



The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Council Agenda Meeting.

Ms. Smith stated, if I could please ask you all to remember that tomorrow is the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks at the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia and Schwenksville Pennsylvania. Please remember those 2,973 victims and their loved ones during your moment of silence tonight. Please rise for 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
Corryn Kronnagel
Eileen Dreisbach
David Nay
Ted Parker
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Michael Levin, Solicitor
Micah Heitz, Finance Director
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary

Not In Attendance: Dave Rivella, Mayor

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations this evening.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Hussam Jallad – *45 Ridge Avenue*

He thanked Council for doing the work that they do. He talked about the party house and he stated that the longer the issues take, the longer we are affected by this. He asked Council to act as quickly and swiftly as possible. He asked for clarification and transparency on how everything is going in regards to the short-term rental variance.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion ensued with regard to the status of gas and diesel invoices and financials being submitted by the Fire Company and Capital Health.

Discussion ensued with regard to the proposed contract for a new financial accounting system with Edmunds Government Tech.

Discussion ensued with regard to the proposed contract with TRAIRS for the new infrastructure, asset management and workflow management system.

Discussion ensued with regard to the Fraternal Order of Eagles getting a permit for a temporary road closure adjacent to their building for their Annual Harvest Day on Saturday, November 2nd, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Discussion ensued with regard to the 2019 CDBG agreement for Historic Summerseat Accessibility Improvements Phase II in the amount of \$325,000. The Borough received 100% of the grant to finish the remaining three sides of Patriots Park for the sidewalks, curbing and ADA compliance.

Ms. Smith stated that the proposed budget public hearings are going to be held on November 7th and 8th. The actual proposed budget will be voted on November 18th, the final budget will be voted on December 16th.

Discussion ensued with regard to the dates of the budget meetings and when Council would be receiving a copy of the proposed budget.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mr. Bowers talked about the house at 874 Pennsylvania Avenue. He stated that after attending the hearing meeting in Lower Makefield Township with Debbie, he talked with their Code Official and their Solicitor and one of the public statements that was made last month was that Lower Makefield Township is on top of this and they took care of it in two months. He stated that they got lucky, that they were able to inspect that house because their Code Official went there to post something on the door and one of the disgruntled tenants was outside and allowed them to come in, it wasn't because they did a random inspection. He stated that Borough inspections need to be scheduled as part of the short-term lodging ordinance.

Mr. Nay asked if the Borough's short-term rental ordinance has any more or less teeth in comparison to Lower Makefield Township.

Mr. Levin stated, it's actually very similar to Lower Makefield Township, because our office was sort of in on the drafting of that too. There are a couple of things that represent minor tweaks based on their experience, which was enacted earlier, but it's very similar in operation.

Mr. Nay asked, which would take precedence, the zoning of that particular area, or the ordinance.

Mr. Levin stated, the ordinance regulates the conditions under which people can get a license, certain record-keeping, a number of other matters. However, without giving away the plot, you have zoning districts, no matter where proposed short-term rental is going to be, it's either going to be allowed by right in that zoning district or it's not. If it's not, then a variance would need to be obtained before our license could be issued.

Mr. Bowers stated, I also wanted to point out that their Solicitor did say after the hearing that videos are better than pictures, so for any of the residents that are next door or nearby that see issues, if you can video them and provide them to the Borough, it helps a lot more with the case than pictures or word of mouth.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC REOPENED

1. Hussam Jallad – *45 Ridge Avenue*

He stated, I don't know if it's the residents job to monitor, we can observe so much but it's not my job to videotape, that puts us at risk of any retaliation. We don't know what this person is capable of. It puts us in danger because the Code Enforcement Department is unable to do their job, now it's becoming our job and the Police Department's too. I think we supplied letters, we supplied what we can do, but at a certain point, the other side has to take some responsibility. As far as the Code Official having to go to the other house, yes it was a coincidence, but I personally saw a Morrisville car that went by later that day and didn't even go near the house. He thinks we need a marked Code Enforcement vehicle like the previous Code Enforcement Officer would use. He stated that we send letters to enforce a sidewalk that is being raised a half-inch, but the big problems we're not dealing with. This is a big problem and we need Code Enforcement to really step up and just show up like Lower Makefield did. He wants Council to think about the

people that live in Morrisville and how to keep them to stay in Morrisville.

Mr. Nay gave an update on the red bridge. He is going to try and get the wood into a kiln, it doesn't seem to be drying quite as quickly as he had hoped. He will update everyone next month. He intended on doing the project at the end of November and he will give a definite update next month. He stated that a lot of streets and crosswalks have been lined and they look very good and he wanted to thank the Public Works Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Yager and seconded by Mr. Parker.
Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.