



REGULAR PUBLIC

MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Call to order

Borough Council President Shaunta Miller called the meeting or order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called; the following was roll call response:

Councilor Vice President Bernice Clark-Dickerson-present

Councilor Douglas Eagar-present

Councilor Bethann Johnson-present

Councilor Michelle Miller-present

Council President Shaunta Miller-present

Councilor Michele Roberts-present,

Councilor Walter Stubbs-present

Mayor Amanda Hammock-present

Announcements

Ms. Miller announced that council met in an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss potential litigation and personnel issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

Mario Cimino – 46 S Morton Avenue –stated for the past 15+ years, this council has gotten this borough a hard-fought reputation that this borough doesn't roll over for anybody, i.e. SEPTA, PennDOT, etc. He sees no reason that council would choose to help that corporation profit over the interest of your residents. He implored council not to go down that road. Implored council not to go down the road of helping a corporation prosper

Ms. Jacqueline Guy – 635 Country Lane- spoke about the on-street parking and the mailboxes over on country Lane.

She commented on the Country Lane Basin, that there are still things that need done, regarding the downspouts and some need replaced. She requested someone look at this basin before voting to close out.

Bill Heffner – 571 S. Old Middletown Road – had some budgetary questions in January. regarding the hiring of a groundskeeper at 50K annually, Kelly Images- a \$600 was spent for pictures of some kind that is 33% of the budget already; solicitor 's , and a heating bill from Oliver, and the Solicitor's invoice. Ms. Clark-Dickerson commented that council would get back to him with answers to his questions, they would not be answered this evening.

Joseph Boylan – 23 Althea Lane – Bill list for \$600 that Mr. Heffner referenced, a not-budgeted item, which results in glamor shots. Munibilling fiasco, the discounted amount was not on the bill. A full –time hire for groundskeeper was not on the budget ; and wanted an explanation from council, including the 4 part-time hires we added last year.

We cannot use liquid fuels money to pay for this person; if this 50K was not budgeted or explained, asked council if this could be explained. Ms. Dickerson answered that this would be taken under advisement as well.

Michael Fiorentino -32 Povidence Road

Spoke about the street opening project – was stunned, regarding the exit onto Leamy Avenue, He saw that the independent review from Federico Consulting; does not understand what was reviewed other than a review of the traffic engineer's. He cannot understand the left hand turn; onto Leamy Avenue. Mr. Fiorentino finds this approval shocking; and was concerned with the safety issues.

Mr. Ewald responded that this is an issue borough council took seriously; the proposed development is a land development application in Springfield. Morton Borough had no jurisdiction other than the street opening. Council did take sincere and specific interest in this project and hired an independent traffic engineer who represents municipalities not developments. Mr. Ewald gave detailed report on what the independent engineer found. Penndot's engineer, and the independent engineer both found this to be safe. There is a report identified specific concerns he had and those concerns were physical barrier preventing left turns in off of Leamy. The developer did respond and provided a 'pork chop island'. He did respond with striping parameters; concerned about storm water was addressed as well. He did say that the developer addressed all the concerns; ultimately this council has to make a decision on whether or not to follow their own expert, and they chose to do so. Council spent tax dollars to get the review of an independent expert.

Cecelia Todd – 110 Althea Lane – thanked Mr. Ewald for his explanation for the negotiations and review of traffic calming measures. She mentioned some items in the report regarding the

left turn into the development. She had the report, and announced that the report is available via a RTK request. She questioned if the street permit had to be issued. She was appalled with the traffic calming issues, speed bumps on Walnut and a roundabout on Althea Lane and advised council not to issue the permit. Solicitor Ewald explained that the developer did offer these traffic calming measures. These are proposed; but not finalized because the borough will have a meeting with those two neighborhoods.

Dara August – 137 Althea Lane – spoke on the traffic calming measures; is concerned because of a visually and hearing impaired child and autistic. She is concerned about cut-through traffic and not following speed limits. Solicitor stated that the proposed improvements are designed to create traffic pattern that slows traffic; there is no vote this evening. Ms. August was interested in possibly having a sign on behalf of her child.

Lisa Lockley online stated that the residents of Morton do not want speed bumps.

Robert Sals – 41 Providence Road – stated that the speed humps on providence road have stopped accidents. He stated the developer is fueled by greed; there will be a lot of traffic on our streets. He doesn't want the street permit issued; filled out a RTK request and he responded on the traffic study report. Commented on the roundabout, the speed issue on Walnut Street, and the developer is paying off the study engineer. Solicitor Ewald reported that the borough paid the engineer, and at no time did he expect to be paid by the developer. President Miller stated at this point that he was heard by council, and decided to move the meeting forward. Solicitor Ewald did state that the sidewalk was proposed by the borough, and it is in Springfield, and the owner did not wish to have a sidewalk on their property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. Johnson deferred to Charles Catania to give his building code officials report and engineer's report. He reported that there 5 permits were issued, one use and occupancy permit, and 1 contractors licensed issued. Engineer's report is on file.

They discussed the 2024 Road program, and they will be submitting for bids in cooperation with the Borough of Rutledge for the program. The bid opening is tentatively set for late March.

ARPA-PA Small Water and Sewer Grant – Manager Stewart stated this is moving forward, electronic signatures are required by President Miller.

Ms. Johnson reported that we are still awaiting the Aqua contribution of \$256k for the Trench and Road restoration of N Morton Avenue, Amosland roads. We sent a letter of agreement and invoice, sent 2 weeks ago.

We are also awaiting the funds from the Country Lane Basin grant closeout in the amount of \$200k. Mr. Catania stated this is an administrative function, the documentations need to be

sent to the Stormwater Collaborative for reimbursement. We have been reimbursed for about half of that \$200K figure.

Parking Meters

Discussion was held in regard to our parking meters. Chief Lawless mentioned that the majority of the meter heads do not function properly. The company that supplies the online app for parking, Passport system, and the Chief recommend removal of the meter heads and strictly go with the Passport app. Ms. Miller asked if any of the batteries were replaced, because some needed new 9 volt batteries. Chief stated that no batteries were replaced. Manager Stewart reported that the meter mechanisms were produced in 2002; and no one repairs or replaces, option is to replace with new which potentially be very expensive.

Work order Requests – these would be submitted by residents if they see items that need addressed, as well as borough council – please present to borough manager.

Ms. Johnson reported that the community bulletin board will be advertising the new fee schedule and the hall rental schedule.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Vice President Clark-Dickerson reported that we have received the Tax Collector's report as well as the Treasurer's report. Tax collector reported that she would be rounding the year end – noticed a mistake in her report; She did report on that item. The 2024 Real Estate Tax bills were mailed February 5th. The discount period expires March 31, 2024.

Ms. Clark-Dickerson also reported that the annual trash and first quarter sewer and annual rubbish fees are on one invoice and were mailed on February 1st. The 10% discount for trash fee is good until March 4, 2024. Sewer face value is due before March 18, after which a 10% penalty is assessed. There are no discounts for sewer fees.

Ms. request for banking services. We will be looking for a bid for Request for proposals. We are right now still at Republic Bank.

Ms. Clark-Dickerson stated we are looking into hiring a full-time public works assistant.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Lawless gave the police report for the month of January to current. Ms. Miller, the borough manager did give the Fire Company report for January . Highest response member was 15. Average response personnel 9 per incident, and gave the balance which is on file.

Fire Marshal report was given by borough manager as well and there was one incident with a local business that had no current ansil system and was shut down by code. That has since been rectified. Fire Marshal is now out of service due to a medical issue for February, March and part of April.

Councilor Stubbs questioned a handicapped parking issue at his property. Chief stated that no one else should be parking in that spot. Chief stated no they should not be parking there, but he would speak with Mr. Stubbs later on this issue. Solicitor stated that our ordinance does not have a reservation for that residence.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION, AND RECYCLING

Councilor Roberts gave the January recycling report.

Ms. Roberts gave the January 2024 recycling report from B&L Disposal. reporting on the recycling efforts.

Composting

Ms. Roberts reported that there would be a Composting program offered by Pennsylvania Resources council in cooperation with the EDCSC ; date to be announced in the future

LAW AND ORDINANCE

Councilor Michelle Miller is looking to review parking issues on Country Lane (on street parking is currently blocking mailboxes).

Resolution – updating fees

Ms. Miller would be working with the manager to update permit fees and inspection costs.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Eagar updated council on the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning ordinance (CDBG)meeting.

Councilor Eagar announced that there would be a street dedication ceremony in honor of Mr. William E. Rice on Saturday March 23 at 10:00 a.m. Walnut Street will be named William E. Rice Way. He invited all in attendance to come out to support.

Councilor Eagar also reported that the council would be holding a “Meet and Greet” on Saturday March 23, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilor Stubbs had two items for discussion; one was the Delco Greenways Mini-PROS – Ecological Site Assessment at Sycamore Woods. – The grant closeout is \$50K, this is reimbursable, and the paperwork is being submitted now. The other was the Delco Greenways Round 4 – Community Forest Management Plan- Sycamore Woods and Jacobs Park - \$180K, this is a five year plan.

MAYOR’S REPORT / MANAGER’S REPORT

Mayor Hammock thanked all for attendance for the swear-in of the new chief. She did make note that the fire company had decided on March 23 for the Easter Egg Hunt, so this may be adjusted.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion to approve/reject Resolution 2024-03 – Updating permit fees and inspection costs.

Council deferred this item until more debate is held. This vote will take place next meeting..

Motion to approve the disbursements journal for January, 2024. Vice President Bernice Clark-Dickerson made a Motion to approve the disbursements journal for January 2024.

Motion to approve the minutes of January meetings. Vice President Clark Dickerson made a Motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the Motion. All council voiced approval **Motion** carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary

