

BOROUGH OF MORTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2021

The regular public meeting of June 9<sup>th</sup> was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called. The roll was called: the following was response: Michelle Miller-present, John Miller-present, Michele Roberts-present, Hiele Hodnett –present, Joseph Boylan-present, Robert McGrath-present, and Douglass Eagar-present. Also present- Solicitor Ewald, Engineer Catania, Tax Collector Acquarola, and Mayor App, Chief LaSpina.

Ms. Miller introduced the new borough manager, Marlene Richmond. She stated that she appreciated the opportunity to work for the borough.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor App stated he was happy to be back in person, just got back in town. Congratulations to 2021 graduates of Springfield High school.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA-none**

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Mr. Boylan had one question- the bill list had just been provided, and he informed everyone that he sat with Marlene and went through the bill list, as there are systems issued with QuickBooks. Mr. Boylan explained four highlighted items and informed council they are items previously paid . Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the monthly bill list. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY MINUTES**

Mr. Boylan stated that at the 5/26 minutes, Mr. Boylan moved to hire Ms. Boylan, instead of Ms. Richmond. So with that error corrected going forward, Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the monthly minutes. Mr. Boylan seconded the Motion. All council voted in favor. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE –**

Ms. Miller reported that here were 18 building permits, 1 Use and Occupancy, and 6 contractor licenses issued.

Mr. Miller stated he was approached by a few residents on School and Broad streets about getting children signs. He requested a sign at Baker and School –as there are quite a few children that play and use it as a shortcut. He did request signage be placed and police to patrol this area.

Ms. Roberts stated there is a sign on Maple and Broad at this time. Ms. Miller stated this would be looked at tomorrow.

## **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

### Tax Collector Report-May

Mr. Boylan confirmed with council that all council has received her report for May.

### Software update

Ms. Acquarola gave an update on the software data – there is no way to extract all the data except to export various reports a little at a time. The school district has transitioned to the same software.

Ms. Acquarola reported that delinquent letters would be coming out shortly.

Mr. Boylan stated we have not reported on April or May's sewer and rubbish bills. We will get together to have this reported two weeks from this evening.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### Fire Marshal

Mr. Miller read the fire marshal's report for the month of May. One of the items was an occupancy issue at Pappou's restaurant. He did notify the state liquor control officer regarding the occupancy determination. He had one fire investigation at 35 -37 Walnut Street which was accidental.

### Fire Company

Mr. Miller read the Fire Department report and also reminded everyone to turn in their pledge to the fire department to please do so.

### Police report

Mr. Miller read the police report – some of the issues were 18 disturbances, 19 medical emergencies, assisted other agencies 25 times. There were 101 traffic citations. There were 990 issues with the police department. Scott McGrady issued 30 tickets, Courtney McGowan-1, Kerri-Ann Christie-1 Richard Spasato-4 and Eric Perma-4; . These were parking tickets for moving violations.

Ms. Hodnett clarified the tickets were for parking tickets.

Ms. Hodnett asked about the fire department if there was any way to donate electronically or online. Ms. Miller stated that they say they do have Venmo.

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

Ms. Roberts reported that trash pickup is now twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. She stated this actually began June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will run until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Roberts that there have been complaints in regards to the time that the trash was picked up. Today she spoke with the manager and spoke to B& L and informed them of the issues. Trash pick-up is started at a certain point because they start with the heavier load vs lighter load and in between have to be dropped off that is why some of the streets such as Walnut, Pennington, School Streets, are picked up later as the load is lighter. . We did ask if they could reverse. They stated because of efficiency they suggested that the schedule be kept the same. They were also notified to put the cans on the curb when emptied.

Ms. Roberts suggested the committee meet June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. tentatively. She did ask about circulars, but will continue to pursue. Mr. Boylan stated he did see some issues with other companies had to wait to dump their loads. This could also be a problem as well. Ms. Roberts did comment that one of the concerned residents was Ms. Donna Claiborne.

Ms. Miller also reported that they will not pick up construction trash and they will not pick it up if it is left outside.

#### Recycling – igloos

The igloos take aluminum, steel cans, and glass

### **LAW AND ORDINANCE**

Nothing to report

### **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Hodnett stated there will be a meeting of the committee Tuesday June 15 at 7:00; discussing the agenda moving forward and the Morton Mailer. Ms. Roberts will have to change her date of her meeting. No summer activities for 4<sup>th</sup> of July because the committee has decided to hold off on this. ON Juneteenth there will be walk-in vaccinations at Riddle Hospital.

### **PARKS AND RECREATIONS**

Ms. Miller stated she has to get a meeting scheduled very soon. Basketball nets have to be placed at Jacob's Park. She will also order two new backboards for the smaller court.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor App spoke about the police department renovations with help getting this moving. He did ask the solicitor to see that we were moving ahead according to the grants rules. Carl stated we are proceeding according to the rules.

At this point in the meeting, sound becomes inaudible, - Mr. Catania described the low bid on the project. Mr. Catania explained the bid was broken into three pieces, phase two would be creating a training facility and upgrading the evidence, and phase three upgrading the office. Mayor App explained the bid process and how the bids came back very high. This has been very difficult to get this going. This phase can proceed and borough council consider some facility funds for the rest of the project.

#### Police Department Renovations

Mr. Miller made a Motion to move forward, but Ms. Miller stated that council should be able to see the project. Mayor App stated that this has been a year, but we do have the plans here to show, and it was voted by council to go ahead with the project. Ms. Hodnett questioned the \$24,000 what it would cover, and Mayor App answered that a room is needed that is quiet enough and this construction would do that as you come in the back door, next door to the cell room. This is a room that is currently used for lunch. Ms. Hodnett had questions on the costs and the answers were supplied by the Mayor as well as Mr. Catania. She requested clarification that the \$125,000 for final construction, but additional \$39,000 for plumbing. Mayor suggested we move to start this project, and the plans are available. This grant is extended to June 2022. The first phase is \$25,000 –and he feels this is a good start.

Ms. Miller then stated she knows that the chief has done a lot of work in the station, but still not enough to get where they need to be. So then the Motion was moved forward with phase I of the project for \$24,651.00 to McCarthy Construction as low bid. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, MR. McGrath-yes, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Roberts stated that one of Morton's own, Chris Nelson was able to be in a movie called Concrete Cowboy, with an actor Idris Elba.

Ms. Miller added that Devon Gilfillian was on a recent interview, on Demand, Also Mike Scoscia is manager of the men's Olympics baseball team.

Next Thursday June 16 would be a pop up clinic for the vaccine – 9:00 in the morning. They would be giving Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

#### Block Party

July 24 – 500 block of school Street. Teadra Glover has requested a block party. Ms. Miller would like to know if the neighbors have been spoken to about this. Ms. Miller stated she would speak to Ms. Glover in this regard.

#### School Board

Ms. Guy gave a report on the school board meeting which was live. She shared some information on Juneteenth, and gave the history behind Juneteenth.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan – gave comment that the council did very good job in guiding the borough during this covid time. And advised a round of applause to council and the Mayor.

Maureen Piselli – 42 Fairhill Road- commented to Mr. McGrath about the treatment her and her mother received from him. She feels he did an obscene gesture and should resign.

Walter Stubbs-19 Harding – the businesses on Morton Avenue –sidewalks have trash, and bird droppings and suggested we send out code enforcement. Mayor App thanked Mr. Stubbs and stated he suggested that we also encourage our businesses to have a business association.

Ms. Hodnett stated that this should be a community effort, to take care of these properties. Ms. Hodnett reminded all that her

Donna Claiborne – Walnut Street- had complaint about the trash pick-up in her area. She stated that the explanation that was given was not acceptable. She claims that the only streets picked up were the streets where black people reside. Ms. Miller responded that trash is picked up in her area various times. Ms. Roberts stated she will speak with the owner and see what can be done to resolve this issue, and Republic did the same route, as he has the same driver. Ms. Roberts stated she would follow up with the owner of the company.

2021-12

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Miller reported that council would be adjourning for an Executive Session at this time.

The meeting does cut out and there is no return video.

Meeting was adjourned after the council's return

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary