

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018
9:00 a.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Thursday, December 27, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for an Emergency Council Meeting.

Ms. Smith stated, please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scott Mitchell took roll call.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Debbie Smith, President
Danielle Larison, Vice President
Justin Bowers
Eileen Dreisbach
Corryn Kronnagel
David Nay
Ted Parker (by phone)
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Randy Flager, Solicitor
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Not In Attendance: Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Richard Brighan - *608 Prospect Avenue*
He stated that he was there to support Council's decision on passing the budget at the last meeting without raising the mil rate. He disagrees with the Mayor vetoing the tax levy. He doesn't feel that losing one full-time officer is going to affect the community. He thanked the council that voted yes to the budget, to

keep the taxes where they currently are. He wanted council to vote yes to override the veto. He asked Morrisville residents to please lock their vehicles, it will reduce the number of entires on our police crime log. He asked the patrol officers to patrol more instead of sitting idle in a parking lot.

2. *Jane Burger - 90 West Maple Avenue*

She stated she thinks it might be helpful to know the voting record of councilman Rivella in terms of prior budgets with officer staffing. She stated the number of officers on staff each year from 2009 to present during Mayor Rivella's term. She stated that he never once vetoed the tax rate ordinance and as a member of council with the staffing levels I gave you that were less than 10 officers he voted for all of those budgets. We are not facing Armageddon, we're just facing difficult financial times. Please consider that when you vote for the tax rate ordinance and understand why you may disagree with the budget before you vote no in the tax rate ordinance. I guess we'll see you all in court and I'm sure the Judge will be interested in Mr. Rivella's record.

3. *Georgian Cinque-Mars - 227 West Franklin Street*

She stated she wanted to thank this council for moving forward as they promised as they were elected and for enacting this budget. She wanted to thank them for getting things in order and moving forward. She thinks it's quite evident that the issues that have been presented about the budget have been more political than they have been anything with any substance. It's clear that when the budget talks began the police coverage of our borough would not change, management and how the police department is managed might change, our coverage might change. There are no safety issues and anyone saying so is just quite frankly not telling the truth. She stated that what is in danger is the potential government shutdown threatened by this mayor and Mayor Rivella by his actions, it's expensive and dangerous.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Motion 5A - Motion to override the Mayor's veto of the 2019 tax levy ordinance, Ordinance No. 1024.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Do we have any comments on this motion?

Discussion ensued regarding the Mayor's veto.

Randy Flager explained the process if the Mayor's veto isn't overridden.

Ms. Smith stated, roll call on this please.

Motion failed by roll call, 5-3. (Nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel, Mr. Nay and Mr. Parker)

Motion 5B - Motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor to file a complaint of Mandamus on an expedited basis with the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, we have a motion and a second. Any other questions? Let's have a roll call on this please.

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

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Ms. Smith stated the Solicitor and Manager will head up to Doylestown as soon as this meeting is adjourned. At this point the only thing I'm going to say is it's a shame, it really is. Along with what Ms. Burger said about the manning table, I go back seven years on the council, I know how many were on the police force, I know what happened with the Cornerstone and how depleted that department was, I was one of the ones that actually wanted to make sure that department stayed there, fought against when the Mayor went on his little search mission to go to Falls and to go to Lower Makefield to try and merge those police departments or have some other protection done not to say it was off-base maybe, because he realized that the tsunami of money could end up happening with the police department but it was probably done about the wrong way, ended up with a lot of lawsuits going on with a lot of money that was spent and now we are spending a lot of money for this.

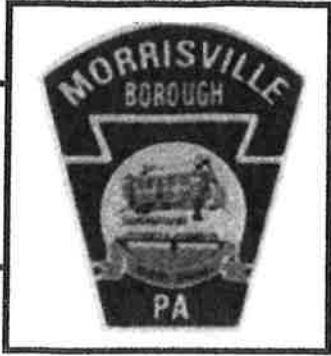
December 27, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel seconded by Ms. Larison.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.



BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
David T. Rivella

35 Union Street
Morrisville, PA 19067

215-295-5030
MayorDaveRivella@aol.com

ORDINANCE NO. 1024 MAYOR'S VETO

TO: Borough Manager, Borough Council
FROM: Mayor Dave Rivella
SUBJECT: VETO
DATE: December 24, 2018

In the interest of public safety, in accordance with Pennsylvania Borough Code Section 3301.3 and section 1310.1, I am returning the 2019 tax ordinance with my Mayor's Veto.

The 2019 tax ordinance does not allow for the same amount of full time police officers that the Morrisville Police Department employed in 2018. The tax ordinance clearly reduces the department's full time officers by one officer.

The reduction of the department's full time officers combined with the recent council decision to limit the amount of hours that our part time officers are now permitted to work will directly impact the amount of services that Morrisville Police Department will be able to safely provide to our community in 2019.

After speaking with Chief McClay, I am also concerned with the 2019 tax ordinance in regards to the amount of taxes to be collected for the police pensions, which appears to be low.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David T. Rivella", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor David T. Rivella

MORRISVILLE BOROUGH,
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 1024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, LEVYING A TAX ON REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN MORRISVILLE BOROUGH FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 TOTALING 46.85 MILLS; REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE, SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania is authorized to levy a tax on real property located within the Borough pursuant to the Borough Code [Act 37 of 2014, P.L. 432 (April 18, 2014)], as amended, at Section 1302, 8 Pa.C.S.A. § 1302; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Morrisville, finds it necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the Borough to levy a tax as outlined herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it, and it is hereby **ORDAINED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Morrisville, and it is hereby **ENACTED** and **ORDAINED** by authority of same as follows:

SECTION I. LEVYING OF REAL ESTATE TAX

A tax shall be levied on all real property within the Borough of Morrisville for the calendar year commencing January 1, 2019 as follows:

Purpose	Tax on each dollar of assessed valuation (mills)
FOR GENERAL BOROUGH PURPOSES	<u>30.00</u> Mills
FOR STREET LIGHTING	<u>1.20</u> Mills
FOR FIRE PROTECTION	<u>4.00</u> Mills
FOR RECREATION FUND	<u>3.65</u> Mills
FOR LIBRARY	<u>3.00</u> Mills
FOR STREET FUNDING	<u>1.50</u> Mills
FOR DEBT SERVICE	<u>1.00</u> Mills
FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:	<u>2.00</u> Mills
FOR PENSION AND ANNUITY:	<u>.50</u> Mills
TOTAL:	<u>46.85</u> Mills

SECTION II. REPEALER

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

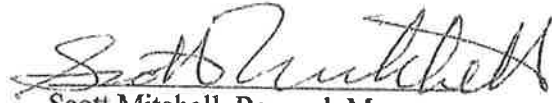
Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase in this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect, and for this reason the provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE


This Ordinance shall be effective as of January 1, 2019.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Morrisville this 17th day of December, 2018.

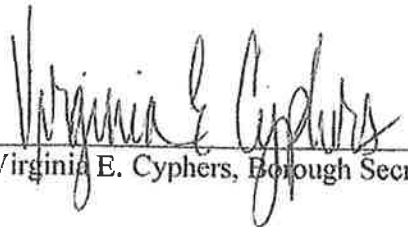
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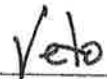

Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF MORRISVILLE

By: 
Debbie Smith, Borough Council President

APPROVED by the Mayor of the
Borough of Morrisville this ____ day
of December, 2018.


Virginia E. Cyphers, Borough Secretary


David Rivella, Mayor