

**BOROUGH OF MORTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
VIA ZOOM**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

The regular council meeting for the month of February was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by council president, Michelle Miller. The pledge of allegiance was recited and roll was called. The following was roll call response: Michelle Miller-present, John Miller-present, Michele Roberts-present, Robert McGrath-present, Hiele Hodnett-present, Joseph Boylan-present, Douglass Eagar-present, and Mayor App-present. Also present: Kristin Acquarola-Tax collector, Solicitor Ewald, Chief Laspina, Sgt. Rodstein, Engineer Catania, Robert Poole-Manager.

Council Comments: Mr. Boylan brought up an issue with the Fire Chief's name being on the website incorrectly. Ms. Miller stated this was corrected. No other comments were heard.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA – Ms. Miller stated the agenda was posted late on the website, and asked if there were public comments. Mr. Eagar gave direction on how to participate on zoom.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES-January**

Ms. Roberts stated that she noticed her name was missed on both sets of minutes. The secretary stated this would be corrected.

Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Boylan seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the bills for the month of January. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Mr. Miller—yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Bob McGrath-yes, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Ms. Miller reported on behalf of Mr. McGrath that there were 11 building permits, 2 Use and Occupancy certificates, and 8 contractors licenses issued

Ms. Miller reported that PennDot has put up some crossing signs at Yale and Mitchell and Morton. Some of the striping on crosswalks has to be done but because of the weather cannot be done right away.

Ms. Miller called on Mr. McGrath to see if he had a comment, but he did not answer.

Mr. Miller asked if the reason the signs are covered is because the lines are not done in the street, as Mitchell Avenue. Mr. Poole confirmed, and stated that the ones on Yale have come off, on their own and he had notified Penndot.

### Pothole

Mr. Heffner reported that there was a huge pothole on Woodland behind check cashing. Mr. Poole responded that this was the private property owner's. Ms. Milers stated that there was talk about that, putting curb lines there at some point. This may be something that need to be addressed. She suggested if an email would be sent these things could be addressed.

Highway crew acknowledged

Ms. Hodnett brought up the comment that a neighbor wrote in Nextdoor Morton about our highway maintenance crew. Ms. Hodnett actually read the comments that were made. Ms. Miller also stated that Mr. Boylan commented how well his street was done. Mr. Lillicrapp stated they did a good job in his area and they do it every time.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Boylan stated that the Real Estate Tax report and the Sewer and Rubbish reports were received. He confirmed that all council did receive their reports.

Sewer and Trash – Mr. Boylan announced along with Mr. Poole that we did receive 140% of our budgeted sewer amount. Mr. Poole stated that is true, we did receive this in January of this year, as we spoke about last month.

### Resolution 2021-02 – County Aid

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the Resolu8tion to apply to Delaware County Council for liquid duels allocation of \$3375. Ms. Hodnett seconded the Motion. Roll call: Michelle Miller-yes, John Miller-yes, Michele Roberts-yes, Bob McGrath-yes, Hiele Hodnett-yes, Joe Boylan-yes, Doug Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

### Resolution 2021-03 Tax Collector fees

Mr. Boylan explained that this would establish fees for our tax collector at new rates for certifications – \$25 and for duplicate bills - \$10 each. This is an increase from previous rates. Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve this resolution to establish rates for tax certification and duplicate bills. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. Roll call: Michelle Miller-yes, John Miller-yes, Michele Roberts-yes, Bob McGrath – did not answer, Hiele Hodnett-yes, Joseph Boylan-yes, Douglas Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### Fire Report

Mr. Miller gave the Fire Chief's report. The company responded to 15 incidents, and gave the complete report. This is on file in the borough office.

Fire Marshal – Rufus Stokes reported that he submitted his report, and he then read it to the council. He was out of service for the month due to surgery, but he did get updates with the Fire chief. No fire investigations, one fire company incident, unsafe condition – apartment buildings – 238 Main Street, fire alarm investigation – storage room full of clutter, but a letter was sent to the owner. The owner did comply and send photos of what was done. Mr. Stokes did report this to the fire chief to make him

aware. When he is back in service, he will be in touch with the owner and do a walk-through with the owner.

Mr. Miller asked if the Fire company contacted anyone about their fundraising? There was no information at the time. This will be addressed at a later time.

#### Police Report

Mr. Miller gave the police report – highlighting some incidents. 17 suspicious circumstances, 18 medical emergencies, 17 traffic and parking problems, 27 traffic enforcement warnings, 32 building checks. 54 traffic citations. Total – 296 incidents this month.

Mr. Miller received a letter today from PA law enforcement accreditation commission. Sgt. Rodstein stated this is a review of our agency. Mr. Miller read a portion of the letter which was a certification of safe policing for community. Chief LaSpina explained the reason for this letter and that the police department is now in compliance, this qualifies us for funding in the future.

Ms. Roberts questioned the number of assisting other agencies – Mr. Miller responded that it was 11 times.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION AND RECYCLING**

Ms. Roberts reported that there were 9 trash pick-ups in January and the total tonnage was 81.91. New trash and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter sewer bills have been sent out. The face amount of the trash is due by 3-20-21. The sewer bill is due by 3-15-21. This is the first quarter bill.

Our igloos will be emptied by at least Friday, and this was confirmed by the County.

Our trash is scheduled to be picked up on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> President's Day.

Ms. Roberts explained where residents can take their recycling, the borough, the DCIU, and Mr. Heffner's property at 200 and 1 N Morton Avenue.

#### **LAW & ORDINANCE**

No report

#### **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Hodnett discussed the Red Cross blood drive; they are looking to partner with Jen O'Mara's office for the drive. Possibly the Monday or Thursday in March. She has to go over some details, looking to do afternoon to early evening in March. The Red Cross has a lot of supportive teams in the community and she may have their volunteer coordinator to come to a zoom meeting to encourage volunteering. Ms. Hodnett discussed the vaccine situation ongoing.

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Due to weather, we have had no meeting, however we will be setting a meeting date soon for the committee to meet.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

– Someone named K. Holmes asked what is done with past due sewer and trash fees. Mr. Poole explained that every two years we send to collection

Bill Heffner – questioned what is going on with the abandoned property next to the post office. Mr. Catania stated we are still awaiting plans to be submitted for reconstruction for the work that has been done. This was originally to renovate and replace the roof, then they began to work and got past what was intended.

Mr. Lee – Since the start of the pandemic, felt the council did very well with the hand they were dealt, and felt they deserved a round of applause.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary