

**BOROUGH OF MORTON**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

The regular council meeting of September 8 was called to order at 7:00 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 Thomas App-present.

Also present: Borough Manager-Richmond via zoom, Solicitor Ewald, Police Chief Laspina, and Engineer Catania.

Executive session: Solicitor Ewald announced an executive session was held at 6:30 p.m., on a personnel issue.

Council Comments: Ms. Hodnett commented on what she sees as political divisiveness and spoke about political issues. WE are all neighbors and financial decisions affect us all. Let's try to find common good and move forward together. Mr. McGrath stated that 'we just lost a borough manager-a person who followed their vision, everyone worked together as a team.

Ms. Cecile Todd- commented on the timing of the executive sessions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Charles Lillicrapp -114 Locust Road- questioned on the executive session, was it confidential. Solicitor Ewald stated that it was.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the bills to be paid. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public facilities and Infrastructure

Ms. Miller reported that there were 16 building permits, 4 Use and Occupancy Certificates, and no contractors licenses issued this month.

**Update Street Standards**

Ms. Hodnett made a Motion to update the Street Standards. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All council voiced approval. Motion carried.

**Greenways Grant**

It was explained that there was no match for this grant, 100% free money. We are looking to do Jacobs Park improvements. Our application is to be ready by next week.

### **Stop Signs-Mitchell**

Stop signs have been erected at the intersection of N Morton Avenue and Mitchell Avenue. Council thanked Penn Dot, and the committee, and Mr. Catania for their work on this issue.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

The Tax collector's report for August has been received.

#### MMO-2022

The Minimum Municipal Obligation for the pension plans has been received. Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve \$94,055 for the Police Plan and \$7600 for the Non Uniform Plan. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All Council voiced approval. Motion carried.

#### Budget 2022 Schedule

Mr. Boylan announced the budget meeting schedule. The dates are: Wednesdays - September 29, October 6, October 20, November 3, and November 17<sup>th</sup> –Preliminary. The meetings are all to be held at 7:00 p.m. here at the borough hall.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Miller read the police department report. The police have been very busy, there were 14 motor vehicle accidents, 24 suspicious persons, 21 medical calls, 33 traffic citations, 172 building checks, and 242 traffic checks , as well as other items included. The report is kept on file.

#### Fire Department report

There was no report this month, due to the fact that the Fire Department suffered a tragic loss of Dan Clement, who was a great asset to the Fire Department, and a captain and a veteran who served in Afghanistan. The department is currently in mourning and Swarthmore has been covering.

#### Stop Sign @ Mitchell

Mr. Miller reported that the stop signs were put in at the intersection at Mitchell and Morton, the signs will be flashing for 60 days along with the traffic sign boards.

Children at Play signs have been installed at Baker Street.

#### Fire Marshal

Mr. Stokes reported that he had inspected a new business at 6 Yale Avenue.

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

Ms. Roberts reported that 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter bills are out and due September 15, 2021.

Ms. Roberts also reported that she would be in touch with the Amvets regarding the placement of igloos.

## **LAW AND ORDINANCE**

Mr. Eagar reported that the 5G ordinance would be up for advertisement next week. Solicitor Ewald described what the 5G ordinance was for, this is for small wireless facilities, and the design standards.

## **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Hodnett stated that there would be a Blood Drive, Tuesday September 14 from 2 p.m. -7 p.m. at the borough hall. She also stated that you must sign up through the Red Cross website.

## **Trunk or Treat**

There will be a trunk or treat festivity on possibly October 29, the date has to be discussed.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Ms. Miller reported that there is nothing new due to the grant.

## **PLANNING**

220 Newell

### Resolution 2021-11 -220 Newell

Ms. Hodnett made the Motion to approve the reverse subdivision application of Nelson Fiore of JMR Engineering, Inc. for 220 Newell Street. Mr. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS-none**

## **NEW BUSINESS-**

### **Open discussion**

Cecile Todd- 110 Althea Lane –had follow up questions for council on some items. She questioned the asbestos issue at the police station. Ms. Miller stated that we just received a study from a third party company, and we have not had a chance to review. This information will be made public when we have a chance to go over.

Ms. Todd asked what went into the Greenways Grant. Asked about due diligence and what items are in the grant. It was indicated that you would make sure to know what liability the borough may or may not have responsibility. Ms. Miller asked Mr. Catania, who stated there were a series of recommendations for Jacob's park. They are currently working on a cost estimate. Mr. Ewald answered that some of the items are for a spray park, grill walking path, swings to be painted, trim trees in the wood, replace the climber at the playground, extend the parking lot, regrade the multipurpose field, and replace backstop and replace benches, provide space for a community garden, and new stage area. Ms. Todd questioned if council all has done due diligence. Ms. Miller did say part of the costs would be in the Park and Recreation budget. Ms. Todd was concerned there was no council meeting before the council meeting; she was concerned about the cost to the people, and the liability.

### 114 Althea – landscape problems

Ms. Todd questioned the landscaping issues at 114 Althea, and Mr. Boylan agreed that this was brought to the code officer's attention. This will be looked into.

Ms. Todd also questioned the Wawa project at Leamy – the left turn that is proposed. Ms. Miller stated a meeting was held with them here, and she began by explaining she did not want a left hand turn out onto Leamy Avenue, as we are fully responsible for that road. Ms. Miller stated they will come and present to council.

Ms. Todd questioned the revenue with the 5G wireless. The amount is \$270 per year per unit. Mr. Ewald explained the right of way fee and permit fees. He did explain what was in the ordinance.

Covid funds – Ms. Todd stated she heard at a town meeting that Covid funds were given to the borough and asked about the funding. She wanted to know if anything was decided on how that money is to be spent. Ms. Miller stated the guidelines haven't been received. Mr. Ewald explained that they haven't been issued. There is a code rule that sets forth guidelines, they are supposed to issue their final rules by October, deadline for the borough to issue a report is October 1. There are strict limitations on how that money is to be spent. Ms. Todd commented that she appreciated council and all the answers to her questions and help they give.

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan – agreed with comments made by Ms. Hodnett Mr. Lee questioned Mr. Miller on the police report, do things get tracked year by year And what locations, and are incidents going up or down each year. Mr. Miller reported that the police department keeps a log of all incidents, and the detail is located there. Mr. Lee questioned why the ballot boxes are still here. Ms. Miller explained that things will be activated once again when the election begins.

Bill Heffner – 571 Old Middletown Road – are the QuickBooks entries done? Not yet, mid next week. He asked who was running QuickBooks to generate the reports. Ms. Miller stated she can do that, there are a number of people who can.

Mario Cimino-46 S Morton Avenue – He had a quibble with the running of the meetings- new business seems to be running into Open discussion. He stated in support of the Greenways grant, application as he is a member of Greenspace task force and encouraged involvement. He stated we do have insurance and maintain insurance for the parks. We have been promising for years to improve opportunities for kids and he applauds council for moving forward.

Charles Lillicrapp – 114 Locust Road – he encouraged council to read the Planning commission report.

Hiele Hodnett – commented that no one took the decision lightly, if an issue is brought to council is due diligence to investigate. She thinks council and leadership does not have another option, and no one steps into or makes a vote without a lot of time put into it. Everyone voted on what they felt was in the best interest of the community.

8:41 – Council adjourned for a brief Executive session

8:48 – returned and a Motion was recommended to amend the agenda to add consideration of the Borough Manager's tender of resignation. Ms. Miller made the Motion to amend the agenda to consider the resignation of the borough manager. Mr. Boylan Seconded the Motion. No comments were made. Voice vote – all were in favor. Motion carried. The second Motion was to accept the

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resignation of the Borough Manager, Marlene Richmond, effective September 15, 2021. No comments were mentioned. Voice vote, 6 were in favor, 1 voted nay – Ms... Hodnett. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Preston, Secretary