



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019
7:00 P.M.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, December 16, 2019 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, please rise for a moment of silence and our Pledge of Allegiance.

Scott Mitchell took roll call.

Those in Attendance:

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

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Adam Flager, Solicitor
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Junior Councilperson: Victoria Sullivan

Not Present: Dave Rivella, Mayor
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary

Motion 4A - Motion to appoint Victoria Sullivan as our Junior Councilperson.

Motion made by Ms. Kronnagel.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Junior Councilperson Victoria Sullivan was sworn in.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Kurt Holthenrichs – *300 Melvin Court*

He stated that he wanted to thank Ms. Larison and Ms. Smith for their years of service on the dais. They've worked hard, they've sacrificed not just the time they spent on committees and on the Council, but in the community, cleanups, beautification, they spent their own money to make things nicer and we do truly thank you for your time. He hopes that everything keeps moving forward with the grants and the beautification, we want to keep this thing going, no matter who's up there.

2. Hussam Jallad – *45 Ridge Avenue*

He thanked everyone for all the work they have done. He is hoping there is transparency and transition between the new team and the old team with the issues that matter to him and he hopes they keep addressing those issues. I hope we all try to be engaged and try to have a better Morrisville and a better community.

3. Bill Minder – 423 Crown Street

He stated that after one year, his street is still not fixed. He's going to put it on his Christmas list and hopefully they will do it next year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their service.

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

MINUTES

Motion 6A – 6B - Motion to approve the Borough Council meeting minutes of November 7, 2019 and November 12, 2019.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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 8-0.

REPORTS

Junior Councilperson – Victoria Sullivan – She stated that she would like to thank everyone who made this possible. I am really excited to take up this position and I am really looking forward to seeing how this pans out. I’m really excited. Thank you so much.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion 9A - Motion to adopt the 2020 Salary Schedule.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith stated, I have a motion and a second, any questions on the motion? Can we have a roll call?

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9B - Motion to adopt the 2020 Final Budget.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions on the motion? Roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9C - Motion to adopt the 2020 Tax Levy Resolution.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments on this motion? Roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9D - Motion to adopt a Resolution amending the boundaries of the Morrisville Town Center Redevelopment Area Plan and adopting a Redevelopment Proposal prepared by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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.

Motion 9E - Motion to adopt an Ordinance amending certain C-1 District provisions of the Zoning Ordinance per the recommendations of the Morrisville Borough Planning Commission and the Bucks County Planning Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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.

Motion 9F - Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing a grant application to the PA Small Water and Sewer Program through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$122,007.95 towards the improvement of the Melvin Avenue basin and to authorize the appropriate Borough officials to execute the necessary documents.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Mr. Parker.

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.

Motion 9G - Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing a grant application to the Growing Greener Plus Grants Program through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$122,007.95 towards the improvement of the Melvin Avenue basin and to authorize the appropriate Borough officials to execute the necessary documents.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Bowers.

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.

Motion 9H - Motion to approve millage payment in the amount of \$6,000 to Capital Health as final payment per the EMS Fund as of 12/31/19.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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.

Motion 9I - Motion to approve millage payment in the amount of \$11,012 to the Morrisville Fire Company, as final payment per the Fire Fund as of 12/31/19.

Motion made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Bowers.

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.

Motion 9J - Motion to make appointments: Civil Service Commission (2 Alternate positions).

Motion to nominate Clay Aberts made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, can I have a roll call please?

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Ms. Smith asked for a nomination for the second open position for alternate.

Motion to nominate Jane Burger made by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Smith asked, can I have a roll call please?

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mr. Yager stated, I'd like to thank everybody on Council in general but those of us who will not be here come January, thank you for your service, specifically Ms. Larison and Ms. Smith, it's been a crazy ride. There's a lot of good that's come out of the last two years, seeing roads being paved, projects getting off the ground, some projects getting finished. It's been a long time for Morrisville and I think we showed that a budget can be balanced and things can be fixed, and I think that was an important lesson for all of us. Thanks for helping us.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I'd also like to thank Debbie Smith and Danielle Larison for the amazing job they've done on Council. It's been a pleasure to work with them and I'm going to miss them. It's been great to see all the amazing things that have been done in town since they've been on Council, and I hope it continues. I'd also like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ms. Larison stated, it's been a wild ride. Four years, it's been great. I've met a lot of wonderful people and I wouldn't change a thing. It was a great four years for us. We really accomplished a lot and I'm proud to say that I was a member of Morrisville Borough Council. It's also sad that sometimes friends come and go and you just get beat up when you're on Council, but it's okay, you have to have thick skin to be up

here and it's sad that those things have happened, but sometimes it's for the best. I hope going forward that the incoming Council really takes the opportunity to learn the Borough Code, attends the classes and sucks up as much knowledge as you possibly can, because it's hard, it's not easy, at all, so I wish the incoming Councilmembers nothing but the best. I hope that they do the right thing for the entire community not just someone who's a Democrat or someone who is a Republican, for everyone as a whole. That is my wish for the incoming Council. Can it be done, we don't know, I guess we'll have to wait and see. I hope someone tends to see where the Mayor is, because I find it pretty sad that for the last six or seven meetings he hasn't been here. His constituents voted him in and yet he's been missing, but he had a photo opportunity and he made sure that he made it, so I find that very sad for the residents for the entire Borough. When you take that oath, you take that oath wholeheartedly, not just for whenever you feel like or whenever the wind blows. So for everyone, thank you, it's been a great time and I wish you all nothing but the best. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Nay stated, thanks Danielle and Debbie for your service. I'd like to thank this Council also for the opportunity to allow the red bridge to be redone. We'll be reopening this weekend, we owe a debt of gratitude also to Toll Brothers, Home Depot, I believe it's NJS Concrete who will be donating some concrete to us, Cunningham Hardware contributed to this project, Steven Lieby, Fred Kerner, Richard Vasvilla who consulted Josh Gradwhol and his wife Lynn Vogel. A lot of people contributed and I think it's going to be a very nice project when it's done. We're looking to reopen this weekend. I'm hoping with regards to the new Council coming in, I hope Mr. Mitchell, we will be seeing you again next year, it's been great working with you. I guess the only other thing I would add is, if there's anyone who's been considering getting involved with public service, I'd like to speak out to maybe people that are either retired or semi-retired, there's a wealth of information and experience in this community right here, we have people retired from Federal, State, Local Government, Captains of Industry. If anybody would like any information, you're welcome to reach out to me or even to the elections board in Bucks County. As Danielle pointed out, it's a very hard position up here, but it's rewarding being

able to be involved in your community and have some say in the direction that the community is going in. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and thank you very much.

Ms. Smith stated, for me, I just want to thank the Morrisville residents for the honor of being able to serve the community for the last eight years. It's something that is rewarding as well as hard, but those rewards I think are greater because you've seen what you could do to help the town. I want to thank the Council that has worked together in the last couple years to really move that notch forward for Morrisville. A lot of the tools that were just put in place are so important for the revitalization of the town, from the LERTA program to the Redevelopment Authority and how it's handling that Stockham Building, the Comprehensive Plan that the Planning Commission is working on, the Road Program. It's been a lot of really good projects that are going through. Patriots Park is well on its way, Melvin Avenue Basin, we were fortunate to get the kind of money that we did to get that taken care of or it would have been out of tax dollars to do it. I want to thank everyone for working together on those projects and I hope that the new Council will continue with these projects and move that notch a little further. I wish them the best and represent us well. Not everyone's going to like everything that you do, just do the best that you can for Morrisville. I'm going to say something to Ted who's been working with me for Patriots Park since day one. I'm counting on you, okay. Get it over the finish line with everyone. For everyone sitting there in the audience, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Hanukkah, whatever you celebrate with your family. The most important thing besides any of this is your family and your friends, that is the gift that you get from the Lord, so make sure that you keep that here, that's the most important thing, this comes second. Have a wonderful holiday season everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Yager and seconded by Ms. Larison.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.