

BOROUGH OF MORTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
May 10, 2017

The regular public meeting of May was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by council president Cimino. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called. The following was roll call response: Mario Cimino-present, Michele Roberts-present, Michelle Miller-present, Keriann Williams-present, Robert Neal-present, Robert McGrath-present, John Miller-present, and Mayor Piselli-present. Also present, Solicitor Ewald, Chief Laspina, Engineer Catania, and Fire Chief Kemp. Absent: Alycee Nelson Ruley-Tax Collector

COUNCIL COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS- Mr. Lee -123 W Sylvan asked where the reports were from the Tax collector for Feb., and March? Council answered that we did receive the reports, however, just April's would be read into the record.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Williams made a Motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 2017. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All council voiced approval. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the bills for the month of April. Ms. Williams seconded the Motion. Roll call: Mr. Cimino-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Williams-yes, Mr. Neal-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Miller-yes. Motion carried.

agenda order changed...

PLANNING -UNITED TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION-Land development Application

Mr. Catania stated the plans were reviewed May 1st. There were comments made, and two issues needed addressed. One was a letter from the fire marshal indicating that the circulation on the site for emergency access and trees to be installed along Highland Avenue, which was a comment from the planning commission.

Elizabeth Naughton Beck – attorney for UTC. She was aware of the recommendation and they were agreeable to the trees. She was not aware of the fire marshal letter that was required. They were agreeable to the conditions of the engineering office. Fire Chief Kemp stated he met with Mr. Ursone on this matter, and from the emergency management standpoint they requested both accesses remain open and the addition of a fire hydrant due to the restricted access in there. Should there be a fire in any of those buildings, the first piece of apparatus laying line is going to be shut down. This was a note we made. Ms. Naughton Beck stated she was agreeable to those conditions.

Mr. Ewald stated that the County additionally remarked that they required sewage approval. She did reply that the requirement was that they comply with the sewage regulation ordinances which they are agreeable to doing, also the stormwater management ordinance, which we are also required to comply with. Solicitor Ewald also stated that on Catania's review it stipulated that project grading needed to be re-evaluated. Mr. Catania requested this be more detailed, that stormwater runoff would be directed to the rear of the property. Mr. Ewald stated at the last meeting it was requested that the barbed wire be removed from the fencing; and it was answered that this was already done. Mr. McGrath stated this makes a big difference.

Mr. Catania stated that this project is in two separate townships. He would like copies of those approvals be given to the two townships. He would also like to have a municipal improvement escrow security agreement. This may be done next month. The motion is to approve the application for land development at 501 Highland subject to the following conditions and compliance of May 1, 2017 engineer letter, which includes the fire marshal approval of hydrant, and compliance with the County Planning review letter dated April 20, 2017. Incorporated in those letters are concerns about the street trees and sewer and other smaller items, and incorporated in the borough engineer's letter was concern about grading, compliance with stormwater compliance and compliance with fire marshal's concerns regarding access. Mr. John Miller made the Motion. Mr. Neal seconded the Motion. Roll call: Mr. Cimino-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Williams-yes, Mr. Neal-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Miller-yes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Ms. Miller reported that there were 9 building permits, 8 Use and Occupancy, and 6 Contractor Licenses issued.

Road Project-2017

Ms. Miller reported that the bids were opened May 3rd, and the bid amount of \$199,691.25 was submitted by A.F. Damon, Inc. She questioned if we should discuss the basketball court re-paving now or later. She decided that should be discussed later.

We are also working on the sidewalks, and we also have rain garden camera, so you can watch the rain garden on Motv. Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the bid from A.F. Damon, Inc. for \$199,691.25 for street paving. Mr. McGrath seconded the Motion. The motion does not include alternates. Roll call: Mr. Cimino-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Williams-yes, Mr. Neal-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Miller-yes. Motion carried.

Alternate bids-basketball courts

Ms. Miller stated she felt that instead of re-paving the courts, some small repairs can be done to them. Mr. Johnson, our highway maintenance representative thinks it should be re-paved. Mayor Piselli stated she was not aware of what the committee wanted but she would meet with them and have them give their opinion.

Mr. Catania stated there is a special sports court painting, and he sent a request to the local person but has not heard back; however, they just did a neighboring town and it was \$9500; and this may not be cost effective. These bids actually came in cheaper than that material.

Solicitor Ewald then questioned, as an alternate bid, if Sucher does not get the primary contract, are they still offering the basketball court repaving for that price, or is it contingent on the primary contract? Mr Catania answered that it is contingent on the primary contract.

Solicitor Ewald then told council that the only option is the Damon proposal or to scrap it and send it out for another bid.

Discussion was held at length regarding the finances and whether or not the basketball courts should be paved.

Mr. McGrath stated there may be better ways to take care of the basketball court, paving is for roads, so maybe a different surface would be more appropriate. Mr. McGrath then as finance director wanted clarification. He stated that there are a number of things we need to do that we haven't done yet. He stated to consider a basketball court when we have a building and two baseball fields that could use some work. If you look at the location, it is more of a neighborhood location than the greater borough can take advantage of. He is looking at the priority of fixing a basketball court that would really matter only to a handful of people. Most people playing basketball in a park, it doesn't matter, as it is only a community event.

Ms. Roberts disagreed, the basketball court is paramount to the neighboring community, and we should do something for those neighbors in that area. Mr. McGrath then asked how many people walk to the borough meeting. He stated that the average person wouldn't be inclined to travel that far without driving. Mr. Neal stated it is a safety issue, number one, and Ms. Williams agreed. Mr. Miller stated that the comments suggesting that part of Morton is insignificant is resentful. We are always wanting activities for children, so this should be done. Mr. McGrath felt his comments were misinterpreted; he stated that we have one park in this town in one area of the town. Its accessibility has to do with how close you are to the park; the park does belong to the entire town, and he stated the reason he mentioned cars was a concern was parking. We need to talk about priorities. We have two bridges we have to fix, and why we are talking about a basketball court when we have these to fix. We need this park to be more accessible to more people in the borough. Mr. Cimino suggested that there are funds beyond this surplus from street paving; so, might we suggest a compromise where we can accommodate these priorities. Ms. Miller stated the reasons she knows about basketball, but this is a lot of money, but agreed that the gym should be used a lot more, but not many did use it. If council feels it is the thing to do to repave, it should be done, however she would like to get other bids. Mr. McGrath stated we should shift some money around in the budget; and begin this process. Mr. Bruce Blunt has generously provided us \$10,000 worth of free labor to replace the broken sidewalks in the borough. Mr. Cimino stated we need to commit to getting this renovation underway in the park. The bridges are also his top priority, and we have estimates on these projects.

Mr. McGrath stated again he just does not see it is a high priority at this time. Mr. Cimino suggested the compromise that we consider approving the alternate to the paving contract as he feels because it is linked with a larger project it is the best price. The compromise is that we would dedicate the remainder of the paving settlement funding to the priorities that public facilities determines are the highest priorities.

Mr. McGrath stated the decision is based on the level of priority the basketball court. He suggested we look at it in committee and come up with realistic ideas to see where the money would come from.

Mr. Cimino suggested we accept the bid \$11,500; as we are still looking at more funds \$8000 left over from the project and \$19,000 from Ridley Township. We make a motion to approve the alternate to repave both courts for \$11,500 using the aqua settlement funds and also within the motion designate the remaining amount for public facilities regarding building and bridges. Mr. Cimino then made the Motion. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. Roll call: Mr. Cimino-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Miller-reluctantly, yes, Ms. Williams-yes, Mr. Neal-yes, Mr. McGrath-although fiscally it is irresponsible, he will vote Yes for political reasons, Mr. Miller-yes. Motion carried.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Mr. McGrath read the 2017 April tax report in the tax collector's absence. This report is on file in the borough office. We collected \$693,718.54. Mr. Cimino then read the report as stated: The face collections for April \$707,769.65. This left balance collectible of \$204,975.59. Discounts of \$14,051.11 the total cash collected \$693,718.54. \$2186.47 in adjustments. Total cash collected \$695,905.01.

Mr. McGrath read the Sewer and Rubbish Report for April. This report is also in file in the borough office.

Borough Manager Contract

Mr. McGrath stated we did hire the borough manager in January, and all the details have been worked out so we will make a Motion. Solicitor Ewald stated the contract was approved in February, the manager's attorney needed to look at it, and some comments were made and now here is a contract that both parties are satisfied with; so, a motion is to approve this contract. Ms. Miller mentioned that council hasn't actually seen the contract, and wondered if this mattered. Mr. McGrath stated he saw it only in pieces. He recommends from his point of view that this is voted on. Council then decided because they hadn't seen the contract, to put the vote for the contract off until next month.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Roberts read the police department report for April 2017. Police responded to 264 calls.

Fire Chief Kemp read the fire department report. Company responded to 19 incidents. The entire reports are on file.

Fire Chief Kemp thanked all for their attendance on Public Safety Day on April 29th.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION, AND RECYCLING

Mr. Neal mentioned to all that if anyone hears or sees anything suspicious to please notify the police department.

Mr. Neal read his report last week.

LAW & ORDINANCE

Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve Resolution 2017-06; a resolution adopting the record retention schedule. Mr. McGrath seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried. Mr. Poole stated if records are to be destroyed they are to be brought before council and another resolution will allow them to be destroyed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Williams stated she did not reach out to Dr. Barber; as she forgot. She had Sunday Dytt (11 Mitchell Avenue) approach council with the July 4th plan of festivities. She did reach out to the school district for the band, but they will not be able to be in attendance. She did say the parade would begin at 11:00 at the DCIU and end at 2:00 at the borough hall.

PARK AND RECREATION

Mayor Piselli reported that she had contracts for the park equipment, but would like to meet with borough council to go over what the committee suggested. A meeting will be scheduled and advertised for May 24th at 7:00 p.m

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cimino reported that the Solicitor was preparing and reviewing two draft agreements 1) extending to members and 2) agreement for joint reduction.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Heile Hodnut – 231 Walnut – asked questions about the park

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan – reminded all that election day was Tuesday May 16th. He also stated the next school board meeting would be June 8th here at borough hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roberts Motioned to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Preston
Borough Secretary