



**MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
AGENDA MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Council Agenda Meeting.

Mr. Parker stated, we're going to have a moment of silence and then the Pledge of Allegiance. I would like us to remember Carol Stepaniuk who was a resident and a neighbor but also very close to someone here on Council currently, and she will be missed.

Virginia Cyphers took roll call.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Ted Parker, President
Bob Paul, Vice President
Justin Bowers
Eileen Dreisbach
Scott Robinson
Nancy Sherlock
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Dave Rivella, Mayor
Randy Flager, Solicitor
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

Not In Attendance: Victoria Sullivan, Junior Councilperson

Mr. Mitchell stated, just an announcement that there will be an executive session following tonight's meeting for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters. Also if we can indulge Council, we would like Council to revote on a motion that was made from the floor at the last meeting, there was a procedural technicality and we would like you to cast that vote again tonight if you're willing to call it for a vote. That was Council's motion to authorize me and the administration to begin the process of reinstating the furloughed police officer.

Mayor Rivella stated, if I may, Mr. President, would it be possible to, I realize that was kind of a vague motion, to change that a little bit to just reinstate him or reaffirm him, because all the requirements have been fulfilled. Officer Zumpano was required to take a physical and psychological exam, they've both been completed and the results have been turned into your Borough Manager, so at this point, there's no reason that it can't be 100% completed or affirmed and obviously that would help Chief McClay with filling of the schedule. Thank you.

Mr. Parker stated, I'd like to clean up the procedural error first and we can move on it when it comes up if anybody feels like they want to make the motion that's up to them.

Ms. Sherlock asked Mr. Parker if he could read the motion again so if there was anyone from the public who wishes to come forward can address it. What is the motion actually going to say?

Mr. Parker stated, it was the motion from the reorganization meeting which I will have to do from memory. I believe it was a motion to direct the Borough Manager to start the rehire, recall process for the probationary police officer Gary Zumpano who was terminated for financial reasons.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Donna Wilson – *E. Post Road*

She stated, it's that time of the year that we need to reserve the Saturday in December for Morrisville's Winterfest Parade. Hot Rides has offered to host the parade again for 2020 and I'd like to reserve Saturday, December 5th, 2020. The parade will line up at 9 AM where we always line up on West Post Road and we will step out at 10 AM so we just want to reserve the date of December 5th, 2020. On a personal note, it's been real nice to see Officer Luna's presence back down in the Manor. I've seen him in a few spots that I know he usually kind of sits there and watches. I've seen some trucks pulled over already and I hope this means that we're going to move forward and get back to where we were when the truck traffic was much more under control, so thank you.

2. Jane Burger – *90 W. Maple Avenue*

She stated, I'm a bit confused, you're going to add a motion tonight to deal with a technical error from last week, but yet I see under action items for next Tuesday, 9C, which is the motion to reinstate Gary Zumpano, so we have to do two motions, one tonight and then next Tuesday, I'm a bit confused on that, but I would like to speak to that. It's my understanding this action is being considered to restore the police department to the ten full-time officers, of course excluding the Chief, which would be three Corporals and seven patrol officers. Before making a decision, a vote on this, I would suggest that you review the staffing table, the manning table for the police for 2020 and you will see that seven officers are on the payroll in the budget, so the seventh officer has already been restored and is in place for 2020. When the new officer was let go there were of course three corporals and then six full-time officers here and one officer stationed at the school under a grant. That officer is now on patrol for the Borough bringing the budget at staffing once again, restoring it to ten full-time officers. The vote you are

considering would in fact increase the police department full-time officers to eleven. You need to look at the programmatic needs for that as well as a long-term financial commitment and you might want to also review the annual statistic for the police department for trends for the last four to five years.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion ensued regarding the Earth Day celebration being held Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., where a tree will be planted at the Riverfront Preserve in honor of Earth Day.

Discussion ensued regarding the motion to reinstate Gary Zumpano as a Full-Time probationary Police Officer.

Discussion ensued regarding taking a revote on the procedural error from last week where an unanticipated motion from the floor that was not on the agenda and should have been open for public comment and it wasn't.

Discussion ensued regarding amending the manning table with the new position that is being added for a Full-Time Police Officer.

Motion to correct the procedural error for the motion at the reorganization meeting on January 6th 2020 which was a motion to direct the Borough Manager to start the recall rehire process for the terminated officer Gary Zumpano who was terminated for financial reasons.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock

Seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Parker asked, any discussion? Roll call please.

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

Mr. Paul asked, Mr. President, could you read the motion now as it's been adopted? I'm still not clear exactly what the wording is, I understand we're trying to cure the irregularity from the reorganization meeting, but what is the motion we just voted? What was the action we just took that rectified the fact that it wasn't put out for public comment?

Mr. Parker replied, we re-voted it, and there was time for public comment, so we corrected the procedural error. It was an added motion.

Mr. Paul stated, I just want to state for the record and for the other Council members that while I agree with the motion as made tonight, I think that it's important to defer until the full council meeting next week for the final vote. I recognize that the community is extremely motivated to speak out on this issue and I don't want to prevent them from the opportunity if anyone wants to say something further at the next meeting that's fine. I certainly advocate reinstating Officer Zumpano, but I also want to make sure that whatever we're doing now will be enough to rehabilitate or correct the error and also give the public an opportunity to express their sentiment.

Mr. Parker stated, the motion that we correct tonight was to have the Borough Manager and the administration start the process for reinstatement which would be basically call him up, have him come in and fill out paperwork, he needed to take both the physical and the psychological exam again. That's what that motion was for. Next week is the motion to actually reinstate him so that he can start working and then there will be time for public comment on that motion next week.

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to vote tonight on the motion to reinstate Gary Zumpano as a Full-Time Probationary Police Officer.

Mr. Mitchell stated, I can confirm the Mayor's comment that the administration is satisfied at this point with the current status of the employee in question and we're ready to move ahead when Council is.

Discussion ensued regarding the Easter Egg Hunt and whether or not the schedule has been worked out with regards to Morrisville Little League's opening day.

Mr. Parker stated that Council's Committees need to be established, he will have something together for Friday's packet. It gives council members the opportunity to volunteer. We also have Board and Commission appointments that have expired or will be expiring.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Mr. Robinson asked if Council could move down to the table for their agenda meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding having Council sit at the table for their agenda meetings and possibly fixing the audio at the table.

Mr. Robinson asked if they could change the regular meeting night from Monday to another night later in the week.

Discussion ensued regarding changing the regular meeting night and also having only one meeting a month.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, in regards to the one meeting a month, we have three incoming council members and I think it would behoove us to have two meetings for a while anyway until everyone gets on board with what's going on in the Borough.

Mr. Bowers stated, I know two meetings is more of a pain a month, but it's also a good chance for us to sit here discuss and sit on some things for a few days, find out additional information and then either discuss again or vote another night rather than

trying to take in all information at once. Maybe not having all information and voting on it.

Mr. Robinson asked, how much money will we save having one meeting a month?

Discussion ensued regarding the cost savings of having one meeting a month.

Mr. Flager stated, in the course of a year, it would be thousands of dollars, yes. My feeling is, you can do whatever you want, but we represent Bristol Township, Warminster Township and TOFA and we do the agreements for Falls and a number of other municipalities and everybody meets once a month irrespective of how big they are. Bristol Township has 60,000 people in it, Warminster Township has 35,000 and they're able to do it with the meeting once a month, but it involves of course use of which we use now, email and what you have you, but you're free to have as many meetings a month as you wish. If you're asking me a question, will it save us money, the answer is yes it will. That's an honest answer.

Ms. Sherlock stated, I would agree with Eileen, I think that for the time being, we should probably continue meeting as often as we feel necessary.

Mr. Parker stated, I think for the foreseeable future, we're going to continue to have agenda meetings to set the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Sherlock.

Seconded by Mr. Paul.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.