

BOROUGH OF MORTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The regular public meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Michelle Miller. Roll was called and the following was 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 Ewald, Chief LaSpina, Sgt. Rodstein, Junior Councilman-Josh Fiorentino, and representatives from Morton-Rutledge Fire Department.

Council Comments: Ms. Miller stated she would like everyone to please stand, go to the podium and state their name and address during presentations at the meetings.

Public Comments: Mr. Lee – welcomed the new police officers.

Swear-In – Mayor App swore in two new police officers – Shaun Doug. and Eric Perna.

*Presentation – Harry Mirra, and Jeff Elliott on behalf of the Amvets, He presented two flags, one for the fire department and one for the police department. He announced that there would be a chili cookoff next Sunday. Mr. Mirra then requested monetary donations for sending of care packages for troops, as he has been doing so for over 20 years.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Michele Roberts made a Motion to approve the minutes for the month of January. Mr. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the paying of the bills for the previous month. Ms. Hodnett seconded the Motion. Roll call: Michelle Miller-yes, John Miller-yes, Robert McGrath-yes, Heile Hodnett-yes, Joseph Boylan-yes, Douglass Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORT

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. McGrath read the building inspector's report for January. There were 16 building permits, 3 Use and Occupancy permits and 3 Contractors licenses issued.

CBDG -2019

Mr. McGrath asked Mr. Catania to explain the grants and bids. Mr. Catania explained the bid and recommended that Albert G. Cipolloni be awarded the bid in the amount of \$104,500, and also stated that the County also gave their recommendation of approval. Mr. McGrath made a Motion to approve Albert G. Cipolloni in the amount of \$104,500. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll call: Michelle Miller-yes, John Miller-yes, Michele Roberts-yes, Hiele Hodnett-yes, Robert McGrath-yes, Joseph Boylan-yes, Douglass Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2020-03- for Allocation of Liquid Fuels Funds - \$3375

Mr. McGrath made a Motion to approve Resolution 2020-03, which is for County Aid. Michele Roberts seconded the Motion. Ms. Roberts seconded the 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.

Gym Renovation-grant

Mr. Catania stated we received contracts for HVAC for 3 of the 4 contractors, and when we receive the last one, we will schedule a pre-construction meeting, then we will have a better idea of when that is set to start.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Acquarola – 232 Hawthorne Road- introduced herself to council. She is our new tax collector, explained that the borough taxes went out last week and stated she is available via email, and telephone. She explained some of the phone calls that she has already received from constituents

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Report

John Miller read the police report for the month of January. There were 189 incidents. The report is on file.

Mr. Miller commended the chief and the work the department does for the community.

Chief Laspina added that several officers went to active shooter school, which is resented by the FBI. We have a facility in Brookhaven through the police chief's association. Also had an officer, Leah Cezanek resign, as she accepted a full time position in Yeadon Police department. We also have had our speed trailer out.

Ms. Roberts stated she has been approached by neighbors about a drone in the neighborhood. Chief stated he would have an officer check on this situation.

Fire Department

Jack Breslin updated everyone in regard to insurance situation for Captain Malinowski's line of duty death issue. The fire department has been receiving phone calls from insurance company. They should know if this is considered a line of duty death very shortly.

Fire department turned in their year-end report for 2019. This report is also on file. The monthly report indicated 18 incidents, 82 personnel, company was in service for 9 hours and 22 minutes.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION & RECYCLING

Ms. Roberts reported that the trash pick ups from Republic were 7 pick ups at 69.36 tons, and B& L Recycling had 5 pick ups and tonnage of 77.77. Ms. Roberts included that she would like to have a committee meeting on the 18th or 19th at 7:00 .m., of the month to discuss and review the rubbish contracts.

Ms. Miller included that we are having a “Rain Barrell Workshop” through the stormwater collaborative on April 7th at 6:30 pm. This is an hour-long presentation put on by the ESWC, and free rain barrels will be given out at the end. You must sign out for this session.

LAW AND ORDINANCE

Update -Zoning R3 District Provisions

Solicitor Ewald reported that the zoning ordinance up for change is designed to do 4 things. 1)correct a typo in the R3 zoning district, changing maximum lot width to minimum lot width in the requirement section, Section 27-604. 2) Former fire marshal raised concern that accessory structures should have a setback from primary structures, and this amends Section 1504 to require a 10’ setback between primary structures (such as a house) and an accessory structure; and only accepts fences and parking spaces or driveways. 3) relates to nonconforming uses and structures – this relates to what happens when there are 2 abutting lots held by single ownership. This requires lots be treated as one lot. You cannot later divide off the small lots to build additional houses. 4) Relates to non-conforming uses , This clarifies what conditions create abandonment of non-conforming use. There are uses that have been in the zoning district and have been grandfathered so they continue. Under the law this can be abandoned. We tried to create a clear rundown of what would constitute and abandonment, and you have to show proof of the intent to abandon. We set up framework to make things clear.

He did speak to the county Planning Department, and this ordinance does have to be advertised twice. The Planning Department had 4 suggestions and so this evening he was looking for a Motion to approve and send the ordinance to the Planning Department and to incorporate their comments. Solicitor Ewald explained all of their comments, and he did get questions from council, and Planning chairman.

Ms. Miller made a Motion to send proposed ordinance to Planning Department and Morton Planning commissions and authorize advertisement, Mr. McGrath seconded. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Historic Commission

Mr. Ewald explained that this stems from discussions in 2015 about creation of historic residences. It was recommended at the time to create a historical commission which would advise council and residents on matters of historical preservation, and the second would be to create an overlay district which would recognize properties in the borough with historic significance, and grant protections. We should refer these prior drafts to the Law and Ordinance committee for their review. Ms. Miller stated she had a list of historic properties and noted that Mario cimino might be interested to be on this commission.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Hodnett reported that their committee meeting would be held February 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. the July 4th committee would be invited. Ms. Hodnett reported that the Census is upcoming and reminded all of the importance of their response to the census.

PARK AND RECREATION

Mayor App reported that a committee meeting is schedule for March 2 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

He also reported that the 2020 5k Run is scheduled for June 6, 2020.

Leap Day Cake Contest

Mayor App reminded all that the Great Leap Day Cake contest was scheduled for February 29, 2020 and invited all to attend.

Park improvement

Mayor App reported that we want to do some corrective measures at Jacob's park. Mr. Catania suggested we start early in hopes we can get a contractor for lower prices during off season. We would like to maybe get 3 bids. Mr Catania commented 2 things, we need council to authorize us to solicit three written proposals for the work. Ms. Miller stated that the procedure is that the committee discusses this, which he stated was done. This is one of the two things we were going to target with our budget. The other thing was the parking at the park. Ms. Miller stated her concern with taking this on was that there was other work with the grants being done, as this would be four different things being done. Mr. McGrath stated that at the meeting on the 2nd, could you meet then and get your ducks in order and at the agenda meeting we could approve going forward. This is probably still early enough, as it would be March. Mr. McGrath made a Motion to authorize the engineer to solicit written bids for the work at Jacobs park. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

PLANNING

No report on Planning

Zoning

No report

Old Business

Solicitor Ewald reported that the Civil Service commission would be meeting at 6:30 on Tuesday to discuss revisions in the Civil Service plan.

New Business

Jacqueline Guy – 635 Country Lane – tomorrow night at 6:15 there will be an education committee meeting. Discussed will be the summer literacy camp.

Mayor App stated that Governor Wolf has a scholarship proposal in the amount of \$204million dollars, called the Nellie Bly scholarship. This scholarship will close the gap, making less debt for lower income and middle-income students. He explained the eligibility for the program.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Michael Lee- 123 W Sylvan – responded to a resident who complained about a newspaper article, but he did not see anything about the fire department. Mr. Lee was corrected that the article was an old article from a few years ago in 2016.

2020-04

He also mentioned two other residents that complained about their taxes and he stated the bills are going out now, and properties are going to be reassessed by the County. You have the judge to thank for the reassessment. He made some other comments about the assessment, and stated he would have more respect for people if they would just come out and say they don't want to pay their taxes.

He reported the next County council meeting, and encouraged people to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Roberts.

Respectfully,

Martha Preston , Secretary