

MEETING MINUTES  
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, October 15, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, October 15, 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, we will begin with a moment of silence and our Pledge of Allegiance, please rise.

Ms. Cyphers 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  
Michael Yager

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

Junior Councilperson: Garrett Foy

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Junior Councilperson, Garrett Foy was sworn in by Mayor Rivella.

Mayor Rivella read a proclamation congratulating the Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club for 90 years of service.

Tom Mack, Rotary Club Member spoke about the Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club.  
Mack

### HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Chris Croteau - *473 Hamilton Boulevard*  
He thinks council should approve the amendment to the responsible contractors ordinance. He is against cutting the police department and he is for raising taxes.

Ms. Smith stated that council had an executive session prior to this evenings meeting to discuss the police labor issues.

2. Sharon Palmer - *607 Dorset Drive*  
She wants a strong police force and wants council to take that into consideration when doing the budget. She had concerns about some of the potholes in Morrisville.
3. John Pasteur - *25 Dieter Avenue*  
He stated that his street is sinking again for the third time. He talked about the responsible contractor ordinance. He is against part B of the budget which is getting rid of half of the full-time officers. He is against removing the three public works positions of the men that retired. He feels that hiring Keystone Municipal Services was a poor decision.
4. Hal Wilcox - *52 Harrison Avenue*  
He talked about the police department being cut and that there is an opioid epidemic and most municipalities are building their force because of it.
5. Georgia Cinq-Mars - *227 W. Franklin Street*  
She spoke about the responsible contractors ordinance. She doesn't feel that the class A apprenticeship program makes anything safer. She wants council to consider raising the limit to \$200,000.00 for the responsible contractors ordinance and eliminate the class A training programs that are now required.
6. Ed Tashjian - *227 W. Franklin*  
He spoke about the responsible contractors ordinance. He feels it's discriminatory to eliminate a group of people because they don't have an apprentice. He feels if a person is qualified and they have the lowest bid they should get the job
7. Holly Harman - *Hillside Avenue*  
She encouraged council to amend the responsible contractor ordinance. She had a question regarding Rudolph and Clarke on the bill list.

8. *Jill Anderson - 350 Hillside Avenue*  
She talked about the TEDx Morrisville event that took place at Summerseat last month. You can view the five speakers on YouTube. She asked council to consider asking the residents what their thoughts and ideas are on reducing expenses and costs that won't impact the safety of the residents.
9. *Brud Anderson - 350 Hillside Avenue*  
He stated he was very proud of how the TEDx event went. He talked about the upcoming documentary on Summerseat and that it will be non profit and it will be gifted to them for a promotional tool. He feels option B is not an option. He would like the finance director to find places to make smaller cuts that will add up. He feels it would be devastating to the town if we cut the police officers.
10. *Fred Haug - 260 Harper Avenue*  
He talked about his 50 Union Street property and the letter he received stating the property was derelict. He just found out that it was being voted on tonight whether or not his house was being taken. He questioned why he wasn't notified about his property being voted on or the condition of his house.
11. *Christina Morganti - 726 Crown Street*  
She asked that the deficit be laid out or more clear so that residents could understand what the budget options represent. She is not in favor of cutting the police budget. She requested that council postpone their vote on the budget options until all the information is presented to the community.
12. *Phil Frigerio - 719 Crown Street*  
He asked that council take a pause on the action of cutting the police force until there's more transparency on what the council's proposing and the possible impact to everyone. He had questions about the budget. He feels that option B seems to be the unreasonable aggressive reduction in staffing. He asked council to hold back on voting on the budget until it's more clear in terms of the intention of council with regard to the police department.
13. *Kathy Panzitta - 401 Hillcrest Avenue*  
She suggested that if you are having a public hearing on an amendment you could do two sign-up sheets instead of mingling everyone together. She wanted to know what option council was going to vote on with regard to 9F under proposed preliminary 2019 budget. She wanted to know if they vote tonight will she have to file a right to know or will she be able to stop by the counter tomorrow and review what you voted on as it has been done in previous years.
14. *Jane Burger - 90 W. Maple Avenue*  
She congratulated Garrett Foy, the new junior councilperson. She supports the amendments to the responsible contractors ordinance. She talked about the

2019 preliminary budget, 2018 budget and the 2017 budget. She is hoping there will be a public hearing in November to discuss the budget.

15. Tom Wisnosky - *815 Crown Street*

He stated that option B doesn't make sense to him, security and safety for Morrisville are number one. He spoke about the reasons it doesn't make sense. He stated some residents are wearing red tonight which is a symbol for stop option B. He wants council to forget option B and come up with something else.

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

Ms. Smith stated she was asking that motion 9F to adopt the proposed preliminary 2019 budget be deferred and voted on at the November 13th meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 6A and 6B** - Motion to approve the Special Borough Council Meeting minutes of August 14, 2018 and the Regular Borough Council Meeting minutes of August 20, 2018.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

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

**Motion** carries by roll call vote, 7-0 with 1 abstention made by Mr. Parker.

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**FINANCE**

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

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, can we call the vote on that please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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**REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT**

**Mayor's Report - David Rivella** - He welcomed and congratulated Garrett Foy. He was honored to recognize the Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club on their accomplishment of 90 years of service. He talked about the responsible contractors ordinance. He stated that he believes in apprentices and anyone can go to an apprenticeship, you don't have to be through organized labor. He explained the prevailing rate.

**Junior Councilperson - Garrett Foy** - He stated that he is a senior at Conwell-Egan, he went to Holy Trinity and he has lived in Morrisville his whole life. In October Conwell-Egan is having their first ever Haunted House. In December they will have a Christmas concert.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion 9A** - Call for Motion to adopt the 2018 Halloween Policy.

Ms. Smith read the 2018 Halloween Policy.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, all in favor? Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9B** - Call for Motion to approve Morrisville Borough co-sponsoring the October 21st "Friends of the Morrisville Dog Park" Monster March Halloween Parade (just south of the dog park).

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

**Motion** carried by voice vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9C** - Call for Motion to adopt an Ordinance Establishing Parking Regulations for the Morrisville Commercial District.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on this motion? Can we have a roll call please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9D** - Motion to approve the Emergency Operations Plan

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on this motion? Can I have a roll call please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9E** - Motion to amend the Responsible Contractors Ordinance.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on this motion?

Member from Council had comments about the responsible contractors ordinance.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second, then we're going to call for a roll call on this.

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 6-2. (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker)

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***Motion 9F - Motion to adopt the Proposed Preliminary 2019 Budget was deferred.***

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**Motion 9G** - Motion to award Plaza Boulevard and Doloro Drive Paving Project Bid to Earle Asphalt Company in the amount of \$185,913.13, per the recommendation of the Borough Engineer and subject to Liquid Fuels Funds.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments on this motion? Can we call the roll on that?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9H** - Motion to authorize Hough Associates to collect 2018 Residential and Commercial Recycling Data and Prepare the PA DEP 904 Recycling Grant Applications for Morrisville Borough for a fee not to exceed \$1,900.

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, it's been motioned and seconded, if we can call the vote on that.

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9I** - Motion to authorize the execution of Grant Contract for the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program through the PA DCED in the amount of \$187,992, for Melvin Avenue Basin Improvements Project.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Call the roll please.

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9J** - Motion to accept the Resolution #PC-2018-01 of the Morrisville Borough Planning Commission to declare the properties located at 39, 41, 43 and 45 Park Avenue, Morrisville, PA, as blighted properties.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

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

### HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Steve Carroll - *51 Park Avenue*  
He stated that 39 and 41 are currently being rebuilt and if they are voted as blighted property what happens to the people that are invested in there now.

Discussion ensued regarding blight properties.

Ms. Smith asked, can I have a roll call please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 6-2 (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker).

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**Motion 9K** - Motion to accept Resolution #PC-2018-02 of the Morrisville Borough Planning Commission to declare the property located at 179 North Delmorr Avenue, Morrisville, PA, as a blighted property.

**Motion** made by Mr. Nay.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, Any questions or comments on this motion? Can I have a roll call please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 6-2 (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker).

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**Motion 9L** - Motion to accept the Resolution #PC-2018-03 of the Morrisville Borough Planning Commission to declare the property located at 50 Union Street, Morrisville, PA, as a blighted property.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Nay seconded the motion.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 6-2 (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker).

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**Motion 9M** - Motion to authorize the Execution of Grant Contract for the Greenways Trails and Recreation Program through the PA DCED in the amount of \$85,000, for Patriots Park at Historic Summerseat Master Plan.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

**Hearing of the public was opened.**

#### HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments from the Council? Can we have a roll call please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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**Motion 9N** - Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to execute the service agreement with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network in the amount of \$4,081 for project management and technical assistance services for continuing restoration of an approximately half mile reach of the Morrisville Riverfront Preserve.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

**Hearing of the public was opened.**

### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

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

Ms. Smith asked, anyone else? Can I have a roll call on this please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss this evening.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion ensued with regard to the Solicitor drafting an Ordinance for short-term rentals.

### **BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

Mr. Bowers stated that October 21st the Friends of the Morrisville Dog Park will be co-sponsoring with the Borough the Monster March Doggie Pet Parade and Costume Contest from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Yager stated, the Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club had its yearly breakfast fundraiser last Saturday and it was extremely well attended. He thanked everyone who showed up and Tina Shannon and Troop 3 for coming out.

Ms. Larison thanked the Morrisville Senior Servicer for their hospitality last weekend, there was a fundraiser to replace two dilapidated benches at the Senior Servicer and in front of the courthouse one will be in memory of Judge Michael Burns and the other one will be in memory of Edgar Solt who was one of the founding members of the Senior Servicer. Weather permitting the benches will be replaced this year.

Ms. Smith stated they are tallying up the amounts for the fundraiser, the goal was to raise \$6,000.00 to purchase and install the benches. She thanked everyone that was involved and

the Council that had the time to stop and support it and all the volunteers that donated the food, time and decorations.

Ms. Dreisbach asked Scott Mitchell if they received the signs yet to put up for the trucks. She said the signs that are up are not working and people have been contacting her.

Discussion ensued with regard to truck traffic.

Ms. Kronnagel asked for a quick update on Passanante's since it hasn't been on the engineers report for a while.

Mr. Nay thanked Councilman Yager and the Vacant Property Review Committee for their work on the blighted properties.

Ms. Kronnagel stated, it is Small Business Saturday on November 24th. She will be handing out items from American Express to the local businesses and they will be having a scavenger hunt. Tag yourself on Small Business Saturday, the winner can get a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Morrisville Business of their choice.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn at 8:01.

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

Meeting adjourned.