



The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, November 18, 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  
Corryn Kronnagel  
David Nay  
Ted Parker  
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager  
Michael Levin, Solicitor  
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

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

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**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Donna Wilson stated that the Winterfest parade will be Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Participants will line up at the parking lot at the church located on West Post Road and Ohio Avenue at 9:00 a.m. The parade is being hosted by Hot Rides in Morrisville. She thanked Chief McClay and his officers that will be closing certain intersections during the parade. There are spots available in the parade if any organization or company would like to join us, the only rule is no one dresses like Santa, because Santa will be at the end of the parade. You can contact me at [shotomom@comcast.net](mailto:shotomom@comcast.net) or 267-566-2199. She announced the Winterfest nominations, Jr. Miss Winterfest, Olivia Pasteur, Jr. Mr. Winterfest, Gavin Zelonka, Miss Winterfest, Mya Faichney and Mr. Winterfest, Jack Pilla.

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

1. Kathryn Panzitta – *401 Hillcrest Avenue*

She stated that in reviewing the proposed budget, she noticed that the tax assessment value was the exact same for the years 2019 and 2020. She questions the tax assessment rate. She stated that during the previous meeting there were never assumption projections how the fund balances were calculated. She would like to see a grant authorization timeline and all the assumptions that were put into that piece of paper, explained.

2. Deborah Colgan – *120 W. Hendrickson Avenue*

She stated the voters of Morrisville clearly expressed our disapproval of the current council's management of Borough affairs. You've been voted out. Therefore any actions to change zoning must be tabled. It is irresponsible for a lame-duck council to vote on this issue. It does not make sense to designate current open space parcels for commercial development when we have an increasing number of vacant buildings just a block or two down the same street. The newest building ever built in Morrisville has never been fully occupied. Why would we put new buildings, put up new buildings and let the others remain empty? Is

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Council abandoning its own downtown? The southern end of Williamson Park offers a wide variety of possibilities that can provide a beautiful entryway to our town. The 2009 Open Space Plan calls for these parcels to remain open space. An about-face on this issue needs extensive public discussion with the newly elected Council members. Listen to the residents and hear what we have to say before any of these decisions are made.

3. Mary Hrenda – *343 Crown Street*

She stated she would like to echo Debbie's sentiments about the propriety of this Council voting on this zoning change, it was clearly proposed in order to facilitate the development in Williamson Park that is a really big thing for Morrisville. Morrisville voters have elected new Council members who may want to go in an entirely different direction. Another reason why I don't think you should vote on this is that many of the people of Morrisville and I know it because I've talked to them and other people that I know have talked to them do not even know that this development is proposed and I think it's essential that the community be involved. I understand that before you had the public presentation that the whole thing had been in the works for a year and the word just leaked out from residents that had been approached and so it's been a very opaque process, it needs transparency, it needs to inform the residents of the Borough who may or may not want it. Therefore, I urge you not to vote on this proposal for revision of C1 and adding the parcels in Williamson Park to the C1 District that is totally inappropriate, this is supposed to be open space.

4. Donald Rice – *343 Crown Street*

He stated that he was requesting that Council take no decision on the rezoning that Council is scheduled to vote upon later in the meeting. The rezoning request seems inappropriate given that you're just caving right into the Joe McGrath Development. Every one of the parcels that are along Bridge Street up to Delmorr and around the corner on Delmorr are

the parcels that he wants. Those parcels, that zoning has been residential forever. The only reason to rezone it and also add to the zoning an exemption for parking you're not going to ask for any parking on those parcels so the only reason you're going to be doing it is because Joe McGrath wants it. Why are you giving into Joe McGrath at this point in the process, you're supposed to hear from us before you take up any issues such as rezoning with the Council. If you continue with this, it's just going to give the appearance that the fix is in and that you really don't care what we as the public think about this. Give the public a chance to inform your decision, if after hearing what the public has to say you choose to make a decision like that fine but this Council is not prepared to do that, you're a lame-duck Council and you don't have the time to hear from the public. Finally, just want to add something that it's more to do with where I live, I live on Crown street at the end of Crown Street we have a smoke shop and we got a hookah lounge, anybody know what a hookah lounge is? Well, if you live on Crown Street, you do. Ask the police department about the hookah lounge, how many times they have to go down there. Rezone that back to residential and take away its commercial zoning, you're only adding to Morrisville's woes by allowing business like that, you're not helping us.

5. Jane Burger – *90 W. Maple Avenue*

She stated that on the agenda tonight you have two items 9L and 9M which the Council is authorizing the completion and submission of grants I mention that because that is the procedure, that is the way to go no matter who sits on the dais, the Council is the governing body and when grants are submitted, council certainly needs to know that it's happening. There may or may not be a match, there may be administrative costs. There may be something and you really need to know what's being done. I mention this because I went to the school board meeting in October and it was announced that the school district received a considerable grant, which would also involve Holy Trinity for violence protection safety things for the students which sounds like a very good thing but they

didn't know what programs are being approved because they really hadn't been contacted yet from the Mayor to understand what was in the grant. I asked because I've been to meetings and there's never been an authorization for anything the Borough would submit on behalf of the school district and they said well the Mayor and the Chief of Police worked on the grants and it was submitted. Now whatever the politics, I really take offense to this, I'll call it a secret grant preparation, something that is done to bypass all of you, and that is not something that should be condoned. Once again, our Mayor is not here, the grant application is a public document and so is the award letter and I will be down to do a Right To Know, and whoever has it, I hope they make it available to the public because I think we need to know what has been done, who has signed that grant, what date it was done and what obligations have been made to this Borough. I'm hoping there's anything financial that also will be covered by the grant and covered by the school district. We are both strapped financially, but we are both separate entities and we really cannot subsidize each other and I am truly offended that this was done in this manner. How you do something is just as important as what you want to do, the ends do not always justify the means and I think some officials are out of control.

6. Paul Karsevar – *122 W. Palmer Street*

He stated, lame-duck session definition, an elected official continuing to hold office during the period between an election and inauguration of a successor. Half of you will not be here come January. I'll make this reference, the vote tonight regarding the zoning possible change is akin to a Shel Silverstein story, the giving tree where the boy keeps taking from the tree, taking from the tree until there's no more to give. By passing the zoning ordinance, you will start the process of taking from the park, the process will keep going until it can give no longer, just the stump to sit on, is that what we want?

7. Bill Minder – 423 Crown Street

He stated, it's been a year now and they haven't fixed the street yet, that's all I'm going to say about that. I don't think all the people of Morrisville knew what they were doing at election time, because there are people that were voted out that shouldn't have been, they only voted them out because they're against Trump and Republicans. I want to thank you all and have a nice Thanksgiving.

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

Mr. Mitchell stated, the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance are not new and have been in the works for three and a half years, going back to the MEDI Study by the Bucks County Planning Commission.

MINUTES

**Motion 6A – 6B** - Motion to approve the Borough Council meeting minutes of October 8, 2019 and October 21, 2019.

**Motion** made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Mr. Parker.

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 Ms. Dreisbach.

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.

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**Motion 9A** - Motion to adopt the Proposed 2020 Budget.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed 2020 budget.

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

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

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**Motion 9B** - Motion to adopt the 2020 Fee Schedule.

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith stated, I have a motion and a second, any questions on the motion? Roll call please.

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

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**Motion 9C** - Motion to approve the Borough 2020 Holiday Schedule.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

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

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

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**Motion 9D** - Motion to approve the Borough 2020 Meeting Schedule.

**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.

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**Motion 9E** - Motion to approve the Public Library 2020 Holiday Schedule.

**Motion** made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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.

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**Motion 9F** - Motion to approve the Public Library 2020 Meeting Schedule.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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.

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**Motion 9G** - Motion to approve entering into a one year agreement with Hough Associates to collect and submit the 2019 Recycling Performance Grant data for \$3,000.

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**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.

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**Motion 9H** - Motion to adopt an Ordinance amending the 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. Yager.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

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

Discussion ensued regarding amending the C-1 District provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 7-1 (nay vote being Mr. Parker).

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**Motion 9I** - Motion to adopt a new Internal Affairs Policy for the Police Department.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 6-2 (nay votes being Mr. Nay and Mr. Parker).

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**Motion 9J** - Motion to approve a new five year (2020 to 2024) Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFSCME.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

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Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

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

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 7-0 with 1 abstention (abstention being Mr. Parker).

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**Motion 9K** - Motion to authorize the Administration to enter into a new energy supplier agreement per the recommendation of PSAB's preferred energy broker APPI Energy.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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.

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**Motion 9L** - Motion to authorize the completion and submission of an application for PennDOT MTF Funding in the amount of \$280,000 to underwrite certain application of new sidewalks and ADA ramps along W. Bridge Street from Althea Avenue to Cox Avenue.

**Motion** made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

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.

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**Motion 9M** - Motion to authorize the completion and submission of an application for PennDOT MTF Funding in the amount of \$327,805 to underwrite installation of new audible and visible pedestrian traffic signals, mast arms, video and dilemma zone detection equipment and preemption systems at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Trenton Avenue.

**Motion** made by Ms. Larison.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

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.

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**Motion 9N** - Motion to hire a Part-Time Police Officer and to increase the manning table to reflect nine part-time Police Officer positions. The Officer's name is John J. Kenny III.

**Motion** made by Mr. Nay.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

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

Discussion ensued regarding hiring a part time police officer and increasing the manning table.

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

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

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to discuss this evening.

**BOROUGH OFFICIALS**

Ms. Smith stated, there are positions coming up for boards and committees and they are listed on our website. I have received a couple of emails from residents asking me about them. If anyone wishes to submit a letter of interest for any of these they can do so. The Planning Commission has a seat open 12/31/19, there are two seats coming up on the Environmental Advisory Council in December and the Civil Service alternate expired in October and the MMA has a position coming up in January. It is posted on the website, so anyone can go on and take a look at them.

Mr. Nay stated, he wanted to give an update on the red bridge. He asked the Borough Manager if it was posted on the Borough website and Facebook page about it being closed November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he would send over a photo that he took of the sign on the bridge and that this past weekend he, Stephen Libey and Josh Gradwohl did quite a bit of sanding and that there's really some beautiful wood and that the oak is amazing. They will be looking to paint at the end of this week and next weekend in order to have everything painted before we put it into place. He asked John Later if he was good with barricades.

Mr. Parker stated, the Elks on Bridge Street have two events that are open to the public. One is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November from 6:00-8:00 p.m., it's their monthly rib dinner, it's \$10.00 and it's recommended that if you want ribs that you make reservations and the number is 215-295-5333. You can also find that event on their Facebook page. On the 24th, they have their monthly breakfast buffet which is from 8:00 to noon, it includes eggs, bacon sausage, port roll, chip beef, french toast and coffee and juice. It's all-you-can-eat, and that's \$10.00.

Ms. Kronnagel stated, just a reminder that the annual breakfast is at the high school this Thanksgiving and the football game is away at Bristol, so go Bulldogs.

Mr. Yager stated, after the Winterfest Parade they go to the high school and the Rotary Club serves food. It's always a good time and we always get a good turnout at the high school.

Ms. Smith stated, if anybody signed a grant that has to go through the municipality in any way, it's not going through the school, there will be an issue with that because the only ones that can authorize money to be put through the municipal budget would be the Council voting on that and we didn't vote on anything so that would be a problem, if that's true.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

To: Virginia Cyphers  
Borough Secretary  
Borough of Morrisville  
35 Union Street  
Morrisville, PA 19067

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to Section 1103(j) of the Ethics Act, please be advised that it is my intention to abstain from voting on the AFSCME contract for consideration by Borough Council at its <sup>November 18, 2019</sup> ~~October 14, 2019~~ meeting. I am a member of AFSCME and also a Local president.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 1103(a) of the Ethics Act, I have a conflict of interest which mandates my abstention on the vote before Council.



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Ted Parker, Councilman  
Morrisville Borough Council

Date: NOV. 18th 2019