



## REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

March 13, 2024

### **Call to order**

Borough Council President Shaunta Miller called the meeting or order at 7:05 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

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Mr. Heffner – 571 S. Old Middletown Road- owns various businesses, questioned what the new fee schedule would be. Manager Stewart responded with the new changes on the Resolution.

Mike Selletti – 701 Country Lane – questioned why the increases. Mr. Stewart did respond to the reasons for the increase.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 1) Ms. Johnson had Mr. Catania give his Building Code official report. And also his Engineer report for the month
- 2) 2024 Road program – Morton-Rutledge – Bids are to be opened 3-21-24, on the Pennbid site.

- 3) ARPA –PA Small Water and Sewer Grant – Mr. Stewart explained that this is a high priority I&I Reduction Project for \$256k.

Ms. Johnson also reported that the borough is awaiting the \$265k street restoration payment for N. Morton, Providence Road, and Highland Avenue.

Country Lane Basin Project – Ms. Johnson reported that the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative has all the documentation required for the grant close out.

Traffic signal – Morton/Yale/420 – problem is under the tracks-wire short. Signal Service will respond as necessary until this is addressed. A meeting between SEPTA, Signal service, Catania Engineering and the Borough of Morton will be set.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Dickerson reported that we did not receive the Tax Collector report, although we did collect \$190,000 in real estate taxes.

Ms. Dickerson reported that the Local Real Estate Discount period ends on March 31, 2024.

Ms. Dickerson stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Sewer and Annual refuse fee face value expires 3-18-24, after which a 10% penalty will be assessed.

### **RFP**

We have sent out an RFP for banking services to 7 financial institutions which are due back by 3-18-24.

The deadline to apply for the fulltime public works assistant is 3-22-24. This position is posted on the website, per the borough manager.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chief Lawless gave the monthly police report which is on file.

Manager Stewart gave the Fire Marshal report, as the Fire Marshal is on extended medical leave at this time.

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

Ms. Roberts reported that a Compost program would be held in April at the Borough hall, offered by the Pennsylvania Resources Council in cooperation with the ESDSC.

Ms. Roberts gave the February Recycling report supplied to the council from B&L Disposal.

Ms. Roberts reported that there would be a County Shredding event on April 27 at the Springfield Mall from 9:00-12:00 noon.

## **LAW AND ORDINANCE**

### **Country Lane Parking**

Ms. Miller spoke briefly on the parking situation at Country Lane. (on street parking blocking mailboxes). She did speak with the postal service, and the problem is mailboxes are on the poles, and the postman does not get out of his truck to deliver the mail. A possible resolution would be cluster mailboxes.

Parking on Silver Lake – Ms. Miller stated that perhaps a two hour restriction on Silver Lake by the Wawa would help solve the parking situation there. There appears to be a problem with the Wawa staff parking on the street, thereby prohibiting residents from doing so as well.

Walnut Street @ A&S Laminates – trucks are parking on Walnut Street on the sidewalk; she will reach out to the police chief.

### **Resolution to update Permit fees and Inspection Costs**

Ms. Miller stated there would be an increase in permit fees and inspection costs; as we have not had an increase since 2015. This would be discussed and an action item would be brought up later in this meeting.

Dog Leash law – We currently do not have a leash law; and Ms. Miller will reach out on behalf of the committee to the solicitor.

## **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Eagar is awaiting an update on the Comprehensive Plan meetings. We are awaiting this to be scheduled, a meeting should be scheduled in April which would be the Final.

Manager Stewart stated an email was received, and would like to perhaps schedule it for the 13<sup>th</sup> of March at 6:00. This should be the last of the Steering Committee; Ms. Miller asked if perhaps the members could be contacted before this is scheduled; as this is a wrap- up meeting, we should have had done in December, so time is of the essence. Mr. Stewart was advised to have the meeting on the website.

DVRPC – update – This is an opportunity to do some development related around the train station in cooperation with Springfield Township.

Mr. Eagar announced that there would be Walnut Street renaming ceremony for Mr. William E. Rice Way, Saturday March 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Eagar also announced the council would hold a Meet and Greet Saturday March 23 at 12:00.

## Website and Social Media upgrade

Mr. Eagar stated there are a few websites we are looking at and Mr. Stewart was able to provide a price comparison for those we have received, so that council can discuss and come to a decision on improvements to the website for the Broough.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Mr. Stubbs did speak about the DELCO Greenway round 4. The contract has been executed; the contract with Amazing Grazing Goats is approved and they will be arriving May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Upcoming – Mr. Stubbs did report the upcoming meeting date of March 27<sup>th</sup> regarding Jacobs park – to be held at 6:00 p.m.

## MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Hammock announced that the Morton Rutledge Fire Department would hold a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, March 23 from 9:00-11:00 a.m., and following that would be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Scoscia field.

## ACTION ITEMS

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 – Updating Permit Fees and Inspection costs. Ms. Dickerson made the motion to approve. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All council voiced approval. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the disbursements journal for February 2024. Ms. Miller made the Motion. Mr. Stubbs seconded the Motion; all council voiced approval.

Motion to approve the selection of a website development and social media company, Content and Creativity. Ms. Dickerson made the Motion to Approve, and all council voiced approval. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the application for the Transit Grant. Dickerson made a Motion to approve the application for the Grant and Mr. Eagar seconded the Motion. All voiced in favor, Motion carried.

Mr. Stewart reminded council of the upcoming meetings and to remember – 3/23/24 at 10:00 a.m. –William E. rice Street Dedication.

Also at 6:00 on the night of the next Agenda meeting 3-27-24, the residents of Walnut Street and Althea lane will be able to meet regarding the Traffic Calming ideas.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Michael Lee-123 W Sylvan - - commented on the 'restriction' on public comment on agenda items. council. explained that we have been taking action items on both meetings, and we are trying to shift away from taking action items at agenda meetings.

Bill Heffner- 571 S. Old Middletown Road – had questions on financial items.

The 990 forms from the Fire Department, the \$12,700 and \$750 expenditures, Hometown Banners,-the cost of putting them up and down, QuickBooks upgrade, Parking Meters, and Budget meeting dates. He also questioned the 10% deduction for the police department for medical insurances. Ms. Dickerson chose not to answer at the meeting, and stated these would be taken under advisement and answered later.

Chris Nelson -1011 Kedron Avenue

He reported that he would have his 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Summer Jam on July 28, 2024 from 12-8 p.m. He is looking for volunteers. He is still working on the event. Also December 7, 2024 is an event honoring the late Edward Battle, the former council president.

Mario Cimino – 46 S Morton – questioned the malfunctioning traffic signal. He also spoke about transparency and was astounded at the compensation for additional positions.

Michael Selletti – 701 Country La – questioned the use and occupancy increases and the change of frequency for tenants.

Esther Gillyard – 18 Walnut Street – spoke about accessibility; as she is a blind activist, and there needs to be more accessibility. Requested the monthly agenda be sent to her email.

Adrian Lloyd - - no address given, wanted to speak on a civil matter; however, he was dissuaded by council.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Martha Preston, Secretary

