

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016
7:30 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, June 20, 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, we will start with a moment of silent prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations this evening.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. *Mike Yager - 338 Melvin Court North*
He asked Mr. Sooby if he was going to see a list of projects that the Borough is working on and a maintenance schedule. He wanted to follow up on controls of equipment use, he stated he had sent pictures to Mr. Sooby of equipment that was being used that Mr. Sooby didn't know was being used. He wanted to know about Act 90 and what was going to be done since we've already invested financially in it. He asked how far along we are on the stump project, how many we've gotten through and how many we have left.
2. *Kurt Holthenrichs - 300 Melvin Court North*
He thanked Mr. Sooby for taking care of the three year rattling rail on the ramp out front. July 1st from 6:00-8:00 Town Watch is co-sponsoring a front yard Friday with Vista Appliances. He found out when he was at 7-11 that it was robbed over the weekend and the public was never notified about it, just like the incident with the stolen car chase and the guy shot up the down town.
3. *Bill Farrell - 347 N. Pennsylvania Avenue*
He said people wanted to know what areas the police are riding their bicycles on. He wanted to know about the delinquent sanitation. Be courteous when people are speaking up here and stop interrupting them.
4. *Jane Burger - 90 W. Maple Avenue*
She said that agenda meetings are official meetings of council and require minutes. Make a notation to catch up and become compliant. She would like the Borough to move forward with the rental ordinance that requires inspections every two years. She wanted to know what the progress is on zoning for group home, half way, rehab houses. She had a question about the delinquent sanitation and if the software program would allow for a lesser amount to be paid. She asked about motion 10B, she said if the swings don't pass the inspection you won't be able to move forward with the demolition. She noted that levee was spelled wrong on the agenda. She is glad to see the Borough is moving forward to have the levee accredited. She talked about the agenda meeting and the discussion about the park. She had a couple of questions about the bill list. She's pleased to see that the TAN fund was paid back. She is glad to see that the number of council checks written between meetings is a very small amount.
5. *Audrey Meyer - Centre Street*
She wanted to know if the Borough meetings are being broadcast and if they will be re-broadcast. She wanted to know when the policy meeting will be held, we have had the new council for six months and we haven't had a policy meeting yet.

Mr. Seward stated that Mr. Sooby would like them manually re-broadcasted at 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays after the meeting.

6. Madeline Jones - 1 Hillcrest Avenue

She wanted to follow up again on the titles for everyone on the dais and she hopes what is in front of her is not how the titles are going to be distributed. She had no idea how to address or approach council. She did a rough draft for the council meeting replay schedule, she is glad it's being discussed. She would like to get a copy of the public comment resolution #708. She picked up a copy of the noise ordinance at the Borough today. She wanted to compliment everyone on the dais for their professional attire this evening. She suggested that a reminder of the noise ordinance be put on the government channel. She talked about proper dress code for workforce which includes council persons and junior council persons. She stated that people should be respected and be able to speak at the podium without any background noise.

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 April 18, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 6B - Motion to pass the minutes of the Regular Borough Council Meeting of May 16, 2016.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT CONTINUED

Borough Manager's Report - Robert C. Sooby - He stated that he had a meeting about the Bridge Street Canal Project and we are still looking at probably two years down the road to having that completed. He stated that he is also working with Falls Township and our entrance ways coming from Falls Township to make sure they do their part as well on keeping Morrisville in good shape.

Solicitor's Report - Sean Kilkenny - He stated there is no report this evening, Mr. President.

Engineer's Report - Samantha Brinker- She discussed the Imagination Island playground at Williamson Park and the inspection report. She wanted to let the public and the residents know why the playground is closed at this time. It is their recommendation that the playground not be reopened. There are grants that we can apply for, we are looking into them. The Kaboom Grant would be the most reasonable.

Mayor's Report - David Rivella - He read the following: Good Evening Everyone, I would like to start tonight by congratulating Chief McClay for being chosen by the Fairless Hills Elks Lodge as "Citizen Of The Year". For those of you who couldn't join us, Chief McClay was recognized on Sunday, June 12th during the Flag Day Ceremony of the Elks Lodge. I would like to thank the Elks Lodge for recognizing our Chief and for the grant they awarded to the Police Department. I want to thank the 3rd graders from Holy Trinity School and their teacher, Mrs. Pirraglia for accepting my invitation to spend the afternoon with me here at the Borough Hall. Thank you to everyone here at the borough for being so welcoming to these students. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Blanco, who I was privileged to marry right here in council chambers a few weeks ago. They had asked me to perform the ceremony because Morrisville has sentimental meaning to them as they met in Morrisville many years ago. I have some good news regarding the yield to pedestrian crosswalk signs that we have in our borough. I was able to get over \$6,000 worth of signs given to our borough, meaning the borough will not have to purchase new ones. While I'm on the subject of grant related information, I want to reassure everyone that Chief McClay and I will continue working to obtain grant money for the borough-wide camera program. I have been in contact with several individuals, businesses and organizations, and am currently working with the Governor's office in, hopefully, obtaining available grant opportunities. Although I believe it is premature to discuss details, I am bringing this up because I don't want anyone to think we have lost interest in this or to begin spreading incorrect rumors regarding our position. I believe most realize how much work goes into locating and applying for grants. As an update, I want to remind everyone of the grants the borough has been working on for the M. R. Reiter project. I had identified the grant to help cover the demolition and was thankful to see council moving forward on this project. Grants are obtained through a process and are rarely awarded overnight. As we wait for grant decisions, the borough and school district have agreed on an extension regarding the project. On May 1st I requested information from the manager. I felt this was better than doing a normal RTK since the information was regarding a current subject, but unfortunately I still have not received any of the documents I had requested. I would appreciate receiving them asap. I would appreciate more transparency with the administration. Last week, at the special council meeting, we had an executive session for two different items without being notified prior to the meeting, which means that information could not be gathered by elected officials to be

prepared for the executive session. I doubt members of the RDA just “popped in” during the meeting. Having them attend the meeting was prearranged, so elected officials should have been notified. Likewise, a personnel issue was also discussed during the executive session. Had we all been notified beforehand, possibly more than one elected official would have had the employee contract handy during discussion. Normally, I don’t address rumors simply because it easily could morph into a full-time job since there are always new baseless rumors floating around our borough. If anyone tells you that I plan on running for a council seat in the next election, simply put, they are lying to you. Ask yourself why this person is disrespecting you by gossiping this lie to you. I believe our community will benefit if, when folks are seeking information, they go to the source and not rely on the gossipers. A few days ago, there was an incident in the middle of town and I would like to compliment our police department on how quickly and professionally this was handled. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to congratulate all of the graduates in our borough and their families.

Police Chief’s Report - Chief George McClay - He stated that 2 and a half years ago, all we had was a Facebook page. We didn’t have NIXLE, we didn’t have a webpage, we do now. They are used, when I need them. I can not stop my investigation to come in and send out a NIXLE message so that people can avoid a couple of blocks of our town. No one was in danger, if anybody was in danger, I would have put that out there. The 7-11 incident that was talked about in public comment was a retail theft. The gentleman climbed over the fence and walked into an open door and helped himself to cigarettes, jumped back over the fence and left. That was not a gunpoint robbery, that was a theft. The crime in your borough, yes, is increasing, no doubt about it. We did well for two years, the crime went down. My crime rate is up 43%, if I am covering up, I am doing a horrible job at it. One gentleman that we arrested, did about 10 burglary jobs. We arrested three men on Saturday night while I was working on my bike. I’m not sure how people haven’t seen me all over town on my bike. The police department is doing very well. The bike patrols are out there, right now it’s just me. My department is open to anyone who wants to see these crime stats. My drug arrests are down. My main drug guy has been hurt, if you remember, he got hurt on top of the train. My crime rate is up, my drug arrests are down. Am I happy about that, no, but we’re going to improve both. There’s not much we can do about crime, it’s going to happen. It’s how we react to it. If anybody has any questions about what’s going on around town, please call me. The rumors that are floating around town are very discouraging and most of them are very very untrue. If anyone ever has anything or any of your constituents asks you, please call me, my phone is on 24 hours a day. Besides that, things are doing well in the police department. The guys are working hard and right now we are in a good spot. I can’t do anything about retail thefts. I can’t much do anything about a Bernie Sanders sign getting stolen off a front lawn. Yes, that was a report that I took this month. If I was covering up crime, that would have been the first thing I covered up. You have to look at somethings you aren’t going to be able to stop, but it’s how my officers respond to the crime and secure the crime scene and then we process the crime scene, and we get the bad guy in jail. My guys have done a terrific job.

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 #012268 in the amount of \$166.00 and invoice #012316 in the amount of \$89.00) On Pennsylvania Avenue, Route 1 North Bound ramp, are we responsible for that light or is it Delaware River Toll Joint Bridge Commission?

Mr. Cicero responded, that's ours.

Mr. Seward stated, years ago the Bridge Commission redesigned the ramps, back then the Borough Manager did agree that the Borough of Morrisville would apply for the permits and did take responsibility for the lights. The lights are the property and responsibility of the Borough of Morrisville.

Mr. Cicero stated, look at the permit and make a recommendation whether we can leave it on the blinking light, I believe the blinking light is better.

There was discussion about a PSAB bill from the conference. Mr. Sanford wanted to make sure we didn't pay PSAB twice, because his girlfriends check was written to PSAB not the Borough.

Mr. Kerner asked, any other questions on the bill list? There being no further questions, may we have a vote on the bills? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0. (Mr. Sanford abstained from invoice #012268 and #012316

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 10A - Motion to accept Joseph Cavanaugh's retirement agreement per his June 3, 2016 letter.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Cicero seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any discussion on that?

Discussion ensued regarding Joseph Cavanaugh's retirement, contract, sick time and how it was being paid.

Mr. Kerner stated, I'll take a roll call vote Mr. Sooby.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 5-3 (nay votes being Ms. Larison, Mr. Sanford and Ms. Smith).

Motion 10B - Motion to approve demolition of the playground structure in Williamson Park. Morrisville Borough Public Works employees will perform the demolition work that is required as recommend by Gilmore and Associates and our Insurance Company.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Kerner asked, are there any questions or comments on the motion?

Discussion ensued regarding, spindles, a plaque and the time capsule being saved from the playground.

Mr. Kerner asked, any other comments or questions? Voice vote.

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 10C - Motion to approve Resolution to have the Borough Engineer, Gilmore and Associates, apply for an A.R.L.E. (Automated Red Light Enforcement) Grant.

Mr. Kerner read the resolution.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Kronnagel 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.

Motion 10D - Motion to approve use of necessary funds to cover engineering costs for full accreditation of the levee.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any discussion on this motion?

Discussion ensued about the costs and timing. Ms. Kronnagel questioned if the funds would cover the engineering costs and the accreditation. Mr. Cicero also asked for confirmation about costs.

Mr. Kerner asked, any further questions? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 10E - Motion to approve Resolution to have the Borough Engineer, Gilmore and Associates, apply for the DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant to be used for the demolition of the M. R. Reiter School. (Originally submitted June, 2015).

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Ms. Smith stated that she had asked Mr. Sooby about the bond for Tom Bates and she wanted to know the status.

Mr. Sooby replied that he has relayed that message to her and that it covers fraud or theft, not errors and omissions.

Mr. Cicero stated, it didn't cover what happened.

Mr. Sooby replied that it was relayed to him by Melissa that we can not use the bond for repayment of the fines that we obtained.

Ms. Smith asked about voting on an amount for a bond for Mr. Sooby.

Mr. Sooby replied that he was already covered under the bond, that the bond covers the position not the employee himself and that the amount it is based on the salary of the position.

Discussion ensued regarding the bond for the Borough Manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements this evening.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mayor Rivella stated, I can explain the mule. Mayor Dave's Mule on the Move is a contest for the kids in Morrisville. You can print out and color the mule and take pictures of it around town. The winner receives a gift card to the dollar tree, winner will be announced at the Labor Day Picnic.

Mr. Pepitone stated, he recently met the two owners of Vista Appliances and he feels that the community and council should support them and it would encourage other businesses to look at Morrisville.

Mr. Sooby stated, last Wednesday we had the County Commissioners meeting here, it was related back to me that they were very appreciative of us having them there. He feels that the meeting went very well and they truly appreciated being here.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Ms. Smith.

Meeting adjourned.