

BOROUGH OF MORTON  
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2020

The regular public meeting 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, Mayor App-present.

Also present: Solicitor Scott Denlinger, Police Chief Laspina, Sgt. Rodstein, Engineer Catania, Junior Councilman-Josh Fiorentino.

Ms. Miller began by announcing Solicitor Ewald's excused absence. He had a conflict with another municipality.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Ms. Miller announced that she would be assigning committees, she will be keeping things the way they are. Mr. Eagar will do Law and Ordinance, Mr. Boylan will do Finance and Administration, and Ms. Hodnett will take over Community development. She and Mr. McGrath would co-chair Public Buildings and Infrastructure, the Mayor would take over Park and Recreation. She did ask every one to speak up due to the microphones not working as of yet.

No Public Comments

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McGrath made a Motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Hodnett seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to approve the payment of the monthly bills. Mr. Poole announced that last week we took action on the Tax Anticipation note. We received approval on Monday, and we did receive the money yesterday.

Mr. 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.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCURE**

Mr. McGrath read the building inspector's report for December, 2019. There were 4 building permits, 1 use and occupancy certificate, and 4 contractor's licenses issued.

Community Center-CDBG 2018

Mr. Catania had distributed a summary of the project in a memo to council and explained the bids for this property have been opened on multiple occasions. He explained that the borough received a grant amount of \$127,500 from the County. On multiple occasions, we rebid the project and the bids came in too high. In order to move the project forward, we have contacted the County and they can increase the original grant amount by 25% which would give the borough 158,100 for the project. This is for bathroom renovations and the gym HVAC renovations. We may be able to do one or the other but not both. Each item would require a contribution from the borough to complete. He further explained the credits offered by the contractors, the borough contribution is similar for either option, but it is up to borough council which option they choose to go with and if in fact we have the \$7800 for the borough contribution to the project. Ms. Miller then stated that she and Bob McGrath, and Ms. Roberts spoke about this and felt that the air conditioning should be done first. After much discussion, and questions to the engineer, Ms. Miller called for questions. Mr. Boylan questioned, if we go with HVAC renovations first, is it reasonable to expect that the replacement equipment would be more efficient? And potential electric bill savings over time? Mr. Catania stated he would not expect a savings, because currently there is no air conditioning. Mayor App questioned if we have been approved for the additional funding. Mr. Catania stated it is not official but they did indicate we could be increased up to 25%, a very good possibility. Mr. McGrath made a Motion to accept the bids as recommended by the engineer. Ms. Roberts seconded this Motion. Roll call: Michelle Miller-yes, John Miller-yes, Michele Roberts-yes, Robert McGrath-yes, Hiele Hodnett-yes, Joseph Boylan-yes, Douglass Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Boylan questioned the December tax collection report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Fire Dept.

Mr. Miller gave the fire department report for December, this report is on file in the borough office. Thanked the Borough for their assistance this past month.

Police Department

Mr. Miller gave the police department report – there were 219 incidents this month

Full Time Officer

Mr. Miller stated he would like to bring before council, a motion to begin the process to hire a new police officer. Chief Laspina commented that during the budget process they put in for a new full-time officer, and they would like to see if council is ready to convene the Civil Service Commission to begin this process. Ms. Miller stated during the budget process we approved the hiring of a full-time officer, making it 5 officers. Mr. Miller made a Motion to move forward in the process. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Mr. McGrath-no, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

Chief Laspina welcomed the new council, and stated that in 2019 the department had 3,150 calls, and in 2018 we had 3,103. We are pretty consistent for the last two years. Charity for beards and t-shirts raised \$1500, and we will give that money to the two charities. Officer Geromichalos resigned to take a

job in Chester. We have had some interviews; we have a few candidates that we anticipate hiring for part-time.

Ms. Hodnett asked if hiring the full timer would decrease the need for part-timers? Chief stated we are boosting our manpower. Ms. Miller stated that full timers do not receive full pay for three years -this should work out financially better for the borough. Chief stated administratively, we spend approximately \$8000 per person to get them ready for the street. We lose three officers a year, and this can be costly.

Sgt Rodstein added that since 2014 we have had over 30 part time officers come and go, so you can see the reason the full-time officer would be a benefit.

Mayor App stated this would also greatly enhance the department as far as scheduling and efficiency in the department.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION/ RECYCLING**

Ms. Roberts reported Republic for December – total 10 pickups – net tonnage 93.66. Recycling – B& L disposal – 5 pick-ups – 19.07. As we continue to move on, we need to prepare for convene for the last year of our contract and how to proceed with the upcoming bidding process. Mr. Poole stated all the data is ready to go, and he suggested we do this in the second quarter of the year.

Ms. Roberts stated she would like to meet with her committee to schedule the yard waste, Spring and early Fall.

#### **LAW AND ORDINANCE**

Mr. Eagar had no report at this time.

#### **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Hodnett had no report

#### **PARK AND RECREATION**

Mayor App reported that he would like to go forward with the Great Leap Year Cake Contest and Sale. This will be held at borough hall on Leap Day , February 29<sup>th</sup>, if council so approves. A registration fee is \$5.00 and the bakers would earn the money from the sale. The total cost to the borough would be \$100 for prize money, \$50, \$30, \$20. He stated he would like to make the fire and police shirts available and he will invite Rutledge to join in this venture. He presented flyers to council for approval. A few changes to the flyer were suggested and council approved. Next meeting of the Park and Recreation committee is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion to approve the event was made by Ms. Miller. Mr. Miller seconded the Motion. All council approved. Motion carried.

#### **PLANNING**

Plan for Land Development at 24 Kedron Avenue was submitted by developer, the plans had to be re-submitted by developer as an extension was granted, and we are now awaiting on a response from the alternate engineer.

## **ZONING**

Zoning hearing January 16, 2020 at 7:00 for 24 Pennington avenue, applicant is seeking a special exception to utilize the existing building and parking lot.

## **SCHOOL BOARD**

Ms. Jackie Guy – 635 Country Lane – recently elected as our school board representative. Ms. Guy reported on a monetary gift the school district received. School district will be bringing in a summer literacy camp, here in Morton, needs-based., open to anyone in the area, not just Morton residents, 4 days per week through July.

Old business – Josh Fiorentino asked about the status of the renovations for PECO on Providence Road. Mr. Poole answered that they have completed the project and we are not aware of any other work.

### 31 Fairhill – leak

Mr. Bixby called to say he reported a leak at 31 Fairhill. Chief stated this was checked out and reported this to Aqua and he believes it was on private property. The Borough office did not get any report. Mr. Catania stated he will send a report to Aqua to find out the results.

Mr. Lillicrapp reported to PECO about gas odor at 122 Providence Road.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan Avenue** – attended the Delaware County Council meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, and had copies of the agenda for council. Reported changes that had been made on their agenda documentation.

### Announcement

Ms. Miller announced that Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> is a holiday in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and trash will not be collected until Tuesday of next week.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary

