



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2025

The borough agenda meeting for the month of November was called to order at 7:01 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, Councilor Michelle Miller-present, Vice President of Council Shaunta Miller-present – but had to leave due to an emergency, and Councilor Walter Stubbs-present, Mayor Amanda Hammock-present.

Announcements- no Announcements

Presentation –Jackie Guy – 635 Country Lane – gave the council a report on Springfield High School winning the Blue Ribbon School award; and that the award ceremony would be help on February 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend and asked council to just email her their intentions at Jacqueline.guy@ssdcougars.org

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Lee-123 W Sylvan Avenue – Asked about possible closing of Kohls and was concerned that tax revenues would be lost.

Annette Deigh – 405 Highland Avenue – concerned that there is no longer curbside recycling; that notice was not given to residents and that the website was posted only after recycling was stopped. She questioned if the Borough could receive grant money for recycling.

Bill Heffner – 571 S Old Middletown Road- questioned getting some answers during council meeting, and again asked about sewer fee collections, will they include penalty and interest. Mr. Heffner also questioned if the line item funding from Community and Economic Development would be moved to the Morton-Rutledge Fire Company.

Charles Lillicrapp-114 Locust Road – questioned if the sewer rate was inclusive of reimbursement – and wanted detail.

Jackie Guy – 635 Country Lane – commented on the ending of curbside recycling; and stated her disappointment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Manager Lipsett read the Tax collection report – beginning balance was \$895,667.14 and ending balance for December was \$843,503.08.

Manager Lipsett also gave the Treasurer's report for the month of December; which is on file.

Resolution –transferring funds – from Community Events & Celebration line items to Fire equipment escrow line item; to be action item.

Disbursement Journal for the month of December 2024 was also presented to council in their perspective packets.

Resolution – Authorizing Treasurer to pay recurring monthly bills; this will be an action item.

PUBLIC FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Catania was on site to read his engineer's report for the month of December; He reported that there were 4 building permits issued, 2 Use and Occupancy certificates issued; and 2 contractor licenses issued.

Mr. Catania's engineer's report is on file.

Councilor Johnson announced that Senator Kearney and Rep. O'Mara would be holding a tax rebate seminar on February 20th from 10-1 here at the borough.

Woodland/Morton Traffic Signal

The permit from SEPTA or the work at the intersection has been received and anticipated to begin March 1st. SEPTA has agreed to pay for the damage and installation to the contractor directly. We have to thank Senator Kearney and Rep. O'Mara's office for their assistance with this item.

DCED Multi-Modal transportation Fund Grant for Traffic signal-grade crossing –\$1.8 million- for modernization of the crossing gates traffic signal. The Commonwealth Finance meeting is set for January 28th, and we will hear whether we were awarded that grant.

CDBG application – submitted for central Morton street scape phase I and –and central Morton traffic safety improvements; to update street signs and markings we will know the results by April

PA Small Water and Sewer Grant – Insituform is back doing manhole rehabilitation and this should be complete in about 30 days.

Greenways Trails and Recreation grant application – submitted in May of 2024 for \$250,000 for Jacob's park; the results of this grant should also be awarded at the meeting on January 28th.

Borough Hall ADA Parking – an initial assessment; and the firehouse met with Catania Engineering met with MRFD to get a scope of the work to be done on the apron.

Councilor Miller also reported that someone online commented on the excellent job done by the highway department with the snow this week.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Lawless gave the breakdown of his Police report; there were 31 retail thefts (29 at Kohl's) from 3/19/23 to 12/31/23. The goal was to reduce thefts by 20% for 2024. He reported that there is a 75% decrease in retail thefts this reporting with an overall 85% reduction for the year. There were also 241 building checks. Chief Lawless also reported that there was a 50% decrease in accidents this reporting period with an overall 37.5% reduction for the year. The remainder of the report is on file.

Fire Chief Holstein also read the Fire Department monthly report; there were 33 incidents, total personnel response 190 – He gave a listing of all the incidents for the month, assists to other fire departments and the training, and drills and duty assignments for the month. This report is also on file.

Chief Holstein was also concerned with a parking situation on certain streets, during the snowstorm, the emergency vehicles could not negotiate around parked cars. He named Baker Street in particular.

Chief Holstein also gave the Fire Marshal's report –for the year. There were 8 Fire Investigations and 8 fire inspections for the year. He had several training classes in 2024 and gave Fire Prevention information.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION AND RECYCLING

Rubbish Contract – Councilor Roberts stated that the December recycling report listed 16.87 tons, but stated that 12/26 was not on the report.

LAW & ORDINANCE

Councilor Miller was also concerned with Chief Holsteins request to look into parking problems on Baker Street and will be considering this item for future.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councilor Eagar reported that MLK day food give away was successful, and there would be a Community an Economic Development meeting on 2-13-25 at 7 p.m.

PARK AND RECREATION

Councilor Stubbs reported that he would like to have a sign at the park stating MVP – (Morton's Valuable People. He would like to have a meeting with some men regarding Chess in February, and will be reaching out to chess players.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hammock thanked the highway department for a job well done during the recent snow. Mayor Hammock also reported the new sign on Waverly & Baltimore pike was installed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Lipsett reported that there were some minor renovations being done to the borough hall – painting and repairing some damaged walls.

Manager Lipsett also reported that we were notified by SEPTA of some upcoming track work at the Secane Station and which may have an effect on Morton.

Manager Lipsett reported that he was happy with the job of Mr. Johnson and Mr. King during the recent snow storm.

PSAB Conference – Mgr Lipsett also announced that the June 1-4 PSAB Conference was coming up; and to please notify him by Monday (1/27/25) of reservations.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion was made by Councilor Roberts and seconded by Councilor Johnson to approve the Resolution authorizing the treasurer to pay recurring bills. All voiced approval, Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilor Eagar and seconded by Vice President Miller to approve transfer of funds from Community Events line item to Fire equipment escrow. All voiced approval, motion carried.

Motion was made to approve Minutes from May, 11 2022, May 25, 2022, June 8, 2022 and June 22, 2022 by Councilor Michele Miller, seconded by Vice President Miller. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Motion to ratify and affirm the payment of bills as listed for December and January 2025; made by Vice President Miller; seconded by Councilor Johnson. All voiced approval, Motion carried.

Motion to approve the payment of bills as listed for January 2025 made by Councilor Stubbs, seconded by Councilor Johnson. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

The upcoming meetings were announced as well as the committee meeting schedule

OPEN DISCUSSION

Cecilia Todd – 110 Althea Lane- thanked council for the Motion to transfer the funds to the Morton Rutledge Fire Department line item.

Joseph Boylan – 23 Althea Lane –questioned the rubbish on the 2025 budget, that the revenue budgeted was \$200,000 for collections from borough residents; this amount is exactly the same as B&L's quote not including tipping fees ; We used to add the tipping fees to collection fees. By not including these fees, this has been passed on through to real estate tax to everyone who owns apartments and businesses. He was concerned with \$330 rubbish fee which is an increase of 8%. And he does not understand this fact. There is 820 households from MuniBilling –this represents \$270000 in bills; but the revenue is only \$200,000. Tipping fees will increase at 2025; as there is no credit for recycling. He also cleared up 'disinformation from December; he was only going to take over until March of 2024 for Brinker Simpson.

Mario Cimino-46 S Morton Avenue – endorsed questions about financed in the budget and collections; as far as Mr. Boylan has presented, his work has been scapegoated by current council president and Vice President; and calls on all of council to give him reasonable time as his reputation has been subject to constant impunity and scapegoating.

Bill Heffner -571 S Old Middletown Road- Media PA – why do we have to pay tipping fees, and why we have to pay for this; and referred to an email he sent on 1-16-25 and he has heard nothing. Questioned how information was to be obtained and who do things get directed to.

Charles Lillicrapp-114 Locust – there is plywood in front of Jiu Jitsu building asked if it could be removed.

President Clark-Dickerson reported she would like council to think of goals and objectives for the next 1-3 years – all council and mayor included, and each committee should be updated on events and activities.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Roberts to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Preston, Secretary