



The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Special Council Meeting.

Mr. Parker stated, please rise for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ted Parker asked for roll call.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Ted Parker, President
Bob Paul, Vice President
Justin Bowers
Helen Hlahol
Scott Robinson (via phone)
Nancy Sherlock
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Judith Danko, Borough Manager
Scott Holbert, Solicitor (via phone)
Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary (via phone)

Not in Attendance: Dave Rivella, Mayor
Micah Heitz, Finance Director
Duane Nicol, Councilperson

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations this evening.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

1. Jane Burger – *90 W. Maple Avenue*

She stated, I know the EIT proposed has a \$12,000.00 floor on income below which number would pay. The question was if someone earns over \$12,000.00 does their tax start at \$12,001.00 or does it start back from \$1.00? There's some concern the 1/2% versus 1% because even though we've heard the school and officially said things that at least a 1/2% percent we know would stay with Morrisville will not go to the school. I know they have a School Board meeting tomorrow and it might allay the residents fears regarding 1 versus a 1/2% if and I'm going to try to go to the meeting tomorrow night, if they would take a statement kind of what Mrs. Sherlock had already shared that she's heard from the School Board President that they're really not interested for a lot of technical and legal reasons of going for the earned income tax, I think that's a lower property taxes by it. I just want to share that I'm retired and won't pay so I think it would be really inappropriate for me to go strong and weigh in on it one way or the other because I won't pay for it, but I do not envy the decisions you have in putting out these two proposed budgets. Thank you.

2. John DeWilde – *94 W. Maple Avenue*

He stated, if there's going to be any discussion tonight about the EIT again I would just ask that -- I don't believe that it's a -- there are people who could be for it and I think we just need to see that the new administration can manage the money that we give you we really -- we're your bankroll and it's just not fair for the residents to keep passing money to the council when it has in the past been used for personal agendas so if we could see that there's good stewardship of our money then you're coming back to us and saying we need this I think it would be better received yeah. Thank you.

3. Kathryn Panzitta – *401 Hillcrest Avenue*

She stated, I have a procedural question. There is going to be an election and then council is going to change and in this year isn't this the year that you can reopen your budget come January? So in light of that my question is where does that stand on an EIT, what legally would have to happen? Does this mean that this council currently which if you're staying, going, running for reelection, it's part of your job to come up with a balanced budget by December 31st. Where does that procedurally leave the next future council who has to live with this budget as an EIT, would they then have the option to bring it up in January and say we want an EIT and then would it be able to go in effect in four months, would you have to post it, could you add it, could you change it or is it a done deal for the entire fiscal year 2022? That's my question. Thank you.

Ms. Danko stated, Scott I can answer the majority of that but I was hoping you would touch upon that. It is my understanding that due to the election year that we could reopen the budget in January and then a new vote could take place regarding the EIT tax to put that in place if it were posed.

Mr. Holbert stated, yeah some of these Council ordinances can be done like a sixth month sort of if you vote part of the new year or the six month mark, we'd have to double check to make sure the EIT is one of them because there's different rules for a lot of the different taxes that fall under act 511 but we need to double check to make sure but it is a possibility that it could be, yes.

Mr. Parker stated, but I do have one question, if the budget passes without an EIT then starting January 1st we would go have to go with that budget until it was if it could be even reopened.

Mr. Holbert replied, that's correct yes if we were to pass the budget without an EIT that would continue.

Mr. Parker asked, so we would still be doing the cuts and furloughs in the budget that's finally passed?

Mr. Holbert replied, obviously this would be under the discretion of the Manager and how to manage the budget and when those things would take place but until it would be reopened and a new budget would be passed you would have to follow the budget that was passed in this year with the Council.

Mr. Parker replied, that answered my question.

Ms. Danko stated, thank you Scott.

4. *Jim Schwartz – 580 Rosemar Drive*
He stated, I've been at these meetings since May. I've heard all sorts of stuff. I'm a little concerned because I believe that the budget and the Borough both need to be protected. Right now I'm not working but I will be working soon again and that 1% we're acting like it's a big deal but if you compare it to having less police officers, is that 1% really worth it? I'm going to tell you right now whether I get elected or not I could care less it's worth it, we're not going to have less police officers on the street we're just not going to happen. I'm not going to stand for whether I'm in office or not in office, I'm not putting up with it. So I'm going to fight that we're going to have to figure out how to help Judith. I want to help Judith the best I can and I think everybody in the Borough needs to support Judith and try to figure out how we get money, how we can balance the budget and stay solid and still have our police officers that's my biggest thing. Safety of the Borough is the biggest thing for me and I'm telling you if we don't support our police officers we're going to be in a world of hurt because I've heard through the grapevine that Lower Makefield and Yardley and Falls they do not want to give us any more support so if we lose officers they're going to be like hey we're not going to cover you more we're already doing enough. This is what I'm hearing through the grapevine again it's hearsay, but trust me it's on pretty good grounds what I'm saying. So I'm done, but please let's work together and figure out a way how to keep the police intact and let's keep this borough going forward okay. Thank you very much.

There being no further public comment, President Ted Parker moved to the business portion of the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion 4A - Motion to advertise for two Proposed Preliminary Budgets; option “A” and option “B” for the 2022 fiscal year.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock.

Motion seconded by Mr. Paul.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Parker stated, roll call please.

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

Additional discussion took place regarding the Manager’s Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Parker read the special meeting notice.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn, made by Ms. Sherlock.

Motion seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk8Hii7tMwg>