

BOROUGH OF MORTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2017

The Regular meeting of December 2017 was called to order at 7:00 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, Police Chief Laspina, Engineer Catania, and Fire Marshal Kemp.

Council Comments: Mr. McGrath mentioned that this year has been a good year. Mr. Neal thanked everyone for their service to the borough and mentioned that this was his last meeting.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – none

SWEAR-IN-NEW POLICE OFFICER: Mr. Christopher Izzi was sworn in by Mayor Piselli.

Presentation to Mayor Piselli

Vice President Michele Roberts, and Chief Laspina presented the Mayor with a plaque and a Resolution from the House of Representatives,

A plaque from the borough, and also Governor Wolfe. He also thanked the Mayor for all her hard work and support during the 8 years that she has served as Mayor of Morton. Mayor responded that she appreciated all that the staff has done for her over the years and she will continue to support the staff and police department.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to approve the minutes for the month of November. Mr. McGrath seconded the motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR NOVEMBER

Mr. McGrath made a Motion to approve payment of the bills for the previous month. 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 & INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Miller reported that there were 14 building permits, 7 Use and Occupancy and 2 Contractor licenses issued for the month of November. Ms. Miller mentioned that the yearly inspection of the businesses is mostly complete.

BUDGET

Ms. Miller stated that she and Mr. McGrath met with Mr. Poole regarding the budget for next year. She did find that her committee had some money to spend before the end of the year. She would like to have the building painted before the end of the year, she is awaiting contractors to call back. Mr. McGrath added that they did review the status of the code enforcement officer, and at this time things look positive and they will be giving recommendation.

Ms. Miller mentioned that she did review the Public Facilities 2017 budget and there are some things that they would like to see done by the end of the year, one being the painting of the interior of the borough hall

Mr. Poole stated there is a remainder in general government building fund. She would like to take the remainder of those funds to use for the painting. We are requesting a Motion to reallocate funds.

Ms. Miller stated this is intended to be done between Christmas and New Year's; hallways, bathrooms, gym and kitchen for \$3000. This does not include the paint.

Solicitor stated you are looking for a Motion is to move the remaining unused 2017 funds in building and facilities over to maintenance category to authorize the award to the lowest responsible bidder as described by council. Motion was made by Michelle Miller, seconded by Mr. McGrath. Voice vote; all council approved by saying "aye". Motion carried.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Ruley read the November tax collection report; This will be her last presentation as tax collector in Morton. Mr. McGrath thanked her for all her work above and beyond her responsibilities. Ms. Ruley gave the opening balance of November as 100,891.95, face collections \$2445,73, closing November 30th, \$98,446.22. Actual cash collection \$2445.73- 10%penalty of \$244.57; for a total cash collection of \$2690.30.

Sewer and Trash - Mr. Poole read the trash collection report as well; this report is on file in the borough office.

Final Budget

Mr. McGrath made a Motion to approve the final budget for 2018. Ms. Miller 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.

Tax Levy Ordinance-752

Mr. McGrath made a Motion to approve Ordinance 752 and ordinance fixing the tax rates, sewer fees, rubbish fees for 2018. Solicitor Ewald added that the tax rate is 11.467 mils, sewer rate charge is \$11.09 per 1000 gallons, and refuse fee will be \$198.50 for each dwelling per unit. Ms. Roberts 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.

Tax Anticipation

Mr. McGrath made a Motion to award TAN to Sharon Savings Bank. Mr. Poole reported that we sent notice to 4 banks, but received one proposal. Total is \$150,000 for a six-month period. This is an increase in percentage from last year. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll call: Mr. Cimino-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Williams-yes, Mr. Neal-yes, Mr. Miller-yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Roberts read the November police report. There were 249 calls this month. The entire report is available at the borough office.

Ms. Roberts made everyone aware that the Delaware County Reassessment project is going to begin; and in December there will be photographing properties from a white van, clearly marked. The police department is aware that they will be in the community.

Thank You

Ms. Robert reported that there was a commendation letter that was received from the Crook family in the recent incident with a family member; even though that family member did pass. The police went above and beyond their call to help this resident and the family wanted to send their sincere thanks.

Fire Department

Chief Kemp reported that there were 27 incidents in November, with 124 personnel. Chief Kemp reported that going forward he will no longer be the Chief, but Chris Reiff will now be the Fire Chief. However, he will be in attendance as Fire Marshal and Emergency management coordinator.

Chief Kemp reported on the requirements for NIMS; we have to be in compliance and this is a requirement for funding.

SEPTA track update -Amosland

Chief Kemp stated he has not heard back from the officials from SEPTA, he did do a site check and saw that they did come and shore it up. He will doublecheck on this to see what progress they have made and what their future plan is on this.

Santa

He reported that Santa will be around at 12/23 this year and will start on this side of town and work the way around to the opposite side of town.

PUBLIC HEALTH/SANITATION/ RECYCLING

Mr. Neal reported that we have not received a recycling report at this time. Waste pick up – November 6-20.48 tons, 11/13 – 19.51 tons, 11/20, 17.00 tons, 11/27 – 23.08 tons – total \$80.07 tons for the month. WE did yard waste on 11/21, and we collected .85 tons. Trash pick ups for Christmas will be Tuesday the 26th and January 2nd.

LAW & ORDINANCE

Mr. Miller thanked the mayor for her friendship and help during his time on council. Mr. Miller

Had four motions – first was Motion to approve **Resolution 2017-09** – a resolution establishing standards for qualifications for volunteer tax credits. Solicitor Ewald explained that in order to be eligible for a tax credit, volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel shall be required to participate in 33% of all activities for the year. This is a measure the chief will every year on December 31st, submit a list of the members that have satisfied this threshold. This is ready for approval. Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve Resolution 2017-09, 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.

Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve **Resolution 2017-10 -2017-CDBG** grant; Solicitor Ewald explained that the borough applied for grant for 1) community center improvements, 2) zoning, code and comprehensive plan updates. This is ready for review. Ms. Miller 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.

Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve **Resolution 2017-11** – a Resolution in Opposition to House Bill 1620; entitled the Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Bill. Solicitor Ewald explained the Resolution that this has been requested from PSAB and will be forwarded to the State legislature informing them of our opposition. Mr. McGrath seconded the Motion. Roll call: Mr. Cimino-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Williams-yes, Ms. Williams-yes, Mr. Neal-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Miller-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve **Resolution 2017-12** – a resolution prohibiting Category Four Casinos within the Borough of Morton. Solicitor Ewald explained the Resolution. Mr. Cimino suggested the word “may” be placed in place of “would” and “will” under the Resolution itself. Solicitor Ewald stated this could be changed if council desired so. Mr. Miller made the Motion to change “would” to “may” on the Resolution. 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.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Williams reminded council that tomorrow night there will be a public meeting in regard to Morton Connects regarding traffic issues in the borough. This meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Miller stated that Mr. McGrath did research with the post office, and we have a permit for mailing and we hope to incorporate the use of that permit for a newsletter perhaps four times a year.

Ms. Williams reported that a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony would be held Saturday, December 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in coordination with the Blue Route Vineyard church.

PARKS & RECREATION

Mayor Piselli stated that Jeff of Lyons Recreation will be out Monday or Tuesday of next week.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Roberts stated that the mailers did go out for the Morton-Rutledge Fire company; and encouraged all not to forget the fire company with their Christmas giving.

NEW BUSINESS

January meeting schedule will be -the Re-organization meeting will be Tuesday January 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. immediately followed by the agenda meeting. Thereafter all meetings will be held the first and 2nd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. McGrath reported that the 1st of January 2018 is the 120th Anniversary of Morton. We are reminded of the sacrifice of the citizens who step up to serve.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan – reads the Daily Times and reported that in 1942, December 7th, a resident of Morton made history, her name was Alice Virginia Robeson Nelson. She became the first African American woman to launch a ship from East Coast shipyard. She launched from the Sun ship yard in the evening due to the war going on. He also mentioned that the last school board meeting will be held. Mr. Lee also announced his appreciation to the Tax Collector, Mayor, and Mr. Neal for all their years of service.

Alycee Nelson Ruley – 111 Broad Street – requested application for temporary handicapped parking space and her temporary residence. Chief Laspina will take a look at this application and the area and report back to council.

Tom App – 605 Cedar Lane – gave an update on his running program and stated he would like to have a 5k run with colored arrows for traffic control. He reported that his 2nd annual Turkey Trot run and had 22 people in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Preston, Secretary