



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023
7:00 P.M.
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The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, March 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
 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

3. Announcements and Presentations

- Mike Italia, Operations Manager for Barry Isett & Associates gave an update on their work. He talked about fire inspections and getting properties cleaned up. He encouraged residents to report issues through the website or the office, they prioritize all jobs. He stated that the Judge is fantastic she sees the vision to clean up. Permit forms should be online very soon which will turn permits over more quickly. He mentioned all the new businesses that are coming. Fire safety is most important. He is always available if Council wishes to talk to him. He said they have tackled a ton and that not everything is a violation. He reported that all complaints are confidential, the residents should feel secure. Bob and Helen thanked him and said they are doing a great job.

4. Public Comments

1. Nicole & Fred Rabena – *Yardley Distillery*
They introduced themselves and talked about the Yardley Distillery and the property they will be purchasing on Delmorr Avenue that will be the Calhoun’s River Deck Raw Bar.



2. Debby Colgan – *120 W. Hendrickson Avenue (MEAC)*
She reported that Williamson Park is getting cleaned up. She mentioned about the park being in the Certified Redevelopment area putting the property at risk of taking by eminent domain for commercial development. She urged Council to remove the park property from the Certified Redevelopment area and safeguard the public trust.
3. Ben Bressler – *President of Morrisville Little League*
He introduced himself. He plans on doing his best to have a great relationship with the Borough. He reported that they are redoing the roofing on the dugouts. Owens Corning is donating the materials and Riddick Roofing is donating their labor to fix the dugout roof. He invited Council to their opening day.

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 February 21, 2023.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

6. Finance

- 6A. **Treasurer's Report**
The Treasurer's Report was provided in the Council packets.
Discussion took place regarding the Treasurer's Report.
- 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. Murray.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

7. Reports

- 7A. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Bressler and the Morrisville Little League for a great job. He announced the upcoming Morrisville-Yardley Area Rotary Club Egg Hunt. He stated that the Chief does a great job and he is hoping for a full-time police force and he will sit down with Judith and the Chief to speak about this. He thanked the people that always speak on behalf of the park. He wished the new business owners good luck. He asked Judith if she could give an update on the EIT that's coming in and the ARPA funds. He asked Helen for an update regarding the donation to police.



7B. Police Chief's Report

Chief McClay presented Officer Halas with a Merit of Commendation in recognition of his aggressive investigative and control skills and he is commended for his actions while investigating a home burglary on March 18, 2023. He reported that he is working with Judith on a new 457 Program for all employees. Next month he will present the plan, they are in the meeting stages with Englebert Financial Services. Next month Officer Zumpano will present a 5 year plan on obtaining new tasers, it's important that they have tasers that are up to date. Consortium Testing last month had bad numbers, 211 signed up, 122 showed up and 102 passed the physical, we don't know how many people passed the written yet. Policing in America right now is at a critical stage, our officers are very low on the salary range compared to other departments. Money counts if you want to attract Officers and retain them. He wants to come back to Council next month with some kind of plan to treat the part-time officers a little bit better so he can retain as many as possible.

7C. Manager's Report

Manager Danko thanked the Girl Scouts for coming tonight. She spoke about the Bridge Street project, and she is waiting for DCNR to finalize the money portion of the new grant. She announced the extension for the Williamson Park Planning Grant. She stated that shortly there will be a public hearing at Borough Hall and there's a series of things that we'll be going through and the public will be involved and will be sharing their ideas for Williamson Park. She informed Council on Friday that they were awarded the grant for a brand new dump truck with a salt spreader and plow totaling \$129,000. She reported that the new warehouse in Falls Township will not exit on Post Road. She spoke about the roof project and that it will cost more than was anticipated, ARPA funds will be used. ARPA funds will also be used for the sewer project that was put out for bid and as soon as it's awarded you'll see work begin very shortly at the Borough Hall. ARPA funds will also be used for the electrical system downstairs and the wait for that is because we are concerned about the roof, the cost will be more than anticipated. The \$65,000 check donation will be in April. She had a meeting with the library staff to discuss the concern of the budgetary items, there was a suggestion for some of the staff at the library to obtain some funding through donations and she is proud to announce that Sue Neff was able to acquire a \$2,000 and a \$1,000 donation for the summer program. She is proud of all the library employees.

7D. Committee Reports

- **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Ms. Price Engelhard stated that for a good portion of the meeting they talked about allowing alcohol in the park for Borough sponsored events. She had several samples of Ordinances from various Boroughs in the state and followed up with Bob having a Policy Ordinance meeting to talk further and she stated that he has followed up with Scott, so she will let him report on that.



- **Policy and Ordinances Committee**

Mr. Paul stated they had their first Policy Ordinance meeting in 3 years primarily to discuss considering introducing alcohol to some of our special events. He reported that Kathryn and Nancy shared samples they had gotten of ordinances as well as application forms from various Boroughs around the state. He shared the information with Scott Holbert. For the next Policy and Ordinance meeting on April 12th he hopes to have an acceptable working draft for Council to consider. He wants to know the financial expenses and risks legally with the Borough sponsored events.

Mr. Holbert stated that if the Borough sponsors an event you can waive the fees, but you will still have the Borough staff and police and their costs, possibly a special rider for alcohol for the day, and other costs. By sponsoring events you have more control and decision making with the event, which is a plus. He stated that there are benefits to sponsoring an event and there are benefits sometimes to not sponsor the event, it's a matter of policy through how the Borough wants to proceed and how it wants to best serve its residents.

- **Parks and Recreation Committee (continued)**

Ms. Price Engelhard stated that at the meeting they also talked a lot about examples of how other Boroughs charge for Police and how they work. So much was covered in these past two meetings. She gave a shout out to Debby Colgan for her hard work at the Preserve.

Debby Colgan gave a report about her meeting with Conrail. She said kudos to Conrail for responding and fixing up the preserve, they even put up fencing.

- **Business Outreach Committee**

Ms. Hlahol announced that North Point was able to take South Pennsylvania Avenue off of Google Maps and they are trying to get it off of Apple Maps and Waze. She talked about the Warehouse that was going to open on Post Road. She said that Falls Planning Commission had declined the plan but in March, Falls Supervisors had approved the plan preliminary. She was happy to hear that it was a typo and that those trucks will not be coming down Post Road. She called John Galloway's office and he too called Falls Township and made them cognizant that they can't make plans that will impact Morrisville Borough without Morrisville Borough's input.

8. Action Items

- 8A. Motion to ratify Memorandum of Understanding between Morrisville Borough and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).
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 authorize the Borough to participate in Bucks County Health Department annual West Nile Virus Program.
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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- 8C.** Motion to approve resolution approving amendments to the rules and regulations of the Morrisville Civil Service Commission.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion to table made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
Motion to table carried by voice vote 6-2. (Nay votes being Mr. Paul and Mr. Robinson)
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- 8D.** Motion to approve Police Directive 241 – Criminal Investigations.
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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- 8E.** Motion to approve a conditional offer of employment as a Part-Time Police Officer to Brian German, Jr.
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 the Annual Winterfest Parade sponsored by Hot Rides, LLC of Morrisville using the previously approved parade route on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 10:00am (rain date of Sunday, December 3 at 1:00 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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- 8G.** Motion to approve waiving fees of \$75.00 for roof replacement permits for baseball dugouts to be replaced by Morrisville Little League.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8H.** Motion to approve a food truck festival sponsored by Morrisville Borough to coincide with opening day of Morrisville Little League baseball at Williamson Park Saturday, April 1, 2023.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8I.** Motion to approve a food truck festival with a band sponsored by Morrisville Borough to be held at Williamson Park Sunday, July 16, 2023. (Band is sponsored by the Morrisville Economic Development Corporation.)
Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 4-4. Mayor Anderson broke the tie. (Nay votes being Mr. Paul, Mr. Lubin, Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Robinson.)
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- 8J.** Motion to approve an Irish festival with food and music sponsored by Morrisville Borough to be held at Williamson Park Sunday, September 17, 2023. (Band is sponsored by the Morrisville Economic Development Corporation.)
Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 5-3. (Nay votes being Mr. Lubin, Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Robinson)
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- 8K.** Motion to approve the closing of South Delmorr Avenue between East Bridge Street and Chambers Street from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 20, 2023 (rain date May 27, 2023) as part of the Morrisville Business Association sponsored car show. This is contingent upon PENNDOT approving the revised Eastbound alternate traffic route as described in the TE-300 application.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mrs. Sherlock.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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- 8L.** Motion to approve awarding the Morrisville Borough Hall Sewer Lateral Replacement Project to Ben Franklin Plumbing for \$17,048.00.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
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8M. Motion to approve request of Bird Town PA for the Morrisville Borough Public Works Department to perform work within the Borough to reinstall three (3) posts at prior designated locations and install a new post at Borough Hall along with installing four (4) new Bird Town PA signs.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8N. Motion to approve Option 1 for the ramp and railing to be used for the Bridge Street Crossing Project on the Delaware Canal Towpath.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Manness.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8O. Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the signing of the PENNDOT CMAQ Reimbursement Agreement for the Bridge Street Crossing Project on the Delaware Canal Towpath.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8P. Motion to approve the MEAC Riverfront Preserve tree planting at Morrisville Riverfront Preserve on one of the following dates; April 1, April 2, April 8 or April 9, 2023. (Specific date will depend on weather, date and time TBD.)
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8Q. Motion to approve a Jazz Festival sponsored by Morrisville Borough to be held at Williamson Park Sunday, August 20, 2023.
Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by roll call vote 7-1. (Nay vote being Ms. Hlahol)

8R. Motion to approve advertising for bids on the Borough Hall roof replacement.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.



Council Committees/Board & Commission Appointments:

Civil Service Commission: One appointment as an “alternate” for the remainder of six-year term – expiring December 16, 2025. *Letter of interest from Mr. Matt Wiedenhaefer.

Nomination of Matt Wiedenhaefer for the term expiring 12/16/25 made by Mrs. Sherlock.

Vote to appoint Matt Wiedenhaefer to the Civil Service Commission carried by voice vote 8-0.

9. Other Business

- Mrs. Sherlock asked if there was a report from Gilmore regarding the Flood Protection Project.
- Mrs. Danko stated that she would have an update for the April meeting.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked for an update regarding Amtrak lowering the roadway on Washington Street.
- Mrs. Danko stated that she has been asked several months in a row to continue it to the next agenda and as soon as she knows it will be on the agenda.
- Mrs. Sherlock talked about the mural at the Park and reported that it is not complete and she requested that Mr. Kemp be able to work on it this week.
- Mrs. Danko stated that he could contact Lorraine and amend the original event application with the dates that he will be there.
- Mrs. Sherlock wanted to thank the MEAC for all they have been doing for over 20 years especially when they rerouted the train with nerve gas back in 2003 so that it didn't come through town. She also asked about the library meeting where hours were reinstated and donations were found.
- Mrs. Danko stated there was an AFSCME Labor Management meeting with the library that took place; it was a request on behalf of the library to me through the AFSCME union. At that meeting there was discussion there is no reinstatement of hours, the hours are what was requested to take place that is on the 2023 budget. There was a misunderstanding by the library employees as to how they're able to maneuver those hours, so within that meeting we clarified how they can maneuver those hours, still continuing how to have the library open, the amount of hours that is needed to be open to obtain the grant funding. The other item was that there were no funds for the summer programs either, what we were saying was we eliminated that from the budget because of the cost saying is there any other way to have these types of programs without having a balloon clown or without having some of these things, so Ms. Neff had said she would prefer to have the funds to be able to do those extras so we petitioned her to get donations and she was successful in obtaining \$3,000.00 which will be used for summer club.



10. Borough Officials

- Mrs. Sherlock stated, on April 1st, we have opening day and we also have the canal clean up and the Hazardous Waste Collection which is happening at the Bucks County Community College. On Saturday May 20th, there is an event at the Morrisville Free Library from 2-3 that celebrates the charming and unique life of sloths. The other announcement was about the car show that Mr. Lubin already informed us of.
- Ms. Hlahol wanted to remind the residents that our businesses are still struggling after COVID, especially those that relied on the New Jersey state workers to come over so she wanted to remind them if they can to try and do local and not go outside of the Borough. Some of our businesses are on the brink of actually closing because they didn't get the COVID money, they lost some of their customer base and it would be a shame if some of these businesses that I speak of actually do close, so eat local.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Mrs. Murray.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bIMpi2RGCI>