



The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Parker stated, can we have a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance?

Virginia Cyphers took roll call.

Those in Attendance:

- Borough Council: Ted Parker, President
Bob Paul, Vice President (via Zoom)
Justin Bowers
Eileen Dreisbach
Helen Hlahol
Scott Robinson (via Zoom arrived at 7:06)
Nancy Sherlock (via Zoom)
Michael Yager
- Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Randy Flager, Solicitor (via Zoom)
Scott Holbert, Solicitor (via Zoom)
Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary (via Zoom)
- Not in Attendance: Dave Rivella, Mayor
Micah Heitz, Finance Director

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations this evening.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

MINUTES

Motion 6A - Motion to approve the Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2020.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Mr. Yager.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report – David Rivella – There was no report this evening.

Police Chief's Report – Chief George McClay – He stated, good evening Council. A few things we have on the agenda, we have the election coming up in a few weeks, just to let you know we will have extra officers working that day. I know what the rules are, I know how far they have to be away, but we will have extra officers. The County is still evaluating security for that day, there is a lot of talk that we're going to put a MERT team up, there's talk about the County putting detectives out there along with District Attorneys, but everything is still being evaluated at this point, we just don't know what that day is going to look like. Halloween, we will have as always, we'll have extra patrols out there and I'll be out there on my bike like I usually am. Hopefully that night turns out as well as every other one has before. The only other thing I need to talk about is I see on the agenda putting GPS's in the vehicles, no one's discussed that with the Police Department so with that being said, I just want to let you know that there are no departments in Bucks County that have GPS on their vehicles. I see really no value in putting GPS on vehicles in a two-mile Borough. It promotes a distrust of your employees by saying that you need to monitor them. They're supervised pretty well as it is. Who's going to have access to this GPS to be able to look at where these vehicles are? The Police Department should only be monitored by myself and the Mayor as daily activities, just thorough day to day operations, but like I said, I see no value in this. John Later and I have spoken at length, this is something we can't afford this is going to cost you a lot of money and neither one of us can see the value in such a system. Thank you.

Manager's Report – Scott Mitchell – He stated, the only other thing I have to add tonight other than what Council has already received is that there was a meeting recently with Mr. McGrath and representatives of Select Morrisville LLC, they would like to come in for an updated conceptual presentation to Council similar to what was presented back in August of last year, they've requested the November Council meeting and we've tentatively agreed to that, we wanted to check with you tonight to

make sure it was okay with you. Hearing no objection, it will be on your November agenda.

Ms. Sherlock stated, I have a question for Mr. Mitchell. I was going to wait until the end, but it could have been part of his report. That meeting that you went to about the facility, the composting facility in Falls Township, did they discuss anything about any odor from the composting?

Mr. Mitchell replied, they did, they actually believe that the odor will be even less noticeable because their operations are primarily going to be enclosed and indoors.

Ms. Sherlock stated, thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Hlahol stated, the Policy Committee meeting in July, I'm sorry that this report is kind of late, but we were talking about Park Avenue and using the dyke and so Scott Robinson and I -- Justin I don't think you attended, it was on the calendar, but we went down to Park Avenue to take a look at it. What we noticed was that there are three entrances to the dike from Bridge Street which goes from Bridge Street to half way down Park Avenue and then the next entrance is actually in Williamson Park. The signage is kind of small and it's barely noticeable at night and it's also, there's nothing that states that there's a fine for being at the park, so if you're on the dyke there's nothing that says you're going to be fined if we find you on the park on the dyke. All it says is that the park is closed which is the dyke the park? I know we know it is, but do regular people know it is. So I'm wondering if we can change the signage and enhance the signage to say, you will be fined if you're on the dyke etc., so that is our recommendation to Council regarding the Park Avenue. We wanted to know also maybe the Chief could answer this, if maybe there could be some foot patrols during the summer time during the evening hours in order to get some of the people off the dyke that are doing things they shouldn't be.

Mr. Yager asked, Councilwoman Hlahol, will there be any minutes from that meeting, from July?

Ms. Hlahol replied, I have them here, I'll send them off to the Borough Manager so that everyone can have them.

Mr. Yager replied, great, thank you.

Ms. Hlahol asked, Chief, do you think in the summertime hours that the dyke could get some foot patrols? We were talking about the dyke and the activity that happens in the summertime on the dyke on Park Avenue with the garbage and the condoms that are found and the little baggies that are found, so we were wondering as we took a walk down there during the summertime hours maybe from April through September if there could be some foot patrols that walk between the park and Bridge Street so that if somebody is sitting up there and doing anything that they could be kind of shooed away.

Ms. Sherlock stated, if it's considered part of the park our parks are dawn to dusk. Maybe if we're going to do signage would it make any sense to put it at so-called entrances or a small sign by each bench just saying the park is closed from dawn to dusk. Those are the rules that are out on Delmorr Avenue, so it's just a thought. I don't know what the signage ideas were, but that's my understanding it's open from dawn to dusk. Am I right, yeah, okay I'm sorry. I see Scott nodding. It's just a suggestion, that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Mr. Yager stated, typically the Vacant Properties Committee only meets once a quarter, however in addition to our September meeting, we did meet in October for a specific reason to officially blight the Stockham Building and I believe at this point and Mr. Mitchell you can correct me if I'm wrong, that's now with our Planning Commission.

Mr. Mitchell replied, yes it is. It's on their agenda for this month.

Mr. Yager replied, okay, thank you.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion 9A - Motion to adopt the 2020 Halloween Policy.

Motion made by Ms. Hlahol.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by voice vote 7-1. (nay vote being Ms. Sherlock)

Motion 9B - Motion to adopt the Proposed 2021 Budget.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Mr. Parker.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call please.

Motion failed by roll call vote 1-7. (nay votes being Ms. Dreisbach, Ms. Hlahol, Mr. Parker, Mr. Paul, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Sherlock and Mr. Yager)

Motion 9C - Motion to adopt the 2021 Fee Schedule.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Mr. Yager.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call.

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

***Special meeting will take place for the Mayor to vote on the tie.**

Motion 9D - Motion to acknowledge receipt of \$46,388.04 from the PA Department of the Auditor General, and to approve distribution of 100% to the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bowers.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Motion 9E - Motion to adopt a Use Policy for the Lower Level Meeting Room at the Public Library.

No Motion was made.

Motion fails due to lack of movement.

Motion 9F - Motion to create a part time Code Enforcement Officer position.

Motion made by Ms. Hlahol.

Motion seconded by Mr. Paul.

Motion to amend Motion 9F - to a full time Code Enforcement Officer position.

Motion made by Mr. Paul

Motion seconded by Ms. Sherlock.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call on amending Motion 9F.

Motion to amend Motion 9F failed by roll call vote 6-2. (nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Dreisbach, Mr. Parker, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Yager)

Mr. Parker stated, roll call for Motion 9F.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-2. (nay votes being Mr. Bowers, Ms. Dreisbach)

Motion 9G - Motion to adopt an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to change the definition of “FAMILY” contained in Section 465-6.

Motion made by Ms. Hlahol.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by voice vote 7-1. (nay vote being Ms. Sherlock)

Motion 9H - Motion to authorize the sale of Borough owned property located at 30 Hillcrest Avenue, Parcel ID# 24-009-045, to authorize the issuance of written Notice to the tenant pursuant to the terms of the lease agreement, and to authorize the Administration to enter into an agreement with the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority for redevelopment of the property.

Motion made by Ms. Hlahol.

Motion seconded by Mr. Paul.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by voice vote 7-1. (nay vote being Ms. Sherlock)

Motion 9I - Motion to approve Planning Commission Resolution PC-2019-03 to blight the property at 506 Hillcrest Avenue, TMP# 24-004-614, pursuant to the Urban Redevelopment Law.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Motion seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Motion 9J - Motion authorizing the Administration to install GPS Tracking Devices on all Borough vehicles at an initial estimated cost of \$3,780 and an annual cost of \$7,200 and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Motion seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call vote.

Motion is a tie by roll call vote 4-4. (nay votes being Ms. Dreisbach, Mr. Paul, Ms. Sherlock and Mr. Yager)

***Special meeting will take place for the Mayor to vote on the tie.**

Motion 9K - Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Borough Engineer to submit a grant application to PennDOT in the amount of \$280,000 for the installation of new sidewalks and ADA ramps along W. Bridge Street from Althea Avenue to Cox Avenue in order to provide better pedestrian access to the downtown.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Mr. Yager.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Motion 9L - Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Borough Engineer to submit a grant application to PennDOT in the amount of \$150,000 to supplement a previous grant award to improve the pedestrian and traffic signals at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Trenton Avenue.

Motion made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Melissa Johnson – *117 Park Avenue*

She stated, I heard what the Councilperson said about the signs on Park, it's ironic, just this morning I was taking a walk and the signs that are there are small and they're not lit at night and they're in the middle of the greenway, so there's an entrance to the dyke closer to Bridge than the stairwells, it's like a ramp, there's no sign right there and the one that you get to before you get to the alley between the zeros to the 100 block, those signs are really small, they're not lit at night and we do hear a lot of comments at night, people being out there I don't know if it's because they don't know, because they don't see the signs or if they're just doing something they shouldn't be doing, but either way, the signs are very

small and it's just ironic that I happen to be here today. We just made that comment this morning that the signs were not really that visible so that was my comment. Thank you.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss this evening.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I'd like to read something. Borough Manager, Council President and Borough Councilmembers, due to health reasons, I must turn in my resignation effective October 31st, 2020. It has been a pleasure to serve the First Ward and the Borough for 11 years. I'm sorry that I cannot complete my term. I have worked with some great people while sitting up here. However, it's been quite a challenge at times. I've always had the best interest of the residents every time I voted. I'm hoping that whoever fills my vacancy will do what is best for our town. We need to move forward with bringing revenue into our Borough. I hope you seriously consider McGrath's proposal. I feel that it will be a great start to a better town. We will be able to bring new and better businesses into town. I wish everyone well as you continue moving forward.

Mr. Bowers stated, I'm sorry to hear that Eileen and thank you for your service.

Mr. Parker stated, thank you for your service.

Mr. Yager stated, it's been an honor serving with you.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Hlahol.

Motion seconded by Mr. Yager.

Meeting adjourned 8:27 p.m.