



6:00 Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 7:23 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
 Kathryn Price Engelhard
 Scott Robinson
 Nancy Sherlock

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

3. Announcements and Presentations

- There were no announcements or presentations this evening.

4. Public Comments

1. George Helmstetter – *800 S. Pennsylvania Avenue*
He talked about truck traffic and his quality of life. He is happy that we are hiring a truck enforcement officer. He stated that PennDOT and the State should stop doing studies. He thinks there are too many studies and we need more action. He wants the Borough to route the trucks away from Pennsylvania Avenue.
2. Bruce Stevens – *714 Crown Street*
He stated that the last financial statement he received for the Library was in October and at that time the salaries were at 77% which is pretty close to breaking even. He doesn't understand the statement that the Library is significantly over budget for the year.



3. Diane Hughes – *143 Osborne Avenue*
She explained the Library staff and their duties. The Children’s Librarian is not on the floor. The Library is open to the public 9.5 hours a day Monday through Thursday and 7 hours on Saturday. She stated that she reviewed the end of year December financial reports from 2021 through 2022 and she didn’t find \$30,000.00 overspending in Libraries. She asked if the Library will be able to replace the (2) positions that are leaving in 2023.

4. Mary Hrenda – *Morrisville Resident*
She stated that cutting the budget for the Library is worrisome. The Library is one of the things that makes Morrisville a good place to live. It’s a walkable location and offers benefits to all the community. Its accessibility makes it a valuable resource for everyone. It offers interest and knowledge for a lifetime as well as computers and free internet access. Under resourcing the Library would be unacceptable.

5. Don Rice – *Morrisville Resident*
He stated that on Council’s September 20th re-organization meeting there was a tie vote on the Vice President appointment and the repetitive voting mandated by the solicitor is not the legal procedure for breaking the tie vote. He stated that Title 8 of Pa. Code states in Chapter 10 Sub Chapter A section 1003 D, if a tie or split vote occurs at any meeting when the Mayor is not in attendance the matter shall be tabled to a special meeting to be held within not less than five days or more than 10 days as set by the President of Council and the Mayor shall be given at least five days notice of the meeting at which it shall be the duty of the Mayor to cast the tie-breaking vote. The tie-breaking vote procedure used was incorrect and the motion to appoint a Vice President failed, I challenge you to either correct me if I’m wrong or correct your mistake. The President should have tabled the vote not to keep voting, the rush to fill the vacancy was not necessary. He talked about Council cutting the Library budget and that the public needs to know what is being cut, why it is being cut and how this will impact the Library. Any Library budget that does not provide for a fully functioning Library is unacceptable and will be fought. Please solve the problem knowing that the Library is incredibly important to Morrisville.

Mr. Holbert stated, that the Mayors power only applies in certain cases.

6. Gary Taylor – *405 Hamilton Blvd.*
He stated that Compass Christmas was a success, and the Mayor and the Chief were there. He talked about Key Box change that was made in the Code, #260. He handed out a list to Council of questions that he asked them regarding the Code change.

7. Heather Guidice – *1071 Princeton Road, Lower Makefield*
She shared her support of the Library. She is one of the founding members of the Bucks County Seed Share Program. She talked about the program that launched in February and stated that over 100 people attended. They offer herbs, vegetable, fruits and plants to all residents, and it’s free. It’s a community and they accept donations of seeds. She stated that



people from out of town come and access the Library. She hopes that Council does the right thing and makes sure that the Library has the funding that they need.

8. Debra Chmielecki – *853 Highland Avenue*

She stated that the Borough can't afford to reduce any funding to the Library. She stated that the Library is a good thing that we have for all our citizens and she thinks we should allow more money to fund the Library and more programs. The Library offers life-long learning and literacy. We should be proud of the Library, it's a much needed service and they are on par with the rest of the County. Please do not decrease funding.

9. Kathy Panzitta – *401 Hillcrest Avenue*

She talked about her concern with Comcast not working. Let's clean it up. She asked about the wage sheet and what a Confidential Executive Administrator does. She asked about the agenda item to approve a fee agreement to hire somebody to assist with Borough accounting and payroll corrections. She supports the Library and the parks even if she doesn't need it personally. Why put a new roof on the Library if we won't properly fund it?

10. Connie Beadle – *506 Osborne Avenue*

She stated that she's lived in the Borough 63 years, she's watched it change and she's watched it grow. She was a Librarian at the Morrisville Library. She spent 30 years as a school Librarian and 8 in public libraries and there are always budget problems. Part of the reason is because we share the same pot of money with the police and the garbage which of course are essential, but we have always managed, we as Librarians, as a group to serve our communities and our schools. We want to continue doing that to the best of our ability and we would like your support in finding a way to make that happen. A lot of Library work is invisible to the people who walk in and out. She invited everyone to join the book club that started in October.

11. Patty & Emily Sims – *412 Osborne Avenue*

She stated that she is a former Council member and a clinical social worker. She stated that we need a country that can read and grow. Her daughter is on the autism spectrum and goes to the Library often. The Library is a safe place and an essential resource. She stated that access to computers is essential and the Library is a community. She feels we need to have a Country that is not divided and we need access to resources.

12. Christine Jansen – *W. Palmer*

She stated that she is a senior citizen and she's lived in the Borough for 30 plus years. She stated after her husband died in 2005 she found the need to do something with her mind and she found the Library and she has read 81 books and they all came from the Library. Senior Citizens don't have a lot of money and they are a vital part of our community. It's not affordable to buy so many books.

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 November 15, 2022. Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- 5B.** Motion to approve the Borough Council Budget Meeting/Special Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- 5C.** Motion to approve the Borough Council Budget Meeting/Special Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2022. Motion made by Mrs. Murray and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

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.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

7. Reports

- 7A. Mayor's Report**
Mayor Anderson thanked everyone who participated in Winterfest. He thanked Donna Wilson for planning the parade and expressed condolences that it was cancelled. He thanked Imagine Morrisville for putting on a Very Morrisville Christmas. He thanked the Fire Department for driving Santa around town. He loves that there are residents at the meeting and he would love to see more involved every month.
- 7B. Police Chief's Report**
Chief McClay reported that the Pennsylvania State Police did their three year audit of the JNET system which had two recommendations that are in the two directives tonight. He spoke about the PCCD Grant and stated that money is being distributed. Philadelphia got \$50 million, he hopes to get what they asked for. There is a meeting in March to give out



more money. He thanked Commissioner Diane Marseglia for her help with getting the RDA Casino Grant for \$133,000.00 for two complete new police vehicles for Morrisville's patrol. We are good with police vehicles, except for a new Chief's vehicle which needs to be replaced. He will be selling 3 vehicles which will raise a significant amount of money that can be used to purchase a new Chief's vehicle.

7C. Manager's Report

Manager Danko thanked everyone who showed up this evening to express their items of concern. She reported that staff hours are being reduced and that the Library is not being closed and the hours of operation will stay the same. She reiterated that she cares about the Library and got a grant for the roof, and is proud of that. She spoke about the Bridge Street Project, all paperwork has been sent in for a grant for engineering and it's looking good. She mentioned several items that have been completed that saved the Borough taxpayers money and helped the Borough budget. Several being, the grant for the dump truck with a salt spreader and plow \$128,000.00, the CDBG grant regarding curbs and sidewalks, the grant for \$52,000 for police vehicle with complete outfitting. She stated that she works diligently to provide monies to the Borough's budget that have nothing to do with the taxes and the taxpayer dollars. She mentioned the 2021 CDBG curb and sidewalk grant for \$239,845.00. She mentioned that in 2021 she was able to acquire a \$3,000.00 donation worth of Christmas decorations. She stated that she renegotiated the contract with Capital Health to get \$15,000.00 rent yearly. She stated she has been saving the Borough \$3,000 to \$5,000 per grant by writing the grants herself rather than having the engineers write them.

7D. Committee Reports

- **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Ms. Price Engelhard stated there were no meetings for November and December due to dates conflicting with budget meetings. The next meeting will be January 4th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will be about legalizing alcohol to be used during special events in the park. She is looking for community input regarding having a beer garden at an event.

8. Action Items

8A. Motion to adopt the 2023 Tax Levy Ordinance, an ordinance of the Borough of Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, levying a tax on real property located in Morrisville Borough for the fiscal year 2023 totaling 54.50 Mills; repealing all inconsistent ordinances and resolutions; providing a repealer clause, severability clause; and providing and effective date, subject to court approval.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022
7:23 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

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- 8B.** Motion to adopt the 2023 Final Budget.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 6-2. (nay votes being Ms. Price Engelhard and Mrs. Sherlock)
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- 8C.** Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Borough Solicitor to petition the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas to levy a General Fund Millage Rate of 35 mills.
Motion made by Mrs. Murray and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8D.** Motion to adopt a Resolution of Morrisville Borough establishing a 2023 Fee Schedule for the application and review of subdivision and land development applications and for the application and review of building and zoning permit applications and other Borough fees.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8E.** Motion to authorize Chief of Police to dispose of police patrol car #463, a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN# 2FABP78VDAX139186 (Chief estimates \$600-\$700).
Motion made by Mrs. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8F.** Motion to approve the adoption of an Ordinance of Morrisville Borough, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, electing to amend its Police Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, agreeing to be bound by all provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law as amended and as applicable to member municipalities.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8G.** Motion to approve the adoption of an Ordinance of Morrisville Borough, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, electing to amend its non-Uniform Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law; agreeing to be bound by all provisions of the



Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law as amended and as applicable to member municipalities.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8H. Motion to adopt a Resolution amending Morrisville Borough Police Department Directive 128 related to Clean and JNET usage and Directive 245 related to Missing Persons.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8I. Motion to approve the Borough Manager's execution of a fee agreement dated 12/5/2022, to hire Gibson and Perkins, P.C., to assist with Borough accounting and payroll corrections.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

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

8J. Motion to approve KCBA Architects proposal for the Morrisville Borough Building Roof Replacement Project architectural work in the amount of \$34,450.00 to be paid from ARPA funds.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8K. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$25,000.00 to Capital Health as payment per the EMS Fund as of 12/31/22. (Based on final 2022 financials being available, third and final payment is expected to be part of January 17, 2023 agenda.)

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8L. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$50,000.00 to Morrisville Fire Company as payment per the Fire Fund as of 12/31/22. (Based on final 2022 financials being available, third and final payment is expected to be part of the January 17, 2023 agenda.)

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.



8M. Motion to make a conditional offer of employment to Lew Halas as a Full Time Police Officer subject to the requirements of Act 57.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8N. Motion to appeal Zoning Hearing decision regarding 70 East Bridge Street, Morrisville.

Motion removed from agenda.

8O. Motion to consider Memorandum of Understanding between Police Association and the Borough regarding leave of absence of Police Officer subject to paragraph 6 being amended for Pro-Rated reduction of vacation, sick leave and other benefits.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 7-0-1. (Abstention being Mr. Lubin)

9. Other Business

Mayor Anderson wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, whatever they celebrate and to enjoy the rest of this year, 2022.

Mr. Paul stated, before we wrap this up, I want to point out the current open Board and Commission seats available. We have the Morrisville Economic Development Corporation where we have (3) three-year term appointments expiring January 21st 2026, so far we have letters of interest from Joan Diretto-Weik and Robin Reithmeyer.

Mrs. Sherlock stated that we have (2) three-year terms, one appointment is expiring in March 2023.

Mrs. Danko stated, we will have to confirm that at the office level and asked Mrs. Sherlock if she could please provide the information she was using so the office staff could compare information.

Mrs. Sherlock said she would.

Mr. Paul stated, for the Civil Service Commission we have (1) appointment as an alternated for the remainder of a six-year term expiring December 16th, 2025. Nobody has applied for that yet. Environmental Advisory Council has (2) three-year appointments, one term expiring December 19th, 2025 and one term expiring January 21st 2026. Again, that's wide open. The Municipal Authority has (1) five-year appointment expiring January 2nd, 2028. The Zoning Hearing Board has (1) three-year appointment expiring January 2nd 2026.



10. Borough Officials

- Ms. Hlahol asked the Chief of Police about the sign being gone that is usually in front of the firehouse.
- Mr. Robinson asked about Yardley Auto Body and what the odds are of putting the sign on the corner by the sidewalk and have it flash all trucks with an arrow.
- Chief McClay stated that he did that and he got phone calls from PennDOT and Steve Santarsiero telling him to take the sign down immediately.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, they are looking into granting us permission to have different signs up but that's still in review. She's hoping that the first quarter they'll get back to her, so hopefully we'll be able to put some signs up.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked about the questionnaire that we received about the lock boxes, she thinks there are some very good questions and she guesses at some point in time we'll get those answers. She stated, who would we ask, Barry Isett?
- Mrs. Danko stated, I will contact Mike Italia from Barry Isett and put him in contact with Mr. Taylor. They are currently working with many of the businesses at this time so I am surprised that Mr. Taylor hadn't reached out to them for some answers because really that's where the answers will come from.
- Mr. Robinson stated, I actually texted the Fire Chief and he said the Fire Marshal can answer all his questions.
- Mrs. Danko stated, correct, yes.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked Mrs. Danko what the status was regarding the letter about someone offering money to the Borough for a Truck Enforcement Officer. She also asked about the money the Borough was supposed to get for Manor Park.
- Mrs. Danko stated that regarding to Manor Park, we were trying to accomplish getting the engineering for free and that is still actually being discussed and worked on. Regarding the information for the donation for a Truck Traffic Enforcement Officer, I sent a letter out and I'm awaiting a response. I did get an initial response stating that they were going to provide it to their superiors and it's their budget season also so I would be hearing from them as soon as they are finished with their budget season. I will be happy to report that information as soon as I receive hopefully great news.

Mr. Paul stated, before I entertain a motion to adjourn, I just want to remind all Council members that we reconvene in the back room to complete our executive session on Personnel matters.



11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocb1mmt6JaU>