

**BOROUGH OF MORTON**

**AGENDA MEETING**

**January 27, 2021**

The agenda meeting for the month of January was called to order at 7:02 by council president, Michelle Miller. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called. The following was roll call response: Michelle Miller-present, Michele Roberts-present, John Miller-present, Joseph Boylan-present, Douglass Eagar-present, and Thomas App -Mayor-present. Also present – Solicitor Ewald, Morton Rutledge Fire Dept- Don Holstein, Jr. Councilman – Josh Fiorentino. Absent: Robert McGrath. Late – Hiele Hodnett.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Ms. Miller explained that she and Mr. McGrath run this committee together. There is no report at this time for this committee.

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

**Vacancy Board**

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve Michael Fiorentino to the vacancy board. Prior to the meeting, Ms. Miller explained the reason the position should be filled. Michele Roberts seconded the Motion. All council voted in favor by voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Boylan also announced the he met with the office staff and would like to improve communication between council and staff and provide a process for requests from council. Also, on a quarterly basis he will cover administration and develop some reporting mechanisms to let the residents know what the staff is up to.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Miller reported that a new part time officer was sworn in, Richard Sposato.

Chief Holstein reported that there was a fire alarm recently at Hiddenvue apartments, due to an old oil-fired burner. The owner will have this removed. The tenants claimed they hadn't been inspected in two years. The Fire Marshal did respond and wrote the owner a letter of the hazard.

The MRFD is working on a super bowl raffle, and stated they would have it posted on the Fire Department Facebook page and would send it to council for posting on the Borough web page.

Ms. Roberts noticed the fire trucks have been running an ambulance service and asked if this was because of Covid. Mr. Holstein reported that they assist on certain medical emergencies, for supplies, and lifting assistance.

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Hodnett reported that they had their committee meeting. We are going to plan to have the Morton Mailer to out again in April We will reach out to the committees to see if there is any follow up for that.

Also discussed piggy back on Parks and Recreation to look into some things for Jacobs and Sycamore Woods and the top park as well.

She discussed a little on the vaccine, we are currently in the 1A phase, and this has opened up a lot of eligibility. This is for people over 75. There is a new wellness center in Yeadon on Chester Road. She stated that you can register on the County website.

Mayor App questioned about a Red Cross blood drive. Ms. Hodnett sent her another email and she wanted to see about partnering with the Fire Department; we can probably get as many as the 45 usable units. They are having a call for diverse or African American decent, and wanted to know if this was an option. We can still do this, and possibly early spring.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

No report. Ms. Roberts reminded all that there are lids for the recycling cans at \$7.00 each. She did request the B&L Calendar. The manager did report that they do follow the same schedule as the County Solid Waste.

Mr. Eagar reported that he has been going to the Swarthmore Recycle center, and if our bins are full you can go there to take your recycling.

#### LAW AND ORDINANCE

Mr. Eagar reported that there are two ordinances for this evening.

Ordinance 769 – Marijuana Ordinance – was brought to our attention by Chief Laspina. Mr. Ewald presented in October in Delaware County they enacted a County wide reduction of penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana. We are looking to mirror what they did, here in Morton Borough and the police do approve of this. Instead of charging as a state crime, this is charged as a minor public health violation. The other benefit, when the fines are assessed, the fines are paid to the borough instead of the County. The chief has recommended a fine of up to \$300. After discussion, this ordinance was presented and approved for advertisement. Mr. Eagar made a Motion to approve advertisement. Mr. Miller seconded the Motion. All council voiced approval.

Solicitor Ewald reminded council to pick up their Financial Statement forms and fill them out and turn them in.

Ordinance 770 -Zoning Amendment Ordinance – Solicitor Ewald stated this ordinance was brought to our attention because of the application for a twin development at 238 Pennington. Originally for five row homes, but they had significant feedback that the council and community was not in favor so they withdrew the application and instead reduced density and submitted an application for two sets of twins. There is a peculiarity in our ordinance that they came across, where if you are building single family homes you can have a driveway in the front, and also with townhomes. But the ordinance excluded twin homes. Solicitor Ewald contacted the County Planning Department and asked if there was any reason why this would happen. He responded that he did not know of any planning reason. He also checked with our engineer, and so we drafted a quick change to the ordinance which treats twin homes the same as single family and townhomes. The other benefit to this change is that it reduces the amount of impervious surface coverage, as less driveway is being constructed. We do have an application but it is not ready at this time, and they have just received the comments from our engineer

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and Covid restrictions. After much discussion on this ordinance, with the builder and council, Mr. Miller made a Motion to approve the amendment to the zoning ordinance. Mr. Ewald stated this has to be reviewed by County Planning, so we could review on March 10<sup>th</sup> for approval. Mr. Miller made a Motion to advertise for this zoning amendment. Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve. All council voiced approval. Motion carried.

Ms. Hodnett asked about the book share and asked where it was. Mr. Poole answered that it is in place near the bottom of the park.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary