

MEETING MINUTES  
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, July 16, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, July 16, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Regular Council Meeting.

Ms. Smith stated, if you'll please all rise for a moment of silence and our Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Cyphers took roll call.

**Those in Attendance:**

Borough Council: Debbie Smith, President  
Danielle Larison, Vice President  
Justin Bowers  
Corryn Kronnagel  
David Nay  
Ted Parker  
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Mayor Dave Rivella  
Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager  
Randy Flager, Solicitor  
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary  
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Not in Attendance: Eileen Dreisbach

Ms. Smith stated, we had a presentation from Triad Associates which they're going to reset that appointment for us in August, they weren't able to come tonight, they sent their apologies.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

There were no special presentations this evening.

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

1. Holly Harman - *S. Pennsylvania Avenue*  
She gave the address, for the code enforcement pool issue, 24 E. Palmer. She said she didn't have it when she stopped by the office today. She had a question on the bill list about the Realtek Connect cameras for \$4,300.00.
2. John Pasteur - *25 Dieter Avenue*  
He had concerns about the amount of money spent to have code enforcement walk the town checking sidewalks and wanted to know why we did it. He thinks we should let Keystone handle finding out who owns rental properties and what properties are rentals. He asked if we could pass a law that the landlords that don't volunteer their rental properties would have to pay for the research that would need to be done if they didn't come forward by the due date that we would give them so the Borough wouldn't have to pay the cost of the research.
3. Donna Wilson - *E. Post Road*  
She spoke about Winterfest. Dan at Hot Rods on Delmorr and Bridge Street has decided that they will host the parade and cover the cost needed for the police department. Winterfest is December 1st and the parade route will be the same as last year.
4. Robert Butcher - *810 S. Pennsylvania Avenue*  
He wanted to thank everybody who worked so hard to put a stop to all the truck traffic on S. Pennsylvania Avenue. He also wanted to thank the Morrisville Police for enforcing the new traffic sign.
5. Chris Urban - *121 Grandview Avenue*  
He's concerned with the spending and the budget. The ambulance squad is going under. The Lehigh Rubber Building is being worked on on Bridge Street, you have to get permits, go through zoning and planning committees, he wanted to know how they are working on it, you have to submit your plans and you can't work on it until you get your permits. He stated that Keystone is out walking around doing curbs and sidewalks and wants to know why they aren't shutting them down. He wanted to know how council expects to make up all the money that they're spending and if they are going to tax the residents more.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** 6A-6D - Motion to approve the Regular Borough Council Meeting minutes of May 21, 2018.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments from the council on this? All in favor say aye?  
Opposed?

**Motion** carries by voice vote, 7-0.

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**FINANCE**

**Motion** 7B - Motion to approve the bill list and pay the bills.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments from the council on the bill list?

Ms. Kronnagel asked if the zero turn mower for \$9,375 was an addition or a replacement?

Mr. Mitchell replied, that was for replacement equipment for the Pubic Works Department and part of their budget.

Ms. Kronnagel asked about last months Gilmore and Associates bill for \$58,788. She asked if the Borough has applied for any grants without going through our engineer.

Ms. Smith replied, separately from any other organization, no.

Mr. Mitchell replied, that wasn't just for grant work it also includes the road resurfacing project we're doing with the MMA and also the mill overlay project for Plaza Boulevard.

Ms. Smith asked, any other questions or comments on this motion? Can I have a roll call please on this?

**Motion** carried by roll call, 7-0.

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**REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT**

**Mayor's Report - David Rivella** - He stated, we hope by next month to have the new cameras installed on Bridge and Pennsylvania Avenue. The video from those cameras will be sent back to police headquarters. Two of the new police cars have been delivered. The truck enforcement for the traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue has actually begun as a large majority of 18 wheel tractor trailers used on Philadelphia, it's only 10% as of a few days ago of the signage required by PennDOT that has been posted. Chief McClay has been in contact with them to make sure that doesn't get missed. The police department went down Pennsylvania Avenue and handed out letters to the businesses explaining that there's a difference between through traffic and deliveries. The emergency ops plan has been completed, I reviewed it and sent that into the Borough last week, so we'd like that on the agenda for next month. There was a problematic house on Althea which is pretty much wrapped up. Chief McClay would be happy to donate \$100.00 for the Tour of Honor on behalf of the Borough if council would choose to do that, he'd be more than willing to step up.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion 9A** - Motion to exercise the contract option of an additional two (2) years with Republic Services of Pennsylvania, LLC, for Refuse and Recyclables Collection.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, motion was moved and seconded, any questions or comments from the council on this motion?

Ms. Larison read the document titled "Morrisville Action Plan" that Republic provided in regard to some of the issues that the residents have been having.

Ms. Smith asked, any other questions or comments on the motion?

Mr. Bowers asked, Mr. Mitchell did we have many complaints today?

Mr. Mitchell replied, we did not. Last week Republic Services made some personnel changes on their staff handling Morrisville Borough's account. There was a separate vehicle from Republic with a supervisor riding around with the crew today and last week we put Republic on notice that any further service failures will result in us exercising our rights under the penalty phase of the contract.

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Mr. Yager stated, that it sounds good and he's very happy that they are engaging the Borough that way, however, he feels like it's because they are about to vote on their contract, that is something that the Borough gave them the opportunity to do months ago and they failed and he feels like the Borough is going to be right back there in a couple of months.

Ms. Smith stated, okay. Can we have a roll call on this motion please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 6-1. (nay vote being Mr. Yager)

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**Motion** 9B - Motion to approve the Cooperation Agreement between Morrisville Borough and the Redevelopment Authority.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, motion has been moved and seconded, any questions on this motion?

Ms. Kronnagel stated, we just received this and I'm not really too sure what exactly it is but just through looking at it, it looks like the RDA could basically take over Borough property and basically the borough is going to be responsible for all those funds. Is there any way they can give a short presentation on this and maybe we could pull this for next month?

Ms. Smith stated, I believe this is a cooperation agreement that we have done with them before when it comes to looking into blighted properties and this is just an agreement that says on how that would be handled, each of the problems that would end up coming under them.

Mr. Flager stated, this has been slightly modified but it's standard, we've done this in the other townships that we represent, the other municipalities. We are responsible for the cost when they sell it, that's true, but when they sell it we get to the extent that they recover money they pay us back.

Ms. Kronnagel stated, if any.

Mr. Flager stated, yeah, they pay us back, it's like a rolling fund.

Discussion ensued with regard to the Cooperation Agreement.

Ms. Smith asked, is there anyone else? We can if council is in agreement we can hold this until August, it doesn't have to be voted on today if you want more time to take a look at it compared to the one we actually did for the M. R. Reiter property was another one of the agreements that we did before we got started with that because, same thing. Before they did the paperwork that went up to Doylestown we had to do the same agreement I have one of these at home for that property too, so I mean we'll table it if you want or we'll just take it off and if you want that'd be easier and just vote it next month if you'd like. Would you like to just have it removed?

Mr. Yager stated, we've got some properties that are actually a physical risk to people that we really just can't sit by and keep pushing this off and pushing this off. I will say that we were given several days to read through it and in that time there could have been questions asked. I'm not sure of the mindset that we should continue to delay cleaning up these things.

Mayor Rivella stated, actually that comment really scares me if there's a list of properties that you feel are, well dangerous, it sounds like you have properties in mind that you want to take over.

Mr. Yager asked, are you aware of the burnt down properties on Park Ave?

Ms. Smith stated, okay, so I'm just going to ask the majority of council, do you want this taken off and move to the next month to review it or is the majority okay with just voting and they understand what's in this.

**Motion to table** made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion to table.

Ms. Smith stated, can I have a roll call on the motion to table this motion.

Motion to table is defeated by roll call vote 5-2. (nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Larison, Mr. Nay, Ms. Smith and Mr. Yager)

**Motion 9B** - Motion to approve the Cooperation Agreement between Morrisville Borough and the Redevelopment Authority.

Ms. Smith stated, it was moved and seconded, can we have a roll call.

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 5-2. (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker)

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**Motion 9C** - Motion to approve hourly rate increase for the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor to \$145.00 an hour.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

**Motion 9C Amended** - Motion to approve the hourly rate increase for the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor to the same as the Borough Solicitor as that amount changes from time to time.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, roll call please.

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

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**Motion 9D** - Motion to accept the resignation of Planning Commission member Deborah Colgan.

Mr. Mitchell stated, we don't need to vote on that.

Ms. Smith stated, we actually didn't need to vote to accept that resignation for that, it really wasn't necessary. She's put her letter in and gave her reasons for it and so we're just putting up the next motion.

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**Motion 9E** - Planning Commission Appointment: Position appointment to fill the unexpired term running through December 31, 2021.

**Motion to nominate John DeWilde** made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked if there were any other nominations.

**Motion to nominate Hussam Jallad** made by Mr. Bowers.

Ms. Smith asked if there were any other nominations. Nominations will be closed, we will do this in the order that they were received, so the first nomination is John DeWilde, we will do a round of a vote for the Council and you will say yes or no for John DeWilde in that position.

**Motion to nominate John DeWilde** carried by roll call vote, 5-2. (nay votes being Mr. Bowers and Mr. Parker).

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### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss this evening.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to discuss this evening.

**BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

Ms. Kronnagel stated Morrisville United's 3rd Annual March through town will be Saturday, August 11th, we're going to meet behind Giant starting at 8:30 a.m. The March begins at 10:00 a.m., we wind back down to the park, we get there at approximately noon there will be bands, speakers and vendors. What we've been working on is addiction, families and people that are facing addiction we've helped a lot of people we've helped a lot of families find beds when they couldn't find beds, things like that, so if you have any questions please feel free to check out the Facebook page or please feel free to come down to the park. Again, that's Saturday, August 11th. I'm told that a former NFL star Vance Johnson will be among the speakers. The second thing is, I'm just requesting that the Borough Manager and Council President add back the committee reports to the agenda. I'm still unclear as to why they were moved in the first place. They only take one or two minutes especially concerning the fact that not all committees meet every month we were supposed to be receiving minutes in their place but we've either received none or we received them weeks and weeks after the fact.

Mr. Mitchell asked, Councilwoman, do we have an application package for the August 11th event?

Ms. Kronnagel asked, for Morrisville United?

Mr. Mitchell replied yes.

Ms. Kronnagel stated, I believe so, the port-a-potties have been ordered and I sent I think the certificate of insurance was sent in today.

Ms. Smith asked, is there anyone else?

Ms. Larison stated, I have something. This year, August 7th, in Williamson Park will be the 5th Annual National Night Out here in Morrisville. We hope everybody attends it's from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., we will have our food trucks and our fire and emergency services will be there we have the human hamster balls will be coming back and the mystery room is coming back we have the touch-a-truck, a lot of vendors and food trucks, we have Cona Ice, so I just want to invite everybody in the surrounding — and in our Borough to Williamson Park August 7th, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Ms. Smith stated, thank you. Anyone else? Any other comments?

Mr. Nay stated, Madame President, there was a resident that contacted me this week we have a lot of commuters here in town a lot of them go over to the Hamilton Train Station expressed her interest in having a train station here in Morrisville. When speaking with Mr. Mitchell I realized that's a huge dollar amount but I just thought I'd put it out there and if there's anybody that is interested in that they can contact me through my Borough email to see what kind of interest there is in that.

Ms. Smith stated, so that's a big task, the Borough has attempted it several years back, it's not an easy process for the government to get that through.



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Mayor Rivella stated, yeah, if I may, I've actually touched on that subject a few times, I've reached out and the Planning Board for Septa and Amtrak and they say they just can't at this time justify the cost as you just heard, they call it trip generators and they said it's just not enough people that would use the train, they realize everyone that lives in Morrisville would love it for the convenience you're next to a major hub, which is Trenton and it just doesn't look like it's going to happen, but it is something I think people would like to see happen but when I reached out to him which is on more than one occasion, believe me, their story has never changed.

Mr. Nay stated, I wonder too, how many people would be drawn in from other areas to use it besides just the people here in Morrisville.

Ms. Smith stated, yeah we have a lot of people in Morrisville that actually do use the commuter trains and have to travel to one of the other towns to use it so that's — you said it'd be something nice if we could have that foreseeable future like the Mayor said, I don't see that happening but you never know beyond this wish list I guess. Is there anyone else? Okay, then I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn at 7:55.

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

Meeting adjourned.