

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, December 11, 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, if you'll all please rise for a moment of silence and our Pledge of Allegiance.

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
Randy Flager, Solicitor
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Cynthia Cicero - *606 Prospect Avenue*
She stated that a significant portion of the Borough Managers duties has been removed since the Finance Director was hired and she does not want her tax monies used for the Borough Managers and Financial Directors personal financial gain while there is not enough money for the police. She stated that if

members of council endorse their raises they are as guilty as he is in the misuse of her tax monies.

2. Robert Perry - *606 Prospect Avenue*

He stated that he has the same concerns as the other people are coming up and talking about in reference to the Borough Manager being a part-time position, then a full-time position and now adding a Financial Director position. He would like to know the job descriptions and whether or not there are any duplications. He wanted to know what the Borough manager has done to look at increasing revenue next year. He stated that he and others have set up a watch dog committee made up of business people, citizens, business owners and property owners, they are going to be at every meeting and they will support people that are on council and he will present the committee to council in February.

3. Christopher Croteau - *473 Hamilton Blvd.*

He stated he is hoping for a balanced budget without any tax increase and police or borough layoffs. He was concerned with the latest budget, he feels it is lacking funds in many areas. He was encouraging council to downsize the Borough Manager's raise and eliminate the Finance Director position. He is not in favor of laying off one police officers or Borough employee. He wanted Council to reconsider the 30 hour part-time cap for the police officers.

4. John Pasteur - *25 Dieter Avenue*

He wanted to know if Council was getting rid of the Motor Carrier enforcement officer. He is against removing the officer, he said that it would be a public safety issue and it would be a bad move. He doesn't want to cut more Borough workers jobs. He stated that his street was still sinking and needs to be fixed. He wanted to know about the old Staley's that's being torn down he wanted to know about the dust and air quality and whether or not there was asbestos. He's against cutting the Borough Workers, cutting the Police force for Pubic Safety

5. Donna Wilson - *24 East Post Road*

She thanked Corryn for crowning the (3) Miss Junior Winterfest girls, her mother is very ill and she was out of town. She requested that December 7th, 2019 be approved for Winterfest next year. She wanted to know if police were being cut back how that would affect the parade. She asked Ms. Dreisbach how the truck traffic will be affected on Pennsylvania Avenue if the police are cut. She stated that Officer Luna has made a lot of progress battling the truck traffic. She asked Council not to make cuts in the police department.

6. Jane Burger - *90 West Maple Avenue*

She stated that she was gratified to see that the proposed final budget does not propose any tax increase. She talked about the school taxes being raised and suggests people go to the school board meetings and find out how they are trying to manage their budget. She is not sure why if there is a reduction in officers why the truck enforcement officer would have to patrol because she

remembers when we were down two officer for a period of time, the officer was still able to do truck enforcement. She spoke about the SRO officer and suggested people go to the school board meeting tomorrow and let them know if they think the officer is important and if they should abide by the four years ending June 30th.

7. **Walter Schwedes - 42 West Maple Avenue**

He stated that he and his wife recently retired and moved to Morrisville because the town was affordable and the quality of life was good, it seemed as though the Borough was taking care of its residents and the physical needs of the neighborhoods, also the public safety was reputed to be very good. He is concerned with the recent troubles with the ambulance squad and the proposed cuts to the police department. His oldest son is a Pennsylvania State Trooper and he has lots of insights from him about the dangers of minimum staffing. He feels keeping the police force at its current staffing level is absolutely necessary.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Smith reviewed the list of action items on the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the budget and the budget meeting that was cancelled due to a threat.

Ms. Kronnagel had several questions regarding the budget.

It was decided that the Policy Committee will do research, collect data and bring a recommendation to Council regarding the fire safety inspections, rental program and the Airbnb ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding Code Enforcement and Zoning Enforcement and Fire Marshal.

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

Discussion continued regarding the budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the budget and what is planned for next year to prevent being in the same situation next year.

It was decided that the Finance Committee will be meeting April 25th, 2019 and they will discuss and revisit the Earned Income Tax at that time.

Discussion ensued regarding grants on the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding parking behind the Stockham Building and the possibility of implementing a parking kiosk.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Ms. Smith stated that there will be an executive meeting, there will be no voting. The manager asked for this for personnel, so we will close the meeting and have an executive meeting.

Mr. Yager gave an update on the blighted properties on Park Avenue. He stated that the other properties that were deemed blighted were sent notifications.

Mr. Bowers asked for elaboration on the master plan for Williamson Park and whether or not the engineer was going to do everything.

Ms. Dreisbach stated that the Recreation Advisory Board will not be meeting on Thursday, and the next meeting will be January.

Ms. Kronnagel asked if the people aren't available for the rec board or if there is a reason why the last three meetings have been cancelled.

Mr. Nay talked about the packet of docketed court case that Mayor Rivella put out comparing Lower Makefield, Morrisville and Yardley. Morrisville had 223 criminal, non traffic and traffic docketed cases per officer as opposed to 60 per officer in Lower Makefield. He asked Council again to reconsider cutting the police department.

Mr. Parker stated that the sewer issue that was brought up earlier this evening by a resident is actually in Falls. He stated that he reached out to the Director of the MMA and in short it wasn't sewage or a water leak on our part, it was a business uphill from that location that accidentally during round testing pierced their own water line and it was seeping down and it's been fixed and the groundwater in the area is beginning to dry up. It wasn't sewer water, it was clean water.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Nay and seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49.