



6:00 Executive Session – Williamson Park, Personnel, Police and possible litigation.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:11 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
 Adam Flager, Solicitor
 Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary

3. Announcements and Presentations

- Amtrak Presentation – Stanimir Voykov; replacement of Amtrak Bridge over Washington Street.

4. Public Comments

1. Mary Hrenda – *343 Crown Street*
She stated that on May 5th, 2023 Save Williamson Park filed a motion in Orphans’ Court to stop an illegal transfer of ownership of a portion of Williamson Park and that the Morrisville Economic Development Corporation recently entered into an agreement of sale with the Yardley Restaurant Group in which the old Water Works property and a portion of Williamson Park were sold which is illegal. She stated that Borough Council, Morrisville Economic Development Corporation and the Redevelopment Authority do not have the right to permit the sale or development of any portion of the park and that Save Williamson Park and neighbors are committed to protecting the Park from being taken from them illegally.



2. Jane Burger – 90 W. Maple Avenue

She gave suggestions on how to save money for the conference. She spoke about the PSAB Conference and suggested that Nancy and Kathryn go on Monday morning instead of Sunday to minimize the cost. She mentioned the financial constraints on the Borough and that Council had to enact a 1% EIT.

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 April 18, 2023. (Minutes amended to reflect the reason for Mr. Manness's abstention.)

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mr. Manness stated that his reasoning for abstaining on 8J at the April 28th meeting was not listed in the minutes and he wanted to make sure it was clarified if necessary.

Mr. Paul stated that we will amend the minutes to reflect that.

Mrs. Sherlock stated, Waste Management gave a presentation and the motion that evening actually said that it was a presentation of the \$65,000 check which I'm extremely grateful for and I didn't want to sully that presentation because the donation was so special but once again the wording said the donation is to help the Morrisville Police Department employ a Motor Carrier Specialist Officer and that is not what we're doing, it's an assignment so I don't want the public to think that we're actually employing somebody different to fill this position. I had asked to change that wording the night of and I was told that we didn't need to change it that it would be explained that evening but it never was so I just want clarification that we're not employing somebody for this position we're using an Officer and it will be his assignment. Thank you.

Mr. Paul stated I would like the minutes of this meeting to reflect Mrs. Sherlock's comments.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

5B. Motion to approve the Borough Council Special Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2023.

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

No 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.

6B. Approval of the Bill List

Motion to approve the bill list and pay the bills.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard 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 and congratulated those who ran for the local election. He stated that there will be a parade on Memorial Day and he will be putting up details on his Facebook page tomorrow. He stated that we need to hire more police officers. He reminded the public to call him or Council regarding hiring more police officers. He explained the Motor Carrier position and that it would be an Officer that does Truck Enforcement, so they can still do both. He explained the Civil Service process which requires having someone just dedicated in that position and he acknowledged what both Helen and Nancy are saying because these things are extremely important and I think we all want the same thing it's just a matter of how we get there.

Mr. Paul stated, before we go forward I just want to say I think Mr. Mayor you're doing the Council at a disservice by suggesting that we're right back to where we were. Since I've been on Council we've added both full-time and part-time officers. I just want the record to reflect that.

7B. Police Chief's Report

Chief McClay reported that we have 8 full-time Police Officers; we are at the minimum we have ever been. We need to hire three or four officers; we need to be able to look forward to where we're going. We are busy. We just spend the last week in court, we put a dangerous felon away who burglarized the Quality Inn and broke Officer Smeltzer's arm, he was found guilty on all charges. He stated that we need to come up with a manpower solution and we need officers and we need to fund properly. He reported there have been a tremendous amount of altercations at the High School in the past five weeks. He sent an officer to Crisis Intervention Training. He stated that we need more full time officers. He reminded residents to make sure they lock up their cars, don't leave them running and don't leave key fobs in their cars. He stated that we got a lot of ARPA money that was supposed to come to the police department and that hasn't happened and there are no plans for it because we have to fix the building.

7C. Manager's Report

Manager Danko thanked Public Works for such a good job and recognized Public Works week. She thanked all entities who clean the Parks, the Preserve, Robert Morris Statue area and all the different areas. She mentioned the new Grant agreement that's on the agenda this evening for the Bridge Street Project and stated she is hoping once it is executed we will see construction to being again within a month and are hoping for end of year completion and are hoping to prepare for a ribbon cutting ceremony. We have continued collaboration with an engineer regarding CBDG funds for the Manor Park area. She stated that she attended the Morrisville Business Association business card exchange mixer at the Distillery in town and it was a very nice event. She thanked the Morrisville Business Association for having those types of events in the Borough. She stated that we have the roof project out for bid.



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023
7:11 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

Unfortunately we have issues here that have been put to the side for some time because the funds were not here. We just completed the sewer line repair, it is 90% complete, final grading is needed, that's also being paid with ARPA funds. We also have an electrical architect firm on the agenda for this evening for approval because we have some electrical issues in the building. We are diligently working towards getting all of these issues looked at, reviewed and hopefully taken care of. She mentioned the Amtrak proposal that was presented this evening. She stated that she had some work done downstairs at Borough Hall regarding damaged lights that were out of code. She reported that we are in the midst of a three-year audit with Highway Aid Liquid Fuels funding and that's going quite well. She mentioned that we are working with PennDOT regarding the proposed warehouse in Falls Township, they've applied for an HOP permit and it borders Morrisville Borough so we've been requesting certain signage directing the traffic away from Morrisville Borough and future discussions and meetings are going to be held. Chief McClay ordered the solar speed signs for South Pennsylvania Avenue they were paid for with the donation funds that were received from Waste Management last month. We put the Streets Paving Projects out to bid; we'll have that on the June meeting agenda. This project was worked on with the Borough Engineers last year, there was an issue with the advertising and it never went to bid and it never went to come back to the Council for approval so instead of choosing other streets that may have needed something else we had to go with this because we already had this information in place. We will be reviewing streets and so forth as to what we'll be doing in the future. Since we have maneuvered our funding we have now taken the cost of employees and public works out of the Liquid Fuels Highway Aid funds, we've put them in the general fund and the EIT monies are paying for that, since we're doing that, that will open up more funding for our streets all the funding that we get from Highway Aid and Liquid Fuels will now be in that account and we can solely utilize them towards more roadway systems and that's the goal moving forward. There's a lot of talk about the EIT as to where these monies are going to go you may not see that in this year's budget but you will certainly see them in next year's because they're already allotted for, there'll be more discussion on these items in future Finance Meetings if anyone is interest in attending those. The Public Works Superintendent ordered the new dump truck salt spreader and plow which will be paid for fully by the grant monies that we acquired so we're very happy to discuss that and talk about it. Tonight we have Policy Committee information regarding alcohol in the Parks, we certainly want to know what the residents would like to see alcohol, no alcohol, what would you like to see, that will be advertised shortly possibly if Council does vote on that this evening or whatever way they vote. We've also had some reoccurring issues with Code Enforcement on some of the problematic properties that we've had in the past and we've been diligently working towards all of those items. She encouraged everyone to use the online citizen reporter if they know of any problematic issues so that we can take care of them. Complaints are confidential information and we do not utilize your name.



7D. Committee Reports

- **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Ms. Price Engelhard stated that last month they met and it was mostly an overview of some of the events that we are doing and we did talk about the Williamson Park Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Planning Grant. Mrs. Danko spoke about the Comprehensive Planning Grant.

8. Action Items

8A. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$110,000 to the Morrisville Fire Company, as per 2023 Fire Fund Budget, contingent upon receipt of their 2022 Financial Statement, Schedule of Events, Current Roster and 2022 Audit.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8B. Motion to approve payment in the amount of \$52,000 to Capital Health EMS, as per the 2023 EMS Fund Budget, contingent upon receipt of their 2022 Financial Statement and Audit. The payment amount of \$37,000 reflects the deduction of the \$15,000 2023 annual fee due from Capital Health System, Inc. for leasing the building located at 139 North Washington Street, Morrisville, PA, per contract.

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

Discussion took place regarding the presentation and motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8C. Motion to approve reimbursement for Councilwoman Nancy Sherlock in the amount of \$250.00 for the fee to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) annual conference – full package registration.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. Manness.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-3. (Nay votes being Mr. Lubin, Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Robinson)

8D. Motion to approve reimbursement for Councilwoman Nancy Sherlock in the amount of \$762.57 for accommodations at the Hershey Lodge while attending the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) annual conference.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. Manness.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-3. (Nay votes being Mr. Lubin, Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Robinson)



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023
7:11 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

8E. Motion to approve reimbursement for Councilwoman Kathryn Price-Engelhard in the amount of \$762.57 for accommodations at the Hershey Lodge while attending the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) annual conference.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 5-3. (Nay votes being Mr. Lubin, Ms. Hlahol and Mr. Robinson)

8F. Motion to approve participation with Bucks County in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

8G. Motion to approve Borough Manager to approve events or activities to be held in the Borough parks and Borough property that are not Borough sponsored.

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 advertise proposed amendments to the Ordinances of Morrisville Borough, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing Events involving the Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in Public Parks.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mrs. Murray.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by roll call vote 8-0.

8I. Motion to approve proposal from Snyder Hoffman Associates, Inc. to prepare bid specs to replace the Electrical Main Distribution Panel at Borough Hall in the amount of \$13,795 (Option #3).

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8J. Motion after discussion, regarding Zoning Hearing Notice for Jacqueline and Dan Decker (a/k/a) Discovery Day Care of Morrisville, at 78 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Morrisville, PA



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023
7:11 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

19067 (BCTMP 24-009-200), on whether Council will not direct the Solicitor to attend on behalf of the Borough.

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

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8K. Motion to approve Eagle Scout project at the Manor Park/Senior Center.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Ms. Hlahol.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Mrs. Danko read Eagle Scout Ryan Szymelewicz's pickle ball court project proposal.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8L. Motion to execute the DCNR Agreement for Bridge Street Project.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8M. Motion to approve DCNR Williamson Park Master Planning Grant return.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8N. Motion for CDBG Manor Park Grant application with Gilmore Associates assistance.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8O. Motion to issue an Intent to Award Letter to Pro Com Roofing & Construction Services for the Base Bid and all Alternates in the amount of \$232,250 for the Roof Replacement Project at Borough Hall.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.

Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

8P. Motion to approve two movie nights to be held at Williamson Park sponsored by the Police Department; dates are Thursday, June 8 and Thursday, June 22.

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

No discussion took place regarding the motion.



Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

-
- 8Q.** Motion to approve a mega sports camp to be held at Williamson Park sponsored by Compass Fellowship; dates are Monday, July 10 through Saturday, July 15.
Motion made by Mrs. Sherlock and seconded by Ms. Murray.
Discussion took place regarding the motion.
Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Mr. Paul announced that there is still an opening on the Zoning Hearing Board for one three-year alternate appointment for the remainder of the term that expires on January 8, 2024 so if anyone's interested in being an alternate for the Zoning Hearing Board please drop an email or letter to the Borough Manager.

Mrs. Danko stated, thank you Mr. Paul it is imperative that we have someone as the alternate with vacations and so forth, if we have a Zoning Hearing that comes up we must have a meeting because we have to abide by the process and the timing that's required by us to do so. It's imperative that we do have an alternate so if anyone is interested please feel free to just send me an email, send me a resume, send me anything that you have that you would like to send in reference to being interested to be on this board.

9. Other Business

- Mrs. Sherlock stated, she would like to recognize June as Pride Month, it is a month in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and allies come together in various celebrations and they are to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots and the efforts to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for all and to commit to supporting a safe community and denounce all forms of prejudice and hate, where in 2020 the Supreme Court declared the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect the LGBTQ workers and then we recognize the contributions that they make to our community in Morrisville without discrimination and affirmation of equal rights and we encourage everyone to reflect on ways we can all live together, work together with a commitment to show respect and dignity for all and the Borough of Morrisville does please recognize that the month of June 2023 as Pride Month and we embrace our town's diversity and affirm our support for the LGBTQ residents and in particular our youth.
- Mr. Paul stated, thank you Mrs. Sherlock, I join you in celebrating the LGBTQ community this month.
- Mayor Anderson stated thank you, me as well and I just wanted to say real quick for a lot of people may not know this is a small fact that the Stonewall references that were just referenced in that statement, the owner of that place is actually a lifetime Morrisville resident and so it's a very important topic and he loves this town very much so thank you for all your kind words Nancy.



10. Borough Officials

- Mr. Robinson spoke about problematic properties. He showed a picture of the 300 block of Prospect Avenue and he stated he walked past the property when he was campaigning probably 100 times. The house next door at 331 is a very nice house it was completely rebuilt. He said at 327 he saw a raccoon in the yard when he was door knocking, he did not see any rats. He stated that we have to be able to do something about the property. When he was campaigning people were asking about the Stockham Building and he told them RDA, it's like a black hole. He stated we have to be able to do something about this, if I lived next door to this I probably would have set it on fire. While we're on Prospect, a couple of years ago we had our little vacant lot down there I don't know if you're familiar with the vacant lot or not his is before your time, Scott Mitchell was here. There is an area that I believe was supposed to be a thoroughfare if you drive up Mercer you come to Prospect it's a dead end like a T intersection and I believe it was supposed to go all the way through to Palmer but it never happened and I think there's a house on Palmer so it's not going to happen and I don't know what we did with the property, I think we asked the people if they wanted it they could have it, anyway the grass isn't being cut there and the problem is to give it to the residents there because Public Works has enough on their hands and that's a piece of land there's two houses with a vacant lot somebody take it, you can have it just cut the grass, it's not being cut it's not a dig at all in Public Works because it's probably not on their schedule because I think we relieved them of that and that's right up the street from this beautiful house.
- Mrs. Danko replied that she had directed Public Works to take care of one of the blighted properties and she knows that Public Works did cut the grass, some of the others, citations had gone out to them and from her understanding they were cut.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, thank you for bringing that up Scott. I spoke to Ryan and I spoke to Daniel on the other side and the problem is the former owner said I'll cut the whole thing because Daniel didn't want to do a thing about it and the gentlemen that lives South of that he's brand new and no one told him about the lot and the problem is it's not on his deed. How do we make someone cut grass that's not on their deed, I really want to know because that's what happened when we discussed this last year, we cut it for 40 years and then two years ago Scott Mitchell said that's it we're not going to cut it anymore we brought the attorneys in they said okay well they're going to have to figure it out on their own.
- Mrs. Danko stated, I had received an email from Nancy regarding this and I know you're bringing this up too, I had asked everyone to please have the homeowners contact me. If this is an area that if the new owners are interested in acquiring the property the Borough could entertain the idea of vacating that area.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, that's my question, if we don't own it if you're saying we don't own it how to do we sell it to them?



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023
7:11 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

- Mrs. Danko replied, that's just it, if we own it we can entertain the idea of vacating it. I don't know if we do own it or who owns it.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated it's not on either of their deeds which is why there is this discussion. The County website shows that it belongs to us. I think Ryan said he would entertain purchasing it.
- Mrs. Danko stated Council has the ability to vacate the property. What I usually tell people to do is write a letter to Council with the request. I usually inform Borough Council to inform the person interested to tell them that as long as they're interested in this that they would need to do a survey of the property and they would also need to take care of the deed of dedication. Now normally what happens is the person to the right would get half of it and the person to the left will get half but if the person to right is not interested I do believe that I'm going to pass this to the Solicitor, I believe that person can say they're not interested in it in writing and that a survey can be done and that a deed could be put together and a deed of dedication could happen at the County. What I'm used to is that the person interested in acquiring that property on the left, they would pay for all of this and work with the Borough to make this happened and that the Borough can either charge for the lot or they can say we'll give this to you for a dollar as long as you pay for the survey and all of the things that need to take place so this is put onto your deed at this point and the Borough's vacation of that property
- Ms. Hlahol stated, I believe that the attorney two years ago sent the letters to both owners I mean not Ryan but the previous owner so all parties were notified I believe one owner said yes the other one said no to the property but you should have copies of letters downstairs somewhere about what transpired years ago.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, but it's a new owner that had no knowledge of it.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, I understand that but he could be sent the same letter.
- Ms. Danko stated, I'm not aware of the letters, was it the current Solicitors?
- Mrs. Sherlock replied, yes. I'm still not understanding how we were able to insist that they cut the grass when they didn't own it.
- Ms. Danko stated, I don't know who insisted that they cut the grass but I think that we can say if you're interested in cutting the grass and you want to have it cut if not the Borough is not interested in cutting it and we're going to let it grow, the Borough has their prerogative to do so, but they can certainly cut it if they would like if they don't want it to be grown in. The Borough has every right to allow that, they couldn't build on it or anything of that nature. They could at least if they wanted to take care of it they could.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, I think that's great I think it could be worked out but I have a question, if he agrees or the owners agree to paying for the deed transfer and so forth and so on and the



survey would we at least be willing to cut the grass once it is two and a half feet high a regular lawnmower is not going to do that. I'm just saying kind of share it.

- Mrs. Danko asked, at this point how many years has it been that we've maintained it?
- Mr. Later asked since we've maintained it, we haven't done anything for 2 years.
- Mrs. Danko stated, I'm a little concerned to say yes to anything like that after two years I have no idea what's in there and what we could be up against.
- Mr. Later replied, whoever had the property before they were cutting it, the Borough wasn't cutting it. You have about a foot and a half of grass.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated the fact that we maintained it for 40 years I think has to be a factor that we can think about in our future move but we'll see when he calls you and this proposal with the attorney's approval in whatever direction and we'll see what happens.
- Mrs. Danko replied, certainly and John and I can talk about it.
- Ms. Hlahol asked, what is our process for these blighted properties, 327 is a nightmare and there was another one on Rosemar, the man was so happy he had tears in his eyes when you guys cut that. What is the process, we can't allow resident to just have four feet of grass next to them?
- Mr. Later replied, I think that's code is the one who takes care of that, there's no list to say well now I think I thought we've talked about starting to maintain those throughout the year. The only problem with that is what if somebody decides they're going to cut it, it's hard for me, code is the one that has to tell me whether we're cutting it or not cutting it unless you want to say we put it on a monthly schedule or bi-weekly schedule whatever it is.
- Mr. Robinson stated that's more than taking a lawnmower it's like you need you'll need like three guys all day to clean that up.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, the problem is that we have these blighted properties and they are allowed to get to the point where they're a nightmare so what are we going to do to be proactive rather than reactive, somebody needs to take a ride and get a list of these properties, take a ride look at them and then get on the people that need to cut it whether it's the RDA or the Borough.
- Mr. Later replied, that would be Code as far as Public Works, again it's us going on somebody else's property it's not just us going and cutting the grass, 20 people could decide they're not going to cut their grass and Public Works would be doing 20 properties.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, but the two properties I'm talking about are blighted so the RDA owns them so what is our process, we need to figure out a process Judith.



- Mrs. Sherlock asked which two properties are they?
- Mrs. Danko stated one was 327 Prospect.
- Mr. Later replied, one on Rosemar.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, we did already cut theirs back in the fall right so it is high again is that what you're saying?
- Mrs. Danko replied they just cut it.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, to Helen's point if we're going to cut Rosemar, we should have been cutting Prospect all along as well.
- Mrs. Danko stated, when the RDA takes over a property, what takes place is if the Borough is no longer maintaining it the RDA will sometimes hire a company to take care of that when it gets so high and then that'll come off to the sale of the property once that takes place so when the property is in limbo and right now the property is in limbo we say that RDA has it, we did blight it the property is in limbo of being blighted legally so when a property hits something of this nature it's in limbo so when it's in limbo that's why Code has no one to send a notice to and then at that point we're waiting for the RDA to give us the okay to do so sometimes depending on the time of the year yes we do end up with this. We do have a process, it's not the best process because of the fact that each time a property has something of this nature it depends on the nature of the property if it's a blighted property it depends on what stage it's in, if it's blighted by resolution from the Vacant Property Committee and we haven't gotten it to the RDA yet it's still in limbo so Code is still trying to send notice of violations to whomever they can trying to get it rectified so we've been going through that process on some of these properties so we always send it to Code first to try to get these things rectified through Code if they can get to anyone. We've even gone to some of the banks that own the properties we've tried all sorts of avenues when we run out of avenues that is when the Public Works is notified to try to do something about this and that is the process that we should be taking we should always be taking that process because if we're going to blight it we have to have all of this documentation take place so unfortunately it's not something anyone would want to live next to but when we're doing the blighted process we have to follow through on all of this so we have record that this is what we did.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, but that's not true, those two properties we're speaking of were blighted last year so this fell through the cracks where these two properties were not taken care of.
- Mrs. Danko replied, but again they were blighted at the Vacant Property Committee meeting but it takes time.



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023
7:11 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

- Mr. Paul asked, if RDA is responsible can we hire a company and will they reimburse us, the problem is as long as it's in limbo we're responsible for it and it doesn't seem that we should be taking care of the property when it's ultimately going to be sold by RDA.
- Mrs. Danko replied, but what happens is we do work with the RDA if they're going to hire someone what happens is it gets subsidized but when the sale of the property takes place then those monies come back out of there, that's what happens.
- Mr. Paul stated, but in the meantime nothing is happening.
- Mrs. Danko stated that is what I'm saying we're going through the processes.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked, are we not allowed to go on the property since it's in limbo, is that what you're saying?
- Mrs. Danko replied, it's not something that we like to do because we are trying to send out the NOV letters, we're sending out the letters, we're going through the process of the blighted process not just the blighted portion that you're understanding from the Vacant Property Committee but the legal version once it's hitting the RDA and the RDA relies on us too to look at these properties it's a two-fold thing.
- Mrs. Sherlock asked, would it hurt to have a phone call to them and have them drive by or a picture or something?
- Mrs. Danko stated, I believe that it's a two-fold responsibility, the Borough and the RDA. John and I did have a discussion on what we could do to make processes better here for the Borough and the residents that live around these areas with these blighted properties or just high grass properties and it's a meeting that we're going to have to get together with Code and John and myself and come up with a better way to tackle these things because how we've been dealing with it is on a complaint basis, if a complaint comes in we're reactive that's how we've been dealing with them and there should be a better way. Helen is right there should be a better way.
- Mr. Robinson asked, would it be safe to say that the taxes on that property are being paid or not on Prospect?
- Mrs. Danko replied, at 327 the bills are being paid.
- Mr. Robinson stated, so there's no mortgage and the taxes are being paid. Perfectly nice houses go to sheriff sale or repossessed and resold to somebody every day that house has looked like that for at least three years.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, there used to be orange things in the window and now they're all gone so I don't know where those went but it looks like that building is about to fall over.



MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023
7:11 P.M.
morrisvillepagov.com

- Mr. Robinson stated, you could probably walk into it and I probably shouldn't admit this but like when I was a teenager we used to go into blighted houses that were around like one in Yardley and I fell through a floor in one that I shouldn't have been in. That house could fall down. Right around the corner from Mr. Schwartz's house in Yardley.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, I'd like to relay a success story, we used to have a house on North Lafayette that was the same thing it's not even grass it's some kind of trees or something in the front yard if you remember two summers ago it finally sold, it just sold. It only sold this month. They rehabbed it which was great but it's been on the market for months and months but it sold.
- Mr. Robinson stated, the guy that redid the house on Harper was trying to get a hold of them and they were adamant they didn't want to have anything to do with it. I don't know how they ended up getting rid of it.
- Mrs. Sherlock stated, so eventually I think 327 will be a success story but I don't know if we can live through the pain just to get there.
- Mrs. Danko replied it takes time.
- Ms. Hlahol stated, that's not an answer these people just got an EIT, if it's a two household they're paying an extra \$1,000 and they're living next to that jungle that's really not an acceptable answer.
- Mrs. Danko replied, I said that we need to come up with a better process and that's what we're working towards. I can't say anymore, we're coming up with a better process that's what we're working towards. We also have changed in the midst of all the things that we've been doing we've also hired a new Code company in the beginning of this year they're getting acclimated, we've also implemented the Vacant Property meetings that we've been taking care of. We've done everything that we need to do so we're working towards this more than we've ever worked towards it in the past.
- Mr. Paul stated, we need to at the next Vacant Property Committee or even before that we need to talk with RDA and we need to work out an arrangement and if it's us we're stuck with it and it's us, but we can't just hold our breath for a year while the RDA processes it and waits for the courts, this is a problem and it's not going to get cured overnight so we've got to either bite the bullet and say okay we're responsible we're going to have John's people do it we're going to hire outside people do it just comes out of the ultimate proceeds we get from the sale of the property but we need to do something up front we can't wait for all that to happened.
- Mrs. Danko stated, we're not going to wait and that's what I'm saying we're going to do the things that are needed to be done that's what we're going to do and we've been working on that I had John and the crew go out and cut the one property the other day. We're working towards



these things, we're not sitting back doing nothing we are working towards what needs to be done we take it seriously.

11. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-V3mDaXzKE>