



**MAY 22, 2024**

**Agenda Meeting**

The Borough council Agenda meeting for May 2024 was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Council President Shaunta Miller. Roll was called, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following council answered roll call:

Council Vice President Bernice Clark-Dickerson-present

Councilor Douglas Eagar-present

Councilor Bethann Johnson-absent

Councilor Michelle Miller-present

Council President Shaunta Miller-present

Councilor Michele Roberts-present

Councilor Walter Stubbs-present

Mayor Amanda Hammock—present

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council President Miller announced that council met prior to the meeting in Executive session to discuss personnel issues.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A Proclamation – honoring the life of Alycee R. Nelson-Ruley was read by Mayor Hammock. Ms. Ruley passed on 5-9-24. She served the Borough of Morton for many years as tax collector. Her service was held May 18, 2024.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mario Cimino – 46 S Morton – commented on the borough fence, why replace a metal fence with another fence. This is a fence with an historic nature – he showed council a photo of the fence and stated it is 107 years old, you can't just give away borough assets. Stated that architecturally this fence is worth \$10-15,000. Stated that bids should be put out.

Charisma Jones – 31 Walnut Street – presented council her desire to open a pop-up convenience store at the corner of N Morton and Main. She read her proposal and presented pictures to council.

Lisa Lockley – 114 Harding – regarding fence – this fence is 66 years old, it is historic. After all these years, we should address the problem first.

Mike Lee – 123 W Sylvan Ave – noted a misspelling on the agenda for the date of the meeting. Mr. Lee also pointed out that the borough manager left off his report on the agenda.

Bill Heffner – 571 S. Old Middletown Road – fence- maybe the borough could repair and paint the fence instead of a costly replacement. He questioned what prompted the removal. Councilor Dickerson answered that council was exploring other options.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE**

In Ms. Johnson’s absence, Manager Stewart explained the award of the ARPA – PA Small Water and Sewer grant. Bids received came in over the price of the awarded amount.

Manager Stewart reported that the 2024 Road program advertisement was bid incorrectly based on the requirements. He did explain the bid timing and stated this had to be re-advertised. Moore Brothers bid at \$180,510.

#### Signal Issues

Mr. Stewart stated that Traffic Planning and design cost estimates have put us in a position to obtain a grant to have this corrected and the intersection re-worked.

Lighting change– we plan to change the fluorescent bulbs to LED in the building, at below wholesale cost. Two quotes were presented at \$2406.20 by KB Lighting – for the office, and building and Council chambers and all offices at the Police department, and the gym would cost \$33.00 we will have to install within 60 days.

Ornamental Fence- Borough building – Mr. Stewart presented prices for renewal, scrapping, and salvage and pricing options for a new fence. No action was taken.

#### Truck Route

Briefly discussed was having a truck route through Morton. However, UTC already has placed signs in the area for their truckers.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Clark-Dickerson reported that 2nd quarter billing for sewer has been sent and the due date is June 17.

Mrs. Clark-Dickerson also reported that they would be soon opening up the Junior Councilperson program again.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

President Miler that we are awaiting meeting date coordination with Civil Service for the Sergeant testing, and also meeting date coordination with FOP regarding the police contract.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION & RECYCLING**

Ms. Roberts reported there would be a clean-up day scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 p.m. at Scoscia Field. There will also be a food truck event the same day with Morton Rutledge Fire Department.

Ms. Roberts reported that there would be a rain barrel workshop held on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

## **LAW & ORDINANCE**

Ms. Miller reported the committee is working on revisions to parking ordinance to address parking issues. Particularly the issue ongoing at Silver Lake Terrace and Country Lane.

Ms. Miller reported on an ordinance that is being looked into for cars abandoned on public streets.

Ms. Miller also reported that with dog barking complaints, the noise ordinance does state that if an animal such as a dog is barking more than 15 minutes to call the police or 911 to have this rectified.

## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Councilor Eagar explained that we are still awaiting information from Bergman on the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilor Eagar stated that we are currently working on the website and again urged council to present their bios, as he has met with the developers.

Councilor Eagar reported that the Springfield Night of the Arts will be held May 23. Also announced the Juneteenth event to be held June 15, Saturday from 12-4.

Movie Night will be schedule June 28 – the movie is to be announced at a later date.

June 29<sup>th</sup> would be Morton Clean UP day at Scoscia Field

Blood Drive – Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled to be held Tuesday, 9-17-24 from 2-7 p.m.

Morton 5K Run – This event is scheduled for October 5, at 9:00 – hosted by Run the Day.

## **PARK AND RECREATION**

Councilor Stubbs updated everyone on the Jacob's Park improvements and that the goats have done a great job. Mr. Stubbs would like to reach out to the Phillies to see if we could have a program with them to help youth become ball boys and girls.

Mr. Stubbs reported that this Park and Recreation meeting would be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in June at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Stubbs floated the idea again of collecting \$3.65 from each resident and business, beginning January 2025.

## **MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Hammock reported that the most recent Public Safety meeting was very productive and she urged attendance at these meeting.

Mayor Hammock announced that there would be Memorial Day Service at the Am vets at 10:00 A.M.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Naima Davis – Not a resident of Morton – drove here from Allentown PA in support of Charisma Jones. Urged council to consider her venture seriously. Also questioned the handicapped parking the borough provides at the Borough building.

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan – urged donations to the Morton-Rutledge Fire Department. Urged all to give each other respect when speaking.

Cecilia Todd – 110 Althea Lane – reported that Mike Scoscia was in town recently and thanked the borough for taking such good care of the field. Ms. Todd also stated that the goats gave Morton Borough some good public relations. Ms. Todd urged all to give to the Fire Department for their annual pledge. Ms. Todd stated someone in Morton is desperately in need of a kidney, and urged help for this person. She urged council to please update the website and put their bios up.

Mario Cimino -46 S Morton – turn signal at 420 is malfunctioning and we are still talking about grants? He feels this is an emergency situation. He also stated that the borough did previously update the street lights and fluorescent lighting. Mr. Cimino added that he stood by his original comments on the fence, and questioned the reason for the fence to be an item. Ms. Dickerson stated that there was threatened litigation.

Bill Heffner – 571 S. Old Middletown Road-owns a lot of businesses in Morton

Questioned what the next step was after the goats as the plants will grow back; are there any further plans? Mr. Stewart explained that Strobert will give an estimate to remove downed trees or damaged and will remove and spread chips to prevent regrowth and then we will re-plant next spring.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Dickerson made a Motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary