

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017
7:30 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, December 18, 2017 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, will begin with a moment of silent prayer, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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
Tony Ciuca, Solicitor
John Later, Superintendent of Public Works

Junior Councilperson: Sade Ricketts

Not Present:

Robert A. Seward, Assistant Borough Manager/Code Enforcement

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations this evening.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Tom Wisnosky - *815 Crown Street*
He talked about the apartment complex on Trenton Avenue and Crown Street that was recently sold to Banyan Treatment Centers. He along with his neighbors are concerned. He handed out an article about what's going on in the industry to Council.
2. Ron Gombach - *730 Crown Street*
He talked about the apartment complex on Trenton Avenue and Crown Street that was recently sold to Banyan Treatment Centers. He had a concern about the zoning for the property and for Banyan Treatment Center and the desirability for the enterprise within the Borough.
3. Bill Setzer - *806 Crown Street (Chairperson of the Morrisville EAC)*
He is concerned about the apartment complex on Trenton Avenue and Crown Street that was recently sold to Banyan Treatment Centers. As Chairperson of the Morrisville EAC he agrees that the new Waste Water Treatment Facility will be an environmental benefit. When the current facility is closed the MEAC recommends that removal of all structures and restoration of the property be included as part of the project. He also read a list of recommendations by the MEAC to the MMA for the new facility.

Mr. Sooby stated that the Borough was told about two weeks through the community that Banyan Treatment Center bought the property. We did check with Bucks County records to see if it changed hands. The Borough doesn't have any information on behalf of that facility as it stands right now.

Mayor Rivella talked about the apartment complex and that the property is R1 so he doesn't feel that it is zoned for it. He talked about the half way houses in town and the research that he has done, he would like the new council to receive that information.

4. Peggy Walsh - *444 Stockham Avenue*
She talked about the resolution to end gerrymandering that she brought to Council last month. She asked that Council join the neighbors in the surrounding districts who have sent the Resolution to Harrisburg and send one from Morrisville.

5. Nancy Sherlock - *424 West Bridge Street*
She thanked the outgoing Councilman and she wished them luck in the future. She congratulated the newly elected Council and Mayor. She stated that she doesn't hate Town Watch, but she does have little respect for any organization who chooses not to follow rules. She talked about a posting on Facebook that made false accusations about her and attacked her integrity and that she would bring litigation in if necessary. She talked about how the hatred and negative Facebook postings have given Morrisville a negative image and she feels that all of Council and the residents should be concerned with the negative image. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza and a Happy New Year.
6. Connie Beadle - *506 Osborne Avenue*
She stated that she has lived in Morrisville for most of her 70 years. She is supporting Peggy Walsh and her effort to enact public legislation that will end gerrymandering. She heard on WHYY that Pennsylvania has one of the worst reputations in the United States for gerrymandering. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.
7. Eileen Driesbach - *75 Harrison Avenue*
She had a question about the bill list and the \$320.00 bill for legal services for the Civil Service for Rudolf Clarke. She wanted to know if that was for the 3 minute meeting or a previous meeting.

Mr. Sooby stated, it was for general services for Civil Service.

8. Holly Harman - *Pennsylvania Avenue*
She had a question about the bill list and the Johnson Welding Service at Williamson Park, she's curious what was repaired. She also wanted to know what was going on with the Stockham Building. She also asked about the fire site on Park Avenue and if there was any progress on that. She stated that she talked to a representative from Banyan and they seem on the up and up but she doesn't feel that's the best location for something like that.

Mr. Sooby replied, that came out of the Rec Fund for Manor Park, that was the welding of the area by the sliding board. He stated that he sent the police over to the Stockham property the day she called and they didn't see anyone. He will ask the Chief to keep an eye on it. The Borough is going to take legal action on Park Avenue property.

9. Kurt Holthenrichs - *300 Melvin Court North*
He wanted to know what happened with the Special Presentation from the County Planning Commission for tonight that was advertised, he wanted to know if he rescheduled.

There being that no one else wished to speak, public comment portion was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve this evening.

REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT

Borough Manager's Report - Robert C. Sooby - He talked about the payroll company Streamline that the Borough was going to use, and that it came to their attention that the current company that we have under contract for our financial services can provide that at half the cost. He stated, since we already have AMS in-house it seems like the best bet to go with somebody that's already been here. He stated that they are hoping to move forward in January with the M. R. Reiter property to get it knocked down and discuss financing for the park itself. We also have the Bridge Street Project, we will meet in the first week of January to discuss the funding source for getting the property constructed.

Solicitor's Report - Tony Ciuca - He stated, I have no separate report this evening Mr. President.

Mayor's Report - David Rivella - He wanted to thank everyone who helped and participated in Winterfest 2017. On the Borough's portion, I want to thank Mrs. Claus for coming and reading to the children. Santa and the Morrisville Fire Company for making a special appearance. Joe Doyle and his crew from the Actor's Net who led the children in Christmas caroling. Thank you to Nancy Sherlock for volunteering to decorate Borough Hall, all that stuff you see back there is Nancy's. Thank you to my wife Janet for all her hard work and preparing the treats for the residents at the Christmas Tree lighting here at Borough Hall. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the Delaware Valley Roadrunners Car Club who partnered with us this year at the Labor Day Picnic. As usual, now that it's the end of the year, they're making a donation to the P.A. Wounded Warriors Program as well as to the Morrisville Emergency Services. I would like to share a quick summary for Chief McClay and the Police Department for 2017. As reported many times, the Morrisville Police Department has become and maintained itself as a very well respected department. The Chief has recently testified before the Drug Conference for Pennsylvania State Legislature at Council Rock School District, he participated in the Tour De Shore Law Enforcement ride and the Buck Honor Tour, he has been appointed Emergency Coordinator, he has attended table top sessions to acquire more skills and establishing a good working relationship with the County Emergency Manager. These are just some of the things that Chief McClay has done to keep us in the Public Eye in a positive manner. Additionally, the department has secured numerous grants again this year. I'd like to

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name a few. The Window Tint Meter, The Mobile Fingerprint Scanner, The Ballistic Helmets. Lastly, I'd like to say that I'd like to see a member of Council this evening make a motion of support for the Civil Service to start the hiring procedure of a full-time police officer.

Police Chief's Report - Chief George McClay - He stated, last week Council looked at the budget very closely. I know you have received page 4 and 5, just to make sure everybody realizes, there is no new money added to the money that was put into Police budget, the numbers were just moved around. There appears to be almost enough to hire that full-time officer, but there are a few other lines that are significantly underfunded, but with that I will tell you that I will do the best that I can and with the money that you do give Ballistic for this coming year and we will hopefully have another successful year like we had. Thank you.

Junior Councilperson's Report - Sade Ricketts - She stated that this month the National Honor Society is working with the elementary, middle school and high school gathering books, colored pencils, markers for kids in need. Future Business Leaders of America is going for a placement meeting this Wednesday, she wishes them luck. The Student Forum is going to CB West this Wednesday to continue on with the projects. She congratulated the cheerleaders who have improved in their division at competition this year. The holiday break is coming up, she hopes everyone enjoys their holidays and stays safe and warm.

REPORTS - COMMITTEES

There were no committee reports this evening.

FINANCE

Mr. Sooby read the bill list.

Motion made by Ms. Smith.

Mr. Pepitone seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, are there any questions or comments on the bills? No Sanford Motors this month?

Mr. Sanford stated, not this month.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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Motion 8B - A motion to approve payment in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the Morrisville Fire Company as final payment for the Fire Fund as of 12/31/17.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Sanford seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 8C - A motion to approve payment in the amount of \$11,500.00 to the Morrisville Ambulance Squad, as final payment per the EMS fund as of 12/31/17.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Larison 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.

Motion 8D - A motion to approve the 2018 Salary Schedule.

Motion made by Ms. Smith.

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.

Motion 8E - A motion to approve the 2018 Fee Schedule.

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Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Pepitone 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.

Motion 8F - A motion to approve the 2018 Borough Holiday Schedule.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith 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.

Motion 8G - A motion to approve the 2018 Library Holiday Schedule.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith 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.

Motion 8H - A motion to approve the "Notice To Proceed" with the Demolition of the M. R. Reiter Elementary School Building (Contractor: Premium Excavating, LLC) with the condition that the funding source entities accept all documents prior to signing the actual agreements.

Motion made by Ms. Smith.

Ms. Larison 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.

Motion 8I - A motion to approve the 2018 Borough Budget.

Motion made by Ms. Smith.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any discussion or comments on that? Roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-1. (nay vote being Mr. Parker)

Motion 8J - A motion to approve the 2018 Tax Ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any questions or comments on that? Roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-1. (nay vote being Mr. Parker)

Motion 8K - A motion to adopt the PNC Bank Resolution for a new bank account between the Borough of Morrisville and Robert A. Seward, Retiree.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any questions or comments on that? Roll call please.

Mayor Rivella asked, just to set up a bank account, for clarification?

Mr. Kerner replied, that it is.

Mayor Rivella stated, I'll vote yes then. I wanted clarification it's just to set up the bank account, so I'm going to vote yes.

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Motion carried by roll call vote, 4-4 mayor broke the tie in favor of the motion. (nay votes being Ms. Larison, Mr. Pepitone, Mr. Sanford and Ms. Smith)

Motion 8L - A motion to confirm appointing Deborah Colgan Chairperson of the Morrisville Environmental Advisory Council per the request of the MEAC.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any discussion or comments on that?

Ms. Larison asked, did Mr. Setzer step down?

Mr. Kerner stated, I believe he's okay with —

Ms. Larison asked, are they just changing?

Mr. Kerner replied, I believe so, yes. He's still involved, he's just not interested in being the Chair at the moment. Any other questions or comments on that? All those in favor say aye. Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Motion 8M - A motion to confirm that the Step Three grievance filed by a Borough employee under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough and AFSCME/AFL-CIO be Denied.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion 10A - Motion to approve a Resolution in support of a Citizen's Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerner asked, any questions or comments on that motion.

Ms. Smith stated, I think Mrs. Walsh is absolutely right, it's on both sides of the aisle and it's something I think the citizens are paying attention to more than ever. I think it's not a bad idea for everyone to support it, make it a fair fight I guess you would say with everyone. Thanks for speaking up about it.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

Mr. Parker asked to add the motion in support of having the Civil Service Commission move forward with the hiring of a new officer.

Mr. Kerner opened up for public comment.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC REOPENED

1. Jane Burger - 90 West *Maple Avenue*
She stated that she followed the budget meetings and heard a lot of discussion and if it wasn't put on the agenda tonight, she's sure it would have been added to

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the agenda in January because the discussions did look and find within the budget the funds to hire the full time officer. She concurs with the decision.

There being that no one else wished to speak, public comment portion was closed.

Motion 10B - Motion to engage the Civil Service to the end goal of hiring a new officer.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Sanford seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote, 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no discussion by Borough Officials this evening.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mr. Parker stated, I just want to thank all the members of Council who are going out, to thank them for their service over the years and also to welcome those new members who are joining us as of January.

Mr. Kerner replied, thank you for the thanks Ted. Anyone else?

Mr. Sanford stated, yeah, I do. I have been a resident of Morrisville for 25 years. I later became a Republican Committeeman and it's been my pleasure to serve on the Morrisville Borough Council for the last 8 years. While there were some disappointments, I tried my best for the residents of the Borough and never missed a Borough Council meeting and constantly voted to keep the budget expenses in check and tax increases to a minimum. I met many residents of Morrisville, Public Officials and Morrisville Business Owners along the way, many as I now count as my friends. I have learned so much from my fellow Council members and Morrisville Officials, it's truly been an honor to serve the town of Morrisville. Thank you.

Mr. Kerner stated, I suppose this is my last meeting as well. It's been a great 8 years, I've been honored to serve this town that I've called my home for my entire life and I may not be done, we'll see.

Ms. Smith stated, first I just want to thank the residents of town that have come out with concern of this company Banyan that's coming in because we're all just starting to hear about

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them and learning about them. We intend to find out more about them. As far as the zoning, I think it's something not just in that area of the Borough but I think we really need to look at in this coming year our zoning and the areas because of some of these things that are starting to change. To protect us from lawsuits from what can be brought into town, because if you don't look at some of those things you're going to have businesses look in these areas and look at these towns to see what they can bring in that may not be suitable for the town. I think it's a serious issue that we need to look at the way we can tweak that zoning and let's find out what that company intends to do and then we'll get back to you about it. Thank you for coming out and we will find out what they are doing. They have to come to us before they get any kind of permits, so we'll be knowing what they're doing. I also want to say thank you to all the Council that won't be on the dais this coming year and all their services, we've had our times back and forth but everyone that serves puts a lot of their personal time into it and their passion into it, so thank everyone for that. New Council coming in, I look forward to working with everyone and Happy New Year, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, whatever you celebrate in your family. Best wishes to everybody this coming year.

Ms. Larison, I'd like to say to Vic down there, I will miss you Victor, I will miss you very much. Todd I will miss you also and you too Fred. It's been a hard year being my first year on, my first term. But I have learned a lot from everyone up here. As much as we may argue and fight and bicker between each other we all have the best interest at heart for Morrisville in our own way. We may not always agree but we all want Morrisville to succeed and we can't do it without the residents so we thank the residents for not only looking out for your neighborhood but also for Morrisville. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and I look forward to January.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.