

BOROUGH OF MORTON

AGENDA MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2020

The agenda meeting for February 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, Heile Hodnett -present, Robert McGrath-present, Joseph Boylan-present, Douglas Eagar -present. Also present – Solicitor Ewald, Sgt. Rodstein, and Junior Councilman-Josh Fiorentino.

Public Comment on Agenda Items. – no comments

Council Comments: Ms. Miller mentioned that historic things have happened the last couple of weeks, including today in Congress. Difficult time, hopefully we will work through this to have more clarity as to how this country should be running and have us working together.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Today we received bids on the improvements for the woods, tot lot and ball park with the Community Development Block Grant. One of the bids came in substantially underbid, and the engineer will be checking on this bid. Next week we will provide more information. We will have more details next week.

Ms. Miller mentioned that there has been no snow, so our maintenance people have been able to take care of other things.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

No report

PUBLIC SAFETY

Civil Service Appointments

Mr. Miller reported that the Civil Service member appointment will be done. Solicitor Ewald explained that the terms have all expired. There are two things coming up – first they have to consider, review and propose revisions to the rules before we start the hiring process. The hope is that they will meet in the next two weeks. Secondly they will have to start the process to hire a new full time police officer.

The police department and the staff have gone through the records and are recommending a few people to fill the roles. First is Tom O’Donnell; he has been here since the Chief and the Sergeant were interviewed. The second person is Carlton Bagby, and he has attended classes on how to conduct these things. Third person is Mario Cimino – he has expressed his interest and availability to serve. At this point, we would look for a Motion one at a time to appoint those to the commission. This is to be a

staggered service, so you would appoint one to the remaining two years of a six year term, one to the remainder of 4 year term, and one to a full six year term. These spots expire in 2022-2024, and 2026.

No other names were considered by council. Mr. Boylan questioned if the candidates themselves had a preference. Ms. Miller stated that she heard at one time from the office that Mr. O'Donnell was considering stepping down, no one could verify. Ms. Miller suggested that Mario, had worked with FOP contracts would be good to be one the committee. Ms. Miller made a Motion to appoint Mr. O'Donnell to the Civil Service appointment ending 2022. Mr. McGrath seconded the Motion. All council approved. Motion carried. Ms. Miller made a Motion to appoint Carlton Bagby for his appointment to end in 2024. Mr. Boylan seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried. Motion to appoint Mario Cimino for the six-year term. Mr. Miller seconded. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No Report.

Ms. Hodnett stated she would like a meeting on February 26th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. McGrath and Ms. Roberts would be on that committee as well.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SANITATION

Ms. Roberts stated she will be reaching out the committee for a meeting.

She did confirm that she could get 20 lids for the trash cans, for the residents. She will also be coordinating with Mr. Poole in regards to the bidding process for the contracts

Presidents Day trash will be collected.

LAW & ORDINANCE

Mr. Eagar had a few items but Carl Ewald explained. Mr. Ewald discovered a typographical error in the zoning code. These amendments have to go to the Planning Commission of Morton and the Delaware county planning commission for review. We came up with a list of eight ordinance amendments that we will split it into two ordinances. The error was in R3 zoning district, setting the minimum lot widths. This says "maximum" instead, so these needs changed. Second one is accessory buildings & structures; it is creating a minimum setback between. Final item relates to use and occupancy permits. The borough requires that these be pulled when properties are sold, as well as when use changes or is altered. Next week a modified ordinance will be proposed to be advertised for approval once the Planning commissions review. This would be up for approval at the April meeting. Manager Poole asked if on the Use and Occupancy review could a penalty possibly be imposed? We have had at least once per month, a property settles without a Use and Occupancy. They should not transfer property without that. Solicitor Ewald stated he would look into this for next week.

A resident of Hawthorne Road (Michael Mirra) questioned if taxes will be raised due to some ordinances, and stated that a neighbor is parking a commercial vehicle on his property 3 houses away. He questioned if tractor trailers are allowed on private property. Sgt Rodstein stated this is a tractor only, but is not in any violation as it is not in the roadway. He asked if taxes would be raised due to the kitchen and playground work. -no, it is grant money. Ms. Miller then returned to the subject at hand.

Ms. Miller mentioned the discussion of a Historic Commission. Mr. Cimino was interested and they do have a list of historic buildings in Morton. Mr. Ewald stated he would prepare something for next week's agenda meeting, since it has been 5 years.

PARK AND RECREATION

Mayor App reported that first on his list he announced that Saturday February 29th -11:00-2:00 was the Great Leap Day cake contest and sale - \$5 to register.

Mayor app stated that the 5 k Run is being planned.

Park

Engineer Catania stated that it would be to our advantage to get bids for corrective measures at Jacob's Park. This is on our agenda for our park and recreation meeting. We are looking to re-grade, level, and seed the park so it can be used properly for sports.

Mayor App announced the next meeting will be March 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Miller announced that the Mayor is going to the high school tomorrow to meet the Governor who is going to address financial things with the school district

ZONING

The Republican club hearing that was held recently, was approved.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ernest Walter – owner of Yale Court apts., 100 Christian Street- cars are parking right at the corner of Christian Street and Church Road and requested a No Parking sign. Officer Rodstein stated there is a small portion where a car could park there, they will have to check to see if there is an ordinance for that area.

Jacqueline Guy - 635 Country lane – gave information on Governor Wolf's visit, and who he was visiting. She spoke a little about the preliminary budget for the Springfield School District. She was interrupted by questions from Mr. Mirra. These questions could not be answered by Ms. Guy.

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan Avenue – questioned if he was on the Fox News show or a borough council meeting. Mr Lee questioned a problem with the crossing gates and people crossing them while they were down. Advised people not to do so. He also stated in regard to the school district budget, please attend the meetings to find out information. He spoke about people not paying taxes and what occurred to get them paid. He questioned how the search was for the tax collector. He was informed that we do have a tax collector.

Michael Fiorentino – 32 Providence Road – he commended council for the speed humps and the contractors that were hired were excellent. He also commended Mr. Catania for overseeing this work. Mr Fiorentino questioned why the recycler did not pick up Christmas trees. He was told they do not do that. He would have to find a way of disposal or put it in the trash himself.

Glen Bixby – 511 N Morton -apologized to borough manager, was mis-informed about the news article in the Daily times regarding the tax breaks for the first responders. He stated not another person has

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volunteered here, and has been here since he was 15 years old. He put 37 years into the Fire company and drove the trucks. Manager Poole stated the fire company set up the requirements and we were supposed to receive an eligibility list each year by December 31st since 2016. We still do not have one.

Sgt. Rodstein reported that there were 3 resignation from the police department; one gave 21 years' service – Michael Flanagan. We have 3 new part timers, and we have two of them being sworn in next week.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Preston, Secretary