

2020-09

BOROUGH OF MORTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
ZOOM – 4-29-20

The Morton Borough regular public meeting via zoom was called to order at 7:14 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 Mayor App-present. Also present, Carl Ewald, Chief Laspina, Sgt Rodstein, Engineer Catania, Manager R. Poole, and Secretary M. Preston.

COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS: Mayor App thanked the businesses that were in compliance with the stay at home order. He stated the businesses will follow the Governors order and stated that people should check our website for information.

Joe Boylan stated he would like to have a ‘pulse check’ on the office staff and how things are going in the office, at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Guy – 635B Country Lane – schooling has ended May 15th for Seniors and June 5th K-11th grade. They may be holding a virtual graduation. Summer literacy program is still being worked on.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the minutes of March 2020. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to approve payment of the bills for the month. Mr. Boylan seconded them motion. All voiced approval and Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. McGrath announced that there were 5 building permits, 3 use and occupancy certificates, and 5 contractor licenses issued.

CDBG Recreational Improvements-2019 – change order #1

Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve the change in the improvements, which will also now cover the mat and swing seat with chain, and 3 animal rockers. The new total is \$8342. Mr. Boylan seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

COVID19-Paid FMLA Policy

Solicitor explained the reason for this policy regarding employment practices and funding. This is a reflection of what congress has done to help out workers this resolution makes us in compliance. Payroll is provided if someone goes out or is separated from their job. Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve this resolution. Mr. Boylan seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Tax Collector report was received and is on file for March

Sewer and Trash report was received and is on file

Ms. Miller reported that the next public Zoom meetings would be May 13th and May 20th or 27th at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police report

Chief LaSpina reported that there were 156 calls this month. There has been a decrease in traffic, however there have been an increase in the amount of overdoses and Narcan used. As there were 8 this month. All survived.

Ms. Roberts questioned if the crossing guards were entitled to unemployment benefits. The solicitor suggested that they apply, and advised Mr. Poole to contact our two crossing guards.

Fire report

There was no fire report

PUBLIC HEALTH/SANITATION

Ms. Roberts reported that the recycling pick-ups totaled 4 and tonnage was 14.70. Trash reported 16 pick-ups and tonnage was 97.09. People are home now, so more trash is being put out curbside.

Ms. Roberts thanked the State Rep for the donations of masks and gloves.

A report from Aqua stated that people are flushing the Clorox wipes down the sewer and advised people not to do so, but to toss them in the trash.

Ms. Roberts reported that most people are cooperating with social distancing and she did thank the first responders and workers on the front lines.

LAW AND ORDINANCE

Zoning ordinance update:

Solicitor Ewald stated he received the comments from the County, and it seems the County misunderstood that the issue was that a typo needed fixing on the original document. We will have this ordinance ready for consideration next month.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Hodnett reported that COSA is available for seniors for groceries, and Community transit can handle transportation issues. Deadline for voting mail-in is 5-26-20.

July 4th committee will not be ready for any parade until next year.

Shorter Church will be having a food drive for May 2nd.

PARK AND RECREATION

Mayor reported that the Parks were closed on order of the Governor, and all projects are put on hold for now. Maybe a start date in July? We would like to order 176 yards of mulch for the park and tot lot, however this was put aside for now, as the CDBG grant improvements would take care of the tot lot area.

5k Run

The 5K Run has been canceled. Mayor mailed a letter to the sponsors and asked them if they wanted refunds or donations to go someplace else. He read this letter to the council members. Two donators responded that they approved their funds to be spent someplace else useful. Mayor would like to see “dog station” with the funds that were donated. Ms. Miller stated that this would have to be discussed further at another time.

Mayor reported that the next Park and Recreation meeting would be June 25 at 7:00 p.m. possibly by ZOOM.

OLD BUSINESS

HVAC work in the gym was briefly discussed, but this will need further direction and discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor App questioned if there would be a summer program. There was no information on that at this time.

Food Drive – Shorter AME Church – Saturday, May 2nd, 2020.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Bill Heffner – Owner of FEA-200 N Morton – questioned if borough applied for the PPE Loan. The solicitor answered that no, the borough is not eligible. He questioned if there was a reduction in tax revenue. Mr. Poole answered that we will know more at the end of April. The pay period for taxes payment has been extended.

ADJOURNMENT - Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Preston, Secretary