



6:00 Executive Session – Personnel, Real Estate and Litigation involving Blighted Properties in the Borough

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Building, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for a Regular Council Meeting.

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, President
 Helen Hlahol, Vice President
 Andrew Lubin
 Jason Manness
 Carletha Murray, (via phone)
 Kathryn Price Engelhard
 Scott Robinson (via phone)
 Nancy Sherlock
- Borough Officials: Judith Danko, Borough Manager
 Scott Holbert, Solicitor
 Brud Anderson, Mayor
- Not in Attendance: Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary

3. Announcements and Presentations

- Mr. Paul stated, before we start the substance of the meeting I want to welcome Jason Manness to the Council. We're very happy that he volunteered to take Ted Parker's slot when Ted moved away. Jason was sworn in at 5:30 this evening so he's a newbie so let's go gently on him for the first month or so. Thank you Jason and welcome. He reported that Council had an executive session tonight at 6:00 to discuss some Personnel, Real Estate and Litigation matters.
- Mr. Holbert stated, just to add, the Real Estate and Litigation matters involve blighted properties in the Borough.



4. Public Comments

1. Deborah Colgan – *120 W. Hendrickson Avenue*

She announced that there will be a tree planting in Williamson Park. The Environmental Advisory Council together with the group Save Williamson Park partnered with the Tree Vitalized Program to plant 8 trees near the Picnic Pavilion. The planting will be on Saturday, November 19th at 10 A.M., volunteers are needed. Save Williamson Park has collected donations from many generous members of the community. Trees impact many facets of our life, environmental, economic, safety, quality of life, spiritual, cultural, they are a symbol of the best of our human qualities. Trees represent hope for a better future. She stated that we need the Redevelopment Authority out of the park and that we want you to clearly state that it stays a park in its entirety and in perpetuity. She also stated that sadly half of the Riverfront Preserve entry Garden was cut down last week but we don't know who did it. Years of work and plantings were wiped out, if anyone saw any workers at the Preserve please let us know. A lovely little area that hosted many beneficial native species is now a naked eyesore.

2. Don Rice – *Resident of the Borough*

He stated in the area where we are going to be planting trees there is a very large, very dead Sugar Maple, we should take it down. The wood is valuable, someone might pay the Borough to cut it down. He talked about homelessness in Morrisville and stated that three times in the past year we have had homeless people camping in the Preserve. He thanked the Chief for his help. He asked that the Borough gather information and resources that the County has and share it with the residents and the police.

3. Jane Burger – *90 W. Maple Avenue*

She talked about the Johnson Controls motion and wanted to confirm that it's a maintenance contract. She talked about the motion regarding alcohol use in Williamson Park and that the park is composed of several parcels and she wanted to address the one with the three Churches and the one under the Trust, she believes it is worded no alcohol. She also noticed that there was a slight change in the wording of the salute to the flag this evening.

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

5. Approval of Minutes

5A. Motion to approve the Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2022. Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness)

6. Finance

6A. **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer's Report was provided in the Council packets.



6B. Approval of the Bill List

Motion to approve the bill list and pay the bills.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness).

7. Reports

7A. Mayor's Report

He spoke about events coming up in Morrisville this month. He thanked everybody who helped with all the events from the Memorial Day Parade right up to these Trunk or Treat events. He stated that it was a really good summer for Morrisville Borough and we hope to see a lot more of that next year. Morrisville PTO is sponsoring a Trunk or Treat at Grandview Elementary on October 21st. On October 28th, the Solid Rock Youth Center, Compass Church and Morrisville Police Department are sponsoring a Trunk or Treat at Compass Fellowship Church followed by the movie Coco at Williamson Park. He thanked all the people from Save Williamson Park and all those who donated their personal funds. He spoke about manpower and recent activity on social media in reference to the subject. He thanked Council for moving an officer from part-time to full-time last month. He stated that it does not bring us over the finish line. He also stated that it is not just the Police Department that is short-handed, it is the Road Crew and the Office, it is the entire town. He invited the public to come to the upcoming budget sessions. He congratulated Bob Paul and Helen Hlahol for their new positions on Council. He welcomed Jason Manness to Council.

7B. Police Chief's Report

He spoke about the County Casino Grant that was put in last month for \$134,000, he will know on October 28th if they get it and that will go towards two brand new police cars. Last week he put in for the PCCD Grant (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime Delinquency) for \$131,000 worth of equipment which includes training, bonuses for the officers, tablets for vehicles, LPR's for vehicles, alarms for the police station and the evidence room, body cameras, a wellness program for the officers, and a public service announcement. We will know on December 14th if we get that grant. He stated that he put a lot of time into that grant along with Darletta Johnson. It is a 100% grant that's paid by the State, there is no match for the Borough. He spoke about manpower, the department has 8 full-time officers, one is still on limited duty and he's hoping that Officer Bickhardt is starting to heal from his tragedy and is hoping he'll be back next week. He complimented the officers on how hard they have worked this summer.

7C. Manager's Report

She mentioned that the Bridge Street Project has been put on hold most likely until spring of next year. There is more engineering that is needed and she is currently working with PEC and DCNR for more Grant funds to pay for a redesign for the project with our Engineers. She stated that there is a possible donor for engineering regarding the resurrection of the Manor Park Grant. She requested a grant timeline extension for one year for the Williamson



Park Planning Grant. She reported that our five-year audit for the pensions has been completed, once she has a report in writing she will report back to Council. The Gasboy contract has been executed. Our Public Works Superintendent John Later has been working diligently on that and it should be up and running soon. John is also working with an architect with regards to the roof that is leaking. She mentioned that the 2021 Curb Ramp Project has an extension for spring of next year. She reported that she has been working on the older Cops Grant with Darletta and the Chief. She has also been working with Barry Isett and their staff. A new module from Edmunds was placed in our admin system, our fire inspections are starting up again and all the invoices from previous times have been completed and invoices went out. Our Traisr software is now set up to speak with our Edmunds software.

7D. Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee**
Mr. Lubin summarized the last Finance Committee meeting minutes.
- **Parks and Recreation Committee**
Ms. Price Engelhard summarized the last Park and Recreation meeting minutes.

8. Action Items

8A. Motion to adopt the 2022 Halloween Policy.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness)

8B. Motion to acknowledge receipt of \$54,191.92 from the PA Department of the Auditor General, and to approve distribution of 100% to the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness)

8C. Motion for the Borough Manager to execute Johnson Controls Planned Service Proposal 3-year contract in the amount of \$6,305.00 year one, \$6,495.00 year two, \$6,690.00 year three.
Motion made by Mrs. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness)



8D. Motion to amend original contract for 2021 CDBG Curb Ramp agreement extending its term to March 31st, 2023.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness)

8E. Motion to provide a conditional offer of employment to hire Full-Time Public Works Employee Darnell Farquharson, pending background investigation.

Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness)

8F. Motion to adopt a resolution to apply for Morrisville Borough Bridge Street Trail Construction Project Grant; PADOT Bridge Street Project provides matching funds for grant.

Motion made by Mrs. Murray and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (abstention being Mr. Manness)

Mr. Paul stated, at our last meeting in September I invited the public to apply for some of these vacancies that we had on both the Library Board and Morrisville Municipal Authority and you responded so we now have a plethora of candidates which means we're going to have to vote to narrow down the field.

Ms. Hlahol stated, Mr. President, I would be happy to remove my name since there's a vast interest from the public.

Mr. Paul replied, thank you Helen. The way we're going to conduct this vote first for the Library Board, I've talked this over with our Borough Solicitor is we'll take nominations, each nominee gets voted on individually so as they get nominated we will vote yes or no, if they get a majority that nominee is then seated. If there's no majority we go into the next one and if we don't get two with majority votes by the by the time we've gone through the list we go through it again with a runoff of those, I guess the next highest votes which may be -- presumably there might be a tie for that. I know it sounds confusing but we think this is going to be the most efficient way to move this along.

Council Committees/Board & Commission Appointments:

Library Board: Two appointments to complete the remainder of three-year terms – expiring March 1, 2024.

Nomination of Lonnie Johnson by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Lonnie Johnson for Library Board.



Vote tied by roll call vote 4-3 and 1 abstention. (nay votes being Ms. Sherlock, Mr. Paul and Ms. Price Engelhard) (absentee being Mr. Manness)

Vote failed by roll call vote 4-4 and 1 abstention. (Mayor Anderson broke the tie with a nay vote)

Nomination of Maria Diaz by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mrs. Murray.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Maria Diaz for Library Board.

Vote carried by roll call vote 7-0 and 1 abstention. (absentee being Mr. Manness)

Nomination of Andrew Lubin by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Andrew Lubin for Library Board.

Vote failed by roll call vote 3-4 and 1 abstention. (nay votes being Ms. Price Engelhard, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Paul and Mrs. Sherlock) (absentee being Mr. Manness)

Nomination of Judith Miller by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Judith Miller for Library Board.

Vote tied by roll call vote 4-3 and 1 abstention. (nay votes being Mr. Paul, Mrs. Sherlock and Ms. Price Engelhard) (absentee being Mr. Manness)

Vote failed by roll call vote 4-4 and 1 abstention. (Mayor Anderson broke the tie with a nay vote)

Nomination of Ann Perry by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. Paul.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Ann Perry for Library Board.

Vote failed by roll call vote 2-5 and 1 abstention. (nay votes being Mr. Lubin, Ms. Hlahol, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Sherlock and Mr. Paul) (absentee being Mr. Manness)

Nomination of Alicia Law by Mr. Paul and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Alicia Law for Library Board.

Vote carried by roll call vote 6-1 and 1 abstention. (nay vote being Mrs. Murray) (absentee being Mr. Manness)

Mr. Paul thanked everyone who indicated interest in the Library Board.

Mayor Anderson stated, this is a great list of people that were willing to volunteer for the Board and I couldn't be more thrilled. I hope we see a lot more of this in the future.

Morrisville Municipal Authority: One appointment to complete the remainder of a five-year term expiring January 4, 2027.

Nomination of Helen Hlahol by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Helen Hlahol for Morrisville Municipal Authority.



Vote tied by roll call vote 4-3 and 1 abstention. (nay votes being Mr. Paul, Mrs. Sherlock and Ms. Price Engelhard) (abstention being Mr. Manness)

Vote failed by roll call vote 4-4 and 1 abstention. (Mayor Anderson broke the tie with a nay vote)

Nomination of Don Rice by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. Paul.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Don Rice for Morrisville Municipal Authority.

Vote failed by roll call vote 3-4 and 1 abstention. (nay votes being Mr. Robinson, Ms. Hlahol, Mr. Lubin and Mrs. Murray) (abstention being Mr. Manness)

Nomination of Robert Perry by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Ms. Sherlock.

No discussion took place regarding the nomination.

Vote to appoint Robert Perry for Morrisville Municipal Authority.

Vote tied by roll call vote 4-3 and 1 abstention. (nay votes being Mr. Robinson, Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Lubin) (abstention being Mr. Manness)

Vote carried by roll call vote 5-3 and 1 abstention. (Mayor Anderson broke the tie with a yea vote)

Mr. Paul thanked everyone who indicated interest in the Morrisville Municipal Authority.

9. Other Business

9A. Request for Alcohol Use Permits at Williamson Park for events. Attorney Holbert provided supporting information via email. He explained the short falls.

- Discussion ensued regarding Alcohol Use Permits at Williamson Park. Mr. Paul asked Ms. Price Engelhard to bring it up at the next Parks and Recreation Committee and invited the public to give their views.

9B. Discussion regarding clarifying Morrisville Borough policy and procedures for paying accounts payable. Mr. Paul spoke about the procedures and policies that Council will work on in the future.

10. Borough Officials

- Mrs. Sherlock talked about some activity on Post Road that's not in Morrisville but it's on Morrisville's border and she wanted the public to know and they could go oppose it in Falls, it's down there at 2300 South Pennsylvania Avenue which unfortunately just adds to the mess that's going down there anyway and trucks. It's a warehouse but not on our property.
- Ms. Hlahol talked about an article in the Courier Times and that she was very disappointed in the people on Council. It had to do with truck traffic and there have been many meetings that everyone on Council has been invited to and some people just chose not to go or were busy which I understand but there's some information in this article and that's disturbing because the



residents are reading it. One of the statements is, I know our State and County Officials are aware of the issue they knew North Point was coming they should have started this three years ago. They did start it three years ago, Mr. Mitchell was in charge of it, unfortunately he passed away. I started having meetings with the State Representatives in February about this, they have been doing things, North Point has been very receptive to a lot of things they have put up signs they have plans to put up more signs so it's sad to me that a lot of this information was not put on there. She stated, another thing that was said was Morrisville Officials want to know why the traffic concerns weren't figured out when the center was designated. I don't think that two Council people can speak for all Morrisville Officials, you weren't appointed to make these comments and they shouldn't have been made, they should have been made as individual comments not as a group comment representing Council and their feelings. She stated that Chief McClay also made a comment in the article talking about the quality of life and when we had the meeting with PennDOT on August 10th which all of Council was invited to PennDOT had asked you for a plan and I was just surprised to see that you didn't add anything here about a plan about the truck traffic and what you could possibly do to help it. Finally, no mention was made that there was an opportunity to hire an officer that had truck certifications and this Council turned it down. That's all I have to say.

- Mrs. Sherlock stated, thank you Helen but that officer did not have full truck traffic certification.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, he's missing one class which he would have taken.
- Mayor Anderson stated, as we discussed before when we talked about this truck officer –
- Mr. Paul stated, wait a minute. We really shouldn't be talking about employee matters at the public meeting.
- Mayor Anderson stated, this is something that's been discussed before.
- Mr. Paul asked, Mr. Solicitor, please tell me what the advice is.
- Scott Holbert stated, please refrain from discussing certifications and qualifications of employees and people who have applied to positions with the Borough in public.
- Mayor Anderson replied, understood, my comment was more about manpower. When this was discussed in the past it was brought up that of course we would love to have a truck officer we would love to have a detective but that cannot happen until we get back up to the manpower that we need to do and so I'm confident we will get there and we do want those things but it has to be in the right order so thank you.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, I apologize for going against the attorney's recommendation but we have been inundated with the public contacting us and lambasting us for not hiring an officer who was already qualified to be a truck traffic officer or an officer with truck certifications so I think the



public has been misinformed that's why I brought it up. As far as the article which I did not see in the paper, never once was I representing an entire Borough, that woman contacted me and asked me if I would meet her down there and just make some comments and that's all it was. Thank you.

- Mr. Paul announced the current vacancies on boards and commission appointments that are still open. Civil Service Commission, one appointment as an "alternate" for the remainder of six-year term – expiring December 16, 2025. Planning Commission, one appointment for the remainder of a four-year term expiring December 31, 2025.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pytseRiRqUc&t=146s>