

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2015
1:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Thursday, December 31, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Borough, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Special Council Meeting.

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

Mrs. Sherlock took roll at this time.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Nancy Sherlock, President
Fred Kerner, Vice President (by telephone 1:04 p.m)
Victor Cicero
Jeffrey Johnson
Corryn Kronnagel
Ted Parker

Borough Officials: Tom H. Bates Jr., Borough Manager
Robert C. Sooby, Assistant Borough Manager
Robert A. Seward, Code Enforcement Officer
Sean Kilkenny, Solicitor
Vincent Rongione, Solicitor
George McClay, Chief of Police

Not in Attendance: Todd Sanford
Debbie Smith
Mayor Dave Rivella
Scott J. Stoddard, Borough Engineer
Anna C. Zuckerman, Junior Councilperson

Mrs. Sherlock stated, for the publics knowledge, we have four items today for the agenda. First is a motion to approve a \$344.00 expense to be added to the original approved \$5,000.00 match for the PECO Green Region Grant for the outdoor speaker system at the Williamson Park Stage. We approved the \$5,000.00 at the December 8th meeting. The quote came in about \$688.00 more, so in order for us to proceed, we would need to approve this extra \$344.00 expense if council so wishes.

5B, is a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the application for the 2015 PECO Green Region Grant. Motion 5C is to approve the 2016 Borough Budget. 5D is a motion to adopt the 2016 Tax Rate Ordinance.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, Fred is here via phone. Next we will have the hearing of the public. Anyone who wishes to speak, please come forward state your name and your address.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

FINANCE

Motion 5A - Motion to approve \$344.00 to be added to the original approved \$5,000 match for the PECO Green Region Grant for the Outdoor Speaker System for the Stage at Williamson Park. (December 8, 2015 Borough Council approved a \$5,000.00 match.)

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, are there questions or comments on the motion? The grant is ready to go this afternoon as soon as we are able to -- if this were to be approved the deadline is today and also the resolution had to be part of the package that's going out so that will be taken care of as soon as this meeting is over. May I have a roll call please?

Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.

Motion 5B - Motion to approve a Resolution authorizing application to the 2015 PECO Green Region Open Space Program for the Outdoor Speaker System for the Stage at Williamson Park.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Parker 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, 6-0.

Motion 5C - Motion to approve the 2016 Borough Budget.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, you received the final copy in your packet today. I do believe the capital improvement line changed because the final payment for the truck was taken out of there. Which Mr. Bates mentioned at our budget meeting as well as our last council meeting. May I have a motion to approve the 2016 Borough Budget?

Motion made by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Cicero 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, 6-0.

Motion 5D - Motion to adopt the 2016 Tax Rate Ordinance.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, it was also in your packet this evening. It gives the breakdown, this is an ordinance that permits -- it's an ordinance of the Borough of Morrisville levying a tax on real property located in Morrisville Borough for the fiscal year 2016. It's repealing all inconsistent ordinances providing a repealer clause, severability clause and so forth. It's levying a real estate tax and it's broken down for the purposes of -- the general purpose is 32.75 mills. This is because we had a petition hearing on Monday before Judge Gilmore and it was approved. We did have one challenger there, it was Ms. Burger, but we expected that and the Judge approved our petition. For the Street Lighting it's 1.40 mills, Fire Protection 4.00, Recreation 4.25., Library 3.00., for Street Fund 2.50., for Debt Service 1.00., Emergency Medical Services 2.00., Pension and Annuity .50. That's how it's broken down and in order to collect the taxes, this ordinance must be passed. May I have a motion to adopt the Tax Rate Ordinance please?

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Johnson 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, 6-0.

Mrs. Sherlock stated we are in need of an executive session. Mr. Kilkenny is there any reason that we would have to come out and vote, if not, we'll adjourn first.

Mr. Kilkenny replied, no, we can adjourn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Sherlock stated, before that adjournment, I'd just like to make a quick comment. Now that I think we have no distractions here or rude behavior by our audience this evening, I'd like to say thank you to the residents of Morrisville for their support and it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve this community. It has also been gratifying to serve with my fellow councilpersons and I think that this council has done some very good things over the last few years. I wish the 2016 sitting council only the best. I do hope that they will not be exposed to the harassment, the haranguing, demeaning, degrading, criticism that I've experienced for the last two years. For the mean spirited people who have nothing positive to do other than to tell falsehoods, cause drama and create heroes. For those who may be concerned about my need for peace, rest assured I found my peace a long time ago and I've had peace long before I was on council, during council and I will certainly have peace after council. There is life after council. There is life before, during and after, so for those of you who feel concerned, fear not. But I will tell you that, life after council for me will not be coming back to every council meeting looking to criticize and to look for mistakes that's not what this is about. I've made my statement and I don't know if anybody else has any other announcements. I wish everyone a very Happy New Year, productive and healthy.

Mr. Bates stated, he would like to thank everybody that's been in my administration I'm leaving today. I'd just like to say, this administration I think in the last five years has done a great job for the Borough. We've put new air conditioning in, new boiler, new windows, we put an energy project in, it saves the Borough about \$77,000.00 a year right now at no cost to any resident. Also, we've gotten all new trucks, about five new trucks when actually the Borough was paying enough money in maintenance just to buy a new truck every year. I'd like to thank Diane Hughes at the Library, she's done a terrific job. I'd like to thank Ronnie Scheese and Joey who has taken over now and the Public Works people, I think they've done a terrific job. I'd also like to thank Virginia Cyphers, she's doing a fantastic job right now and Dottie Gaydula, who was the previous administrator of our office. And also Sue and Sharon, Lorraine and Dawn. Those girls are actually the heart of this Borough and have done a fantastic job. And I'd like to thank all those people who have worked very hard for the Borough, and I think you should all thank them. That's all I have to say.

Mr. Cicero stated, I'd like to say something Nancy. I'd like to wish you well. I've known you a long, long time, probably longer than most people sitting up here. Morrisville will be at a great loss with your departure from the government. I will miss you as a friend and as a colleague. You've done a great job. I wish you well and I know you will find peace. As far as Tom goes, Tom Bates, good luck Tom. Happy retirement. Welcome to the new sucker. I wish you luck Bob, you're going to need it. Also, the new council coming on and those who have been re-elected, I welcome you aboard and I hope we can work together so this Borough can move forward in peace and harmony. Thank you all very much, I hope you all have a nice holiday.

Mrs. Sherlock replied, thank you.

Mr. Bates stated, and I almost forgot Bob Sooby. I think you have a great choice there for a new Borough Manager. You will be a fantastic Manager and he was a great choice.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, he has been here for most of the last month. This was on his own time. He did not get paid for being here this last month. He considered it to be his internship, but he's ready and he's on board. Even if it was a seasoned Manager who had been a Manager for many, many, many years, there's still a transition period. If there are no other announcements, I'd like to call for an adjournment please.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Parker.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.