

**BOROUGH OF MORTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

AUGUST 12, 2020

ZOOM

The regular public meeting was called to order by Council President Michelle Miller at 7:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called. The following was roll call response: Michelle Miller-present, John Miller-present, Joseph Boylan-present, Douglass Eagar-present, Hiele Hodnett - present, Robert McGrath-present, Michele Roberts-present, and Mayor App-present. Also present – Solicitor Ewald, Engineer Catania, and Tax Collector Acquarola.

Absent: Chief Laspina

COUNCIL COMMENTS- Mrs. Roberts commented on and thanked all that helped with the people that had to be evacuated due to the flood, including the fire department and police department, and administrative staff, Mayor and Mrs. Miller.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the minutes for July, 2020. Mrs. Roberts seconded the Motion.

All voiced approval. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve the payment of the monthly bills. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes, Ms. Hodnett- , Mr. McGrath-thumbs up, Ms.Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Ewald announced that prior to this meeting council had an executive session for a personnel issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Manager Poole reported that there were 13 building permits, 3 Use and occupancy certificates, and 5 Contractor licenses issued for the month of July.

Tot Lot & Gym

Ms. Miller reported that the pieces to the tot lot are being put in at this time. The mulch will be in a few days. PECO also has to be in to put in the meters for the gymnasium.

Mr. Catania reported that the 2019 street program work was completed.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Boylan announced that the tax collectors report for July and the sewer and trash reports are on file.

Resolution for Disposition of records -2020-09

Mr. Boylan explained this was to dispose of police records from the year 2000. Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Delco Greenways-Sycamore woods

Solicitor Ewald explained the grant was awarded in October of 2019 for the purchase of an area of Sycamore woods from Mr. McGrath. The grant covers acquisition and payment of professional fees. This was delayed by Covid crisis. We finally have all the paperwork from the County and agreement of sale. This is planned to go to closing in two months after Planning commission and Planning Department have the opportunity to approve the subdivision. We need a Motion to sign the agreement of sale and to submit the subdivision application to the Planning Department. Heile asked a question in regards to this grant, asked for clarity. After the solicitor again clarified the issue, Ms. Miller made the Motion to approve the agreement of sale and send the application to the planning department. Mr. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Solicitor Ewald explained that part of the agreement of sale is we have to make a decision if we want a Phase I environmental review – this will cost approximately \$1890. Ms. Hodnett explained we should do this. The solicitor explained that this was a good price as per the Engineer. We need a motion to approve the expenditure and get the phase I environmental done. Ms. Hodnett made the Motion to approve. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Mr. McGrath spoke briefly about this issue and stated on behalf of prior owners and his wife, he thanked council for this wise decision.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire department

Mr. Miller gave the July fire department report. Mr. Miller gave Chief Holstein the ability to speak about the major water storm. He stated there were multiple water rescues, one at 16 Amosland and 8 Amosland A building. People were trapped in lower level. People were evacuated safely out, we had water up to the first floor at the C building. We rescued approximately 15-30 people and they were escorted to the borough hall. Utilities were shut off and their maintenance was notified. Red Cross responded as well. Mr. Miller thanked everyone for their service.

Truck Fire

Chief Holstein stated that in nearly the same spot on Amosland, later was a truck fire, which was well handled , safely and quickly. Mayor thanked Chief Holstein and the police for his quick action on this situation.

Car Rescue on Providence

Mario Cimino-46 S Morton – also mentioned that the Johnson brothers of the highway department assisted in a rescue on Providence road.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Report

Mr. Miller did not have the police report for the month but will have it at next meeting.

FT POLICE OFFICER

Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve the hiring of Ian Kelly , contingent on his passing of the remaining tests. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll call: Mrs. Miller-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mrs. Hodnett-yes, Mr. McGrath – no sound – but thumbs up, and Mrs. Roberts-yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION

Ms. Roberts reported that there were pick-ups for Republic Services. Tonnage was 85.10

Recycling -B&L – 4 pick-ups and tonnage was 23.37.

She also announced that 3rd quarter sewer bills are out and due September 18, 2020.

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to advertise 2021-2023 trash and recycling collection contract. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Hodnett reported that going forward the community is looking for more opportunity for engagement and wants to follow up with Ian regarding the drive-in and having the council members, police, and fire department to be out in a more informal sessions, and community policing. She also stated she would like to have the Morton Mailer out by January again, and she would like to start Facebook back up as well. Ms. Hodnett stated this would be taken to committee and then brought to council.

Grass roots -Morton name added to Springfield School District

Ms. Hodnett stated the school board did not respond to adding Morton’s name to the school district, so this may be represented at another time.

Ms. Miller stated that this was done a few years ago. School district did suggest we attend some of their committee meetings.

Bias and Diversity Training

Doug Eagar spoke with the Chief, but his training is more geared to police officers, and recommended that he reach out to the manager to see if there is something more geared to council members for training so this will be addressed.

LAW & ORDINANCE

No report

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mayor App reported that the committee met on Thursday, July 30th, and the parks are still closed due to the Covid and ongoing construction projects. He looked into the mulch project and reached out to 4 Morton companies who would be willing to give bids. He made a recommendation based on the bids to

accept bid from former mayor Bruce Blunt –\$2800, which he will remove old underlying materials, install new fabric and pin it down, and install the mulch that we provide through the County. This is less than ½ what the other companies offered. He recommended Bruce Blunt 's bid be approved. Ms. Roberts made the Motion to give the job to remove and install the mulch to Bruce Blunt Construction at the cost of \$2800. Ms. Hodnett seconded the motion. Mr. Boylan asked for records of the other bidders. Mayor reported that we had a bid from Chris Brakey (sp?) who is a resident – verbal - \$6250; we also had a Ryan Murray who also lives in Morton – estimate of \$5500, he also reached out to Michael Mirra who could not do the work at this time. Mr. Blunt had the least expensive. Voice vote – all voiced approval. Motion carried.

Tot Lot

The equipment is being installed at the park, and we will be faced with a mulch project there as well. When we get to the part with the mulch, which is also removing old underlying material and putting in new, and when it's time to put down, we may have Bruce Blunt again, so when it is time we may have to get another estimate.

Take-one Leave-one Library

Mayor app reported that now that the equipment is installed, we can take a look to see where this library may go at the Tot Lot. The young man will install himself, as it is his project.

Future

We discussed, in our Park and Recreation meeting, for the future – replacement of the iron fence around the property. At Jacob's park we would like to look into fixing the flag pole. If either of these seem good, he stated he would appreciate feedback.

PLANNING

Meeting scheduled for August 11, 2020. Mr. Lillicrapp stated he completed a report and will write up questions for council for DELCORA sale purchase. They also went over the ordinance for swimming pools and side yards and Use and Occupancy permits. We discussed doggie stations, and concluded that it is not worth the cost to purchase and maintain or enforce. The report will be given to Mr. Poole tomorrow. Mr. Lillicrapp mentioned in regard to the flood that the stormwater inlet openings are narrow, but not sure what you can do about this, and it is just an observation.

ZONING

Hearing set for August 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. for 238 Pennington by applicant Kevin Carpentry, LLC, subdivision into 5 separate lots for 5 new townhouses. Ms. Roberts asked if this automatically went to zoning. Solicitor explained that they are asking for variances with regard to side yard setbacks and asking for higher impervious surface coverage. If zoning grants, then the application will comply and they will then go to the planning department. Ms. Hodnett read an email letter to council from Sabrina Fox, a resident, who is concerned about the borough accepting the application. Mr. Miller made the Motion to have the solicitor appear before the Zoning hearing board in opposition to the application at 238 Pennington for request for variance. Ms. Miller commented on yard space and impervious material, because of working with the stormwater collaborative. She wants everyone to get over the idea that

things are neighborhood vs neighborhood. After many comments and discussions, Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. Voice vote. All approved the Motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Josh Fiorentino – 32 Providence Road – restoration of park, inserting benches. He will create two wooden benches, 3-4 birdhouses and an animal station. Mr. McGrath mentioned that there will be a pathway, and we will work with the engineer on these items.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mario Cimino – 46 S Morton -had a statement about civil service meeting, but could not understand him due to the Zoom meeting audio breaking up.

Again, he as a happily retired, former elected official, he is happy with the enthusiasm, but hope it continues but will believe it when he sees it.

Carlton Bagby –addressed council -with a question regarding salary equity analysis on the borough employees. Asked if we looked at our salaries compared to other boroughs? Ms. Miller stated no we have not, as some are larger. He stated he was speaking to MR. Johnson, and he has worked here at the borough for 40 years and makes less than \$20 per hour. He urged council to look at the salaries of he and the borough secretary, and he asked how this would be addressed. Ms. Miller announced that budgets will be looked at in the future, but cannot be answered at this time, but will be taken under advisement. Mr. Boylan stated we do have some research to do, and some work to do on this.

Ms. Glover -no address– did not like how Ms. Miller addressed everyone as “little visitors”. Ms. Miller apologized. She did bring up the issue with the traffics on Broad and School Street and speeding traffic. She did see the police officers there but had a problem with the times. Mayor App stated he would bring it before the Chief and see what to do. Ms. Hodnett suggested the police car sit at the intersection to deter.

Sunday Dyitt – no address given – this was a very entertaining but valuable meeting, actions speak louder than words. Follow up will be amazing.

Mayor App – had a resident approach and ask if the borough could do any spraying for mosquitos. Ms. Miller stated this is through the County health department.

Manager Poole stated they are doing testing throughout the county, but as far as we know there is nothing happening at this time.

Mario Cimino stated that we need to let the manager do his job and reach out to his contacts and if they are to do spraying each and every resident should be notified.

ADJOURN

Ms. Miller made a Motion to adjourn. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted- Martha Preston, Secretary