

**BOROUGH OF MORTON**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

11-10-20

The regular public meeting for November 2020, was called to order by Michelle Miller, council president. 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, Joseph Boylan-present, Douglass Eagar-present, and Mayor App- present. Also present, Solicitor Ewald, Chief Laspina, Engineer Catania, Kristin Acquarola-tax collector, and Morton-Rutledge fire Dept-Jack Breslin.

Present after roll call: Hiele Hodnett

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Michele Roberts thanked all who participated in the Election. Michelle Miller agreed and mentioned some of the poll workers. It went very well and people were happy, people worked well without complaining. A third of the populous voted by mail and 76% of the people came out to vote.

Bob McGrath stated that we should remember and be thankful to all the people who defended the country – Veteran’s Day, 11-11-20.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA** – none

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Boylan made a motion to approve the minutes for the month of October. Mr. McGrath seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Mr. Boylan questioned the bill for the car wash contract in November’s list, which he felt was already paid. Mr. Poole explained it is next year’s bill. Ms. Roberts made a Motion to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

\*\*Hiele Hodnett enters the meeting.

**PUBLIC BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

There were 9 building permits, 2 use and occupancy certificates and 4 contractor’s licenses.

The engineer reported that bids were opened for the police station renovations which was being funded with a grant from Representative O’Mara, we received 7 bids, but the bids were high. The low bid was for \$109,000 BSS Contractors out of West Grove. Mr. Catania suggested course of action is for the mayor and the chief to sit down with him and prioritize the work to be done. Council should reject the bids and authorize advertisement. Mayor App thanked Mr. Catania for the information, he agreed that materials are unavailable for contractors, and he looked forward to prioritizing.

Ms. Miller stated that the sidewalk was torn up on Alfa today, and the woods work will begin next week. Mr. McGrath added that he, Ms. Miller, and Mr. Blunt met, this afternoon and had some revisions to make with the ballfield. The main one was to remove 40' of fence from the corner approaching the firehouse. He explained that the fence area would be opened up and the handicapped space changed. He stated there is a dirt hump and the signs will be placed there. He proposed that we approve out of the Parks budget a no-more than \$5000 budget to finish up the park as needed, and the gazebo, that wasn't actually approved, just talked about. This is not a big deal, but we are moving along and not meeting for another two weeks, and if we have an approval this would give us the freedom to go on and finish the project.

Ms. Miller was not planning to discuss this without the estimate, but stated that council should do the \$5000, Mr. McGrath stated this is being rushed along and we do not have an estimate which is why we are asking for a "not to exceed" amount to give us the flexibility to finish the project. Instead of rearranging or stopping the schedule. He also stated the gate is locked which is off-putting. Ms. Hodnett questioned if the estimate comes in way over budget what is the recourse? Mr. McGrath answered that he would recommend we not spend it but leave the fence up for now. Mr. Breslin of the Fire Department had issue with parking spot and creating foot traffic. After much discussion, Ms. Miller asked for a Motion to approve not to exceed \$5000. Mr. McGrath made the Motion. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. Vote – Ms. Miller, Mr. McGrath, Ms. Hodnett, Mr. Boylan, Mr. Eagar voted yes. Mr. Miller and Ms. Roberts voted No. Motion carried.

#### Sycamore Ave. -project

Mr. Catania had no update, they had met with Jamie Anderson of the ESWC, she was working with Frank at UTC.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Boylan mentioned that the monthly tax reports are on file for October.

#### Auditor

Mr. Poole mentioned a message from our auditor, what he would like to do is have council approve the Tax reports and financial reports during the meeting, so that they are in the minutes, rather than say they are 'on file'. This will begin next month so that we can at least have a voice vote to satisfy the audit. We have to acknowledge that council has approved revenues and expenses. This is just an official action.

#### Budget

Our next budget meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup> to review and approve a preliminary budget and then advertise two meetings, December 9<sup>th</sup> to adopt the preliminary budget and on December 23 to approve the final budget.

Ms. Miller stated she would also have a list of next year's meeting schedule.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### Fire report

Mr. Miller read the October Fire Department – there were 16 incidents. they had a total of 95 responders. The remainder of the report is on file. Mr. Miller did urge everyone to please support the fire company as they are all volunteers. Mr. Breslin stated that Santa Claus will be in Morton for Christmas on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Special protocols will be in place on that date.

### Police Report

Mr. Miller reported on the October police report. There were a total of 273 calls, the remaining detail is on the report.

### Fire Marshal

Mr. Miller reported we will be meeting on Friday afternoon his committee, at 3:00, to discuss the two Fire Marshal applicants, so this can be on the agenda for our next meeting. We need to begin our interviews.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION AND RECYCLING**

Ms. Roberts reported September's and Octobers. Trash - September 19 pickups and 93.50 tonnage, for Recycling 4 pickups and tonnage was 18.41. October – Trash – 11 pickups and tonnage 87.52, Recycling 4 – and tonnage was 13.98.

### Bids-new contract

In August we sent our proposals, for 2021. There were 4 proposals. We are reviewing, the committee met yesterday, and the lowest bid was B& L for 3 years 284,362.80. We also have to take into consideration we are proposing to not be doing recycling. Recycling volatility of the market has fluctuated and the price is 3 times the amount it was. Contractors are having problems, as they want to put the expense on us. We do not want to put that burden on our residents. We will not obligate ourselves to recycling, but we are considering going back to a 2-day trash pickup. At 5.5% more to the 3 year contract. We are considering Monday and Thursday through October -May, and June – September 3 months. Ms. Roberts asked if the manager could plug the numbers and see what the trash fee would be; the amount of \$233.00 is a possibility. Mr. Poole reported that Trash fees alone will go up, obviously 3-fold on recycling. Ms. Roberts reported that we could continue to recycle, but people would have to bring the recycling to the borough igloos.

## **LAW & ORDINANCE**

Mr. Eagar had no report.

Solicitor Ewald reported that an Executive Session was held on October 13 regarding a personnel matter. The chief, he, and Mr. Eagar are working on another ordinance.

## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Hodnett had no report. She inquired about the hall being open as she got communique from the red cross as they are inquiring about having a blood drive at the borough hall with protocols. Ms. Miller stated that we can communicate with the Red Cross. Mayor App stated this is something we could promote.

### Donation

Mayor App reported that tomorrow is Veteran's Day. We have the only Amvets site here in Delaware County. He would propose a donation to the Amvets of \$250 each Veteran's Day. If this is something we can do, he suggested we put this on our calendar. Ms. Miller stated her agreement with this donation, as they do several fundraisers, and Mr. Mirra sends out packages to the troops overseas. Ms. Miller made a motion to approve \$250 donation for the year 2020 to Harold P Saks Amvets on Morton Avenue. Ms. Roberts seconded. All council voiced approval. Motion carried.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

### Park Closing

Mr. Eagar said someone had sent a question if the parks were still closed. Ms. Acquarola questioned what has to happen in order to have the parks open? Mayor App stated they will remain closed since the cases are spiking all over. A promise of a vaccine and research and our community doing everything we can may open the park. At this time, he feels it is wise to stay closed. After some more lengthy discussion on this matter, he again mentioned that we need to do the best we can, and keeping them closed is for safety.

## **ADJOURN**

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary