



The Morrisville Borough Council met on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via tele-conference for an Emergency Council Meeting.

Mr. Mitchell stated, just as a reminder for folks in case you're watching from home and you're watching the broadcast via cable television, you may need to mute the volume on your TV so it doesn't cause us to have feedback here. For the benefit of any audience we have watching, this is an Emergency Council Meeting, April 29th, 2020, it's being conducted via conference call due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and resulting State of Emergency and we should be getting started with Council by way of phone in just a minute.

Mr. Mitchell stated, Mr. Paul, would you like to get us started or would you like to give it another minute?

Mr. Paul replied, let's get it started.

Mr. Mitchell took roll call.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Bob Paul, Vice President
Justin Bowers
Scott Robinson
Nancy Sherlock
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Dave Rivella, Mayor
Randy Flager, Solicitor
Scott Holbert, Solicitor

Not in Attendance: Ted Parker, President
Eileen Dreisbach
Helen Hlahol
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary
Micah Heitz, Finance Director
Victoria Sullivan, Junior Councilperson

Motion to extend the Emergency Declaration for Morrisville Borough originally issued by the Mayor on March 23rd 2020 and extended by the Borough Council on March 31, 2020 until such a time as the Governor of Pennsylvania lifts the stay-at-home order for Morrisville Borough.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

Seconded by Mr. Paul.

Mr. Mitchell asked, any discussion?

Mr. Bowers asked, you said the Solicitor wrote this?

Mr. Mitchell replied, yes, the Solicitor prepared the motion.

Mr. Bowers stated, I have a question for the solicitor. I'm assuming, I don't think that the Governor has gone through in a Borough by Borough and Township by Township way giving clearance for the stay-at-home or intends to, should we have this revised to be when it is lifted in Bucks County instead of the Borough?

Mr. Flager stated, it is fine, it's the same effect. In other words, we're part of Bucks County. The same home order that would apply to Morrisville Borough, which would have to be Bucks County. Apparently, when they lift the stay, it's going to be County by County. It's a distinction without a difference, but I hear your point, but it has the same effect.

Mr. Paul stated, just to play it safe, rather than do it by acclamation, let's do a roll call vote.

Mr. Mitchell stated, very good, if Mr. Paul is comfortable I will proceed with the roll call.

Mr. Paul stated, I am most comfortable Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Mitchell took roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Mr. Mitchell stated, the motion passes. I don't think there's anything else for tonight, but if Mr. Paul will indulge me for a second, I would like to just remind not only the Council members, but also the viewing public that the 2020 Census is upon us and I was on a call with some folks from the Census Bureau this morning and in Bucks County, apparently Morrisville Borough is rated very low right now in terms of the number of responses received, so we need to amp that up as best we can. The Census is very important especially for small towns like us, so I would encourage the elected officials to please implore all of your constituents to submit their Census questionnaire . With that Mr. Vice President, I have nothing further.

Mr. Paul stated, thank you Mr. Mitchell. I just wanted to thank everybody for dialing in and paying particular attention to this important matter. I want to thank anyone from the public who has managed to dial in and I want to express my gratitude and personal thanks to all those at the Borough Staff and the Municipal Workers and the Police Department and the Fire Department and the First Responders and everyone and the volunteers throughout the community who are doing everything to make this safe, healthy and successful quarantine. Thank you.

Mr. Bowers stated, I was wondering if you would indulge me for a comment and a statement regarding the Emergency Meeting.

Mr. Paul replied, please do.

Mr. Bowers stated, I'd like to suggest that in the future, I mean hopefully because we're doing this and doing it for when the Governor lifts the State of Emergency and this ends, but should we have another emergency meeting I would like to see it advertised at least on our website and posted on the doors at Borough Hall and if we're still practicing social distancing, some sort of I don't know like a clipboard where somebody could sign up and provide a public question or a public comment ahead of time if they're not going to be entering the building.

Mr. Flager stated, it sounds like a reasonable suggestions Mr. Bowers. Mr. Mitchell what do you think?

Mr. Mitchell stated, well we can certainly advertise the emergency meeting on our internal platforms, people can certainly submit questions to us that way or through their various elected officials on the call. It might be frustrating for folks if we advertise a meeting such as this too broadly that people can't get into, but we are broadcasting live on our cable channel and the meeting will be available on the Borough website and our YouTube channel after the fact, but yes, we're able and willing to do anything reasonable to allow for public participation.

Mr. Bowers stated, I know we had planned on possibly next month our regular meeting be via zoom, if it arises that we can't come into the building because of the social distancing, so I'm thinking you know along that line, if we utilize that technology for a regular meeting we should be able to utilize it and incorporate public comment for a future emergency meeting, should we need one.

Mr. Mitchell stated, actually, if I can address Mr. Bowers comment. For purposes of the May meeting, if that meeting needs to take place by way of zoom, we will have conference call capability for public comment purposes at the same time as the zoom

meeting is taking place, because you're conducting normal business at the May meeting, you're not conducting normal business here, you really can't, you're barred from doing so.

Mr. Paul stated, Mr. Mitchell, I'll leave it to you and your capable staff to figure out the technical logistics.

Mr. Mitchell stated, yes, we will have public comment available by teleconference for a zoom meeting in May, should we not be able to meet face to face, so I think we will have accomplished what Mr. Bowers is referring to.

Mr. Paul asked, Ms. Sherlock, do you have a comment?

Ms. Sherlock replied, no, that's all right. I was going to say, we could put that on our website that we will be doing that in the future, but it's already been addressed, so not a problem. Just to let people know that they can contact us through email or the regular Borough channels to be able to come up with a comment, that's all.

Mr. Mitchell stated, if we end up having to do the May meeting by zoom, we're actually going to have it right on the agenda under public comment, instructions on how to participate telephonically.

Mr. Paul stated, before I close the meeting, let me ask you Mr. Mitchell, is there anything that you and your staff need from any of us, is there anything that we can do to make your job easier and make the situation more bearable?

Mr. Mitchell replied, no, I don't think so, other than if everybody keeps our first responders and our hospital employees in their prayers, I think that's about all any of us can do given the circumstances.

Mr. Paul replied, consider it done. Any further comments or questions? Can I have a motion to adjourn?

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.