



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
BIENNIAL REORGANIZATION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020
7:00 P.M.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for the Biennial Reorganization Meeting.

SWEARING-IN OF OFFICIALS

Swearing-in of newly elected Borough Councilmembers.

Mayor Dave Rivella swore in Ted Parker as Councilperson.

Judge Kronnagel swore in Bob Paul as Councilperson.

Judge Kronnagel swore in Scott Robinson as Councilperson.

Judge Kronnagel swore in Nancy Sherlock as Councilperson.

Meeting opened by Mayor Dave Rivella. He asked that before the Pledge of Allegiance, during the moment of silence, that everyone remember former Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick. He stated that he will remember Mike as a strong supporter of law enforcement and of our community. Also, please remember Morrisville's longtime resident Jean Shipos. Mrs. Shipos was the founder of the Teal Tea Foundation and a great advocate for youth programs. Both Mike and Jean will be remembered as exceptional public servants who tirelessly gave of themselves to help others. Please pray for their families as they struggle to move forward during this time ahead with great loss. Please rise.

Mayor Dave Rivella took roll call at this time.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Ted Parker, (appointed President this evening)
Bob Paul, (appointed Vice President this evening)
Justin Bowers
Eileen Dreisbach
Scott Robinson, (appointed President Pro Tem this evening)
Nancy Sherlock
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, (re-appointed Borough Manager this evening)
Adam Flager, Solicitor (re-appointed Solicitor this evening)

Not in Attendance: Virginia Cyphers, (re-appointed Assistant Borough Secretary this evening)
Micah Heitz, (re-appointed Treasurer this evening)
Victoria Sullivan, Junior Councilperson

REORGANIZATION

Motion 4A – Nominations for Borough Council President.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I nominate Ted Parker.

Mayor Rivella asked, are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations at this time for Council President?

Roll call for Council President.

Mayor Rivella took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion 4B – Nominations for Borough Council Vice President.

Mr. Parker stated, I'd like to nominate Bob Paul.

Mayor Rivella asked, are there any other nominations at this time?

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I'd like to nominate Mike Yager.

Mayor Rivella stated, are there any other nominations at this time? Are there any other nominations for Council Vice President? We have two nominations, we'll go down the dais and please let me know which candidate you would like.

Mayor Rivella took a vote.

Motion carried for Bob Paul as Vice President by a vote, 4-3. (nominations for Mike Yager were Eileen Dreisbach, Justin Bowers and Mike Yager)

Motion 4C – Nominations for Borough Council President Pro-Tem.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I'd like to nominate Justin Bowers.

Mr. Parker stated, I'd like to nominate Scott Robinson.

Mayor Rivella asked, any other nominations? Any other nominations for Pro-Tem?

Any other nominations at this time for Pro-Tem.

Mayor Rivella took a vote.

Motion carried for Scott Robinson as President Pro-Tem by a vote, 4-3. (nominations for Justin Bowers were Eileen Dreisbach, Justin Bowers and Mike Yager)

Mayor Rivella handed the gavel over to Council President Ted Parker.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion 5A – Motion to appoint a Borough Manager/Borough Secretary/Open Records Officer.

Motion to nominate Scott Mitchell made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Parker asked, are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Mr. Parker took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion 5B – Motion to appoint Assistant Secretary.

Motion to nominate Virginia Cyphers made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Parker stated, we have one nomination, do we have another? Are there any other nominations? One last time. We'll do a roll call vote.

Mr. Parker took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion 5C – Motion to appoint a Treasurer.

Motion to nominate Micah Heitz made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Parker stated, we have a nomination, do we have another? Are there any other nominations? One last time. We'll do a roll call.

Mr. Parker took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion 5D – Motion to appoint Borough Solicitor.

Motion to appoint Flager & Associates made by Ms. Sherlock.

Ted Parker asked, we have a nomination, do we have another? We have a nomination, do we have another? One last time. We'll do a roll call.

Mr. Parker took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion 5F – Motion to appoint Borough Engineer.

Motion to appoint Gilmore & Associates made by Mr. Bowers.

Ted Parker asked, we have a nomination, do we have another? We have a nomination, do we have another? One last time. We're going to do a roll call.

Ted Parker took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion 5G – Motion to appoint Borough Building Inspector/Zoning Officer/Fire Marshal/Code Enforcement Officer.

Motion to nominate Keystone Municipal Services made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Ted Parker stated, I have a nomination, do I have another? I have a nomination, do I have another? One last time. Roll call.

Ted Parker took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-1. (nay vote being Mr. Robinson)

Motion 5H – Motion to obtain Bonds for Borough Officials.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Ted Parker asked, all in favor?

Motion carried by voice vote, 7-0.

Motion 5I – Motion to authorize the Borough Manager to solicit proposals for Professional Services of Solicitor, Engineer and Code Enforcement.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

Seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Parker asked, all in favor? Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote, 7-0.

Discussion ensued regarding check signers.

Motion 5J – Motion to appoint the Borough Manager/Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Council President and Vice President to serve as check signers.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Seconded by Mr. Paul.

Mr. Parker asked, all in favor? Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote, 7-0.

Motion 5K – Motion to extend the Borough Manager’s contract through December 31st 2021.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Seconded by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Parker stated, we have a motion to extend the Borough Manager’s contract through December 31st, 2021, is there any discussion on that? No discussion then? I guess we’ll do a roll call vote.

Motion failed by roll call vote, 3-4. (nay votes being Mr. Parker, Mr. Paul, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Sherlock)

Motion 5L – Motion to direct the Borough Manager to start the rehire, recall process for Police Officer Gary Zumpano, who’s employment was terminated for financial reasons.

Motion made by Mr. Paul.

Seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Parker asked, is there any discussion?

Discussion ensued regarding the rehire for Police Officer Gary Zumpano.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call vote please.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 4-3. (nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Dreisbach, and Mr. Yager)

Adam Flager stated, Council action is in order to formally accept the resignation of Councilwoman Corryn Kronnagel who as we all know is now a Magisterial District Judge, and has sworn in three of the new members tonight. She had her letter of resignation sent to Scott Mitchell, Councilmembers and the Mayor. He read her letter of resignation. An action is in order to formally accept the letter of resignation in the form of a motion.

Motion 5M – Motion to formally accept the letter of resignation of Councilwoman Corryn Kronnagel.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

Seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

Mr. Parker asked, all in favor? Opposed?

Motion carried by voice vote, 7-0.

Ms. Sherlock stated, I’d like to say thank you to Corryn for the years that she did serve here and I’m sure she’s looking forward to her new position and we wish her much luck.

Mr. Parker stated, I'd like to thank her for her time on Council. We worked very closely together on a couple of the committees and I'm going to miss her up here.

Mr. Bowers asked, Mr. Flager, do we need to take action on that letter we received about the opioid litigation?

Adam Flager replied, National Counsel had reached out to us asking for a response on a proposed restructuring plan for bankruptcy for one of the drug making entities not a huge part of this and it was the recommendation of National Counsel to accept the bankruptcy plan. That will be the default decision if no decision is made as that was the recommendation of Counsel. If you are okay with that, you could simply do nothing, or formally vote on it, or if you don't want it, you could tell us you don't want it approved, but you don't technically need to take any action if you are okay with the bankruptcy plan going forward.

Motion 5N – Motion to reappoint the law firm of Curtin & Heefner, LLC as the Morrisville Borough Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Seconded by Ms. Sherlock.

Mr. Parker asked, any discussion? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.

Motion 5O – Motion to appoint Siana Bellwoar as Labor Counsel, so they can continue their work.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Discussion ensued regarding having the current Solicitor and Engineer continuing to handle any current work.

Motion removed by Mr. Bowers.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. John Pasteur – *25 Dieter Avenue*

He wanted to congratulate everybody and welcome everybody back. He stated, Happy New Year, I'm glad we're looking into hiring a police officer back, that was my big concern. With the parks we spent a lot of time and got a lot of grant monies. I'd like this Council to continue to build those parks that Debbie, Danielle and Scott, they did a lot of work to get these grants and I don't want to see that park go by the wayside. I'm really not for it, but it's a good thing for our community. I don't want to see that property blighted and go to hell. We should continue that, there's a lot of grants we can still get to do that. Thank you.

2. Annie Milionis – *142 W. Hendrickson Avenue*

She stated, Happy New Year and congratulations to those of you who have been newly elected. I would like to ask tonight in this beginning of this new year in the 2020's that we go forward in a new and productive way. I really ask all of you to remember that you represent the people of this town and though we may not always agree on everything, I want you all to work together to compromise to come up with a well thought out and if compromise is needed, then compromise to make good sound decisions for this town. As I said, we're not always going to agree on everything, but working together, we can achieve anything and that's what I want to see. This town is too small to play politics. I'll work with anyone, and I have worked with anyone. I don't care what political party you're from, if it's something that's going to be progressive and good for Morrisville, I'm there, and that's how I want us all to go forward. I've watched the politics in this town for a number of years and what's gone back and forth along party lines and that needs to stop. I can think of no better time than the beginning of the 2020's to do that. This town has so much potential, we have heard this over and over again. This has got to be the time when we take that potential to the next step to the next level and no longer make it just potential, but make it reality. I'm asking you

all to work together to do that and to encourage the other people in town who are doing things to do the same and hear out people even though they may be of different mindsets and let's try and be accepting and understanding and really communicate effectively with one another. That's what I'm asking of you and I hope that all of the residents in town believe in that same thing and I think if we do that, there's no stopping this town. We have to really talk to one another not on Facebook, face to face, shaking one another's hands because we are all neighbors and that's what it comes down to. We are all part of this town whether you have lived here, your family has lived here for generations or whether you are here for just one year. We all must work together and that's what I'm asking you to do, represent the people of this town, represent our best interests and listen to us and listen to one another and work together. Thank you very much.

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

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mr. Parker stated, I just want to echo what was just said, we lost a very good man today and that was Congressman Fitzpatrick who was voted numerous times as the most bipartisan congressman in Congress and one of the most bipartisan and actually his brother has the same distinction and I actually worked with him on the Patriots Park project from its beginning and we could learn a little bit from him.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.