

MEETING MINUTES
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
BIENNIAL ORGANIZATION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018
7:30 p.m.

The Morrisville Borough Council met on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Morrisville Municipal Borough, 35 Union Street, Morrisville, PA for the Biennial Organization Council Meeting.

SWEARING-IN OF OFFICIALS

Swearing-in of Mayor and Borough Council.

Judge Gilmore swore in Dave Rivella as Mayor.
Mayor Rivella swore in Corryn Kronnagel as Councilperson.
Michael Yager was sworn in as Councilperson.
Eileen Dreisbach was sworn in as Councilperson.
Justin Bowers was sworn in as Councilperson.

Meeting opened by Mayor Dave Rivella. He asked that everyone join him in a moment of silent prayer, and then the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Dave Rivella took roll at this time.

Those in Attendance:

Borough Council: Debbie Smith, (appointed President this evening)
Danielle Larison, (appointed Vice President this evening)
Justin Bowers
Eileen Dreisbach
Corryn Kronnagel
Ted Parker
Bill Pepitone
Michael Yager

Borough Officials: Mayor David Rivella
Scott Mitchell, Interim Borough Manager (appointed this evening)
Randy Flager, Solicitor (appointed this evening)

Not in Attendance: Sade Ricketts, Junior Councilperson

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations this evening.

REORGANIZATION

Motion 5-A Nominations and Appointment for Borough Council President.

Ms. Larison stated, I nominate Debbie Smith for Borough President.

Mayor Rivella stated, we have a nomination, a vote is in order.

Mr. Bowers seconded the nomination.

Mayor Rivella took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 5-B Nominations and Appointment for Borough Council Vice President.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I nominate Danielle Larison.

Mr. Yager seconded the nomination.

Mayor Rivella took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Mayor Rivella handed Ms. Smith the gavel.

Mr. Smith took the Presidents seat at the dais.

Motion 5-C Nominations and Appointment for Borough Council Pro-Tem.

Mr. Pepitone stated, I nominate Justin Bowers.

Ms. Dreisbach seconded the nomination.

Ms. Kronnagel asked, can I get a quick explanation as to what that is.

Ms. Smith replied, a Pro-Tem is if something would happen to the President or Vice President, Pro-Tem is the third person in line. It's a safety measure.

Ms. Kronnagel asked, is that something that we have to add to our Code or anything because it's not in ours?

Ms. Smith replied, no it's in our Borough Code. I also got it from the PSAB website.

Ms. Kronnagel stated, it's not in Morrisville's Borough Code.

Ms. Smith replied, it's in State Borough Code.

Ms. Smith took a roll call vote.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion 6A - Motion to appoint Interim Borough Manager/Secretary/Open Records Officer.

Motion to nominate Scott Mitchell made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, is there any other nominations? Is there any other nominations? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-2. (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker)

Motion 6B - Motion to appoint Assistant Borough Secretary.

Motion to nominate Virginia Cyphers made by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith asked, is there any other nominations? Is there any other nominations? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 6C - Motion to appoint a Borough Treasurer.

Motion to nominate Joan Dirretto made by Ms. Dreisbach.

Ms. Smith asked, any other nominations? Is there any other nominations? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 6D - Motion to appoint Assistant Borough Treasurer.

Motion to nominate Nancy Dirretto made by Ms. Larison.

Ms. Smith asked, any other nominations? Is there any other nominations? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 6E - Motion to appoint Borough Solicitor.

Motion to nominate Flager and Associates made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, is there any other nominations? Any other nominations? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 6F - Motion to appoint Borough Engineer.

Motion to nominate Gilmore and Associates made by Mr. Bowers.

Ms. Smith asked, is there any other nominations? Any other nominations? Roll call please.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 6G - Motion to appoint Special Counsel.

Motion to nominate Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell & Hippel, LLP made by Mr. Pepitone.

Ms. Smith asked, is there any other nominations for that? Any other nominations?

Ms. Kronnagel stated, just quickly, this was also a last minute addition, can we get an explanation for this as well?

Ms. Smith replied, there's a lot of places that do nominations for adding extra attorneys, whether it be for if you need them for Special Counsel, labor or anything else that you would need. You don't use them unless you have to use them, it's always easier to do at the time that you are re-organizing if you're going to do it. I know some Townships have 3 or 4 engineers according to what they are going to use them for.

Ms. Kronnagel asked, so we don't have any specific reason, designation for this Special Counsel?

Ms. Smith replied, I think it's a good thing to have on staff. We have several contracts and things coming up so if we do need extra legal.

Ms. Kronnagel stated, I'm not sure if I understand the difference between the Solicitor and the Special Counsel. Is the Special Counsel something that's going to be spelled out?

Ms. Smith replied, you can use them for special labor. Let's say Mr. Flager's firm isn't able to handle several things at one time and you need to bring in extra Counsel, we will be able to do that. You can vote or not vote for it Ms. Kronnagel.

Ms. Kronnagel replied, I'm just asking for what that is. If we need it, we need it.

Ms. Smith replied, you can do it at another time. I just chose to do it at the re-organization.

Ms. Kronnagel replied, because it's new that's why I'm asking for an explanation.

Ms. Smith replied yes it is, yes. Can we do a roll call on that, please?

Motion carried by roll call vote, 8-0.

Motion 6H - Motion to appoint Borough Building Inspector/Zoning Officer/Fire Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer.

Motion to nominate Keystone Municipal Services made by Mr. Yager.

Ms. Smith asked, is there any other nominations? Is there any other nominations? Roll call.

Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-2. (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker)

Ms. Smith asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for public comment.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Audience members interrupted.

1. Nancy Sherlock - *424 West Bridge Street*
She stated, comments already. Good Evening everyone, Mayor, newly elected, and those that have been already seated. Tonight is a night for celebration and I do congratulate those who have been re-elected, Mayor Dave Rivella and Corryn Kronnagel and also the newly elected Councilpersons, Ms. Dreisbach, Mr. Yager and Justin Bowers. Also I'd like to mention as the Judge mentioned earlier this evening, the Row Offices in Bucks County were sworn in this morning and that was Judi Reiss, who is our new Prothonotary, we have Milton Warrell our Sheriff, District Attorney, Matthew Weintruab, Controller, Neale Dougherty and Recorder of Deeds, Robin Robinsion. So congratulations to them as well. This election did not turn out the way some had hoped, but I absolutely believe in the process, and I do believe that majority rules, so congratulations to all. What I would like to mention though is the paper said that this is a 4-4 split, four Democrats, four Republicans, I'd just like to correct that because I do believe that two of our Republicans or two of our Democrats do not believe in the Democratic principles.

Audience members interrupted.

Ms. Sherlock stated, I'm not sitting down, it's my time to speak. I have the right to speak.

Ms. Smith stated, point of order.

Ms. Sherlock asked, excuse me?

Ms. Smith replied, no I just said point of order, you can speak.

Ms. Sherlock stated, thank you very much. Yes, I mean — I wasn't going to point out things this evening, but it seems that the crowd here doesn't believe it. So, I mean — we have instances, I will bring it up at another time, because tonight is not the night to bring it up, but I can bring up certain things that both Mrs. Dreisbach and Mr. Yager who are registered Democrats —

Audience members interrupted.

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Ms. Sherlock stated, excuse me. Wow, anyway, there's been talk about outsourcing the Public Works. I would just like this Council to please consider doing such a thing. I don't think it's necessary. You have a small skeleton crew who is doing quite a bit as we speak. And also, these are people that live in town, pay taxes in town, have families in town. I'd like you to certainly reconsider before you make any movement towards outsourcing that. Now for some more moans and groans, another thing I'd like to bring up is the event that took place on Friday, December 22nd when Mrs. Smith came into the Borough Hall to speak to Mr. Sooby, it was during — they have a small Holiday gathering, and she asked to speak to him and she had him in the office for about an hour and a half I understand and during that time she told him that he would not need to come back, that he was done on the 31st of December. So, while I — there are so many things wrong with that, while it was inappropriate, it was unprofessional, the timing is ruthless. I don't understand the purpose behind coming in on the 22nd to tell him that. You can't just sweep the Borough Manager under the rug, it should have been done in public. And you can't just make that decision, come in and tell him don't come back, and also that we are planning on doing interim and we'll hire somebody in the future. Normally, your Borough Manager is the interim and works, that's not sort of the transition that should have taken place. So I think that it was — I just think it was absolutely inappropriate.

Audience members interrupted.

Ms. Sherlock stated, I would appreciate it — you know, I'm not going to talk when other people are talking, so it would be nice if we didn't have these comments on the side — you may not like what I have to say but what I have to say a lot of it is actually the truth, you might not believe it, but it is the truth. I think the public needs to know and I'm just here to tell them. The paper was wrong, okay. That's what I'm trying to tell you. The position of Councilperson is one of honor and I know that all of you are trying to do the best you can in your own particular way, but it's not about titles, it's not about power, it's about doing what's best for the health and the welfare of the Borough.

Audience members interrupted.

Ms. Sherlock stated, I think I'll just end it with that because we have a very inappropriate audience here and once again, the bar has been lowered. Thank you and have a good evening.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, may I respond?

Ms. Sherlock stated, I was told I forgot my name and address, Nancy Sherlock, 424 West Bridge Street.

Ms. Smith stated, thank you, Ms. Sherlock.

Ms. Sherlock stated, I'll wait for the eggs apparently.

Ms. Smith stated, thank you.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I have plans for —

Ms. Smith stated, I'm not even going to address those issues. This isn't the time and the place for it. This is a time for celebration of all the newly appointed people who are standing up here, so I will leave it at that. I look forward to working with everyone. It's a new time for Morrisville and let's move it forward and do some good things. I think we've got some good people up here, we're trying our best with it. If we make a mistake, believe me, we're the first ones to admit it and correct that mistake. So let's all get on that same path and do some good things. Congratulations everybody.

There being that no one else wished to speak, public comment portion was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve this evening.

REPORTS - ADMINISTRATIVE/MANAGEMENT

Interim Borough Manager's Report - Scott Mitchell - There was no report this evening.

Solicitor's Report - Randy Flager - There was no report this evening.

Mayor's Report - David Rivella - There was no report this evening.

Police Chief's Report - Chief George McClay - There was no report this evening.

Junior Councilperson's Report - Sade Ricketts - There was no report this evening.

REPORTS - COMMITTEES

There were no committee reports this evening.

FINANCE

Motion 8A - A motion to adopt the Resolution to obtain the Bond for the Interim Borough Manager in the amount of \$100,000.00.

Motion made by Mr. Yager.

Mr. Bowers seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith asked, can I have a roll call on that please?

Motion carried by roll call vote, 6-2. (nay votes being Ms. Kronnagel and Mr. Parker)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss this evening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements this evening.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Ms. Kronnagel stated, I would like to thank Mr. Sooby for his time as our Borough Manager, he lower taxes and he did a great job moving a lot of projects forward that were stagnant. I would like to thank him for that.

Ms. Dreisbach stated, I would like to congratulate everyone tonight and I look forward to working with everyone up here.

Mr. Yager, I would like to thank everyone for coming out. It has been a contentious time. At this point I am very excited and I feel so good about the direction that this town is going to be going in, not just from the people that are on this dais, but from the people in our town that are so excited about the changes that are going to be made in this town. Thank you.

Ms. Smith stated, the only thing I will say as one of the remarks about the Public Works being outsourced, we are not outsourcing the Public Works just to let you know. Our Borough workers work very hard and we all know that, so there isn't anything like that going on. We're just going to look at the best avenues for the best financially for the Borough to get the services done and keep everybody employed and to do some good things for the town that need to be done. Congratulations everybody and thank you all for coming out we appreciate it.

ADOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Yager and seconded by Ms. Dreisbach.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.