3 at Harry S. Truman High School there will be a Hazardous Chemical Collection Day.

**Police Chief's Report - Chief George McClay** - He stated he had 23 barricades donated from Nicholas Trout who is an Eagle Scout, they will be used in place of cones at parades and different events. The bikes that will be used for patrol are being build this week. Uniforms were donated. Burglaries are up. Commercial burglaries are up at the shopping center at Trenton and Crown and the bail bonds place, which wasn't a forced entry. He is asking that the commercial establishments lock their doors at night time and install some alarms and cameras. Our thefts are down tremendously the last three weeks. Mayor Rivella was able to get PennDot to come out and move our camping trip from under Route 1. We still have thefts from porches. Everything is good in the police department, I thank you for your support.

**Junior Councilperson's Report - Anna C. Zuckerman** - She stated thank you to everyone on Council, especially Corryn. This is my last meeting as Junior Councilperson. I've enjoyed my time working with you and I've learned a lot. This experience has confirmed to me that I want to go to College and study Political Science so that I can make a difference. I'd like to thank all of you that take the time to come and have your voices heard and try to make a difference, because Council needs to know what really matters to the people that live in Morrisville. Junior/Senior Prom was last week, everyone had a fantastic time. A note of congratulations to Kayla Romanek and Konami Dodson who won Prom King and Queen. The elementary school has their field day coming up, it's a great opportunity, the high school students volunteer. The school is instituting a new Athlete of the Year Award. Graduation is June 13th, we want to wish Good Luck to all the seniors graduating this year.

## **FINANCE**

Mr. Sooby read the bill list.

**Motion 8A** - Motion to pay the bills.

**Motion** made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, is there any discussion on the bills?

Mr. Sanford, I am abstaining on voting for any invoices for vendor Sanford Motors Ltd. due to family member conflict of interest. (Invoice #012232 in the amount of \$595.00)

Mr. Kerner asked, any other question on the bill list?

Ms. Smith stated, the only question I have is the energy savings for JCI. I was told about a month ago by Mr. Sooby that they were doing the analysis. Is that completed?

Mr. Sooby replied, not at this point, no.

Ms. Smith asked, are we getting a report on that, is there a timeline?

Mr. Sooby replied, I was told the end of May.

Ms. Smith asked, do we have the exit audit yet?

Mr. Sooby replied, no we don't.

Ms. Smith asked, any timeline on that.

Mr. Sooby they are working on it now.

Mr. Kerner stated, any other questions on the bill? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0. (Mr. Sanford abstained from invoice # 012232)

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**Motion 8B** - Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$112,000.00 to the Morrisville Fire Company, as per 2016 Fire Fund Budget, contingent upon receipt of their 2015 Financial Statement.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Sanford seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any questions on this motion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 8C** - Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$56,000.00 to the Morrisville Ambulance Squad, as per the 2016 EMS Fund Budget, contingent upon receipt of their 2015 Financial Statement.

**Motion** made by Ms. Kronnagel

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any questions or comments on that? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 8D** - Motion to approve co-sponsorship of the 2016 Memorial Day Parade with the Morrisville Fire Company and approval of a \$1,800.00 payment as budgeted in the 2016 Parade Fund.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any questions or comments? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 8E** - Motion to approve the \$3,000.00 contribution to the Morrisville Senior Servicer, per 2016 Budget. (Contingent upon providing confirmation of full accreditation from the County).

**Motion** made by Ms. Kronnagel

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Mr. Sooby stated, Council was invited to a breakfast May 20th at 9:30 and a potluck dinner on May 21st at 6:00. They would like Council to attend and present them with a check.

Mr. Kerner asked, are we done with our discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 8F** - Motion to approve the \$478.00 Repository purchase of Tax Map Parcel #24-007-059; County Recording Fees \$77.00, Tax Claim Fees \$400.00 and purchase price of \$1.00.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any discussion on that motion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 8G** - Motion to approve Moving forward with “digitaliway” for a quote to perform necessary upgrade and update of the Morrisville Borough Website.

Mr. Sooby stated, we were told by our web designer that our webpage is on it’s last legs and it’s jeopardized by other individuals to do things to our website without our knowledge because it’s 5 years old and he believes that should be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Parker asked, can we make it possible so that the residents can make payments on line.

Mr. Sooby replied, I will ask.

Mayor Rivella stated that it would be convenient for online payments due to the office hours being 8-4 and some residents work 9-5.

**Motion** made by Ms. Kronnagel

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any further discussion on that motion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Motion 9A** - Motion to approve the Resolution for the Extension and the Amendment of the M. R. Reiter Agreement of Sale.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker

Mr. Sanford seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any discussion on that motion?

Ms. Smith asked, any update on the grant so far, anything?

Mr. Sooby replied, June 21st, hopefully if they don't cancel the meeting, we should get an answer on that.

Mr. Kerner stated, all those in favor say aye. Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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### NEW BUSINESS

**Motion 10A** - Motion to approve the 2016 Memorial day Parade Route, route is same route as previously approved by Police Chief George McClay.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any discussion? I'd like to see Council walk together if they can. I will be walking if anyone cares to join me. Any other discussion? All those in favor say aye.

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion** 10B - Motion to approve the employment agreement between the Borough and Bob Sooby to reflect 3 months of severance.

**Motion** made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Kerner asked, is there any discussion on that motion? Do a roll call.

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Kronnagel stated that she had a few announcements for the Library, on Friday, June 3rd they are having their book sale from 5-8, and Saturday June 4th from 10-3. The registration for their summer reading program is June 18th from 12-1.

Mr. Parker stated that it is EMS week and he wanted to wish our local ambulance squad and all members of EMS a happy and safe EMS week.

### **BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

Ms. Larison stated that she would like to thank all the residents that came out over the weekend with the beautification committee and helped us complete the Robert Morris Plaza. She thanked Britton Industries for donating 6 yards of mulch.

Ms. Smith stated, when Madeline was talking about the website as far as being able to view the tapes again, we used to be able to do that, it would come on at different times. I don't know, since we've had the change up with the system why we can't --

Mr. Kerner replied, I don't know that it has changed.

Ms. Smith stated, I have to agree, not a lot of people are online to do it, when we change this website there should be links to make it easier for people to get to that stuff right on that home page. If we could just get that looked at.

Mr. Kerner stated, channel 38 and 22, correct, verizon and comcast.

Ms. Smith stated, we used to view it at different times of the day for several days.

Mr. Kerner replied, as far as I know that was still happening.

Ms. Smith asked, we are still doing it?

Mr. Kerner replied, I don't know, I don't have cable, so I can't verify that.

Mr. Sooby replied, I will address that, actually, Mrs. Larison stopped in and asked me about that last week.

Ms. Smith replied, also for Anna, it's been a pleasure to have you here and the best of luck in your senior year. I like you Mr. Sooby, what I hope -- I've had a lot of discussions with you privately, it that you can be that Manager that we're going to need because there's a lot that needs to be done. With what was happening with the previous Manager and what we ended up having to deal with at the end when he left, it was a real blow to our budget. I'm going to expect you to be above all that and to make sure that that doesn't ever happen again, and that you will keep us all as you've been doing, informed with what's going on and hopefully we can make things better.

Mr. Sooby, well, Mrs. Smith, I've tried to since I became Borough Manager, I don't leave until everything is finished each day. I know that really I'm supposed to work in an 8 hour day, however I don't look at it that way, I have to finish Borough business before I go home.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Ms. Kronnagel.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.