



The Morrisville Borough Council met on Monday, November 16, 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, please rise for 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
Helen Hlahol
Scott Robinson
Nancy Sherlock
Michael Yager (via Zoom)

Borough Officials: Scott Mitchell, Borough Manager
Micah Heitz, Finance Director
Randy Flager, Solicitor (via Zoom)
Scott Holbert, Solicitor (via Zoom)
Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary (via Zoom)

Not in Attendance: Dave Rivella, Mayor

Mr. Mitchell stated, for the folks on Zoom, the slides and documents as well as tonight's agenda area available at the bottom. If you go into the chat option, you can find all of the documents related to the meeting. For anybody watching or who's in the room, this is livestreaming to YouTube, but we also have the

documents posted on the public portal page on the Borough's website. We do have Ms. Marseglia here with us tonight to talk about lead and the grant program.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Katie Marseglia, Project Administrator for the Bucks County Department of Housing and Community Development gave a presentation on the Lead Poisoning Remediation Grant Program.

Select Morrisville, LLC – Presented an Updated Conceptual Proposal for Williamson Park Town Square.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Conceptual Proposal for Williamson Park Town Square.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Kathryn Panzitta – *401 Hillcrest Avenue*

She stated, prior to starting this, I didn't notice that you added anything concerning a possible earned income tax, so my question is, is anybody up there going to submit an action item tonight to add to this or are we just going to open up public comment again? Should I wait, because quite honestly I just want to go home and that's it. Thank you.

2. Jane Burger – *90 West Maple Avenue*

She stated, thank you Kathy. That was my first question. If you are going to add that motion for consideration I would suggest you might want to do it before anybody else speaks tonight so you do at the beginning of your meeting so you don't have to open public comment when you get to that action item. Second, I was at the budget meeting this evening and I know you're doing a preliminary budget which can change in its final form and I hope it does because you understand at this

point we're looking at 8 mills, I forget the percentages, an 8 mill increase in the Borough budget with 4 mills added to the general fund which requires court action so should you be adding to the agenda tonight the authorization for the appropriate individuals to prepare those documents. You don't want to wait until your December meeting which is not until the 23rd of December because you need to get on the court calendar and they really don't want to meet between the Christmas and New Year holidays, we've been there, we've done that. Second, given that the financial situation and the revenues in the existing TAN CD are not sufficient for actually your first four months do you need to also do authorization for your manager to prepare the necessary documents for the TAN loan. Fourth, we do know after many years of service Eileen Dreisbach has resigned from council effective October 31st. I guess you don't have to formally accept a resignation because that action hasn't been done, but 30 days would make that November 30th or December 1st when you have to make the appointment to fill that vacancy on Council, so what is your timetable for that? I see it's not on the agenda this evening, will there be a special meeting? Finally, hearing the redevelopment proposal this evening, I look forward to another meeting with more input from the community and it certainly has value. We know there's many steps, council will have I guess controlled decision making authority throughout all of these steps and the final project may not look like this but will certainly be, if it goes forward, we'll certainly have something that the value has. This town is dying financially. At the budget meeting you know they talked about adding an earned income tax I guess we're not looking at the municipal service taxes yet. We're talking about an 8 mill increase. It gets to the point where there's just nothing else to get in this community to serve the community and provide all the services, particularly law enforcement, which I'm a supporter of and having quality of life issues. I hope we don't throw the baby out with the bathwater and take a look at this through all of its steps because there certainly can be benefits from development whatever final form looks at. Trust the process. Thank you.

3. Courtney Rains Loo – *327 Hillside Avenue*

She stated on Saturday morning, December 5th, between 10:00 and 11:00 my Christian Rock Band, Right To Become is picking up trash on the Morrisville Riverwalk and I just wanted to see if we could get some people from the Borough out to help the community. We have people from Calvary Chapel Mercer County coming down to help us, so I just wanted to put that out that on December 5th, we're meeting at the pavilion in Williamson Park to pick up trash again. What can I say about the development, I'm very supportive, I clean up the Riverwalk and it's in bad shape, we constantly find needles and other such things I won't even say, disgusting things and we've asked for trash cans to be up there and we don't have the budget for it so Joe is coming along to present a lovely help and my desire is, I hope and pray that sooner than later they could get approval so they can move forward and I was thinking I would like to be alive when some of this happens because you know, time is a ticking, so anyway that's all I have to say and I do want to thank them very much for the money spent and the time for our community which our community is lovely, so I want to thank them very much for the time they've put in. Thank you so much.

4. Tom Wisnosky – *815 Crown Street*

He stated, I want to talk about the redevelopment plan, this development plan a little bit. First of all, I want to thank Joe and Select Morrisville for sticking to it, we all know we had sort of a false start in August and I think one of the things that I've noticed is that already even though this is an informal proposal that they've already addressed some of the concerns that were voiced in that August 2019 meeting. There's already more green space, they've rejiggered some of the buildings, they've already responded to some concerns and I got a really good vibe from the presentation that I heard tonight, I get a really good vibe from Council and from the questions that you were asking and I think that Ms. Sherlock and Mr. Bowers kind of alluded to what may end up being the number one concern of a lot of Morrisville residents and that is the open

space, the green space, the park space, and I think what's really important in the process is to not only look at open space but also think about usable open space and total open space. Mr. Bowers you were getting at that a little, total open space, because if you look at our park, when you get south of the baseball fields, it's not usable open space anyway, it's on a big hill. I've never seen it used for anything. The other thing that I want to make sure that Council in particular understands is that just because you're considering advancing this plan does not mean that you're anti-open space, it does not mean that you're anti-park, it does not mean you're anti-ecology, you're not anti-anything by look at what may end up being the best shot that Morrisville has ever had to bring ourselves out of this financial crisis that Ms. Burger talked about. There's no one else in line to drop 120 million dollars into Morrisville. There's no one else. If you have someone, if anyone has, if anyone else, let's get them up here and let's have a presentation. I don't see it, it's not happening, it hasn't happened since I've been in town. I feel very strongly that Council needs to at least not nod up and down and say Select Morrisville, let's move forward and that's the vibe I get from you and I'm so happy about that, so please let this progress move forward, let this project move forward. This is the best hope, it's not going to be exactly like we see tonight, of course not, no project ever is, but we need to move forward and this is the best option we have, so thank you very much.

5. Tim Pesce – *222 E. Bridge Street*

He stated, I too want to thank everyone for the time and effort put forth and sometimes it's easier just being a little bit of a separate party but also want to encourage you to join forces with Select Morrisville. I'm very pleased with what they put together and how they addressed some of the things from August. I'm also very pleased that you're challenging some of the things that are put out there. You're here to represent the residents. You're here to, in this buy-in get what we want out of this project as well. We understand what they want. We understand the benefit for

Morrisville. I'm very much on board with them. I would love for you to sit there and say gentlemen, please continue and then I'd still like you to have that jaundice look at this and say, do we have enough green space, do we have enough of what we want here. That's the role that I think we as the residents want you to take with this. I understand what they need, they need us to say let's go, let's work together to make this happen so that it becomes a win win. You call it a P3, I call it a win win. Let's make it a win win, move together, get some financial assistance to the town, to the residents and some liveliness back in this wonderful community of ours.

6. Alan Franklin – *Franklin Building on the corner of Bridge and Delmorr*
He stated, I came to the meeting tonight to listen and to show my support for the project and I too am very impressed with what I've heard here. The questioning and I don't want to say challenges but there's obviously a great deal of thought that has gone in through the different Council people to represent their constituents and as I am one of them. So I wanted to show my support and to always caution because you know when you get to be older, they say you know you've been around the block to take a good idea and somehow turn it into a bad idea, this is a beautiful wonderful idea that people that put it together are really good. Joe has done a spectacular job, he just went out organized the different property owners, made a presentation a number of times and convinced us that this is the best thing. I thought it was the best thing that I had ever heard since I'm here in Morrisville and I've owned my building for 16 years. This is really a tremendous opportunity for everybody who lives and works here because the vision that they have put together is world class, it's really a big deal, forget the 120 million, 150 million, it's all telephone numbers, it doesn't mean anything, it's the project itself is all-encompassing and the beneficiaries are the people that are physically here to enjoy it, it's a beautiful thing. I mean, if you know, if Robert Morris was here putting the town together when he did 200 years ago, this is what he would have envisioned in a more modern sense it's just

there's nothing negative about it, the open space, the project itself, the opportunity to bring in people who would want to live here and work here and commute from here and also to recapture the zip code of 19067, it's Morrisville's zip and yet it's been hijacked by the surrounding towns, so it's an enormous opportunity to reposition everything the way it should be in the natural order of things. Thank you.

7. Dave Nay – *Center Street*

He spoke about the E.I.T. tax, he is in favor of it.

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

Mr. Parker stated, we are removing 9B and 9F from the agenda. There will be an executive session this evening to discuss personnel.

MINUTES

Motion 6A - Motion to approve the Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2020.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

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 7-0.

Motion 6B - Motion to approve the Borough Council Special Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2020.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

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 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

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 7-0.

REPORTS

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

Police Chief's Report – Chief George McClay – He reviewed his police report.

Manager's Report – Scott Mitchell – There was no report this evening.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion 9A - Motion to approve the Borough 2021 Holiday Schedule.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

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 7-0.

Motion 9B - Motion to approve the Public Library 2021 Holiday Schedule.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

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 7-0.

Motion 9C - Motion to approve the Public Library 2021 Meeting Schedule.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

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 7-0.

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

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Ms. Sherlock.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote 7-0.

Motion 9E - Motion to approve Police Department Directive 220-Line-Ups and Eye Witness Identifications.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

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 7-0.

Motion 9F - Motion to approve Police Department Directive 218- Mobile Video Recording/Body Worn Cameras.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Ms. Sherlock.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

Motion 9G - Motion to adopt an Ordinance adopting the 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

Motion seconded by Mr. Bowers.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

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

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.

Motion 9H - Motion to adopt an Ordinance requiring the installation of Key Boxes or entry systems on certain properties and buildings located within Morrisville Borough.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

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 7-0.

Motion 9I - Motion directing the Borough Manager to issue a Counseling Letter to the Chief of Police.

Motion made by Mr. Bowers.

Motion seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote 6-1. (nay vote being Ms. Sherlock)

Motion 9J - Motion directing the Administration and the Solicitor to prepare the necessary documents for enacting an Earned Income Tax at the rate of .5% effective as of 1/1/2021 for residents and non-residents.

Motion made by Mr. Parker.

Motion seconded by Mr. Paul.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call.

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

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Ms. Hlahol stated, we need to get a handle on the videos. I find it embarrassing that our volume doesn't work. We have a huge presentation and nothing is working, so either we need to get somebody trained or hire somebody to do these meetings. I don't know what the answer is, we can't keep going like this.

Mr. Parker stated, it's not a personnel issue, they had a piece of equipment fail and it was replaced.

Mr. Mitchell stated, it was thoroughly tested and worked.

Mr. Bowers asked, is this the same piece of equipment that failed before?

Mr. Mitchell replied, no.

Mr. Robinson asked, if you don't mind me asking, what piece of equipment failed, what was thoroughly tested?

Mr. Mitchell stated, it was the receiver for the wireless mics I believe.

Mr. Robinson stated, that's all well and good that we have wireless mics, but our problem is, and this is an echo on what Helen said, our performance tonight with them in this room and with people at home trying to watch this, it's absolutely embarrassing. That is an embarrassment. Now a wireless mic is one problem, that's like out here, that's in the orbit, but our main problem is, when we have people on the zoom and people at that microphone, we're going to be doing this for a long time. I'm not an expert on doing Zoom meetings, there are people out there that do it. Putting a handheld microphone next to your laptop to run a meeting, that's not how you run a meeting. There's got to be somebody that we can get in here, pay him a couple of hours and square that room away. That's not how you do it, I know it kind of works, but when you put the microphone next to the laptop and it goes ring, ring, ring, ring,

and everybody is looking around, is it me, is it me, there's an essential brain how all this should get patched in and if the wireless receiver is not working, obviously something wasn't working, the microphone was on, it might be on the wrong channel, I don't know, I didn't look and see what channel the receiver is on, because the receiver and transmitter which is the stage mic, has to be on the same channel. We have to do something, we're going to be doing these meetings like this probably as long as we're all on this council and we've got to do something. I've had so many, my phone is dead, my phone never dies, normally like 10:00 at night where people are texting me. I'm sitting here, I'm embarrassed.

Ms. Hlahol stated, I agree with you.

Mr. Mitchell replied, I agree.

Mr. Robinson stated, nothing against John, this isn't John's fault. I couldn't figure it out either. We have a COVID society, COVID got dumped on us. Downloading Zoom for free on your computer and putting a microphone next to your laptop, we've got to do something about it.

Mr. Parker asked, can I get a consensus on directing the Borough Manager to do what he needs to do to get both the Zoom meetings integrated into the system so that it can be -- I need a consensus, because it may cost some money to get this fixed, he needs direction. I think we need to have him do what he needs to do to get this to where we expect it and make John's life a lot easier.

Mr. Mitchell replied, yes, we would like that.

Mr. Parker asked, is that okay?

Mr. Mitchell stated, yes.

Mr. Robinson stated, it should be able to work, because independently it's working. I can talk on my headset right here, if I turn this microphone off and if I put my headset

on I can have a conversation with Mike and I can hear him and he can hear me clear as day, but he probably can't understand what I'm saying right now because I'm going through this microphone and not that. So Zoom works, didn't work tonight, but generally works, but they're not working together anymore. I've done a couple of these, like the one meeting on the phone and there's nothing more frustrating like looking at Mike and Randy and Scott here, thanks for hanging in there guys, because it was torture what you went through the last few hours trying to hear stuff. I've got a headache from sitting here and I can hear it.

Ms. Sherlock talked about the letter from PECO regarding the frequent power outages in town. They are looking to install devices that will help with the outages.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn, made by Ms. Sherlock.

Motion seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 p.m.