

**BOROUGH OF MORTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2013**

The regular public meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by council president Cimino. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called; the following was roll call response: Bill Bissell, Mario Cimino, George Dickerson, Michele Roberts, and Walter Stubbs. Also Present was Solicitor Wills, Engineer Catania, and Sgt. LaSpina. Absent: Jeff Akins, Sheldon Blunt.

Council Comments – Mr. Bissell commented on the amount of recycling cans placed outside in the area.

Ms. Roberts welcomed all in attendance and gave condolences to Mr. Dickerson in the passing of his father.

No public comments

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Michele Roberts made a Motion to approve the minutes for the December public meeting. Mr. Bissell seconded the Motion. All voiced approval with “aye”. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Mr. Bissell made a Motion to approve the bills to be paid for the month of December, 2012. Mr. Dickerson seconded the Motion. Roll call: Bill Bissell-yes, Mario Cimino-yes, George Dickerson-yes, Michele Roberts-yes, Walter Stubbs-yes. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

\*Mr. Paul Quinn – 2 School Street – owns Design Brilliance, a car lettering company. He has contacted Catania’s office on the possibility of purchasing an adjacent piece of ground. He would like to expand his business with a fence around it; off of Woodland Avenue. The problem may be a zoning issue as the area is zoned special office. The other zoning district is general commercial. He suggested that Mr. Quinn approach council on this issue.

Mr. Quinn did address council on this matter and explained what his business does at that address. He wanted to make sure with council that would enable him to do what he wanted to do. Mr. Cimino stated he wanted council to entertain an exception to zoning. Mr. Wills stated if council is of the opinion that the proposed use would not be contrary to the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Mr. Cimino questioned his egress; would he require another driveway. Mr. Quinn answered no, he has a driveway and the egress he has now is more than sufficient. The lot is stone, and he would level out the existing lot with crushed stone. No proposed structural. This would

give him the opportunity in the future if he is able to do so. Mr. Cimino questioned if he would be looking to sublease to a third party. Mr. Bissell made it clear that we are not talking about eyesores to the community.

Ms. Roberts questioned if he would put up bays? He stated no, he would add the second floor in the future.

Mr. Wills suggested Mr. Quinn put a request in writing to Mr. Wills to the borough's attention; for the next month's meeting.

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES**

In Mr. Akins absence, Mr. Bissell gave the public facilities report. There were 5 building permits, and 1 use and occupancy certificate issued.

Mr. Bissell briefly discussed with council, the delinquent property issued. All the inspections were done and 19 properties are not in compliance. Notice of violations and then citations are ongoing. Mr. Catania gave council a list of the inspections not completed.

Mr. Bissell questioned the solicitor on his opinion of what we should do. Mr. Wills did answer that we should follow protocol, and if all the steps are taken and they do not comply, in extreme circumstance, we should put a cease and desist order.

Mr. Cimino questioned if we should formally adopt a Motion. Mr. Bissell did make that motion that we take the steps set forth by Mr. Catania and Mr. Wills to bring these businesses into compliance. Mr. Dickerson seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Mr. Bissell briefly discussed the Jacob's park restoration proposal. Mr. Catania stated that MR. Wills received an amended agreement to restore the field where the trucks drive across the grass. The cost they offered was \$1500. We decided that was not enough; and contacted a local landscaper that came in at \$6100; to replace sod in the areas of the active ball field. American Tower felt the cost was too high. The question that came up was whether or not we need to sod the field or put grass seed down. He can get another price from another landscaper to place seed. Council did voice their opinions on the matter.

Mr. Wills stated that MR. Catania can advise representatives from American Tower that it is the borough's insistence that the sod be utilized rather than seed. Mr. Cimino questioned the paving aspect, whether it was simultaneous with the sod. Mr. Catania answered that we have been waiting for this agreement for some time. In his opinion, they should go in and construct the access road done now, with stone, and avoid further damage, and then get the field restored so that in the spring time the field is ready for use. Mr. Cimino stated that if it is the consensus of council, we need to move ahead.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Ruley gave her 2012 December tax report. Balance collectible on December first was \$57,159.18. Face collections were \$18,525.41. Balance on December 31 of \$38,633.77. Actual cash collected - \$18,525.41; penalties of \$1852.55; total cash collected for December \$20,377.96. There were \$1653.63 deposits, which will be reflected on January report.

Mr. Cimino read the sewer and trash collections - Sewer current month to date \$67,376.80; year to date - \$446,643.95. Prior rents – month to date – 0 , year to date \$81,199.23. Trash – current month to date - \$7854.20; year to date - \$127,450.91. Trash prior rents – month to date – 0 collections, and year to date - \$20,977.94. We will need to discuss what we can do if we have funds left over from delinquent collections. We have the Tax Anticipation loan from Sharon Savings bank as well. Mr. Wills added that we need to pay this back by June, 2013.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Dickerson read the December police report. Mr. Connelly gave the Fire department report – 18 alarms were answered. He will not be seeking re-election for President of the Fire Company, and stated that Mr. Tom Kopp would be taking over. He thanked council for all their support over the years. He reported that he has done volunteer services for 43 years. Council also thanked him as well.

### **HEALTH AND SANITATION**

Mr. Stubbs had no report; but had some questions for Mr. Lillicrapp, and would be having a discussion on Meter 5; and would organize a conference for the committee to discuss video inspections, and the value to each. To see how we can best serve the community.

### **LAW AND ORDINANCE**

No report in the absence of Mr. Blunt

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Roberts gave an update on recycling program in the borough. She reported that the first week was over and there was an oversight on country lane, as residents did not get the information, but landlords did, but they did go out and hand out letters to those residents.

She announced the website (she meant Cable channel – MoTv). She urged people to volunteer. She thanked Mr. Fiorentino and Michele Miller, and Mr. McGrath on the site. She explained that each council member would have their own sign in. The website is [www.mortonpa.org](http://www.mortonpa.org). Cable committee can have access to the room only during business hours.

## **PARK AND RECREATION**

Mayor announced another meeting January 16, 2013 at 7:30.

Mr. Kenneth Harris – he is originally from Philadelphia. He is from 632 Rively Avenue, in Glenolden. He works with kids in Philadelphia at the Morton School at 62<sup>nd</sup> and Elmwood, and he runs multiple basketball leagues and is a coach. He was requesting permission from council to use the gym to run a basketball league. Also, there is a television station here and this could cover the league, entitled the EBL league (after Edward Battle). Council suggested he attend the Park and Recreation meeting on 1-16-13 and discuss his intentions and seek approval before council.

## **PLANNING**

Mr. Cimino stated that discussions were held last week regarding development of 215 Yale Avenue. Mr. Wills has a prepared Resolution for the land development. Mr. Bissell made the Motion to approve the Resolution for land development; and Michele Roberts seconded the Motion.

Roll Call: Bill Bissell-yes, Mario Cimino-no, George Dickerson-yes, Michele Roberts-yes, Walter Stubbs-yes. Motion carried.

## **CDCA**

Mr. Lillicrapp reported that they had a meeting on 1/8/13. The focus was the ongoing negotiations between the DELCORA and the city of Philadelphia regarding DELCORA's share of Philadelphia long-term plan for flow treatment charges. Nether Providence appointed a new representative to CDCA; Newtown Township's representative resigned at the end of 2012. The ongoing Act 537 update meeting will be held in February; at that point the City of Philadelphia and DELCORA will come to a meeting of the minds.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Jackie Guy – 635 Country Lane –complained about traffic on the street; many kids, no sidewalks. Sgt LaSpina responded and said they may be able to do speed checks and will step up the enforcement.

Michael Fiorentino – Recycling Committee – gave a brief report that he noticed cans for recycling on the curbs. Mario thanked the committee for all their hard work in getting the word out.

\*Executive Session – Mr. Cimino called an Executive session to discuss the hiring of a treasurer.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.by Mr. Bissell.

Respectfully,

Martha Preston  
Secretary