

MEETING MINUTES  
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, November 19, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, November 19, 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 have a moment of silence and our Pledge of Allegiance first so please stand.

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  
Mike Levin, Solicitor  
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary  
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Junior Councilperson: Garrett Foy

Guest: Anthony Bailey, Intern from Rider University

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Julianna Simmers and twins Carmen and Veronica Miller were crowned Miss Winterfest and Junior Miss Winterfest by Corryn Kronnagel.

### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

1. Christopher Croteau - *473 Hamilton Boulevard*  
He spoke about the budget. He wanted to know if Mr. Mitchell could provide the residents with a balanced budget without a tax increase and without layoffs.
2. Cynthia Cicero - *606 Prospect Avenue*  
She feels it is a tax burden to pay the two full-time positions of the Finance Director and the Borough Manager when the two positions have always been handled by one person and frequently on a part-time basis. She feels council needs to be better stewards of her tax monies.
3. Robert Perry - *606 Prospect Avenue*  
He suggested as an option to have an employee tax of one dollar a week per employee tax like they have in Bala Cynwyd and Lower Merion to be used strictly by the state for police, fire, ambulance and road improvements.
4. John Pasteur - *25 Dieter Avenue*  
He spoke about not getting rid of borough jobs. He stated that the public works department is clearly understaffed. He spoke about the budget, he feels there should be multiple options not just option A and option B.
5. Bill Minder - *423 Crown Street*  
He stated that when the new water lines and paving were done on his street it created a problem, a pool of water in front of his house that is 10' by 30' long. He is also concerned about it freezing in the winter as well. He asked about the leave collection and whether or not they could go in the landfill.
6. Hall Wilcox - *52 Harrison Avenue*  
He stated he was told by some council members that the idea of laying off police officers was just an idea, now the borough is planning on laying off one officer, he's concerned that before the final budget comes in it could be up to 5 officers being laid off. He is concerned about the safety of the residents.
7. Phil Frigerio - *719 Crown Street*  
He spoke about the three different budgets that were presented. He feels the layoffs whether it be police or borough are not appropriate with the presentation of the financial documents. He spoke about the 2017 audit findings. He

suggested that the council consider borrowing or withdrawing money from the equity fund before having any new tax increase or having layoffs.

8. Kathryn Panzitta - *401 Hillcrest Avenue*

She wanted to know if there was going to be another prepared version of the budget handed out before the upcoming budget meeting. She wanted to know which items from the laundry list were incorporated into the proposed budget. She wanted to get the concept of what backs up justification on the Finance Director and she wants to find the sheet of paper with all the errors.

9. Teresa Eldridge - *501 North Lafayette Avenue*

She doesn't agree with Morrisville deciding to get rid of the police. She wanted to know if they went door to door to get signatures would council take another look at the budget. She spoke about John's Service Center on Trenton Avenue and said that behind the building there is a broken sewage pipe that has been all over the parking lot since September and she would like to have it taken care of.

10. Bruce Stevens - *714 Crown Street*

He stated that you need to have good public safety in order to get more business into Morrisville. He feels public safety should be first, look at the budget and see what else you can get rid of.

11. Tom Wisnosky - *815 Crown Street*

His wife handed out a document to all of Council that he created regarding his budget observations. He stated that in business if you have desperate financial times, the first thing you do is dial back spending. He would like the budget to be posted to the website as a spreadsheet and show every justification for an increase.

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 6A** - Motion to approve the Special Borough Council Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2018, Regular Borough Council Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2018, Special Borough Council Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2018, Regular Borough Council Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2018, and the Borough Council Budget Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2018.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

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

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

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### **FINANCE**

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

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, 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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### **REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT**

**Mayor's Report - David Rivella** - He stated that over the past month he received a good amount of phone calls from residents mostly regarding the police department and the new budget and how that ties together. He stated, just before the budget talk started residents were asking for a bigger police presence. He stated that on October 30th he sent a memo to council requesting — the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development could do a staff study. It doesn't seem like it's going to happen but he thinks it's a good idea. On November 13th, he sent a memo asking council to hire a new part-time officer. It is not on the agenda and he hopes council will add it tonight, we are down to five part-time officers. The Chief reached out to everyone that had put in an application or inquired for the past couple of years and he advertised. This officer was referred by another Chief. He reminded residents to not leave their cars running and their doors unlocked. He congratulated the girls that were crowned Miss Winterfest. December 1st is Winterfest, there will be activities here at Borough Hall as in the past.

**Junior Councilperson - Garrett Foy** - He stated that this month his school football team is undefeated and they won the district championship. The community raised canned goods to donate to families on Thanksgiving, and they made over 130 baskets. Their school had a blood drive today, which the majority of the school participated in. He has been talking with peers in the community to see what ways they can make the community better and he hopes to bring some ideas to the next meeting. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Kronnagel wanted to add a motion to the agenda to hire new part-time police officer Joseph Dragon.

Mr. Nay seconded the motion.

Ms. Kronnagel wanted to add a motion to the agenda to call for nominations to the Library Board.

**Motion 9A** - Motion to adopt the Fee Schedule for 2019.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on the 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 9B** - Motion to appoint the Finance Director to serve as treasurer and to vacate the position of assistant treasurer effective December 1st, 2018.

**Motion** to table by Mr. Nay.

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we will do a round of a roll call as to whether to table the motion.

Motion to table fails by roll call vote, 3-5. (Nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Dreisbach, Ms. Larison, Ms. Smith and Mr. Yager.)

Ms. Smith stated, motion will continue. We will now do a roll call for the motion. Roll call please.

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

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**Motion 9C** - Motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Health Walk Works Program and to commit municipal resources in the amount of \$2,875.36 as a match for said project.

**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?

**Motion to table** the motion by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we'll do a round for tabling this. Can I have a roll call please?

**Motion** to table failed by roll call vote, 3-5. (Nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Dreisbach, Ms. Larison, Ms. Smith and Mr. Yager)

Ms. Smith stated, motion to table fails, let's put it back up for a vote. We'll do a roll call on the motion.

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

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**Motion** 9D - Motion to approve the Morrisville Borough 2019 Holiday Schedule.

**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? All in favor? Opposed?

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

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**Motion** 9E - Motion to approve the Morrisville Borough 2019 Meeting Schedule.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

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

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

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**Motion 9F** - Motion to approve the Library 2019 Holiday Schedule.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on the motion? All in favor? Opposed?

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

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**Motion 9G** - Motion to approve the Library 2019 Meeting Schedule.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on the motion? All in favor? Opposed?

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

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**Motion 9H** - Motion to approve the advertisement and bidding of the Summerseat Accessibility Improvements Project.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

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

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

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**Motion 9I** - Motion to approve the resolution for submission of a grant application for installation of new sidewalks and ADA ramps on West Bridge Street from Althea Avenue to Cox Avenue.

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Any questions or comments on this one? If there's no other questions, take a roll call on it.

**Motion** carried by roll call vote, 7-1. (Nay vote being Ms. Kronnagel)

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**Motion 9J** - Motion to approve awarding the contract for the Williamson Park Playground improvements to Mizu Contracting, based on the Engineers recommendations after review of the bid documents.

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

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

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

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**Motion 9K** - Motion to authorize the hiring of Joseph Dragon as a part-time police officer with the Morrisville Police Department.

**Motion** made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Nay seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second, we talked about this if anyone else would like to say anything else at this time. Anyone else, okay, I will take a roll call please?

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

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**Motion 9L** - Motion to fill a vacancy on the Library Board.

**Motion to Nominate Victor Cicero** made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Ms. Smith asked do we have any other nominations? Any other nominations?

November 19, 2018

Ms. Smith stated, we'll take a yes or no vote on this motion for appointment of Vic Cicero to the vacancy on the Library Board.

**Motion** tied by roll call vote, 4-4. (Nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Larison, Ms. Smith and Mr. Yager.)

Ms. Smith stated, it will be up to the Mayor to break the tie.

Mayor Rivella stated, I was told when I inquired about breaking ties a couple of years ago that yes a tiebreaker goes to the Mayor however when it's a candidate, you don't have to vote for a candidate, so I'm not voting for anyone for this.

Ms. Smith stated, we can do another round of a vote.

**Motion to nominate Victor Cicero** made by Mr. Parker

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

**Motion** fails by roll call vote, 3-5. (Nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Dreisbach, Ms. Larison, Ms. Smith and Mr. Yager)

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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. Smith stated that we did get word from Perry Warren that we were awarded a \$50,000.00 grant it's from C2P2 for the Williamson Park master plan. She reminded everyone that there is an executive meeting at 6:00 on Monday the 26th right before the budget meeting.

Mr. Yager wanted to thank Representative Warren as well, he's been instrumental lately in helping us get these projects off the ground.

Ms. Kronnagel asked if the Borough Manager and the Finance Director will be at the Budget Meeting that is scheduled for next Monday.

Mr. Nay and Mr. Parker requested that the Budget Meeting be televised.

November 19, 2018

Ms. Kronnagel asked if the motion that passed last week to lay off the officer and the officer worker was going to happen regardless of what happens with the budget. She stated that this Saturday, November 24th, is Small Business Saturday. If you go out to your local business this Saturday and #SBSMorrisville, a random person will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the Morrisville Business or shop of their choice.

Discussion ensued regarding mutual fund or stock that was mentioned during public comment tonight, the audit and the deficit amounts and the budget.

Ms. Larison stated that the Beautification Committee will be at the Plaza this Saturday at 11:00 to decorate Robert Morris Plaza and the tree at Borough Hall.

Mr. Bowers stated that having a Finance Director and a Borough Manager, currently we are in the same neighborhood for payments that we were previously in.

Discussion ensued regarding code enforcement fees and the budget. Mr. Nay suggested that they should have reopened the budget back in January. Ms. Kronnagel agreed.

Mr. Nay stated that Home Depot was not able to come through with the wood for the Red Bridge project, but he reached out to Toll Brothers and it looks like they will be able to donate the wood.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn at 8:30.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager and seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Meeting adjourned.