



MEETING MINUTES  
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, May 20, 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, during our moment of silence, I would ask you to remember Michelle Fina, she was the Director at the Morrisville YMCA who passed away suddenly on vacation last week. Also, Virginia Cyphers, our Borough Assistant Secretary, her father just passed away, so please remember these families in your thoughts and prayers during our moment of silence. We will do our moment of silence and our Pledge of Allegiance and then we'll begin.

Scott Mitchell 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: Dave Rivella, Mayor  
Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager  
Michael Levin, Solicitor  
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Junior Councilperson: Garrett Foy

Not Present: Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary

Mr. Levin stated, we recently had an executive session following the agenda meeting last week just to discuss a personnel issue and potential litigation matter.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Chris Cap, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs presented Junior Councilperson, Garrett Foy with a plaque in recognition of his Junior Councilperson position for the 2018-2019 year.

Robin Robinson, Bucks County Recorder of Deeds, gave a presentation on the Adopt A Book Project which involves restoring old deed books.

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

1. John Eperjesi – *100 Grove Street*

He stated that we have almost no industry in this town and trucks go down Philadelphia Ave and Pennsylvania Ave and they are only using those streets to bypass the Falls Township check system. He was concerned that those trucks are tearing up the streets. He said that he is woken up at night because trucks are using jake brakes without mufflers and we have an ordinance in town. He said there seems to be a disregard for the light at Bridge and Delmorr, he said that people don't stop or slow down while making a right hand turn on red. He said there is drug dealing going on at Dairy Queen's parking lot. He said that he has less chlorine in his pool then he does in his tap water.

2. Holly Harman – *Hillside Avenue*

She wanted to know what the policy was on political signs on public property such as Williamson Park.

3. Kurt Holthenrichs – *300 Melvin Court*

He thanked Robin Robinson for the work she is doing with the deed books. He was glad that they applied for a grant for a roof at the library. He told everyone to get out and vote tomorrow and to enjoy the Memorial Day weekend.

4. Jane Burger – *90 West Maple Avenue*

She enjoyed the presentation with the Recorder of Deeds. The Morrisville Business Association wants to thank the Borough of Morrisville for allowing us to close Bridge Street for the Car Show. She also wanted to thank the Morrisville Fire Company and the Morrisville Police Department for assisting with the event. She also wanted to thank everyone who participated.

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

MINUTES

**Motion 6A and 6B** - Motion to approve the Borough Council meeting minutes of April 9, 2019 and April 15, 2019.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

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

**Motion** carried by voice vote 8-0.

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**ACTION ITEMS**

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

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

Ms. Smith asked, any questions or comments on the motion? Can we have a roll call please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 8-0.

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**REPORTS**

**Mayor Dave Rivella** – He stated, good evening everyone. He wanted to thank Cunningham’s Hardware, Councilman Parker and Councilman Nay for their help with the annual Canal Cleanup as well as everyone else who came out. He wanted to thank Naturalist Mary Ann and the EAC for putting together the Riverfront Preserve walking tour. Regarding the Police Department, the council is aware along with the 30 hour threshold and we also currently have an officer who is unable to fill shifts, these are a couple of factors that must be taken into consideration if we want to continue to maintain two officers on the street at all times. He made the recommendation/ request that he’d like to see the 30 hour limit revisited. They have a hard time staffing patrols with two officers. He wanted to thank Chief McClay, in addition to him helping out on Super Bowl Sunday, he also helped on Easter Sunday. The council will see an increase in the department’s overtime budget very soon because we are forced to use full-time officers that work to cover these shifts at overtime rate. As in the past we’ve asked to allow the part-time officers to work more so that’s something that’s up to Council. I would like Council to revisit the sheer amount of part-time officers we have. There is a huge cost savings when an officer covers these shifts, the part-time or per diem, whichever you choose. Now it is true that there is a \$400 clothing allowance per part-time officer but the Borough saves \$500.00 per 12-hour shift by using a per diem officer over a full-time officer on overtime. I don’t know if we ever actually gave that number out so I wanted to

mention it. Like I said, I would like to see a motion to increase from eight up. Also, I think the council is aware that we did just have one of our part-time officers resign recently, so we're down one. He did take a job for full-time employment. Lastly, I see that there's a motion 9J for the DCED staff study, I did submit paperwork for that a few months ago, actually I think it was in October. If the Borough needs it again, if that motion passes I'd be happy. Regarding 9D, the Morrisville Labor Day Picnic, there's a vote for the 2019 picnic. Over the years the picnic has been organized by different folks beginning with the Arts from everyone from the Arts and Events Committee to Mayors to even one time there was a Borough employee at one point. Although it has not taken place every year, it remains one of the longest-running events in our Borough. The picnic is not a personal event, it's not the Dave Rivella event or the Mayor's event, it's a Borough event put together by the community, but it has a funding component. In the past, the picnic had its own \$2,000.00 budget line. In organizing it over the years, my wife and I we were actually able to cut that down in half. If need be, my wife and I are willing to step up for the 2019 picnic and organize it, however, there would need to be an added cost to the event of \$1,000.00, so if that's the intent, I'd like to see that in the motion. Of course it's not all bad news because if that's not the way the council wants to go there is the Recreation Board in place, they've been around for over a year now. They have funding revenue source. Lastly, I like to conclude by congratulating a couple of people, I just did their wedding, it was actually right here and some people saw it so I'd like to congratulate Julianne who I call Jay so that was actually one of the trickier parts in the wedding to call her by her real name and of course her new husband Andrew, so congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony.

There was discussion about the 30 hour cap for the part-time police officers.

There was discussion about putting up a motion for hiring more part-time police officers.

**Junior Councilperson – Garrett Foy** – He stated, good evening Council members, as we approach the end of my school year, I couldn't be more thankful to have been blessed with the opportunity to be a part of the council and see what it is like to be a

council member. This is my last week of the school year and my graduation is quickly approaching. Looking back, I'm so happy to have been able to attend all these meetings and learn so much. Thank you council members for allowing me to be a part of the council and thank you for the potential future opportunities you have all given me. Thank you.

### ACTION ITEMS

**Motion 9A** - Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$132,137.40 to the Morrisville Fire Company, as per 2019 Fire Fund Budget, contingent upon receipt of their 2018 Financial Statement and Audit.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call 8-0.

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**Motion 9B** - Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$71,992.20 to Capital Health EMS, as per the 2019 EMS Fund Budget, contingent upon receipt of their 2018 Financial Statement and Audit.

**Motion** made by Mr. Parker.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call 8-0.

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**Motion 9C** - Motion to approve co-sponsorship of the 2019 Memorial Day Parade with the Morrisville Fire Company and approval of a \$1,800 payment as budgeted.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call 8-0.

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**Motion 9D** - Motion to approve the Morrisville Labor Day Picnic to be held in Williamson Park on Monday, 9/2/19, with a rain date of Saturday, 9/7/19 with a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 8-0.

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**Motion 9E** - Motion to accept the Borough and Library annual 2018 audits as previously presented by the auditing firm, Barbacane, Thornton & Company, LLP.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Ms. Smith asked, roll call please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 8-0.

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**Motion 9F** - Motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Borough Engineer to submit a Keystone Grant Application for replacement of the Library Roof.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

Ms. Smith asked, roll call on that please?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 8-0.

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**Motion 9G** - Motion to accept the Resolution #PC-2019-01 of the Morrisville Borough Planning Commission to declare the property located at 22 Delaware Avenue, Morrisville, PA, as a blighted property.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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

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

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**Motion 9H** - Motion to accept Resolution #PC-2019-02 of the Morrisville Borough Planning Commission to declare the property located at 1124 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Morrisville, PA, as a blighted property.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, roll call please?

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

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**Motion 9I** - Motion to adopt an Ordinance regulating Short Term Lodging Facilities and establishing standards for such facilities situated within Morrisville Borough.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith asked, and questions or comments on this motion? Can I have a roll call please?

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



**Motion 9J** - Motion to authorize the DCED to conduct a management study of the Police Department.

**Motion** made by Mr. Nay.

Seconded by Mr. Parker.

**Motion** to table by Ms. Dresibach

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, can I have a roll call on the motion to table?

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 5-3. (Nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel, Mr. Nay and Mr. Parker)

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### BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Ms. Smith stated, the Memorial Day Parade begins at 9:00 a.m. this Monday. They all line up at the Presbyterian Church. She invited all of council to walk together. She reminded everyone that the June 11<sup>th</sup> Agenda meeting was cancelled due to the PSAB Conference. The bench dedication was done at the Senior Center for the Solt Family and for Judge Burns. The families were able to place the plaques on the benches that day and it was a beautiful day. There was a total of \$6,452.00 raised by families, friends and some businesses and no taxpayer dollars were used for that. The Director of the Senior Center said that he was glad to partner with us and that we can help out with any of their fundraisers anytime. She wanted to thank the Beautification Committee members, Eileen and Danielle for working with her and tons of volunteers that organized, shopped, cooked, served and cleaned up in the fall time to get that done.

Ms. Kronnagel asked if council was going to have early budget meetings to discuss the budget, and if so, when are those planned.

Mr. Mitchell replied, I believe we laid out a budget development calendar for 2020 to council, I believe it was distributed to you back in January and it is the calendar we intend to follow through the end of the year unless council directs us otherwise.

Ms. Kronnagel requested that the Finance Director and Borough Manager attend at least one of the budget meetings this year.

Mr. Yager stated that he was starting to see some activity at 32 West Bridge Street and he noticed on the engineer's report that there is another final plan. He asked Borough Manager Scott Mitchell if there is anything that's keeping that project from moving forward.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the most recent version that came through did receive a conditional approval, but there are some things to button up and to finalize, but most of that is on the applicant.

Mr. Bowers asked if the Solicitor would provide an update for the public on the house on Delmorr Avenue with the zoning issue.

Mike Levin replied that he can't address whatever Keystone is doing in terms of their current efforts on zoning code enforcement. As far as he knows there's been a cease and desist order issued – it's basically a recovery house that tried to get a variance to allow it in the R2 Residential District they were turned down by the zoning hearing board, they never repealed, they just basically commenced operation.

Mr. Bowers stated that council got in their packets a schedule of the proposed paving projects around town and he wanted to know if it could be posted on the website so residents could get an approximate time when actual paving is going to start.

Mr. Mitchell replied, as soon as he is comfortable that the schedule is final, he will make it public.

Mr. Nay stated that he was looking at the LERTA and Enterprise Zone Map and he was wondering what is considered an Enterprise Zone. He asked if the LERTA is just for tax help with new businesses.

Mr. Nay asked, how the Borough can declare the property at Delmorr and Bridge Street an Enterprise Zone if we don't own it.

Mr. Mitchell replied, we don't own any of those properties in the Enterprise Zone.

Discussion ensued regarding the Enterprise Zone and the possible expansion of the boundaries that the RDA is proposing.

Mr. Parker stated that it is EMS Week and he would like to wish a Happy EMS Week to all those who serve the communities as paramedics, EMTs and First Responders. He stated that the night shift at his hospital in Jersey City did 130 calls for service, 302 contacts in a 12-hour period with four units for the bulk of the shift a fifth unit coming on about half way, that is 32 transports in a 12 hour period. They barely had enough time to use the restroom and run out and take another call, that is what EMTs and paramedics and first responders do every day. I wish them a Happy EMS Week.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the roof repair at the Library is done and they are hoping to get a good number of years out of it.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** to adjourn.

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach and seconded by Mr. Yager.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.