

BOROUGH OF MORTON
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

January 13, 2021

Via Zoom

The borough meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Council President Michelle Miller. The pledge of allegiance was recited and roll was called. The following was roll call response. Michelle Miler-present, Michele Roberts-present, Robert McGrath-present, Hiele Hodnett-present, Doug Eagar-present, Joseph Boylan-present, Mayor app-present. Also present – Solicitor Ewald, Chief Laspina, Engineer Catania, Fire Chief Don Holstein, and Joseph Laspina, Jr of Morton-Rutledge Fire Department. Absent: John Miller.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – none

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the meeting minutes for the month of December. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. All council voiced approval. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Mr. Boylan had some questioned if multiple payments of bills was occurring, Mr. Poole answered that yes, this does happen occasionally, they are repetitive. He also questioned what the opting out of coverage works for insurance. Mr. Poole explained it is the last day of the year the payment is made for the police as part of the CBA and Mr. Poole has a contract. It is 20% of the premium that they have given up. He did question the education reimbursement for Officer Kelly. This is the first of it's kind, a reimbursement for his education. Ms. Roberts made a Motion to approve the bills. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll Call: Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Miller reported for Mr. McGrath that there were 11 building permits, 1 Use and Occupancy certificate, and 5 contractors licenses were issued. Mr. Catania updated council on the inspections and that we are behind on 2020 inspections. The past due letters would be going out this week, we are 25% done the inspections.

Update – Sycamore Avenue and Country Lane – drainage

Ms. Miller reported that we are awaiting manufacture and delivery of drainage pipe. When that arrives, it will be put in and plantings will be done for the drainage problem, this will be its own little rain garden. There will be safety posts to go in at the end of the block – Penndot approved. UTC made some changes.

2021-01

Ms. Roberts questioned work being done at N Morton and Providence. Mr. Catania answered that it is PECO working.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Boylan had council announce that they had received November and December's tax collectors' reports.

Council all announced that they had received Tax Collector reports and Sewer and Trash collection reports.

2021 -01 – Resolution for Univest Bank Account. Mr. Boylan had Mr. Poole explain the reason for this resolution, we just have a 'relationship' or account and sets up signers. No fees will be charged, just to set up the business relationship. Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval with aye. Motion carried.

Vacancy Board

Mr. Boylan explained the reason for the vacancy board. This was not addressed or acted upon in 2020, so he did hear that Mr. Mike Fiorentino was someone who would do this, but it was never acted upon. He was actually appointed in 2019, but no action was taken in 2020. Solicitor Ewald explained that this is an obscure appointment and almost never needed and explained the need for this appointment. Under the borough code, there is a strict time limit, so it is important to have this person in place. The code required appointment every year at the first meeting of the year. Ms. Miller stated she would contact Mr. Fiorentino to see if he is still willing to serve.

Police contract 2021

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve a one-year contract, we met in an Executive session prior to this meeting, so he made a Motion to approve the one year contract for 2021. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes. Mr. Boylan commented that the intention is not to do the FOP contract one year at a time, but to keep meetings to a minimum and would begin to work on a comprehensive contract covering multiple years. Mayor App thanked the borough negotiating team and the police team for getting this contract together this year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Report – Mayor App gave the December police report. He highlighted the calls for the police, 18 calls for suspicious persons, medical emergencies -18, traffic and parking – 17 calls, traffic enforcement warnings – 17, building checks – 27, (officer initiated), public service notifications – 17 calls, assists other agencies – 25. Administrative and other maintenance – 11. 44 traffic citations in December. For the year of 2020 – we had over 2500 incidents. This report is available for anyone on council.

Chief LaSpina announced that this Saturday at the old high school will be a first responder training, but we will not be participating due to manpower problems. This is only a drill, not an actual emergency.

Chief LaSpina spoke about a planning schedule which would keep track of their time, time off, inventory, scheduling. We are currently outdated, using homemade charts. This is \$1350 per year, and this also

does payroll, which will be a savings on printing. We are also saving on the fingerprinting machine, which is a \$900 savings, as we will not longer be participating with this machine. Neighboring departments said we could borrow theirs, so we opted out of this for 2021.

Ms. Miller also mentioned that the police and office staff get paid weekly, but most everyone gets paid every two weeks. She was curious if there would be a cost savings if pay was every two weeks. She suggested all would think about this and let her know. Chief stated this would be set up any way we want it. Chief stated that this issue is negotiated within the contract.

Fire Department Report

Joseph Laspina, Jr new President of Morton Rutledge Fire Department read the fire department report – for December of 2020. The company responded to a total of 30 incidents, in service for 11 hours and 40 minutes. Total response personal of 143. 3 assists to Springfield, company did duty engine responses as well. Mr. Laspina read the entire report which is on file at the borough office. Mayor App had a question regarding a loaner engine that was at the station. Chief Holstein explained that they were housing the 1990 Chester Township Engine to keep it out of the weather. In the beginning of Spring we will be painting the 2013, so this is forward thinking in case something happens.

Mailing

Because of Covid we were set back, so Mr. LaSpina stated he received an email from the company representative, and the mailings from the Fire Department would be coming out shortly.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION AND RECYCLING

Ms. Roberts reported the Republic trash pick up was 10 pick ups and 95.90 tons. B & L had 5 pickups at 25.17 tons. Ms. Roberts encouraged all residents to use igloos to recycle cardboard and plastics, and to go the Amvets for paper and cardboard.

DELCORA Asset Plan Resolution – 2021-02 – Solicitor Ewald stated that DELCORA has a plan to sell to Aqua as part of their sewage plan with DEP they need our approval to amend the sewage plan in order to have DEP approve the asset transfer. His understanding was that PUC recommended that the sale not be approved and this will go to final judgement soon. Mr. Catania concurred. Mr. Ewald did say the County filed an appeal. This resolution was tabled for now.

Morton Mailer

The Morton Mailer was sent and disbursed to all homes in Morton, and some of the Morton properties in Ridley Township as well.

LAW AND ORDINANCE

Mr. Eagar had no report

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVLEOPMENT

Ms. Hodnett reported that she will be holding a Zoom committee meeting on 1/19/21 at 7:00 p.m she gave the phone number as 844-513-9589; Ms. Miller did say that there was concern regarding Covid shots, and places to give shots. Ms. Hodnett did give council some information on the Covid shots, Pennsylvania is moving a little slower on who is considered essential. Spaces to give vaccinations goes

thorough the states and counties. Fire Department and Police Department are scheduled to get their shots.

PARK AND RECREATION

Mr. McGrath reported that he saw less than a dozen cans out after recycling was canceled. He stated this was heartening that people read the Morton Mailer and this was a success.

Solicitor Ewald then did advise that we held an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel issues, and one will be held next week for same reason.

Park and Recreation – Mr. McGrath has been monitoring the woods and the use of people using the park and path, there are people using the path, but they don't seem to know where to go, and he has been talking about the upcoming Gazebo and people are loving it, walking thorough with their dogs and bicycles. There are no committee meetings set up at this time.

PLANNING – No applicants or meetings set up at this time

ZONING – No applicants or meetings

OPEN DISCUSSION

Kristin Acquarola –232 Hawthorne Road -Tax Collector - reported that Tax bills will be sent out in a timely manner. The county used to process these, but she will be generating the bills, and a company will stuff envelopes and at a discount postage and she just received the data file today. She did request a millage letter from the borough office. She does not know that if there is another company doing this if she can do any inserts, so she will check into this situation.

Mario Cimino – 46 S. Morton Avenue – not real happy to bring this up, but several times raised the issue of the status of the home next to the post office. Raised it with the office on Friday but over the last week or so, it appears the structure has been demolished and he understands there was no demolition permit, and wanted to know what happened. Mr. Catania explained that a stop work order has been issued, and no work can be performed. A permit application was submitted and approved to replace the roof but they did additional work beyond the scope. They have since come in and filed an additional permit but we are not doing anything with that until we have a chance to review. They have a structural report which was submitted which states that the building is structurally unsound. There is still a lack of information. Mr. Cimino stated everything above the first floor is gone, so whoever was supposed to be one top of it, dropped the ball. Then council asked what happens if there is a violation of a work order. Mr. Poole answered that a citation could be issued, and Mr. Ewald stated that a citation couldn't put a floor back on. Ms. Miller stated this was a historic building and this is a sad state of affairs that this would happen. Mr. Cimino continued that whether it is miscommunication or letting this drop is with the office or the engineer's office, somewhere the borough is not being well served and council needs to look at this and re-think how these things are being done. He is tired of bring of things up to the office and getting "yes, yes yes" and it is a "free for all". Ms. Miller stated she understands his frustration, and they will get to the bottom of the situation. Ms. Roberts stated council would take it under advisement.

2021-01

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary