

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Special Council Meeting.

Ms. Smith stated, as we're getting ready for our Pledge of Allegiance and our moment of silence remember our veterans. Thank you.

Ms. Smith added a motion to see if council would support implementing an earned income tax. She stated that council held an executive meeting on the 29th of October for the purpose of ongoing police contract issues.

Virginia 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: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Mike Levin, Solicitor
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary
Micah Heitz, Finance Director
Steve Ware, Zoning Officer

Mr. Levin explained the ordinance he drafted for regulating short-term rentals, Airbnbs and VRBO's.

Steve Ware, presented information on the short-term rentals ordinance. He stated that putting it into the rental property ordinance rather than zoning allows for more control and stronger enforcement measures.

Ms. Smith stated, we will have the public hearing on the 2019 budget.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Christopher Croteau - *473 Hamilton Blvd.*
He is against reducing the Morrisville Police Department even by one officer. He is not supporting any tax increase in this budget.
2. John Pasteur - *25 Dieter Avenue*
He thinks we should look into the short-term rentals ordinance. He's against not filling in the public works positions of the three guys that retired. He commended them on looking into the missing money from the ambulance squad. He is against making the office workers part-time and reducing the Morrisville Police Department.
3. Holly Harman - *Hillside Avenue*
She stated that the bulk of traffic fines goes to the state and emergency medical. She asked council to hold the line on the budget.
4. Robert Perry - *606 Prospect Avenue*
He talked about his business in town and how a higher crime rate where you rent will increase your liability of insurance and if the business is broken into the insurance goes up. He's concerned about the safety of the practice and the citizens of town. He supports a tax if we need one to help keep the police department going.
5. Tom Wisnosky - *815 Crown Street*
He stated that he's had a good experience with council with the speeding traffic, the Banyan Property and the Delmorr Avenue House. He's asking council to be more transparent. He's hoping with the new budget things are more clear and he doesn't support cuts in the police department, he thinks it can be done without a tax increase.
6. Phil Frigerio - *719 Crown Street*
He presented a spreadsheet to council he created regarding the budgets. He reviewed the three budgets that have been presented. He wanted to know why the general fund budget set aside a mil revenue less than 3.5% and why our revenues projection declining from \$4,680,000.00 in 2018 to \$4,371,016.00 in the third version of the budget.

7. Kathryn Panzitta - *401 Hillcrest Avenue*
She was happy to see three additional people coming to talk about the budget. She said the budget could have been opened up before and that they can't blame it on anybody else. She wanted to know what version of the budget is posted on the website, it's still listing option A and an option B. She stated that you can't take five full-time positions out of the administration and convert them to five part-time workers and have the same coverage.
8. Jane Burger - *90 W. Maple Avenue*
She stated that budget season is the least fun time working on behalf of the borough. She stated we won't talk about the past but you do need to understand the past and learn from it as you move forward to get yourself out of your difficult situation. She discussed the need for public safety and the need for the SRO Officer and encouraged everyone to attend the school board meeting.

Ms. Smith asked if there was anyone else that needed to speak during public comment for anything other than the budget that wanted to speak.

9. John Kleish - *22 Delaware Avenue*
He stated that the Borough has been attempting to claim this property unlawfully and that they have been charging fraudulent taxes on the property of Title 53 municipal general rolls Section 813 which requires all vacant properties be rendered tax-exempt by Borough and School. He said he has been unable to maintain the property because the problems with the Borough.
10. Kathryn Panzitta - *401 Hillcrest Avenue*
She wanted to know if the whole proposal for the short-term rentals was available now through Right To Know and how the enforcement is going to be handled.
11. Tom Wisnosky - *815 Crown Street*
He spoke in favor of the Airbnb ordinance and he is appreciative that council acted so quickly. He agrees with Kathy that it needs to be enforceable.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Motion 9A - Motion to adopt the proposed 2019 budget.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Dreisbach seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued regard the 2019 proposed budget.

Motion to table the proposed 2019 budget made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked for a roll call.

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

Ms. Smith stated, now we go back to the original motion to adopt the proposed 2019 budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2019 budget.

Ms. Smith asked, are there any other questions? Can we have a roll call please?

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

Discussion ensued regarding making changes to the manning table, wage data sheet.

Mr. Yager made the recommendation of Plan A with two alterations, removing one police officer that was hired this year, and removing one administrative position.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2019 budget.

Police Chief George McClay spoke regarding what would happen if one full-time police officer was cut.

Discussion continued regarding the 2019 budget.

Motion 9A1 - Motion to decide the manning table to give direction to the Borough Manager. You will decide Plan A, or Revised Plan A which cuts one office associate and one police officer position, or Plan B.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Bower seconded the motion.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Kathryn Panzitta - *401 Hillcrest Avenue*
She wanted clarification on which budget they were voting on and what positions are being removed. She referred to the version she got from the website which also included two public works positions not being filled.

2. Tom Wisnosky - *815 Crown Street*
He stated that he's against the changes to option A, he thinks it's a terrible idea. He feels they would be opening themselves up to entanglement with the civil service.
3. Phil Frigerio - *719 Crown Street*
He is against any cuts that are being proposed. He wanted to know if we were using the same firm that we did in 17, 16, and 15. He asked if EMS has liability insurance.
4. John Pasteur - *25 Dieter Avenue*
He is against any cuts. He is concerned about public safety.
5. Jane Burger - *90 W. Maple Avenue*
She feels that tonight's vote on the preliminary budget is premature and council should wait until they are in a better position to finalize the budget and know what the revenues and expenses are and then they will know what cuts to make.

Chief McClay stated that Ms. Burger is absolutely right. He feels council hasn't directed the Borough Manager properly as to where to take the rest of the funds from. He was also confused as to why so many votes were being done at an agenda meeting.

Motion to table made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Kronnagel seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, round of call to table the motion. Roll call please?

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

Ms. Smith stated, the original motion is back on the floor.

Discussion continued regarding the 2019 budget.

Ms. Smith stated, roll call please.

Mr. Bowers voted option A1.

Ms. Dreisbach voted A1.

Ms. Kronnagel voted Plan A.

Ms. Larison voted A1.

Mr. Nay voted Option A.

Mr. Parker voted none of the above, abstention.

Ms. Smith voted A1.

Mr. Yager voted A1.

Motion carries by roll call vote, 5-2 with one abstention by Mr. Parker. (Nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Nay).

Motion 9K - Motion if council would even support implementing an Earned Income Tax, EIT.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Ms. Larison seconded the motion.

Motion to table made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Mr. Parker seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith stated, we're going to do a roll call.

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

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mr. Yager gave a couple of updates from the budget meeting that they had because there were some questions.

Mr. Nay gave an update about the unofficial poll he put out on Facebook regarding implementing the E. I. T. He stated that about 65% of the people are opposed. He talked about his research and presented information that he had regarding E. I. T. He believes the E. I. T. is the best course of action moving forward.

Discussion ensued with regard to the E.I.T.

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Ms. Driesbach asked if we were no longer collecting leaves and if we were taking leaves at the leaf dump. She wanted an update on the storm drains on Green Street and West Philadelphia Avenue, the Borough workers were asked to check. She stated that there is an ELCON meeting at the Levittown Library on New Falls Road at 6:00 tomorrow.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned that today the bid opening was held for the tot lot. There were three bids, they have to be fully vetted by the engineer before we can announce anything specific.

Ms. Smith stated, the only thing I've gotta say is you won't be getting that vote or the E. I. T. from me, it's on the record.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel and seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00.