

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, December 17, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, December 17, 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 I could tonight for our moment of silence I would like to remember Mary Ellen Matthias who recently just passed, she was very involved with the Morrisville Little League and the T-Ball for many many decades along with her family, the family has also done many organizations throughout the town, they donated the tree and actually installed it down at the Plaza for us. They sold Christmas trees in town for the last 56 years so I'm sure she's going to be missed by the little league children who looked at her as a second grandmom on the field, so if you could please remember her family and friends in our moment of silence tonight and then we'll do our Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Smith stated, that council will be having an executive session for labor and legal issues, police issues at the end of the meeting, litigation issues, I'm sorry, and labor.

Ms. Cyphers took roll call.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Debbie Smith, President
Danielle Larison, Vice President
Justin Bowers
Eileen Dreisbach
Corryn Kronnagel (arrived at 7:17)
David Nay
Ted Parker
Michael Yager

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

Not In Attendance: Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Junior Councilperson: Garrett Foy

Mr. Yager requested to add a motion to the agenda to authorize the Borough manager to issue \$6,000.00 from the 98/02 capital improvement funds to the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority for an escrow account to be used for acquiring the 43 and 45 Park Avenue properties.

Mr. Mitchell stated that PennDOT has requested that the Borough sign on and start using its ECMS portal which is engineering construction management system. Basically all state agencies are trying to go paperless and to be an intergovernmental business partner with PennDOT they're requiring us to adopt a resolution authorizing who the approvers will be on behalf of the Borough so the engineers sent a resolution and a packet information explaining what it is. I will pass it up and down the dais and if you're comfortable with it we can add it to the agenda tonight, if you'd like to wait we can wait.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations this evening.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Cynthia Cicero - *606 Prospect Avenue*
She wanted to know why, if there is not enough money to fully fund the police department why can't council put a freeze on management raises, she's going to need better justification then this is the way it's always been for management to get raises if you're laying off police officers.
2. Kurt Holthenrich - *300 Melvin Avenue*
He stated that he was impressed with what council was able to accomplish with a lot of undue stress around a few decision, you're doing your best for the Borough in its collection, you're not trying to do a special deal for somebody or cater to a few people in town, you're doing the best you can for the taxpayers. You have a balanced budget, no tax increase which is great. We need to get through clean up our budget mess issues fill in where our shortfalls were, see what you have before you make decisions on going before a judge looking to raise mills and our income tax maybe it has to happen two three years in a row when you see where we're at.
3. Kathryn Panzitta - *401 Hillcrest Avenue*
She asked about the final budget and was wondering if there was another draft sent out to you after what was pointed out at last Tuesday's agenda meeting. She asked that on the last final that was on the portal it says the proposed budget was advertised and there are two dates 10/4 and 10/19, was it

secondarily sent out again, was this budget actually sent out or was it just listed on the portal just two dates.

4. John Pasteur - *25 Dieter Avenue*

He stated that he is against eliminating the Borough workers positions and eliminating one police officer is too much. He stated that we haven't had transparency and we haven't had any public budget meetings. He understands that there were threats and he sympathizes with that but he would like to hear from the Chief what moves he's going to make if we lay off one officer. If it's the school officer that would be unacceptable or if it's going to be the truck enforcement officer. He stated that 70 to 80 percent of the truck traffic goes through the first ward. He thinks we should hear from the Chief before we vote. He stated that we don't have the people to take care of the streets, plow the snow, cut the grass and now we're going to try to come up with \$6,000.00 to buy blighted properties.

5. Helen Hlahol - *Morrisville*

She stated that when Mr. Pasteur was talking three council members were talking and she remembers when you yelled at Mr. Parker for not paying attention to the residents. She stated that a month or two ago Mr. Yager and Justin stated that they would have never hired a police officer had they know we would have in financial problems, yet in April Mr. Mitchell said they were going to have financial problems by the end of the year. She was wondering why in April the Finance Director didn't reiterate that you would be in financial trouble if you hire the police officer. She stated that she's sure you're all aware that Yardley is getting rid of Keystone as their code enforcers and she doesn't know why they won't reconsider that. She wanted to know why they didn't point out that the fees were doubled and if we kept code enforcement in-house that we wouldn't have these kind of problems with the discrepancies and the finances. She would like to know why the residents weren't informed or given notice about the Staley's situation with the silos coming down with all the noise and dust. During her time at the podium, she asked Council and audience members to not smirk or disrespect her time.

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

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, any questions or comments on the motion? Can I have a roll call please Virginia?

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT

Mayor's Report - David Rivella - He wanted to wish everyone a great holiday season. He stated that they had a nice turnout for Winterfest at the Borough even though the weather didn't cooperate. He was pleasantly surprised with the turnout of families, children and adults. He wanted to thank Joe Doyle from the Actor's Net who brought two carolers, they did a great job. Mrs. Claus read The Night Before Christmas and the children always gather around. He thanked the Morrisville Fire Department for Santa and Giant Foods was very kind, they provided refreshments this year. He mentioned that the police department had some accomplishments. The fleet has been updated for the fifth consecutive year. The police department has come in within budget. They started a drunk driver program at the high school and that's of course the school resource officer. The police directives are continuously and systematically being updated. There were a couple drug locations that the community and the police department got together and made some success. He stated that he is requesting transparency, as Mayor he would like to continue to receive information like the council does. Just recently there was a memo sent about the Tate and Lyle property which he wasn't included on and even though he typically doesn't vote on issues he would like if he could be included on whatever the council gets.

Junior Councilperson - Garrett Foy - He stated that throughout the month of December his school collected toys and this past Saturday we gave out toys to less fortunate families for our First Annual Christmas Shopping with CEC. On December 20th, we're holding our annual Christmas Concert and tree lighting at 6:30, admission is free and open to everybody and immediately following the concert there's going to be a huge bonfire open to everyone and I also want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to working with you all and attending all the meetings next year.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion 9A - Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$5,228.00 to Capital Health as final payment per the EMS Fund as of 12/31/18.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second. Can I have a roll call when you're ready Virginia?

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

Motion 9B - Motion to approve the 2019 Salary Schedule.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second on the floor. Whenever you're ready Virginia. We need a roll call on this motion.

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

Motion 9C - Motion to approve the 2019 Borough Budget.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

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

Discussion ensued with regard to the budget and code enforcement expenses.

Ms. Smith asked, anyone else? Roll call please Virginia on this.

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

Motion 9D - Motion to approve the 2019 Tax Levy Ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion.

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

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

Motion 9E - Motion to authorize an Application to the Green Light-Go Program and to commit municipal resources in the amount of \$66,958 to upgrade the traffic control device at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Avenues.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second on the floor. Any questions or comments on the motion? Can I have a roll call please Virginia when you're ready?

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

Motion 9F - Motion to authorize an Application to the Green Light-Go Program and to commit municipal resources in the amount of \$85,228 to upgrade the traffic control device at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Trenton Avenues.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

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

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

Motion 9G - Motion to award the Historic Summerseat Accessibility Improvements Project to Olivieri & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$169,373 per recommendation of the Borough Engineer.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Mr. Yager seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we have a motion and a second on the floor. Any questions or comments on this motion? I'll have a roll call please Virginia when you're ready.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 9H - Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$3,000 to the Morrisville Senior Servicer, Inc., per 2018 Budget allocation.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 9I - Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to issue \$6,000.00 from the 98/02 Capital Improvement Funds to the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority for an escrow account to be used for acquiring the 43 and 45 Park Avenue properties.

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 this motion? Can we have a roll call please, Virginia?

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

Motion 9J - Motion to authorize the borough to participate in PennDOT's ECMS which is Engineering Construction management System.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments on this motion? We'll have a roll call on this.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

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. Mitchell asked for a new years resolution for council to consider entertaining one meeting a month in 2019.

Mr. Nay asked to make a motion that we not lay off one full-time police officer.

Mr. Flager stated, the council just approved the salary schedule, the borough budget and the tax levy which covers all that already. You guys already voted on that.

Mr. Nay asked, with the finance director becoming the treasurer have those two positions that are currently doing the treasurer have they been eliminated? He thanked Joan and Nancy who did the position for their decades of service to the community.

Ms. Smith wanted to wish everyone a nice holiday with their family, time to relax a little bit and wished them all the best in 2019.

Ms. Kronnagel announced that there is a career day at Morrisville High School February 21st, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. there is a Facebook page Morrisville High School Career Day, so please like that.

Mr. Bowers asked Mr. Mitchell to provide an update for Tate & Lyle to the public.

Mr. Mitchell stated, the work being done at Tate & Lyle is fully permitted, code enforcement has been on site as have I.

Mr. Nay asked for a follow up with the code enforcement request for 111 Bridge Street and the trash. He wanted to know if they ever got over there. It was in reference to the Friends of the Delaware Canal.

Ms. Larison asked, regarding the Staley's property were they planning on taking down any other silo, just so the residents who live right behind or right next to Staley's property are made aware.

December 17, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:13.

Motion made by Mr. Yager and seconded by Mr. Bowers.
Meeting adjourned.