



The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 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
Brud Anderson, Mayor
Scott Holbert, Solicitor

Not in Attendance: Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary

Mr. Paul stated, that he asked Robin Reithmeyer, Chairman of the Morrisville Economic Development Corporation to come to the Council meeting simply because in the three years he's been sitting on Council he hasn't had any direct involvement with the EDC and Council hasn't heard from the EDC or some of the other agencies by way of providing us with an update or report of what they're doing. He thought this would be a great opportunity for Robin to be able to tell us what the EDC is up to, what their mission is, what their current activities are. He recognizes that because of confidentiality restrictions there are some things she can't talk about or she can only talk about generally. He also wants to know how Council can help in furthering the goals and the objectives of EDC.

3. Announcements and Presentations

- Robin Reithmeyer, Chairperson of the Morrisville Economic Development Corporation. She stated that she was appointed to the EDC in January of 2020 and was elected Chairperson in 2021 and that the EDC was established as a result of a Resolution by the Morrisville Borough Council in 1990 and Incorporated as a 501c3 under Pennsylvania law and is an entity in and of itself. She stated that the EDC can be credited for such things as bringing and helping to establish the ActorsNet of Bucks County, making the initial contact with the Garden Market



and encouraging them to bring their business to Morrisville, assisting Concerto Fusion with business and neighbor relations when they first came to the neighborhood, bringing the Pet Stop to Morrisville, working with the DCNR and other State agencies to get the Canal Towpath and Wayfinding signage installed and that path runs from New England all the way through Florida. The EDC hosted the first Winterfest which is now an annual event. They worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Morrisville Municipal Authority to have comfort stations built on Delmorr Avenue near the Calhoun Street Bridge. The Corporation has also worked on things that either no longer exist or never came to fruition, for example, the Morrisville Messenger which was a newspaper similar to the Morrisville Times and through a Green Space Grant the EDC was able to place barrel planters on Bridge Street. The group worked tirelessly on the Gateway Project, the Reading Energy Project and we can't forget the Visitor Center all of which unfortunately never came to fruition. She spoke about their mission and bylaws. The financial assistance they receive from the Borough is the annual advertising and a meeting space. She reported that the old water treatment plant on Delmorr Avenue is under contract and has a closing date of April. She talked about their January 18th meeting and who was in attendance and what they would like to do. They talked about an events calendar, banners, and a new sign similar to Langhorne Rotary and hiring a public relations firm. Their goal is to draw people into the community and they are working on a scavenger hunt and a 5K for next year.

- Mr. Lubin asked if the Borough Manager and Council President have a copy of the bylaws and if not can she send them to the Borough Manager.
- Ms. Hlahol requested that the EDC bylaws be resent to Council including the last page that has signatures.

4. Public Comments

1. Debby Colgan – *120 W. Hendrickson Avenue (MEAC)*

She stated that she is happy that there are items on the agenda for the people of Morrisville. The EAC urges Council to support our parks and activities that make Morrisville a more vibrant town. The Riverfront Preserve has been experiencing increased vandalism with random tree cutting by an unknown party. The EAC asks that the residents stay vigilant and report any vandalism to the police, per ordinance the destruction of trees and plants in our parks is a punishable offense. Sadly, the Preserve is also the victim of institutional damage by Conrail. The EAC requests that Council sign the letter to Conrail that is on tonight agenda, last October, Conrail cleared 20' beyond their right of way. Conrail has not been a good neighbor, they have displayed a lack of concern for the impact of its operations all along the tracks, and there are piles of old ties, debris, gravel, some spilling onto neighboring land. Sections of the trail at the Preserve are often obliterated when the debris is intentionally dumped down into the Preserve. Establishing relationships with the communities they operate to address concerns needs not only to be encouraged but demanded. Conrail is another one of



the many industries in Morrisville that is exempt from property tax yet their operations affect our community. They urge the Borough to be forceful to resolve this issue.

2. Lonnie Johnson – *117 Park Avenue*

He stated he sent a letter of intent and resume for the Library Board. He has over 20 years experience in libraries and he has worked in many different kinds. He looks forward to working in his own town.

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

5. Approval of Minutes

5A-B. Motion to approve the Borough Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2022 and January 17, 2023.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

7. Reports

7A. Mayor's Report

Mayor Anderson welcomed everyone at the meeting; he knows everyone cares about the town. He reminded everyone that members of our boards and entities are volunteers and we need to work with them. He feels we need to do better as opposed to making some things more difficult, he knows that's not done on purpose but it does happen and feels we need more team work with these groups. We should all work harder on communicating better and get ready for a good year; there are a lot of amazing events that are being worked on by a lot of different groups. Thank you for listening and thank you all for being here.

7B. Police Chief's Report

Chief McClay reported that Justin Bickhardt will be coming back to work March 1st which is earlier than he anticipated. That puts us at 9 full-time officers with one still on limited duty and expected to be on limited duty for quite a long time. Part-time status, Andrew Nagel



unfortunately resigned and he will be missed, he is a very good police officer. We still have one out full IOD leaving us with three part-timers which is probably the lowest we've been since I've been here. I am interviewing one police officer who is an officer at Temple to become a part-time police officer, I'm going to slow that down a little bit and let him recover, he was unfortunately involved with the incident this past weekend where we lost an officer at Temple. Morrisville Police will be represented at Officer Fitzgerald's viewing and funeral.

7C. Manager's Report

Manager Danko thanked everyone for providing their information this evening and stated that she looks forward to working with all the volunteer groups and all the exciting events to come this spring. She reported that she acquired an extra \$88,000.00 in grant funding for the Bridge Street Project that you see on that rendering over in the corner that we've talked about for quite some time. We have had to change some items regarding to the walkway. That information is on the Borough Council agenda this evening for an approval, it is basically to provide us with pieces of the walkway instead of having to construct them individually, it would be a faster approach and work better and also cost us less so we're working diligently towards that project. We're hoping to have that project done this year and that would be something wonderful to have a ribbon cutting ceremony and something to celebrate once it's completed. She spoke about the clearing at Williamson Park near the top of the parking lot and thanked everyone who was involved especially Ms. Colgan for her suggestion and her time spent cleaning up at the park. She also thanked Ms. Colgan for her proposed letter and information that she provided and stated that it was disheartening to see the damage that was done at the Preserve, and she is hoping that we can move forward and possibly gain some help with what did take place there because so much volunteerism did take place and a lot of effort, time and money. She reported that the 2021 CDBG Curb Ramp Project is completed, there were some revisions made and they are continuing to view the area when it rains. She announced that there will be a finance meeting tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. and they will be discussing how the ARPA funds will be utilized. She announced that they received a time request extension for the DCED master plan grant for Williamson Park that was awarded some time ago as well as an extension for the master plan grant for Patriots Park. She reported that she is continuing to work with the engineer/architect for the emergency project which is the roof at Borough Hall. The architects have suggested other repairs and changes that would be more advantageous to the building.

Mrs. Sherlock asked if we could have a plan for painting the decorative street poles downtown this spring. She reported that there is ponding at Mercer and Prospect and asked that when they are done with that ponding issue maybe they can figure out something at the 400 block of West Bridge Street. She stated that the water leak was fixed but there's still quite a bit of ponding and there's a ton of water down there now for about 50 yards. She stated when PennDOT came and did the road -- the pitch is all wrong so it doesn't drain anywhere it just sits there.



7D. Committee Reports

- **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Ms. Price Engelhard stated that at the January 24th Park and Recreation meeting there was discussion whether alcohol could be served in Williamson Park for special events. There was discussion regarding what the process would be. At the meeting with input from Mrs. Danko it was decided that it should only be Borough sponsored events because we have more control. They are in the process of moving forward and making it happen so that by this summer they will be able to offer a beer garden for the Oktoberfest.

- **Civil Service Commission**

Mr. Robinson stated that the Civil Service Commission met last night, they approved their minutes from the last several meetings, they approved their 2022 Annual Report and they are currently working on updating their Civil Service rules. Their next meeting will be Monday night at 6:30 p.m., there is also a meeting advertised for March 6th, which is the following Monday and that meeting is tentative if things aren't wrapped up next Monday.

- **Finance Committee**

Mr. Lubin announced the next meeting is tomorrow at 7 p.m., the public is invited and he hopes to see everyone there.

Ms. Hlahol announced that the company near the steel mill has approved a donation to Morrisville Borough, they are going to come either next month or in April and present a check to the Borough, they're going to give \$65,000.00 in order for the Borough to have a full-time truck enforcement officer so hopefully that will get started, I know we probably have to work with the Chief to see if he can let go of anyone or when that's going to be available. The person on his current staff who has taken some certs will be fully certified in June or July and so then at that point I would imagine he would become a full-time truck enforcer, prior to that I don't know what his qualifications are to do anything down there but at least we'll have a presence with him. Great news for the Borough, I'm very happy about that. Part of our proposal and our ask was that we also get -- I know Chief that you had that one big contraption that the battery had died so part of that one proposal was to on the other side going North you have the solar panel so the one going South we will also purchase a solar panel so that the speed limit is being shown to the truckers. Hopefully it's the start of many good things.

Mr. Paul replied, yeah that is good news and Council will have to work with the Mayor and the Chief on rolling that out and how to best implement and hiring the new truck officer. In any case, we're moving in the right direction.

Mayor Anderson stated, Helen thank you, I know you've worked on this for months and this is important you heard everybody clap as you brought this up so I thank you for your hard work and it is going to help. Chief if you could, we've talked about this several times in the past can we just remind the people that it's not as simple as just making somebody a truck officer because you have to go through the Civil Service to do so, do we want a truck driver on the street, yes and we have to have the



proper numbers of police to do so, so I don't want to be a Debbie Downer because this is an amazing thing that Helen has accomplished but if you could just take a couple minutes and remind them of the process please.

Chief McClay stated, the \$65,000.00 is enough for this year and every time I talked about hiring more officers I go okay what about next year and the year after, so you have to finance that into your budget, that's number one. Number two you have to figure out whether you can hire just a truck enforcement officer and name them as that under Civil Service rules or do you name them as a police officer. The third problem is going to be are we hiring more officers? So that's something the Council is going to have to talk about and get that moving as quickly as they possibly can. At this point we have eight officers. Do you want to talk about taking part of that \$65,000.00 and just paying overtime to your officer now that you want to be the truck officer? There's other things we can do in that way, I can hire some full-time officers to put them out there and use part of that \$65,000.00 that's something that's going to be Council's purview of how they want that. I'm open to whichever way you want to go.

Ms. Hlahol stated, the money is for a truck enforcement officer, I got the hey you're going to get these dollars, Judith would need to talk to them about is this a recurring yearly donation or is it a one-time donation; I don't even know that yet. I only got a letter saying congrats it went through I got approved, you're getting the money. They don't have the dollars yet I mean they have it they didn't get it in a check format and when they do they'll come here and they'll present the dollars and I guess they'll explain what their expectations are after Judith has spoken with them about what they would like to see, so it's not like we can take that money and just say oh hey look we can do this, so there's still some things that have to get ironed out.

Ms. Sherlock stated, Mr. Paul, if I remember correctly, you hire the officer and then you appoint him or you give him the instruction of doing trucks so doesn't that solve the -- we hire an officer but they do truck enforcement so instead of hiring a truck enforcement officer we're getting the money for truck enforcement because you're right it's not in the contract, it's not in the Civil Service, it's not a position it's our understanding from what you told us before.

Chief McClay stated, we talked about that before, the best way to do it is hire another police officer and his assignment is truck enforcement.

Mayor Anderson stated, that's exactly what we did with Bo, I think some people think he was labeled a truck enforcement officer but he was a police officer that worked truck enforcement and I know a lot of people miss him so I'm really glad this conversation is getting started.

Chief McClay stated, so there's going to have to be some -- we don't work for that person whoever is giving us that money so you got to watch the strings that are going to be attached to that, so I caution you with that.

Ms. Hlahol replied, yeah there's no strings it's just they're not giving us a blanket check to use as we want the check is for Truck Enforcement.



Mr. Paul stated that is a condition to it. We talked about that a little bit Helen, I've talked with Ms. Danko also about it. It's complicated and we'll have to work through it with the Chief, with the Mayor and anyone on Council who is interested, but it's complicated and with our Solicitor to make sure that we're not overly constrained, that we can still do what we're required to do and authorized to do with our own judgement but not reject or screw ourselves out of a nice contribution so we'll make sure that we do it correctly, it's going to be a team effort.

Ms. Danko stated, yes, I believe that we can accomplish this working together.

Ms. Sherlock stated, one thing that the Chief did mention is about it being reoccurring, if it's not reoccurring then that's just another challenge that we have to find that for the following year which was one of the pitfalls of the cops grants in the past if we were assumed sometimes because we knew that we didn't have the money after that was over but I think it's a good thing and thank you Helen and the company, I guess they're not revealing until they come here?

Ms. Hlahol stated, I don't want to reveal them, when they come here they can reveal themselves. I'm not keeping it a secret I just would prefer that they come and announce themselves rather than I announce them.

8. Action Items

- 8A.** Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$9,524.00 to Capital Health as payment per the EMS Fund as of 12/31/22.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

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- 8B.** Motion to approve Morrisville Borough Little League Annual Opening Day Parade and Ceremonies on Saturday, April 1, rain date April 15, 2023, starting at 10:00 am.

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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- 8C.** Motion to direct the Civil Service Commission to update the CSC Rules and Regulations.
Motion removed from agenda due to it was voted on previously.

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- 8D.** Motion to direct the Civil Service Commission to follow its process for certifying the Consortium list scheduled to be updated following the examination on March 18th, 2023 to replace the current eligibility Consortium list when it expires.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.



Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

- 8E.** Motion to approve the Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Morrisville Yardley Rotary Club to be held on Saturday, April 8th, 2023 in Williamson Park from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8F.** Motion to approve holding the car show sponsored by the (MBA) Morrisville Business Association at no cost to the Borough, on Saturday May 20th, 2023 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm (rain date May 27th, 2023) on East Bridge Street between Delmorr and Pennsylvania Avenues and to authorize the Borough Administration to submit the permit paperwork completed by the MBA to PennDOT.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8G.** Motion to approve the Borough Manager to send a letter to Conrail regarding the clearing within the Riverfront Preserve Easement area.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8H.** Motion to approve Morrisville Community Service Day Mural Painting at Williamson Park to be held on March 18th, 2023 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Motion made by Ms. Price-Engelhard and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion made to amend the motion adding verbiage: subject to completion or submission of all required documentation.
Motion /made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
Motion to amend the motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
Motion to approve the amended motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8I.** Motion to approve the first Saturday in October for the Annual Oktoberfest.
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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- 8J.** Motion to explore the legal issues and risks related to permitting alcohol at Borough Parks. Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Manness.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 5-3. (nay votes being Ms. Hlahol, Mr. Lubin and Mr. Paul)
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- 8K.** Motion to approve updated plans for the Bridge Street Project. Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8L.** Motion to approve a Borough Council Resolution Imposing Protocols relating to Borough Office Management and Confidential Communications. Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin. Motion to table made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.
Motion to table failed by roll call vote 3-5. (nay votes being Ms. Hlahol, Mr. Lubin, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Paul and Mr. Robinson)
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 7-1. (nay vote being, Mrs. Sherlock)
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- 8M.** Motion to approve Mutual Support Agreement with Morrisville Municipal Authority. Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8N.** Motion to approve the purchase of a Pickle ball net to be used in Williamson Park tennis court area. Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Paul.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion to table made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
Motion to table carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8O.** Motion to approve the Borough to co-sponsor and waive event fees in consideration of tree planting for Earth Day festivities with dance crew/group iKalpulli Tlalhuiztilli (tlalwui-zi-lli) which translates to Hummingbirds of the Earth. The event will take place, 4/22/23 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the open space area next to the Morrisville Dog Park. Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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Council Committees/Board & Commission Appointments:

Morrisville Economic Development Corporation: Three 3-year term appointments expiring 3/1/2026.

(Letters of interest from John Ceneviva, Jr., Don Diretto and Frank McCarthy)

Nomination of John Ceneviva, Jr. for the term expiring 3/1/26 made by Ms. Price Engelhard.

Vote to appoint John Ceneviva, Jr. to the MEDC carried by roll call vote 7-1. (nay vote being Mr. Lubin)

Nomination of Frank McCarthy for the term expiring 3/1/26 made by Mr. Robinson.

Vote to appoint Frank McCarthy to the MEDC carried by roll call vote 8-0.

Nomination of Don Diretto for the term expiring 3/1/26 made by Ms. Price Engelhard.

Vote to appoint Don Diretto to the MEDC carried by roll call vote 7-1. (nay vote being Mr. Lubin)

Library Board: One 3-year appointment expiring 3/1/2026. (Letters of interest from Lonnie Johnson and Nancy Sherlock)

Nomination of Lonnie Johnson for the term expiring 3/1/26 made by Ms. Hlahol.

Vote to appoint Lonnie Johnson to the Library Board carried by roll call vote 6-2. (nay votes being Ms. Price Engelhard and Mrs. Sherlock)

Zoning Hearing Board: One 3-year appointment, remainder of unexpired term - expiring 1/6/2025. (Letter of interest from Hussan Jallad)

Nomination of Hussan Jallad for the term expiring 1/6/25 made by Mrs. Sherlock.

Vote to appoint Hussan Jallad to the Zoning Hearing Board carried by roll call vote 8-0.

9. Other Business

There was no new business this evening.

10. Borough Officials

- Mrs. Sherlock stated I know it's in late hour but I still have to make a couple of inquiries. One is the situation that we still have with the trash and recycling. On Centre Street they are picking up the recycling and throwing it into the regular trash. I've talked to Republic they say they're going to try to fix it we'll see what happens. Does Republic give us the list of the complaints that they receive because not everything goes in Traisr when people call so when we're trying to get a true figure of the mishaps of the challenges? I have to wonder if there's a lot going on that we don't know about because it's not all in Traisr and we encourage people to call them or put it in Traisr instead of the Borough. It is my belief that we contracted out with Republic it should not be the resident's job to have to follow up over and over again with phone calls to get their trash picked up in the correct way. Also, I'm just wondering if we can get a report soon from Gilmore regarding the Flood Protection Program we see every month we pay them and he's working on this but can we get a report from Gilmore, we haven't had one?



- Mrs. Danko stated I'm sorry, regarding the Flood Program?
- Mrs. Sherlock replied, the Flood Protection –
- Ms. Hlahol asked when is the levee going to be certified?
- Mrs. Sherlock replied, well that's my next question. My understanding is last summer I believe we were told that it was certified and people have done a right to know and they're not able to get that certification but the whole idea of the certification was that the people that live down there on Park and Central would get some insurance relief. What's the process? Is their insurance company going to have to come to us for that certification?
- Mrs. Danko replied, no, this is something that I'll reach out to Gilmore and I'll get back to Council with, so thank you for that.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, since we are having a finance meeting tomorrow we can talk about the library budget. I am happy to talk about that. There was no money for programs in the library budget this year and I'm not understanding why. I also believe that the library is a public service and that the public should have access to it and we should not have to -- of course you have fundraisers for certain special events but they should not have to fundraise to have your regular literacy programs. I have a lot of questions about the budget itself and our most recent financials so I guess we're going to talk about that tomorrow but if those figures aren't correct I don't know why we would have a finance meeting if we don't have all the correct figures.
- Mrs. Danko replied, because we're going to report on some of the items that we're working on.
- Mrs. Sherlock replied, okay. I'll leave on a friendly note since I'm always the outlier. A fun fact, in 1935 the movie Farmer Takes a Wife that had Henry Fonda in it; many spots of the movie were filmed on our Delaware Canal. Thank you.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, I never heard of that movie, I'm going to have to look it up.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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