



**6:00 Executive Session – Police, PBA Contract & Personnel**

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 7:24 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Paul stated Ted Parker was unfortunately unable to attend so Mr. Paul would be taking over duties of the President.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

All those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

The following Council members and Borough officials were in attendance:

Borough Council: Bob Paul, Vice President  
Helen Hlahol  
Andrew Lubin  
Carletha Murray  
Kathryn Price Engelhard  
Scott Robinson (via phone)  
Nancy Sherlock

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

Not in Attendance: Ted Parker, President

**3. Announcements and Presentations**

- Mr. Holbert stated, prior to tonight's meeting, Borough Council met in executive session where matters involving the collective bargaining negotiations and personnel issues involving the police department were discussed.

**4. Public Comments**

1. Deborah Colgan – 120 W. Hendrickson Ave.

I'd like to step past the legal issues surrounding Williamson Park and its ridiculous blight designation for my comment tonight, and to consider other realities facing this Council regarding Williamson Park. Council needs to state a vision for the use of Williamson Park, sitting on your heels only demonstrates that you are waiting for a developer to give you a plan



that you can accept. If the Borough indeed intends to utilize the area for recreational purposes, and it should for a variety of reasons that have been presented to you repeatedly, then we need to get going. Now, we don't have the money for planning grant but we still can and need to begin planning. It only takes our time, not money, to listen, to process, and to develop a plan. And, I want to stress the "our" in my statement. This must be a community endeavor; the use of our public lands should not be solely at the hands of one or two people in the administration deciding what we need for our parks. This kind of management of our parks diminishes public opinion, public needs, and public wants. Successful Park systems rely on community input. The Borough Manager needs Council's direction on what to pursue. I beg you to set up an effective process, using your committees is a way to do that. You have a Parks and Recs Committee, utilize that framework to collaborate. We have multiple studies and plans to draw from, we have incredibly talented community members who can bring realistic ideas to the table and we have a community that is ready to step up and do our part. This newly formed Council has had six months to get situated. Now let's see some action on addressing Williamson Park's larger needs, let's make a plan. I'd like to also thank Council members, specifically Nancy Sherlock and Catherine Price Engelhard who are bringing the community together by organizing cleanups of our public spaces right now. It truly makes a difference; participating with members of the community on a short, shared goal is extremely satisfying and I encourage all to join in. On a last note, at the recent Finance Committee meeting I learned a number of disturbing issues regarding the Borough's American Rescue Plan money, including unknown expenditures, and a plan to use all the money for infrastructure needs that have long been ignored. First, it seems like no amount of financial auditing or even having a Finance Director is sufficient to keep our books straight. It can't be that hard. I hope that we will hear more on this issue tonight. I also understand that the Borough is under severe financial distress. I get it, but I hope that but we can parlay a very small amount of rescue plan money now to make steps towards improvements at Williamson Park. We don't need much to for a spark now, there are many small projects that we could do, we are missing opportunities to parlay our small amount into a larger one. Thank you.

There being no further public comment, the President proceeded to the business portion of the agenda.

## 5. Approval of Minutes

The President noted that minutes of the Council's previous public meeting May 9, 2022 were not yet available to approve.

- 5B.** Motion to approve the Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2022.  
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Mrs. Murray.  
*Discussion took place regarding the motion.*  
**Motion made to table** the minutes of June 21, 2022 by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Paul.  
**Motion** carried by roll call vote 6-1. (Nay vote being Mr. Lubin).



## 6. Finance

### 6A. Treasurers Report

The President noted that the Treasurer's Report would be provided at a later date.

### 6B. Approval of the Bill List

Motion to approve the bill list and pay the bills made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mrs. Murray.

*Discussion took place regarding the motion.*

**Motion** carried by roll call vote 7-0.

## 7. Reports

### 7A. Mayor's Report

He stated, as always, I'd like to thank our public who comes out and comments, we had only one tonight, which I think was a record that I've seen, but it was still nice. I know a lot of people take their time to watch this broadcast at home as well and they keep themselves involved in many ways, whether it's contacting myself or one of the Council people and many others. I just thank those people to take the time to care enough to involve every month so I want to make sure that's something that I say every month that's important. Hope everybody had a great Fourth of July, a nice safe Fourth of July, as a pet owner I know a lot of people get concerned with anxiety with their pets with fireworks, but other than that I hope everybody had a good day with family, some good food and just a good celebration of the birthday of the United States of America. Got to love that, right? We've got a couple of great things coming up with more and more stuff going on as we get back to normal life after the last couple years. Our NNO is returning, our National Night Out is returning, on August the Second, on Tuesday night and we've got a lot going on if you haven't seen the flyer yet, we've got helicopter, ambulance, we've got vehicle tours. They're doing DCNR, will be doing environmental education, face painting, children ID like has been done in the past, and there's many other things that are going to be going on, we're actually having a meeting about it tomorrow so we'll be blasting out some more information. We are going to be showing Toy Story 4 in the Park, it's a great family movie, great movie for anyone, you don't have to have a family to love Toy Story 4 to be honest, it's hilarious, and then afterward for the first time to my knowledge in a long time we're going to have fireworks in the park. So, that's pretty exciting to me, speaking of fireworks, I guess. I'd like to make sure we give a quick shout out to a woman by the name of Jen who used to organize this event, either you know her or you don't, I'm not going to blast her last name out there but she was a great steward of the event, kept it going for several years, did a great, great job, and she's probably one of the many reasons that people are excited to see this return, and it's also not just a great opportunity to get together with our whole community, and our community's neighbors, but to celebrate the people that take care of us all year round, it's very important. And we have a meeting about this tomorrow so I want to thank some of the people who are working on it this year, and we've had from the Solid Rock Youth Center a couple of gentlemen by the name of Zach and Adam, we've had Chief George McClay involved heavily, we've had Chief



Matt Wiedenhaefer involved, former Mayor Tom Wisnosky, a couple of gentlemen from our sheriff's department, and so many more people, I hate giving out thank yous because it's always the ones you don't remember to give out, but we're going to be doing that a lot more over the next couple weeks. We've got a ton of great sponsors and it's really shaping up to be a nice big event, a great National Night Out so join us Tuesday night, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kathryn, Councilwoman over here, will tell you a little bit later about a food truck event that we have coming up, and then we're going to move on from there and do the annual Labor Day picnic which I'm excited about. I'm going to jump more into that, I'm going to get a lot more stuff booked, I already have some stuff booked for it, but I want to wait to blast out information on that until after the National Night Out; that'll give us another whole month to get all the information we need to everybody, so that's three great events just off the top of my head and I'm sure there's a couple more I'm not thinking of. I think Andrew will tell you about the car show that's coming up, so business is picking up, so there's a lot of fun things to look forward to. So, try to get yourself out to them. Tell your friends, tell your neighbors, not everybody sees Facebook, not everybody sees these meetings, so just get the word out as much as you can. I want to reiterate something very strongly that I said last month, and this is something that I will say every month. Myself, the Chief, the Council, and the Manager are all in negotiation, not negotiation, that's the wrong word, we're all in talks and all looking for ways to replenish, replace, and strengthen our police department, and this is something that is a major, major issue for me, it's a major, major issue for our town, as I've told everyone, I've campaigned in all four wards for five years so I know what an important issue it is. So, it is something that I am focused on and constantly paying attention to and will be for about the next three and a half years at least, maybe seven and a half. And that's about it, but I just want to say one other thing. I was on vacation for two weeks which I love, thank you father God for getting all my family home safe, we had about 30 family members down there all of them either living here or from Morrisville so that was kind of nice, so obviously Morrisville didn't come up a lot, right? So, I'll be catching up on my email so if you're on that list that you sent me an email in the last week, week and a half, and I didn't get back to you, you can expect a call in the next couple days. With that being said, I wish everybody happy rest of July and we will see you at National Night Out, thank you so much.

**7B. Police Chief's Report**

He stated, to continue on the National Night Out theme, it's free food, everything's free, everybody hear me? Free. Everything's free. The Borough is not contributing any money to this. I saw on Facebook today apparently a couple of people are asking "how much does this cost the Borough?" Nothing. I have zero dollars in my community events budget, we do have a very large donation by Britton Industries. I'm working on getting other money from industries, but right now everything is paid for by contributions. So, the couple people that have put out there how much is this costing us from our tax dollars, absolutely zero. We are not charging anything that night to anybody.

Mayor Anderson asked, you're saying this cost nothing, and it costs everybody nothing to come and eat and have a good time that night? That's amazing.



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Chief McClay stated, yes. So, that's going to be a very nice night, as everybody has seen we have a guest host, Mike Jerrick from Fox 29 is going to be there as the guest host that night, he is also donating his time, so it's something different that we've ever done before. Mike Jerrick's a real character and I think he's really going to do a lot for the spirits for everybody that's there. As everybody knows, I sent out an email today from the Attorney General, he talked about the lack of police officers we have in the state of Pennsylvania, the lack of being able to retain and recruit, we have a chance now to get our department back up to a little bit about where we belong. I have seven officers on the street, I have guys working multiple hours overtime, and they're getting tired, and it's costing us a lot of money in overtime. It's not part time over time, it's full time over time, and I can at this point say no to anybody, it's vacation season, I have no other choice. So, my budget's going to be blown out of the water. Everybody know that, okay? My budget has been the same for the last basically eight years and has not changed. I've gone down from 11 officers down to eight, now I'm down to seven with one being hurt. One is now being recruited by Lower Makefield, I have one that may go out on retirement, I may be in trouble really soon. It's time to move, we've got to move on this motion tonight. We have \$450,000 from ARPA, the President came and said please use that money for law enforcement. Please do it. We have another \$450,000 coming in November from ARPA. It's supposed to be used for law enforcement. Please do it, we need it. If I get down to five or six guys, I don't know what that schedule's going to look like. I worked three shifts last week, I can't do any more. We need the police officers. Without the police officers and a good police department, your town's going to go down. You're not going to have to worry about these parks that you want to talk about. You need a good, solid, police department, and it's going away. I've talked to you guys over and over that we're going to the wrong direction. So, if we do not hire these two officers tonight, I can't really predict where we're going. There is no five-year strategic plan in this Borough. Where are we going to go? Do you want to get down to five officers, you want to get down to six officers, you want to bring State Police in, do we want to combine with another police department? It's time to really move on things. I want to know where the \$900,000 is planned to go. Why aren't we using that for the police department like the President has said? And I'm not a fan of this President, but he came out and said "you need to use it for police departments, you need to hire." That memo that came out today, what a coincidence, he didn't write that for George; that went out to every police chief, we're having problems getting officers, we have a chance to get a couple, a couple good officers, officers that are ready to work tomorrow, ready to be full time tomorrow. We've really got to go in that direction, guys. I shouldn't say this I'll probably get in trouble and you'll say bad things about me later, but your Police Chief has more knowledge and more experience than anybody here on the board, and nobody cares. Not one person calls and says "George, how are we making out, are we going to be okay, are we going to have enough?" There's never a meeting here to sit down and talk about where are we going. I'm never invited to the back room to talk about your Police negotiations, to talk about your manpower, to talk about the future of your Police department. It's time, it's time. I've been here almost nine years now, same budget, less manpower, less equipment out front. We've got to do something guys. It's time, it's time. All right. Any questions I can help you with? Okay, that being said, thank you.



Mr. Paul stated, with that being said, first of all, Chief, I can recall at least three or four times in the last 12 months when you have been in that back room with us at executive sessions so I don't think we've shut you out completely.

Chief McClay responded, not over these issues, sir.

Mr. Paul responded, perhaps but I just want to make it clear that we are including you in executive sessions where it's required and maybe contrary to previous Councils where you weren't even invited to speak.

Chief McClay responded, well you had no choice, because they were over grievances that we now have that I have to be part of it, you really have no choice but to invite me in on that but when it comes down to the police negotiations, when it comes down to hiring police officers nobody's inviting me into that table.

Mr. Paul responded, well yeah and more importantly, tied in with that, you're not going to be, although I agree with what the Chief and what the Mayor have to say about the need for adequate police force, in fact that's what I campaigned on three years ago, it was a big problem then, it's still a big problem, but we have not yet resolved the bigger problem of where the money comes from to pay for that. And, you know, I'll leave it to the Borough Manager perhaps to explain in greater detail, but it's my understanding that there is no \$900,000 windfall that's been dropped into our laps that's available to hiring new police officers, and therefore the two action items that we had on the on the agenda, one was one to certify the eligibility list for hires for new full-time officers, and the other the motion to hire two full-time officers, we had decided in executive session to table for at least another month while we try to find the money to pay for those. And, I know that's not what you want to hear Chief, but that's where we are.

Chief McClay responded, Sir, I was here downstairs with the Financial manager when \$450,000 was electronically put into our funds, and we are having another \$450,000 in November unless something has changed, and the Governor has said, "please spend your money." It's there, \$900,000.00, so if that went somewhere, that was supposed to be put into a separate account. I don't know where that is, but we still have another \$450,000 coming in. More than enough to pay for an officer, an officer costs \$75,000 approximately the first year, and then we have an EIT now coming in. Even if you just look at where our future is going to be, we're at seven officers now, hiring full-time officers just to fill in the gaps, and the possibility of losing two of them. What are we going to do with five and six officers? Am I going to put one guy on the street? The money is there, the money was there, okay, and there's still more money coming in. So, I beg to differ with you sir, but it is, was, there. I saw with my own two eyes. So, for you guys to take that off the -- that's your public safety now going back steps. Not good.

Mrs. Danko stated, even though I don't believe this is the forum to have this discussion as we are right now, I believe that this this should be done in a different forum. There was the beginning of ARPA funds that were deposited into the Borough's coffers, and the Borough waited until the rules were



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changing in April to do any spending. We have one item that's on the agenda this evening that's been needed for years, and we're moving forward with that item. There have been several meetings in the past year depicting where those funds are going to be spent. We've all talked about it, we've talked about it at budget time and so forth. Those funds are a one-time fund; you won't see those funds again. Council has made the decision that it is not in the budget this year to hire officers although they're continuing to have talks as to what can we do, how can we work around some of these issues, and they'll continue to have more discussion, but with the unknown of what the budget will be next year, to hire more employees for the borough with funds that are coming to us with a one-time entrance into the Borough, and not having those funds the year after, you need to be able to know that you have in your budget moving forward, the ability to continue to keep the officers and to fund the increases that will take place after they're here a year, the amount of funds it will take to pay for insurances and so forth. It doesn't cost us seventy-five thousand dollars, it costs us more than that, and in the next year it will even cost us more. The Council is well aware of all of these issues and they are working towards resolution the best that they can, they're reviewing items. To discuss more about the ARPA funds, we had a deficit from our budget for several years in a row. At this time some of those funds have filled that deficit. In the beginning of the year those funds would not have been able to do that without proving the exact amount of money that the deficit was, now that the rules have changed in April, and that is why we waited to see what those rules would be, we are able to do other items with those funds that we would not have been able to do in the beginning of the year up until April. We've been very cautious. Some municipalities have not, because they have the funds to pay back. If we weren't cautious, we don't have the funds to pay those funds back. We had to be cautious, we've been commended for being cautious. So, it's really a discussion of Council as to how they would like to move forward with many of these issues. We've had discussions, if Council would like to sit and have other discussions with the Chief, I think that is a wonderful idea, I think it's necessary, we're right around the corner with budget discussions, there's no reason why we can't sit down and have these discussions with a full Council with budget discussions as to how we're going to proceed with the funds that we do have, with the funds that we'll be getting, and also how our budget will look next year, so we can sustain keeping employees and not doing something that's temporary and then we spin our wheels, we spend some funds that we really don't have and we don't have moving forward, and now what do we do, where do we come up with the funds to keep the employees? These are all issues and items of contention that really need to be dealt with, and we don't have any firm information as to what the EIT will bring us in the future. We're waiting, we're doing a waiting game, so July, August, and September when we get these funds in October or November that will be a semi gauge as to how we'll be moving forward next year, and will it be an accurate gauge, most likely not. Most municipalities begin their one percent Earned Income Tax in December and it takes place in January, not everyone is notified at this point to know that this has to take place with their payroll. We've reached out to everyone in the Borough, the businesses and so forth, it's been advertised everywhere, but it's going to take some time for that to take place. So, we don't know the amount of funds that we'll be bringing in, it's a guessing game. Our budget next year will be very complicated because there are many factors as to what we really know and don't know as to the income funds that will be approaching us. Will we still have the municipal authority in our house downstairs and providing us funds that they've been providing us towards our budget? That's an unknown at this time. How much money will we obtain from the Earned Income Tax? It's an unknown at this time. We're going to work the best we can with what we have right now, and we're going to continue to work together as a team so that we can provide better services, that we can hire employees.



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We're going to work as a team to figure out the best scenario and the best way to do this, but to pull from funds that we temporarily have and we don't know what our future is, this Council has to be concerned, as anyone would be. You certainly can't buy a car when you have a \$5,000 gift that was given to you in 2022 and then in 2023 you don't have that gift anymore, and in 2024 you don't have that gift anymore. You have to know what your budget is to move forward, it's imperative to know that, and that is exactly what this Council has been doing. They've been discussing things, they've been talking about what can we do, what can't we do, this has been going on for some time and everyone understands the need for officers, there's no doubt about that, but we're trying to figure out the best way to do what the Borough needs to do with the financial situation it's in, and move forward. And I hope that explains most of what we've discussed and if anyone has any questions, I'm open to them, but again I don't think this is the forum for that. We will be having meetings after August regarding budget and we really need to sit down as a group and have some full discussion.

Mr. Paul stated, in any case, one thing I do agree with both the Chief and the Mayor on is that we need more communication, and I would certainly encourage and support any effort that we could put together a meeting within the confines or within the restrictions of the sunshine laws, that we could meet as a group with the Chief and with the Mayor to talk about some of the long-range issues, and also why things aren't getting done the way that they want them to. I think we need to do that, I think the Chief is right that we should talk to him more often, and I would welcome more input from that side.

Mr. Anderson stated, let me say one second first, if that's okay Mr. Vice President. First of all, thank you, because I think that's a great idea and I support getting together for communication, I always support more communication. I'd also like to reiterate that I'm glad you pointed out earlier one of the things you ran on was public safety and support of the police, and I think other people here probably did the same thing, in fact I know they did, and that's another reason I know how important it is because the last group of people that sat up here that didn't support our police department, they're no longer here, for various reasons, but they're not here. And I understand, you know, putting my Borough hat on, too, and this is what I keep telling everybody, I put my Borough hat on too and I understand dollars and cents, but I also understand common sense. We've got eight pretty smart people up here, and if we can't find a way to make this happen then maybe we're not the right eight people, because if we lose one or two more officers before we can have a couple more meetings, we have a disaster on our hands, and again Judith's right, this didn't mean to come out in public, but here we are and it is true. So Chief, I'm sorry to cut you off, but go ahead, thank you.

Chief McClay stated, like I said, we started out with \$450,000 from the ARPA money. What rules you speak about, the only one that we really know about is that it will never be looked at and audited by the Federal Government. He came out and said that. Do I have to find this stuff and give it to you? Anywhere under 10 million dollars is not going to be audited, but it also said that it was not there to fix past mistakes of balancing your budget and reducing your taxes. We're still, so there's that pot, there's still another 450 coming in. You take half of that, and that's going to put you into a couple years for a couple of officers.

Mrs. Danko stated, we don't have a couple years, George.



Chief McClay stated, okay then you're not going to have police officers, either, that's what I'm trying to tell you. If I lose Chris Reardon and an officer that is one of the older guys that could retire, and is talking about it, I'm down, everybody count, that's five officers, 24 hours a day. I don't know how you want me to do that. The money's got to come from somewhere. Wherever that \$450,000 went to, even if you're saying that you spent 200 on the budget, on the past budget, you still have \$250,000 left. Where's that going? We're buying a Gasboy for \$25,000, that's great, but still we still have \$225,000, we've got to put our priorities in the right place.

Mrs. Danko asked, did you see the roof in the back, too? We've got puddles.

Chief McClay stated, yeah, okay, I understand that, and I will have no manpower. That's going to be the problem and when that time does come I'll be standing right here going, okay this is the disaster that I've talked about. I've talked about this for eight years that we had to get this together, and we haven't. The last group that the Mayor just spoke about cut and cut and cut and cut, well this group is just not supplying, even though they see it coming, they see the storm coming, and nobody wants to address it. So, if I lose these three officers that are on this list, we have to start over again with another Civil Service test. That could be another year or two down the line. Guys, something has to change, something has to change. You have to fund your police department. Your police department, I'm sorry John, is your most important department out there.

Mr. Paul stated, and it consumes three quarters of our budget.

Chief McClay stated, you're right.

Mr. Paul stated, we're not arguing whether we need a police department, whether we want a police department, of course we do.

Chief McClay stated, okay, but where's that money? That's what I want to know. That money is still coming in, and the EIT is going to be coming in. The other places that have an EIT had no problems during COVID, I know we're just starting this up, but there's going to be money coming in.

Mr. Paul stated, but we don't know how much, we can only guess.

Chief McClay stated, okay. Do you understand I --

Mr. Paul stated, you know what we're trying to do for the first time in I guess decades is we're trying to come up with a balanced budget and stick to it. Not a budget just for purposes of because we have to at the end of the year produce something, and then spend whatever money we want to as we go along. We're trying to adhere to a budget to develop some sort of economic discipline. Financial discipline in this office.



Chief McClay stated, right and for eight years I have.

Mr. Paul stated, well now, so now, the rest of us are trying to catch up Chief, okay?

Chief McClay stated, okay, but what I'm saying is you have to get a couple extra guys in here, just so when a couple of the guys go, we can put it on the street. We're going to, like the Mayor said, what happens in the next month [if] I lose one, I lose two?

Mr. Paul stated, we hear you, Chief.

Chief McClay stated, okay, warning's out there.

Mr. Paul stated, that's right, and we've got letters from some of your officers with the same pleas, we know what the situation is.

Chief McClay stated, I'm very disappointed in the actions that are taken tonight.

Mr. Anderson stated, and I'd like to thank the Chief because he has stayed within the same budget for so many years, and while he stands there admits he may not be able to do it this year. He's been a good steward of the budget. He's been a good steward of the Borough. Additionally, during the height of COVID, our budget was actually cut by, when I say our budget, the police budget, was actually cut by about a hundred thousand dollars during the height of COVID, and he still is maintaining what he has for the last eight years. So, I give you a lot of credit for that.

Chief McClay stated, my officers were here 24 hours a day while a lot of people were working from home. Now that money that could be given to them, is not being given to them, that's a reward for doing that. What we're doing now is slap them in the face, saying your job is not that important.

Ms. Hlahol stated, I think this is inappropriate commentary.

Mr. Paul stated, I think we've gone far enough with this, let's turn to the manager's report.

#### **7C. Manager's Report**

She stated, the Capital projects we have going on are, one is the Bridge Street Project with PennDOT. I've been collaborating with PennDOT we're using an ECMS system and with that system we are the approver and so forth, of the project, we're highly involved in this project because we are the pass through for PennDOT, and the grant that's taking place. The item of concern that I had was that the Borough originally needed to come up with the funds to fund this project and then would be reimbursed. We by no means could do that, so I did have a meeting and discussion. At this time, we will be able to, once we get the invoice from the contractor, we'll be able to submit for reimbursement immediately, and then we will have to pay the contractor within 10 days. This will alleviate the Borough to have any financial hardship over this program so I'm happy to report that at this time, because it was a great



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item of concern as to how we could possibly fund this project without having the funds in our coffers, as you have been hearing recently. So, I'm very happy about that. Also, I had a meeting with a possible donor for the engineering regarding the possibility of resurrecting the funds for the previous Manor Park grant application. The CDBG program would provide us with \$250,000 for work to be done at that playground. I did have a wonderful discussion with the possible donor, we're going to see if we can work with our engineering company to see if we can get those funds taken care of, that would not be touching any of the Borough coffer funds, it would be simply through donations. I'm hoping to hear back by the next Council meeting to report to you as to whether or not we can do this, Council did approve following through with this if I'm able to obtain the donation funds so I will certainly keep Council updated. The administration and finance is pretty self-explanatory as to all the other items that are on there. At this time you have not received the treasurer's report; we're still working with Tom Josiah and Company, they will continue to work with us. There are some items that have not been provided: the 2021 financial information had not been provided to the Council and we're still awaiting that. Once Tom Josiah alerts us as to he's ready to provide that to me, I will then be providing that to Council. Yes, we have been in dire straits with the Borough finances for the past several years and we're still working through some of the deficiencies that have been taking place, and this hasn't taken place just in a couple months, it's been a couple of years. It's been several years, more than a couple, so we're working diligently to get our finances in the place where they need to be so we can work forward, and move forward, in the diligent manner that we're talking about as a Council to have a real budget, to have the money in that budget, to be able to provide services and monies to each of the departments moving forward. Thank you very much. I don't know if anyone has any questions regarding my report?

Mrs. Sherlock stated, this is to Judith, I see that you were reviewing applications for a Financial Officer, so have we received many or not many?

Mrs. Danko stated, at this time, I have seven.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, oh, okay, and I don't know if this is something that could be, I just don't remember this, the lawsuit with Levering, I don't remember discussing that, but I know we can't discuss lawsuits out here.

Mrs. Danko stated, certainly, it's regarding an accident that occurred around the Amtrak train trellis area. Do you recall that?

Mrs. Sherlock replied, no.

Mr. Holbert stated, it happened about two and a half, three years ago almost now. It's been a good amount of time.

Mrs. Sherlock replied, thank you, that's it.



**7D. Committee Reports**

- **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Ms. Price Engelhard stated, for the Parks and Recreation Committee, we had our monthly Parks and Recreation meeting on June 28th here at the Borough. In attendance was myself, Chairwoman, Bob Paul, Councilperson, and members of the Parks Committee, Nancy Sherlock, Councilperson, a member of the Parks Committee, and Andrew was not able to attend that night. Debbie Colgan and Jane Burger, residents were also present. We opened the meeting at 7 p.m. and the May minutes were approved. Upcoming events, Kathryn will be doing a flyer to distribute the August 5th food truck event and the October 9th food truck event. Kathryn filled out a proper request for the date for the Labor Day Mayor's Picnic, you can confirm that that was already approved by the Council earlier this year. The basketball nets, two nets have been installed and the other two poles to hold them have been installed. When time allows the other two nets will be redone. I got some requests to talk about parking on the grass there, I did send a note to find out if we needed to put some signs up. General discussion; Debbie Colgan had mentioned that there's campers at the preserve, not much to clean up but volunteers to get out to clean that up. Discussion regarding the Manor Park playground, what equipment, and when will it be taken down, with our insurance company, as requested. A reminder of painting the old pool shack on July 10th from nine to noon or until we're done and both Debbie and I will reach out to volunteers. The meeting was adjourned at 8 15. Just a report, we had a great success, we had nearly 20 people show up to paint. It was a great event, a lot of people came by, lots and lots of positive comments on Facebook and we want to do it again. Just a follow-up on a couple things, Judith and I talked about Manor Park and what was part of Cloverleaf and so I did have Judith get a hold of Jeff at RDA and he said it is part of their part, but they were going to section that off and give it back to the Borough. But, just for Councilwoman Helen, we had talked about whether that money, that million dollar money to remediate that area, and you thought it was gone, it is not gone. We still have that to remediate that area, so that was good news.

Ms. Hlahol stated, it's there to remediate the Cloverleaf property that used to be a dump.

Ms. Price Engelhard stated, yes, so then because our committee is concerned about all the parks, I did go over and I talked to Judith the other day about some of the concerns about the equipment, and looking at it, so I went through and found regulations that the Consumer Product Commission of 2015 for public safety and here's only a handful of pictures, but I have 32 more of this equipment and where grass is not an appropriate padding by law. We have to have suitable surfaces; materials of 6 to 9 inches depending on the equipment, it can be pea gravel, sand, shredded rubber mulch, and special wood mulch. Concrete and asphalt or other hard surfaces should not be under playground equipment. If you take pictures and go all around, you would be appalled at what our kids are playing on. There's concrete jaggging out, well, I'll just let you guys look and pass it on. So that's something that we need to address to make it -- that most of that equipment does need to be torn down and replaced, so that's all I. Also, our food truck



flyers are going out. It's been posted all over social media and we're having it August 5<sup>th</sup>, at the park so I'm looking forward to a great event. So, thank you, that's all I have to report.

Mr. Paul asked, any other committees?

Mrs. Sherlock stated, I have something under reports, which we get the report. I just want to mention that we got the Zoning report and I'm really pleased with how thorough they are and how they respond to so many issues.

Mr. Paul asked, you mean Isett?

Mrs. Sherlock stated, yes, and it's just good to know where our money's going, I guess. But then also I just want to shout out to John and his crew because he sends his report as well and I mean if you look at the numbers, obviously 22 is a lot of less hours have been spent but that's you know, there's only 24 in a day. What are you going to do? So, thank you.

- **Finance Committee**

Mr. Lubin stated, I have to apologize unfortunately we didn't get the notes from our secretary so I'll get things typed up and I'll submit them for next month. My apologies.

## 8. Action Items

**8A.** Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Gasoline & Diesel Annual Bid/Contract through the Bucks County Consortium.

- Unleaded Regular Gasoline: **Riggins, Inc.** @ **\$0.0989** per gallon (delivery charge) market fluctuation pricing;
- On-Road Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel: **Riggins, Inc.** @ **\$0.2540** per gallon (delivery charge) market fluctuation pricing;
- Off-Road Diesel Fuel (#2 Dyed Diesel): **NO BIDS**

Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

*Discussion took place regarding the motion.*

**Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

**8B.** Motion to approve the Portnoff Ordinance Approving Appointment of Solicitor, Interest Assessment, and Attorney Fees and Collection Fees Added to the Amount Collected as Part of Unpaid Municipal Claims for Delinquent Sanitation Fee Accounts.

Motion made by Ms. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.

*No discussion took place regarding the motion.*

**Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.



8C. Motion was tabled.

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8D. Motion was tabled.

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8E. Motion after discussion to approve Borough Co-Sponsoring the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Michael F. Sherlock Jazz/Music Festival.  
Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mrs. Murray.  
*Discussion took place regarding the motion.*  
**Motion** failed by roll call vote 5-1 with 1 abstention. (Yes vote by Ms. Price Engelhard, Mrs. Sherlock abstained).

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8F. Motion to authorize the Chief of Police to dispose of a Police Patrol Car 4606, a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN# 2FABP7BV3BX124635. (Chief estimates minimum of \$600.)  
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.  
*Discussion took place regarding the motion.*  
**Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

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8G. Motion to approve execution of Fuel Systems Services, LLC quote dated 7/07/22 for Morrisville Borough Emergency Services Gasboy System equipment and Software in the amount of \$21,134.96. (To be paid for with the American Rescue Funds.)  
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.  
*Discussion took place regarding the motion.*  
**Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

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8H. Motion to accept resignation of Library Board member Eva Kastner-Puschl.  
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.  
*No discussion took place regarding the motion.*  
**Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

### **Council Committees/Board & Commission Appointments:**

**Civil Service Commission:** One 6-year appointment to complete unexpired term – expires 1/21/26 (FYI: Ken Terry resignation of 3/31/22.)

\*Letter of Interest from Clay B. Aberts (Current Alternate on Civil Service Commission.)

\*Letter of Interest from Matt Wiedenhaefer.

\*Discussion included a message from David Rivella that he is also interested to be considered for the position.

Nomination of Matt Wiedenhaefer by Ms. Price Engelhard

Nomination of Clay Aberts by Ms. Hlahol



Nomination of Matt Wiedenhaefer for the alternate position by Ms. Hlahol.

*Discussion took place regarding the nominations.*

**Vote to appoint Matt Wiedenhaefer** for Civil Service Commission.

**Vote** failed by roll call vote 4-3. (Yes votes by Ms. Price Engelhard, Mr. Paul and Mrs. Sherlock).

**Vote to appoint Clay B. Aberts** for Civil Service Commission.

**Vote** passed by roll call vote 5-2. (Nay votes by Ms. Price Engelhard, Mrs. Sherlock).

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**Library Board:** One 3-year appointment, remainder of unexpired term – expires 3/01/2024.

\*Letter of interest from Margaret E. Gould.

*Discussion indicated that Ms. Gould is not a resident of Morrisville and is therefore disqualified.*

Library Board Appointment Tabled.

## 9. Other Business

The President noted that there was no unfinished or new business to discuss.

## 10. Borough Officials

- Mrs. Sherlock stated, I'd just like to make mention to the public, I'm sure they may have been aware, because it's been advertised quite a bit, that 988 is the new designated three-digit dialing code that will route you directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. You will not be put on hold or asked to leave a message and the trained counselors will listen and provide support if you need support at that time. Also, just a little bit of the canal update, the Canal Trail was named Trail of the Year and there may be a celebration sometime in September. The Pennsylvania budget has been passed and there is significantly more money for Parks and Recreation. Also to mention that the new park manager is Brian Heath, the position was held by Devin Buzard before, he took a position out in the western part of the state. Just for those who know, I mean the water is very, very low but the canal has been around since 1827 and it's had its ups and downs and it will recover, eventually.
- Mr. Paul stated, I was shocked, it's like bone dry.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, yeah, and that's up and down. Well, so is everybody's backyard, I think. Just the last comment, we spoke about needing a new roof on this building which I know we do, I'm asking that we consider the possibility of solar panels on the roof, and we also need a new electrical panel so it seems to me that that would be a perfect time to pair the two. I don't know, I'm not an engineer so I don't know if it will take some panels but I do know that they're a lot lighter than they used to be so I mentioned this to the to the Council President and he had said, you know maybe some time in the future we can bring this up for discussion, but I don't know where we are with -- I know that John was getting some quotes, I know that it's dire, but I think we should think about taking the opportunity because I understand that the electrical panel is an extremely dangerous situation.



- Mrs. Danko stated, it is and John has been getting some quotes for the roof and the electrical panel but we're up against the possible need to have our engineering department come in and look at these items and possibly come up with a schedule of something that we may have to put out to bid. I do feel if we're going to even think about the idea of solar panels we certainly need to know if the roof is able to, you know, handle that type of weight if any, or if it, you know, being that it's a flat roof and so forth you know if there are any informational items as to what is allowable and what would not be allowable, what would be advantageous and what would not be advantageous. So, I was hoping either the next agenda or even the agenda after that to have some information for Council to make some decisions as to whether we would utilize our engineering company to do a review and provide us some information as to what the cost could be and what the needs are.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, I have one thing. So, everyone knows that there's potholes over there in front of La Villa by the railroad tracks as you're trying to get onto Route 1 South, so PennDOT has said that the federal law states the Railroad is responsible for the repairs and when the Railroad was replacing the ties, they said PennDOT was responsible for the repairs so they're, I guess, going back and forth. PennDOT said that he will be checking with the Railroad and will advise as to what will happen there.

## 11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.  
**Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzvw4XfKl-I>