



## REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

MARCH 26, 2025

The borough Regular Public meeting for the month of March called to order at 7:00 by Council President Bernice Clark-Dickerson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called, with the following roll call response: Council President Bernice Clark Dickerson-present, Councilor Douglass Eagar-present, Councilor Bethann Johnson-present, Council Vice President Shaunta Miller-present, Councilor Michelle Miller-present, Councilor Michele Roberts-present, and Councilor Walter Stubbs-present, also present, Mayor Amanda Hammock.

### PRESENTATIONS:

Chief Lawless presented Officer Kenneth Luckey with a plaque for 23 years of service; as he has resigned from the Borough Police Department.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Heffner –owns many businesses in Morton– questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan Meeting which is 6 p.m. on Monday 3-31-25. Mr. Heffner also asked if he could have a copy of the finance journals, disbursements, etc. Vice President Miller handed her copy to Mr. Heffner.

Mario Cimino – 46 S. Morton – was incredulous that the term “CFO” is up on the agenda. Questioned when this would be taken up as CFO’s are expensive and stated this should be established by council.

Charles Lillicrapp-114 Locust – asked when council would get back to handing out the comprehensive agenda.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Councilor Johnson had a Resolution authorizing an application to PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a DCNR grant for Morton Borough Jacobs Park Phase 2 Improvements. We will vote on this later.

Councilor Johnson stated that a possible proposal for design work for multimodal grant for \$250k for Woodland and Yale Avenues for Traffic Planning and Design –out was new cross arms and covered by the grant was \$28,900.

On the Building Code Report – there were 6 permits, 2 Use and Occupancies and 0 passed, 3 contractor licenses.

Mr. Catania then gave his engineer's report; which was also placed on file.

#### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

Council President Clark-Dickerson had the manager report on a DCNR grant which we will need to pass a resolution for this grant at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting if we are going to apply. Possible ideas are to Jacobs Park –Phase 2 – upgrade the playground or community center, upgrades to the kitchen, restrooms, and entryway. A decision will have to be made by council.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Council Vice President Miller thanked the police and fire departments as there was an issue on the weekend, she reported that these are both great departments. Council Vice President Miller did read the

Fire Marshal's report. Chief Holstein also did read the report from the Fire Department.

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

Councilor Roberts gave her trash report for the month of February They collected tonnage of 69.29. Councilor Roberts did announce a clean-up on April 12, 2025 from 9-12, and encouraged all to attend. Councilor Roberts also mentioned a shredding event from 9-12 at the Springfield Mall – you must register to shred your items.

#### **LAW & ORDINANCE**

Councilor Miller had no report but stated that if anyone had use an occupancy questions or ordinance questions, please refer them to her and her committee. Councilor Miller asked about the CFO position – should all be looked into – is this a violation of the sunshine act; as she did not know about this position; this was not discussed with all council.

Solicitor Ewald stated this was announced by a member of the public – notice was provided to council in emails.

#### **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Councilor Eagar had some upcoming events for his committee. March 29 – Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration, April 5, 2025 – Morton-Rutledge Fire Company- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, April 12, 2025, Another Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at Borough Hall; April 12, 2025 – Morton Clean UP Day, June 3, 2025 –Eastern Stormwater Collaborative would be holding a Rain Barrel workshop, June 14, 2025 – Juneteenth Celebration; July 11, 2025 – Morton Movie Night.

#### **PARK AND RECREATION**

Councilor Stubbs reported that he was working together with the borough manager and the engineer in regard to the National Fitness Grant moving forward. There is a resolution on Phase 2 Jacob's park. Also, a check for sewer work was received in the amount of \$173,000

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Hammock gave an upcoming events at the firehouse; an egg hunt after the breakfast with the Easter Bunny. She reported that the recent Pasta dinner was great; thanked the emergency responders with their help with the new changing traffic patterns on Leamy Avenue.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Lipsett reported that there is a job vacancy with the treasurer, and the CFO position, and slowly, the old tv room is being cleaned out. We will be discussing the 2025 Streets to pave.

On Thursday 3 p.m., there will be a meeting of the committee regarding the Hometown Hero banners.

Mr. Lipsett met with DEP regarding the recent oil spill on Harding Avenue, and all is fine – they looked in the creek, and all was good to go.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Resolution 2025-06

Resolution – Applying to Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a DCNR Grant for Morton Borough, Jacobs Park Phase 2 Improvements. Motion was made by Councilor Stubbs, and Seconded by President Clark Dickerson. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

### Bills

Motion was made to ratify and affirm payment of bills listed for the month of March 2025, by Councilor Michele Roberts. Seconded by Councilor Bethann Johnson. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

### Morton & Woodland Traffic Signal

Councilor Johnson made a Motion to authorize traffic design work at the Morton and Woodland Traffic signal crossing. The Borough received a grant for \$250,000 for modernization of traffic signal and grade crossing gates. Vice President Miller seconded the Motion to authorize the design work. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan – the pasta dinner was good; encouraged all to donate to the Morton Rutledge Fire Company. Asked if the newsletter could possibly be mailed to the residents as all do not have computers and cellphones.

Mario Cimino -46 S Morton Avenue – felt there was a critical misconstrue of the Treasurer position under the borough code; he recommends discussion with the borough auditor.

Cecilia Todd – 110 Althea Lane – encouraged all to respond to the Morton Rutledge Fundraiser letter; also reported that the list of events are on the back of the fundraiser letter. On May 1, 2025 there is a fundraiser at the local Iron Hill to benefit the MRFD.

Dorothy Sexton – 13 Mitchell – thanked council for the recent handicapped spot; but questioned the meter and if she had to put money in the meter. She was told that the meter would be moved.

Harry Mirra- Amvets –apologized for a recent confusion regarding damaged fence and falling trees and asked about ownership of the property.

Bill Heffner – 200 N Morton – asked about referrals for getting rid of cardboard.

Charles Lillicrapp-114 Locust Road – asked council to consider private lateral inspection to be included on Use and Occupancy inspections.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Michele Roberts made a motion to adjourn, the meeting

Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary