



**1. Pledge of Allegiance Recited**

**2. Roll Call**

**Elected Officials:**

Helen Hlahol, President  
Scott Robinson, Vice President (via phone)  
Melissa Johnson  
Marie Kelso  
Dennis Kinney  
Andrew Lubin (via phone)  
Luke McKee  
Kathryn Price Engelhard  
Gary Wallace, Mayor

**Borough Admin/Officials:**

Jim Dillon, Interim Borough Manager  
Scott Holbert, Solicitor  
Rich Ciampa, Chief of Police  
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary

**3. Community Announcements/Presentations**

- a. Morrisville Borough received \$247,444.00 for curb ramps at 8 intersections along W. Palmer Street (in and around Grandview Elementary and the Middle/High School) through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) program for the design/construction of PennDOT and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) The project is scheduled to begin design upon receipt of the executed grant agreement.
- b. Tree Policy – within the Borough of Morrisville, maintenance and/or removal of trees are the responsibility of the homeowner including the area between sidewalk and curb (“verge strip” or “hell strip”). Permits may be needed to remove trees on homeowner property/hell strip and permission is needed to plant on the hell strip.
- c. Residential Rentals: letters sent on 2/18.
- d. April 5, 10am: Morrisville Little League Opening Day Parade (rain date Saturday, April 12).
- e. April 19, 10am to noon: Morrisville Borough Easter Egg Hunt at Williamson Park, rain, or shine – cancelled if torrential.
- f. April 19, 10am to 4pm; Earth Day festivities at Colvin’s Ferry Park with iKalpulli Tlalhuizilli (Tlal-wui-zilli); Hummingbirds of the Earth.
- g. Traffic study on S. Pennsylvania Avenue started Friday, March 14th (for 2-3 weeks).

**4. Community Outreach**

- a. Board Openings: email letters of interest to [Office@MorrisvilleBoro.org](mailto:Office@MorrisvilleBoro.org).  
Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) / Library Board
- b. Nominations for:  
Letters of Interest: Cheryl Vogel Planning Commission (letter dated 3/6)  
**Planning Commission:** Cheryl Vogel (dated 3/6)  
Cheryl Vogel nominated by Ms. Hlahol.  
**Nomination** to appoint Cheryl Vogel carried by voice vote 8-0.

**5. Council Discussion Items**

- a. Misconceptions RE Patriots Park, Events
- b. EIT
- c. Veteran Pole Flag on Bridge Street



6. **Engineer Report/Gilmore & Associates, Jacob Rigg** – gave updates on ongoing projects.
7. **Borough Manager Report/Mr. James Dillon** – stated assuming council awards the bid for the road paving program Virginia will be notifying our bond company tomorrow and we should have at next month's meeting the bond ordinance and the paperwork to borrow the funds to pay for the road program, as Helen mentioned we intend to pay for the bond issue out of the state liquid fuels funds.
8. **Solicitor Report/Scott Holbert** – read a statement on behalf of the Borough in response to the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, article entitled suspended officer forced to serve suspension despite pending appeal and reporting by Jeff Bohen. While council does not comment on personnel matters council categorically denies the false claim in the article that counselors Hlahol and or Robinson have interfered with police related business or circumvented the role of the mayor to the contrary council has and always will follow the law and procedure with respect to the management and supervision of the police department.
  - a. Council Committees versus Resident Committees – he provided clarification for all the committees.
9. **Police Chief's Report/Chief Rich Ciampa** – spoke about the truck citations. He gave an update on domestic training in Pennsylvania. Asked residents to report traffic complaints to the police department not through Facebook. Announced they secured a county grant for an aggressive driver detail; they will focus mostly on Philadelphia Ave. Gave an update on the key fobs for the building. The body cameras are in circulation. *No discussion took place.*

#### 10. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of council meeting minutes from 2/18/25.
- b. Approval of bill list from 2/1 to 2/28/25 in the amount of \$236,826.43.
- c. Approval the first Tuesday of every August each year as National Night Out – with a rain date of the following Tuesday.
- d. Approval of disposal of obsolete equipment with a zero-dollar value on the request of Chief Ciampa. To include six security cameras, three keyboards, one mouse, one set of speakers, 1 TV remote, and one monitor.
- e. Accept the resignation of Librarian Diane Hughes from the Morrisville Free Library.
- f. Authorize the Borough to participate in the Bucks County Health Department Annual West Nile Virus Program.
- g. Authorize Gilmore & Associates, Inc. to submit a scoping form and grant application through PennDOT Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) program for improvements to the traffic signals located at the intersections of Philadelphia/S. Pennsylvania Avenues and N. Pennsylvania/Trenton Avenues.
- h. Approve the updated Fee Schedule.  
Motion made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.  
*Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.*

#### 11. Action Items

- a. Motion to approve amendment to Borough Code § 435-15 (Trucks prohibited on certain streets to include Wright, Baker, and Coleman Avenues).  
Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Mr. McKee.  
*No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.*
- b. Motion to approve amendment to Borough Code § 435-15 prohibiting municipal waste trucks on Borough Streets (unless licensed by the Borough and/or Borough businesses).



Motion made by Mr. Lubin and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- c. Motion to award the 2025 Morrisville Borough Road Program to James D. Morrissey, Inc. for a total amount of \$1,396,334.40 for all roads included in the Base Bid plus Alternate Bid Items #3, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 13. This project will result in approximately 7.5 miles of roads to be resurfaced within Wards 1 and 2 of the Borough. A comprehensive list and map of all roads being resurfaced is available on the Morrisville Borough Website.

Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- d. Motion to approve Ordinance Amendment for Chapter 400, Article I Rental License Permit.

Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. McKee.

*Discussion took place. Motion* to table made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.

Motion to table carried by roll call vote 4-4 with Mayor Wallace breaking the tie. (Nay votes being Ms. Hlahol, Mr. Kinney, Mr. McKee, and Mr. Robinson)

**Motion Tabled.**

- e. Motion to approve sale of 6 Winchester Super X Pump Shotguns for a trade in value of \$600 to be used toward purchasing lights for patrol rifles per Chief Ciampa.

Motion made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Kinney.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- f. Motion to approve Mayor Wallace to attend the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania State Mayors Association Conference, July 17th to 20th in Harrisburg. Cost, including hotel and mileage, should not exceed \$800 from the \$1,000 2025 allowance.

Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mr. McKee.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- g. Motion to advertise the Amendment to the Responsible Contractor Ordinance.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. Kinney.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- h. Motion to hire Part Time Officer Rowland C. Rodgers upon the recommendation of Chief Ciampa.

Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Ms. Kelso.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- i. Motion to ratify the mayor's letter to the Civil Service Commission dated February 28th, 2025, regarding the eligibility list.

Motion made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Kelso.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- j. Motion to accept the resignation of Officer Matt Leonhauser from the police department.

Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Kinney.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- k. Motion to consider and approve the Civil Service Commission conducting its own testing to develop and certify the Eligibility List expeditiously contingent on Labor Attorney Chris Gerber approving testing guidelines/standards.

Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Ms. Kelso.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- l. Motion to award the Manor Park Playground Site Improvement project to Premier Builders, Inc. for \$201,598.00. The scope of work for this project includes site preparation and the installation of the playground equipment. This project is funded by a Bucks County Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Lubin.



*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

- m. Motion to approve the purchase of the playground equipment for the Manor Park Playground Improvement project from General Recreations, Inc. for \$147,720.00 through COSTARS. This purchase is funded by a Bucks County Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mr. McKee.

*No discussion took place. Motion* carried by voice vote 8-0.

## 12. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

1. Ralph Persico – N. Penna. Ave., spoke about the curbs on N. Penna. Ave. Wants to replace his sidewalk but does not know where the level should be since he does not have curbs.
2. George Helmstetter – S. Pennsylvania Ave., thanked the Chief for improvements he has made. Spoke about the grant to get a new way station. Asked about the radar bill, speeding is issue on Pennsylvania Ave. Informed council that Delaware Riverside Warehouse is close to finishing, and they are going to bring more trucks in.
3. Don Rice – Morrisville, would like council to reply to public comment, when possible. Spoke about Cloverleaf and asked if there were any grant applications for Williamson Park.
4. Annie Millionis – W. Hendrickson Ave., spoke as Bird Town PA Coordinator about a new program where the PA Game Commission is providing free Chimney Swift Towers, Purple Martin Houses and educational signage. She suggested locations and provided the council with a handout.
5. Holly Harman – Plaza Blvd., thanked council for responding to the article that was published recently. She spoke about a rental letter that was taped to her door which is trespassing. She is in favor of the yearly rental inspection program.
6. Gary Taylor – Hamilton Blvd., landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. He spoke about the Fourth Amendment and provided the council with a handout.
7. Gary Mathews - Eagle Rd. Newtown, Pa, landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program and feels it is an invasion of privacy.
8. Fernando Rodriguez – Cleveland Ave., landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. Feels the current inspection program at the beginning of the tenancy is good.
9. Beth Porter – Washington St., renter who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. She was told by her landlord that her rent is going up due to the inspection fees. She suggested the Borough inspect all owner-occupied homes.
10. Dan Kuronya – N. Delmorr Ave., landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. Asked where the inspection fees are going and wants details on the program.
11. John McCool – Hedgerow Dr., landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. He asked for clarification of fees and certifications.
12. Eric Erickson – N. Penna. Ave., landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. He feels the current inspection system works and is cost effective. He feels the landlords should be included to discuss the particulars of the inspection program.
13. Colin Roberts – N. Delmorr Ave., landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. He would like to be included in the decisions of the inspection program.
14. Barbara Johnson – W. Bridge St., renter who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program and fees and does not want to let anyone in to inspect her apartment without a court order.
15. David Novak – N. Penna Ave., landlord who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program and asked about fees and certifications. He feels the letter he received is very unclear.
16. Frank Yacca – Canal Apts Manager spoke about the yearly rental inspection program. President Hlahol informed him that the program is for residential rentals not commercial rentals.



17. Gerldine Meyer – Hillcrest Ave., renter who expressed concerns about the yearly rental inspection program. She feels many questions are not being answered and suggested that the code enforcement officer should be at the meeting to answer the questions.

13. **Mayor Comments** – Thanked Mr. Kinney and Brady from Rob’s Towing who stepped up to help the resident with the fallen tree that spoke at last month’s meeting. He addressed misinformation that was circulating about him that council president and vice president emasculate him and stated that is entirely false. He remains committed to working with everyone, respecting differences, and finding common grounds for the betterment of Morrisville. He announced the Easter Egg Hunt and Earth Day event.

#### 14. Council Member Comments

**Mr. Robinson:** spoke about the yearly rental inspection program.

**Mrs. Johnson:** she was glad that the council tabled the ordinance amendment tonight and spoke about a home she visited that had steps that were not attached to the home, it is a safety issue for the residents, first responders, and neighbors. She would like to have more discussion regarding the program.

**Ms. Price Engelhard:** she did not answer public comment questions because she did not know the answers. Stated the ordinance was not followed through in 2017 because of the expense of hiring someone and the software. Asked about the Parks and Recreation Committee and why it is no longer a council committee and gave a report on their last meeting where they talked about a community garden, murals at Williamson Park, Music and Food Truck festival and an Irish Festival.

**Mr. Kinney:** he voted no to table the rental ordinance amendment, but he agrees with Scott and Melissa, and he is glad that the council tabled it. He took a lot of notes and thinks the council has a lot to talk about and he has changed his mind.

**Mr. McKee:** stated the important distinction to make is that this was done for public safety not done to fee renters, if your landlord bumps your rent up because of this you should have a conversation with them. This is trying to keep you safe; I will look out for you and do the right thing.

**Ms. Hlahol:** stated people came here to say the homes are fantastic and have no problems but there are not a lot of people here. There are 9,000 people that live in Morrisville and 40% of the homes are rental homes, imagine the people that do not come to complain, if they complain their landlords throw them out, there are many people out there that do not have a voice, and this is to help them.

15. **Adjournment** at 9:03 p.m.

<https://www.morrisvilleboro.org/index.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALNLLCjVqOw>