



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019
7:00 P.M.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, July 15, 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, we'll start with a moment of silence and then 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
Michael Levin, Solicitor
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Not Present: Dave Rivella, Mayor

Mr. Levin stated, after tonight's agenda meeting items, we are going to have an executive session regarding some personnel issues.

Ms. Smith stated, I'm going to be removing 9C from the agenda to the August meeting. 9C was a motion to approve the changes in the library bylaws to reflect that

the board members must be residents of Morrisville Borough. She also stated, I am also moving 9E to the beginning of the meeting to adopt the Resolution to recognize Monsignor Eckert so that it is done before I actually read the Resolution and it's voted on.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Motion 9E - Motion to adopt the Resolution recognizing Monsignor John C. Eckert for 25 years of outstanding service to Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church and the Morrisville Borough Community.

Motion made by Mr. Nay.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith asked, all in favor? Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Ms. Smith read the Resolution.

Monsignor Eckert stated, thank you, it's so hard to put into words, to be commended for what you like to do, what I really should be doing, it's really very humbling to say the least. But I remember when I was a young priest I used to tell my parents whenever you get to heaven, presuming you're going get there before me, make sure I get a nice little parish where I can get to know people and people can get to know me and it certainly came true with coming to Holy Trinity 25 years ago. I could have retired last month and gone to the priest home in Darby, but it never even really crossed my mind, I just can't leave Morrisville. It's just home, I buried -- I looked over a thousand people in Morrisville since I've been here, I touched so many others through baptisms or first communions, marriages, hundreds of marriages and looking out on a Sunday it's like every face has a story behind it after all these years and it's just family, that's all I can say. It's actually jut my family here I have a nephew and a niece, I'm very close to them, but this has really become my family. I used to think that well when I get to be 75, I'll just leave and go all over the country like the Lone

Ranger helping out in other parishes. I can't leave, I just can't leave Morrisville, it's just my home, I love to be here, I hope to be here for a few more years. Thank you very much, God bless you. Thank you.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Kurt Holthenrichs – *300 Melvin Court N.*

He stated, he hopes that the Melvin Avenue Basin gets the attention it needs, since equipment over the winter tore up ruts and damaged the curbs. He stated that National Night Out is August 6th 6:00-9:00 at Williamson Park.

2. Bill Minder – *423 Crown Street*

He stated that on July 6th and July 10th he sent an email to the Borough regarding paving that was done on Crown Street, he feels the Borough street sweeper should come clean it because it has lots of glass and debris. He stated that no one responded to his email, he should have received a phone call or email. He invited everyone to drive by his house and see how bad the road is there.

3. Bill Farrell – *347 N. Pennsylvania Avenue*

He wanted to know if all the arrears for sanitation has been collected. He stated that the three main things in town that concern him are the police, fire department and the ambulance squad, those are the agencies that save lives and those are the things that should be properly taken care of. He talked about the elections coming up in the borough and the country. He encouraged people to get to know some of the information about the people who are running for office local and over the country.

Discussion ensued regarding arrears sanitation collection.

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

MINUTES

Motion 6A - Motion to approve the Borough Council meeting minutes of May 20, 2019 and June 17, 2019.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions on this motion? 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 Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions on the bill list? Can we have a roll when you're ready?

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9A - Motion to reauthorize the resolution to become a business partner in PennDOT's ECMS.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments on this motion? All in favor? Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote call 8-0.

Motion 9B - Motion to reject the 2019 Melvin Avenue Basin Retrofit bid based on the recommendation of the Borough Engineer.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, all in favor? Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Motion 9C - Motion to approve an amendment to the bylaws for the Public Library requiring members of the Library Board to be residents of Morrisville Borough.

Motion was removed and will be put on next months agenda.

Motion 9D – Library Board Appointment: One (1) appointment to fill the open position with an unexpired term to expire on March 1, 2021

Motion to nominate Georgia Cinq-Mars made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, any other nominations? I will ask for a roll call, yes or no for Georgia Cinq-Mars.

Motion to appoint Georgia Cinq-Mars carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9F - Motion to authorize adding Heart and Lung Act insurance coverage to our existing insurance policy beginning the next renewal period.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Seconded by Mr. Parker.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments on the motion?

Discussion ensued regarding Heart and Lung Act.

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

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9G - Motion to approve the event date of August 6, 2019 for the annual Night Out event in Williamson Park.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments on this motion? All in favor? Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Motion 9H – Motion authorizing the Morrisville Senior Servicenter, Inc. to place a new illuminated sign on Borough property as designated at the municipal parking lot adjacent to 31 East Cleveland Avenue subject to review and approval by the Zoning Hearing Board. Subject to final oversight with the Borough Manager for hours of operation.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith asked, any comments on this motion? Can I have a roll call on this?

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9I – Motion to amend the Fee Schedule to include a \$150.00 application fee for the Short Term Lodging Facilities Ordinance.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, any comments on this motion?

Discussion ensued regarding enforcing the Short Term Lodging Facilities Ordinance.

Ms. Smith asked, can we have a roll call?

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

Motion 9J - Motion to approve refund of 2019 property taxes, in the amount of \$1,199.25 to Anthony and Flora Simpson of 221 West Trenton Avenue, Parcel# 24-008-054, due to tax exempt status.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Ms. Kronnagel wanted to thank Debby Colgan for her 21 years of service to the MEAC. If you get a chance, check out the preserve which is at the corner of Philadelphia and South Delmorr, she was really an important part of that happening. If you have an interest in the environment, please feel free to check out the MEAC meetings, they are open to the public. August 17th is the Morrisville United Drug Rally and March, we meet behind Giant at 9:00 a.m. and we go down to the park, there will be a band, speakers and vendors. August 18th is the Jazz Fest at Williamson Park and that starts at noon. These events are on Facebook, but if anyone has any questions about either of these events they can reach out to me. She asked Mr. Mitchell if there was a date for the first budget meeting.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he wasn't sure if there was a date on the budget development calendar that was distributed to council back in January, but if not council can set any dates it chooses.

Discussion ensued regarding setting a date for a budget meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding putting a motion to hire a part-time officer on the agenda.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the new Welcome to Morrisville Borough signs were installed on Trenton Avenue thanks to the Public Works Department and the folks who donated them. We are considering the replacement of one or two more, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in donating that to the Borough, that would be wonderful, please let me know.

Mr. Bowers stated, on July 28th the Friends of the Morrisville Dog Park will be holding a pool party at the dog park, so if your dogs like water, feel free to bring them by from 1:00-3:00.

Council took a recess at 7:47 p.m.

Council went into executive session at 8:00 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

Mr. Levin stated, during executive session council discussed a pending personnel matter within the Police Department.

Ms. Smith stated, there will be two motions added to the agenda.

Motion 9K - Motion to hire Gary Forrester as a Part-Time Police Officer for the Morrisville Police Department.

Motion made by Mr. Nay.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Ms. Smith stated, roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Motion 9L - Motion to immediately suspend Corporal Michael Pitcher with pay pursuant to the Confidence in Law Enforcement Act.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. Levin stated, there are specific due process rights that a police officer has even when accused of a crime you know in our system even though you're accused you're still presumed innocent. Under the statute in question the Confidence in Law Enforcement Act at this point in time, the only action that's appropriate and in conformance with the statute is to suspend the officer with pay. There are certain other steps that are to be taken to afford him due process rights after which council can make a more fully informed judgement as to whether any further employment action is necessary.

Ms. Smith stated, roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.