



**5:45 Executive Session** – Personnel, Collective Bargaining Negotiations, Litigation and Real Estate Matter

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:09 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: Helen Hlahol, President  
Melissa Johnson  
Marie Kelso  
Andrew Lubin  
Luke McKee  
Kathryn Price Engelhard  
Scott Robinson

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

Not In Attendance: John Vitarelli, Vice President

**3. Community Announcements/Presentations**

- a. Matthew Wiedenhaefer & John Weiss, III - presentation on Knox Box program.
- b. 50 Penn Avenue LLC - presentation concerning former Manor Park School and requested zoning relief.
- c. Welcome new businesses:
  - East Coast Printing – 1 E. Trenton Avenue, Suite 22 – Silk Screening & Vinyl Printing on t-shirts & sweatshirts.

**4. Community Outreach**

- a. **Zoning Hearing Board:** One three (3) year appointment (alternate) expires 1/4/27.

**5. Engineer Report**

- a. Jacob Rigg of Gilmore Associates; Levy-backflow valves.
- b. Jacob Rigg of Gilmore Associates; Flood insurance limits.



## 6. Borough Manager Report

Republic Services would like to come into the Borough an hour earlier because of the extreme heat conditions. She talked about the \$300,000.00 grant the Borough received for the Manor Park Playground and stated that the Borough is working with Bucks County in regards to the Senior Center for their issues with their storm water. She thanked everyone for working with her and spoke about the accomplishments that took place in the past couple of years. She reported that the Borough has a surplus in the general fund and she is leaving the Borough in excellent shape with the different funds.

## 7. Solicitor Report

Thanked Borough Manager for her work and wished her well. Asked Council if Flager & Associates should attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting next month regarding Manor Park School.  
*Discussion took place. Flager & Associates will not attend the Zoning Hearing Board.*

## 8. Police Chief's Report

Sergeant John Aspromonti spoke about crime stats.

Corporal Lew Halas reported truck traffic & its issues.  
*Discussion took place.*

Chief Rich Ciampa introduced himself. Excited to lead the next generation of police officers. Shared his work experience, and goals for Morrisville Borough. Thanked everyone and the governing body for having the confidence in him to lead the police department.

## 9. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from the 5/21/24 council meeting.
- b. Approval of bill list from 5/1/24 to 5/31/24 in the amount of \$556,523.99.
- c. Approval of payment in the amount of \$110,000 to the Morrisville Fire Company, as per 2024 Fire Fund Budget, contingent upon receipt of their 2023 Financial Statement, Schedule of Events, Current Roster and 2023 Audit.
- d. Approve payment to Capital Health EMS in the amount of \$37,000 (52,000 per the 2024 EMS Fund Budget less \$15,000 annual rental fee for 139 North Washington Street per contract), contingent upon receipt of their 2023 Financial Statement and Audit.
- e. Approval to adopt a Resolution of the Borough of Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania to Re-Adopt the Comprehensive Plan Update Prepared by the Bucks County Planning Commission.
- f. Approval of Bitchin' Kitten Brewery Inc. as a vendor selling beer at the Music and Food Festival on Saturday, 7/13/24 in Williamson Park, pending completion of vendor application and payment of required fees. (police fees will be split between the Borough and the vendor plus the \$325.00 fee for the vendor)
- g. Approval of Bitchin' Kitten Brewery Inc. as a vendor selling beer at the Jazz Festival on Sunday, 8/18/24 in Williamson Park, pending completion of vendor application and payment of required fees.
- h. Approval of Bitchin' Kitten Brewery Inc. as a vendor selling beer at the Irish Festival on Sunday, 9/18/24 in Williamson Park, pending completion of vendor application and payment of required fees.



- i. Approval of a Resolution of Borough Council of the Borough of Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Request to Apply for the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority and Designating Officials to Execute Documents in Furtherance of this request. (We are going to ask for the 30% match waive.)
- j. Approval of payment in the amount of \$10,327.25 to QPI Electrical Co, Inc., Borough Hall. To be paid out of ARPA funds.
- k. Approval of Police Department applying for Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program with a 50% Borough Cost Match.  
Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.  
*Discussion took place.*

### 10. Public Comment on Agenda Items

1. Debby Colgan – *W. Hendrickson Ave* council should table Consent Agenda Item E and review it for inaccuracies and edits not updated, it does not reflect what the residents want for the Borough.
2. Don Rice – *Crown Street* read comments on behalf of Mary Hrenda. Consent Agenda Item E should not be voted on in tonight's meeting because it is out of date and any reference to any plan to develop the park must be removed before it can be voted on for adoption. Mr. Rice agrees Item E is a misuse of the consent agenda and council is discouraging the public to comment. The Comprehensive Plan includes some controversial information & he asked council to remove the item from the consent agenda and correct the mistakes and outdated info then schedule their vote.
3. Peggy Walsh – *Stockham Ave* stated she is on the Planning Commission & didn't have anything to do with the Comprehensive Plan but it is woefully out of date. Council shouldn't be approving a plan that was rejected. Council to take an up down vote on whether they support preserving Williamson Park and the ball fields and that unless it's codified in writing the park could be in danger of future development. She doesn't see the invoice on bill list for the consulting firm for the hiring of the Police Chief and spoke about the amount being paid to the Interim Police Chief which is a hefty salary.  
**Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0 with the exception of 9E 6-1. (Ms. Price Engelhard opposes 9E)

### 11. Action Items

- a. Approval of Employment Agreement with Jim Dillon to serve as the Interim Borough Manager. Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Ms. Kelso.  
*Discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 7-0.
- b. Accept John Vitarelli's letter of resignation from his 3<sup>rd</sup> ward council position effective June 18, 2024.  
Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Mr. Lubin.  
*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 7-0.
- c. Approval to advertise the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward borough council position.  
Motion made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.  
*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 7-0.
- d. Approval of Employment Agreement with Richard Ciampa to serve as the new Chief of Police pending completion of a background check. (annual salary will be \$140,000.00)



Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

*No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- e. Approval of tendering conditional offers of employment per Act 57 to hire Full Time Police Officers Michelle Williamson and Christopher Carlin pending a background investigation.

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

*No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- f. Approval of Rarefied Leadership Group to conduct Officer's pre-employment background checks.

Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Lubin.

*No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- g. Approval to add the Celebration Advisory Committee (CAC) to our Committees, Boards and Commissions.

Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Mr. McKee.

*Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- h. Approval to adopt an Ordinance of the Council of Morrisville Borough, Bucks County, Pennsylvania providing for the Regulation of and Imposition of Penalties for Noise, Behavior and Activities that are a Nuisance, Disorderly and/or Disturb the Peace.

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

1. Lisa Weinhart – *N. Pennsylvania Ave* asked if there was a time associated with the noise ordinance and if it was specific to certain days.

*Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- i. Approval to adopt an Ordinance of Morrisville Borough, County of Bucks, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Amending Chapter 435 – Vehicles to Include Special Parking Zones for People with Physical Disabilities.

Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Ms. Kelso.

*No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- j. Approval of PKB Contractors, Inc. proposal and for work to be completed on Melvin Avenue Basin, estimate of \$11,800 pending a grant extension.

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

*No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- k. Approval to appoint Susan Knott as Right to Know Officer.

Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Mr. McKee.

*No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

- l. Approve application for a megasports camp to be held at Williamson Park sponsored by Compass Fellowship; dates are Monday, July 8 through Friday, July 12, 5:00 to 9:00 pm, pending completion of vendor application and payment of required fees. (\$300.00 for the week)

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

*Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 7-0.*

## 12. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

1. Michele McGowan – *S. Pennsylvania Ave* asked for an update on the painting of the crosswalks at Cleveland and S. Pennsylvania and would the Borough or PennDOT be responsible since it's a state road?



2. Jennifer Jarodat – *Lincoln Ave* commented on the increased positive police activity. Wanted to commend everybody that helped with the police department and everything they’ve done and she appreciates it.
3. Cheri Vogel – *Highland Ave* spoke about the sale of 859 Crown Street, under contract with the owner of the party house on N. Pennsylvania Avenue who has amassed fines for violations, zoning laws and building codes and is infamous for loud parties, transient tenants and his conduct has resulted in multiple arrests. Asked council to enforce the laws on the books by citing the violations and collecting the fines and penalties before he can purchase the house.
4. Dana Jallad – *Ridge Ave* agrees with Ms. Vogel. Extremely frustrated that the residents have to rehash the same issues and concerns with the party house on N. Pennsylvania Avenue. Feels the response time and response from the Borough regarding issues with this property are unacceptable. Asked what the Borough has done to collect the fines that he owes. Feels the citizen reporter portal is a waste of time they never get any follow-ups or responses.
5. Mike Platt – *Fairview Ave* expressed his concerns to the pending sale of 859 Crown Street. Feels the sale will create a threat to the resident’s safety and enjoyment of their neighborhood. Feels codes are being violated by allowing rentals at the N. Pennsylvania Ave. property.
6. Peter Mulcay – *Fairview Ave* attended zoning hearings where the owner of the property at Crown Street, Trenton Ave and N. Pennsylvania Ave. were denied the use for short-term residents yet both properties are being used for short-term residents. Asked council to take necessary steps to prevent this from continuing and expanding to another property.
7. Peggy Walsh – *Stockham Ave* stated she was glad we are hiring more police. There is a terrible problem with speeding on N. Pennsylvania Ave. between Trenton Ave. and Bridge St., and on Delmorr Ave. at the crosswalk by Williamson Park.
8. Melanie Hoover – *Fairview Ave* agrees with her neighbors regarding the party house on N. Pennsylvania Ave. Stated it’s been going on 10 years and can’t believe council has not been able to accomplish a little bit more. Feels it’s an embarrassment.
9. Adrianna Corb – *Highland Ave* spoke about the potential sale of 859 Crown Street and fines need to be collected from the potential buyer who owns the party house on N. Pennsylvania Ave. where he has transient tenants, he has been involved in altercations with a lot of neighbors in a very provocative way. Asked council to pump the brakes on this sale because it will have irrevocable damage.

### 13. Council Discussion Items

- a. New Bank Signature Cards and signers.
- b. Infrastructure
  - B.A.I. Security Systems, Inc., 3/28/24 proposal in the amount of \$12,076.22 to replace existing Borough Hall security system cameras.





- Snyder Hoffman Associates in the amount of \$14,520, to design the fire alarm system replacement for the Morrisville Borough Hall building.
  - Ridge Support Technologies for Technology Computer Project, Labor – Admin \$8,150.00, Labor – PD \$8,635.00, Licensing – Admin \$794.43, Licensing – PD \$2,437.02; total of \$20,016.45. To be paid out of ARPA funds.
  - Computer hardware from CDW-G for Admin in the amount of \$12,059.75 and lowest quote for PD \$3,425.12; total of \$15,484.87. To be paid out of ARPA funds.
  - IT Infrastructure upgrade proposal from Terence LaFrance PC & Network Technical Support in the amount of \$3,250. To be paid out of ARPA funds.
- Discussion took place.*

#### 14. Mayor Comments

Welcome to Chief Rich Ciampa. Thanked Civil Service for getting a list to hire (2) more police officers. Stated Morrisville was settled in 1624 and the community will be celebrating Morrisville's 400<sup>th</sup> birthday at this year's Mayor's Picnic. Thanked those who have volunteered to help and donate. Wished Judith the best in her future endeavors.

#### 15. Council Member Comments

- Ms. Hlahol thanked Judith for her years of service and everything she's done for the Borough and wished her good luck in the future.
- Mr. Robinson thanked Judith for her time at the Borough. Thanked Sergeant Aspromonti for stepping up and welcomed Mr. Dillon and Chief Ciampa to the Borough.
- Mrs. Johnson wished Judith good luck going forward and it was great to see she was recognized for 25 plus years in her position.
- Ms. Price Engelhard thanked Judith for all her hard work and getting the Borough financially solvent. She wished her the best of luck.
- Mr. Lubin stated it was a pleasure working with Judith and he has learned a lot about borough codes and borough politics. Wished her luck going forward. Welcomed Chief Rich Ciampa and his wife.
- Mrs. Danko thanked everyone and wished Morrisville the best.

#### 16. Committee Updates

- Ms. Price Engelhard: Park and Recreation met in May and discussed upcoming events. The Morrisville Economic Development Corporation is sponsoring the band Seven as well as paying for billboard advertisements for upcoming events. Spoke about the possibility of development at Patriots Park. Gave updates on the park bench project the Girl Scouts are working on and the murals for the buildings at Williamson Park.

#### 17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvillepagov.com/meeting-videos/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rR6fuKv4VFU>