



1. Pledge of Allegiance Recited

2. Roll Call

Elected Officials:

Helen Hlahol, President
Scott Robinson, Vice President
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 (not present)
Scott Holbert, Solicitor
Rich Ciampa, Chief of Police
Virginia Cyphers, Assistant Borough Secretary

3. Community Announcements/Presentations

- a. Stockham Building update - Barry Isett – no presentation this evening
- b. Eagle Scout Court of Honor presentation – no presentation this evening
- c. Tax Collector Office
- d. Borough Sponsored Event process
- e. Fish Lane, 70 E Bridge St is seeking donations of old rods and reels for kids

4. Community Outreach

- a. Board Openings: email letters of interest to Office@MorrisvilleBoro.org
Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) / Library Board

5. Council Discussion Items

- a. NIXLE
- b. Misinformation to residents

6. Engineer Report/Gilmore & Associates, Jacob Rigg

- a. Manor Park Playground Grand opening ceremony is tentatively scheduled for July 22 at 3:30PM.
- b. 2025 Road Program complete – 2026 program. Total of thirty-three roads resurfaced, over eight miles of roads. The Borough maintains 25.9 miles of roads so about 31% that were completed this year. There were forty-six roads on the list. Coordination with utilities like PECO and MMA cut roads from the list that will be paved by utilities. Original estimated cost was \$2.5 million, the bid for the thirty-three roads came in at \$1.4 million. Under budget by \$400,000. The Borough took out a loan and using liquid fuels funds to pay that bond. 2026 Road Program paving thirty-nine roads in wards three and four, 8.2 miles of roads with bid out in December 2025.
- c. Senior Center Parking Lot: received three grant funds from the county. Engineering fees are not covered under the grants awarded. \$87,000 budget for engineering related to the project- bit more because we are anticipating geotechnical investigation to find out what’s underneath.
- d. Levy Flood Study update: emergency action plan resubmitted to FEMA. Once approved, they will do the intermediate accreditation to get the levy put on the accredited list, it’s a flood protection device, then we will be able to start applying for grants. Still working on two other construction projects. We have grant funds for those, and we can go back and do another accreditation for the floodplain behind the levy related



to the canal to hopefully get most of the residents out with the accreditation of the levy. There's still a little bit of floodplain that will touch a couple of those homes at the curve of Central and Park Avenue.

e. Sallyport out to bid last month, it was pushed back for some work related to the security equipment, it should be on the next agenda to award that project.

Ms. Hlahol stated we are going to move items 11a & 11b and vote on them now.

11a. Motion to accept Civil Service certified Full Time Officer Eligibility List of candidates.

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

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

11b. Motion to approve the conditional offer of employment per Act 57 to hire Full Time Police Officer Kevin DiPaolo.

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

Chief Ciampa thanked Barbar Bower and the Civil Service Commission. Met Mr. DiPaolo and addressed applicants on testing day. Impressed by three things. Kevin was professional, articulate, and he showed up for the test, 18 years of law enforcement experience and an impressive service record. Appreciates council's commitment to continue the growth of the police department. Kevin is going to make a great addition to our police department and I'd like to welcome his wife Courtney and Benjamin and Jace here to witness. Excited to make Kevin part of the family.

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

Officer Kevin DiPaolo was sworn in by Mayor Gary Wallace.

7. **Police Chief's Report/Chief Ciampa** – Resident complaints about the fireworks. Spoke about plan to move forward to help mitigate and make it better. I understand the park was like ground zero. With school out, no morning school patrol. Redirecting our resources to truck traffic. Thanked Sergeant Aspromonti for stopping trucks and turning them around every single day. We've implemented a few premise checks, a couple of concerns by the Senior Center gazebo. When we have issues with kids congregating and doing what they shouldn't be doing, please call so we can redirect resources and implement premise checks. Michelle has been doing a fantastic job with some high-profile investigations. Brad, anything I ask him to do, he gets it done and he is proactive. Dominic, he's a junior officer and I put him in charge of our evidence vault and he is running it like it's his vault. When people take pride in their work, they do a better job, they have ownership in the organization, and it makes us grow stronger together.

4th of July I worked with Dominic and Lou and it was a crazy day. A call for a guy that walked into Giant with two rifles strapped to his chest. In Pennsylvania it's legal to walk down the street with two rifles, but a pretty tense moment, the only thing he violated was Giant's policy. Then we had a call for a 7-year-old in the river who wasn't seen. Her parents couldn't find her. The information we had was that we thought she was underwater. They went swimming and she went out into the current and she was past the second bridge abutment, but her parents were flanking the bridge abutment, and they could see her. Lou did not hesitate and within seconds he was up to his neck, and he was able to throw the buoy out to the girl who was eleven and in distress. If we didn't get there when we did and if he would have taken the time to take his shoes and everything off, learned body cameras work underwater, who knows what the fate would have been because that current was strong. Lou was a true hero and I just want everyone to know that. This is the second time he's been in a river and it's that courage and commitment that I'm so fortunate that we have in our officers and I think as a community we're all fortunate to have. Lou deserves a round of applause. Thank you to the council for supporting this hire tonight and everything we've had to do to get through and move us forward.



Mayor Gary Wallace –follow up from what I was talking about earlier TextMyGov. I’m still going to send it to all of you, but the setup fee was about \$2,800. The first-year total came to about \$11,200 and it is an annual fee of \$8,400. National Night Out will be held at Borough Hall on August 5th from 5-8 pm with a rain date of August 12th. It is always the first Tuesday of August every year and it’s already approved by council earlier this year that every year it will be held. It may not be held here all the time, but for now we’re going to keep it here at the borough because the police are here, this is their home base. So, what better way than to bring the kids to see everything?

8. Borough Manager Report/Mr. James Dillon – no report this evening.

9. Solicitor Report/Scott Holbert – Council met in executive session where two items of personnel matters were discussed. In November or December, council voted to oppose a variance request for the property at 406 West Bridge Street, seeking to put in a duplex that went through the Zoning Hearing Board and we had to appeal their decision to the Court of Common Pleas. Last week we received the Judge’s order in our favor overturning the Zoning Hearing Board and that we were correct and the variance should not have been granted. Now we just need to see if the property owner is going to appeal, they have 30 days to do so.

A lot of these groups come out and help clean up our town, our streets, our parks especially. Just know the Borough does have some procedures, so if you are going to organize a cleanup event, please come talk to the office. There is no cost to do it, we just want to make sure we know who’s there, who’s working and there are some waivers that would need to be signed as well. Make sure you see the staff, let them know what you’re doing, so we know what’s going on in town and appreciate the people coming in.

Government meetings please try to refrain if you’re in the public from talking out of turn. It’s tough for our staff to hear sometimes if people are talking over each other. Rather than yelling stuff out, please come up to the microphone address the council, provide your comments. That’s why we have public comment time. Thank you for your participation.

10. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of 5/21/2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval to reaffirm actions taken at the June 17, 2025, council meeting
- c. Approval of 6/17/2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- d. Approval of bill list from 6/1 to 6/30/25 in the amount of \$565,154.84.
- e. Approval of Resolution supporting Pennsylvania House Bill 1152 requiring Insurance Companies to directly reimburse Emergency Medical Service Providers for services rendered to Commonwealth Residents.
- f. Call for Motion to authorize the Borough Solicitor and Zoning Officer to prepare and/or update ordinances regarding Signage, Vehicle Storage (boats, recreation, work), Off-Street Parking, Bamboo, and Fireworks on Borough-owned properties.
- g. Call for Motion to direct Mayor Gary Wallace to complete the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route to Yorktown tour marker application for placement at Summerseat utilizing the \$4,500 donation from Historic Summerseat. No cost to Borough.
- h. Approval for designating September 2025 as “Turn the Town Teal” month.
- i. Approval for Jag’s to use the Municipal Lot behind Bridge Street on Saturday, September 20, 2025, to celebrate their 25th year anniversary by hosting a free pig roast for the public. Coordination with Public Works/John Later regarding closure of portion of the parking lot.
Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Kinney.



Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

11. Action Items

- a. Voted earlier in the meeting, see page 2.
- b. Voted earlier in the meeting, see page 2.
- c. Motion to consider and approve the Civil Service Commission conducting its own testing to develop and certify the Eligibility List expeditiously.
Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- d. Motion to approve the replacement of the MPD Tango server; \$7,275 estimated cost.
Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- e. Motion to approve settlement agreement between Morrisville Borough and William Smith in the amount of \$30,000.
Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Ms. Price Engelhard.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- f. Motion to amend and advertise Borough Code §275-2, increasing Littering Violations and Penalties to \$1,000.
Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Ms. Kelso.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- g. Motion to advertise Bid for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection and Disposal Services Contract.
Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Kinney.
Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- h. Motion to adopt a resolution to apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and designating officials to execute documents for the S. Pennsylvania Avenue Traffic Calming Improvement Project.
Motion made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Lubin.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- i. Motion to adopt a resolution to apply for a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and designating officials to execute documents for the modernization of the traffic signal at N. Pennsylvania Avenue and W. Trenton Avenue.
Motion made by Mr. Kinney and seconded by Mrs. Johnson.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- j. Motion to approve the Application for Payment #3 for the Manor Park Playground Improvement project, in the amount of \$104,998.30 to Premier Builders, Inc. as recommended by the Borough Engineer.
Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Mr. Robinson.
Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- k. Motion to authorize Gilmore & Associates, Inc. to proceed with the design & engineering for the Manor Park/Senior Center parking lot improvement project in the amount of \$87,000.00.
Motion made by Ms. Price Engelhard and seconded by Mr. McKee.
Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- l. Motion to approve a Camera System for the Morrisville Free Library with an estimated cost of \$9,167.00.
Motion made by Ms. Hlahol and seconded by Mr. Robinson.



Discussion took place. **Motion** carried by voice vote 7-0 with 1 abstention. (abstention being Mrs. Johnson)

12. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

1. Shawn Ratti – E. Philadelphia Ave., spoke about councils concerns for the public online comments. He feels council is pushing residents away and blocking events because of personal feelings and residents are afraid and unsure how to speak up without becoming a target. Thinks council should work on events in the town.
2. Deborah Colgan – W. Hendrickson Ave., dislikes watching council meetings and quibbling over community celebrations. Events should have access to budget and questions why it should not cost residents a dime. Feels borough staff should make copies of flyers for movie night. Questioned why council spends time on certain line items but not on others such as studies for parking garage, expanded levy walk, engineering fees for grants, Summerseat partnership, Riverfront planning, newsletter, rental inspection letter, and street signs. Feels council creates a toxic environment for public engagement, abolished committees and boards and have pivotal discussions behind closed doors. Feels the council candidate disrupting the meeting should not have been asked to leave.
3. Anna Langer – Prospect Ave., announced \$440 will be delivered to the Borough Manager to cover the Swank licensing allowing the library and parks & recreation committee to show movies. The monies were contributed by Morrisville residents and friends of the library.

13. Mayor Comments –National Night Out is August 5th, from 5-8 at Borough Hall. Thanked the library staff for what they're doing during the transition, summer reading programs are still going on, he stopped by last Thursday and the room was packed with kids. Congratulated David Houston II for reaching the honor of Eagle Scout. Congratulated Officer Kevin DiPaolo and welcomed him to the team.

14. Council Member Comments

Mr. Robinson: asked Jacob Rigg to speak about consent agenda 10F, specifically bamboo.

Ms. Hlahol: stated that it isn't a Jacob thing, it's code.

Jacob Rigg: replied that he didn't have information on that, but they have landscape architects on staff, and he can ask if they know how to get rid of bamboo.

Ms. Price Engelhard: announced the movie Wild Robot movie in the park this Friday, starts at dusk. Next event is Jazz Festival on August 16th. Parks & Recreation Committee is looking to offer more free movies in the park. Wanted to clarify Facebook, Rock n' Roll Festival was not a Democratic event, but a Borough sponsored event along with the Economic Development Corporation who helped pay for the band.

Ms. Kelso: wanted to add about Facebook, she doesn't get on it and doesn't know what everyone is talking about but if residents feel strongly about something, they should reach out to their council person, phone numbers are on the borough website. Doesn't understand the back and forth and we are not children and don't make it public. We are trying to do nice things, let's not sabotage. It's common sense.

Mr. Kinney: public comment tonight was interesting. If you think we sit up here 5 days a week behind closed doors and make decisions, you're wrong and you know you're wrong.

Audience Member Shawn Ratti: I was just saying... [disruptive]

Mr. Kinney: This brings me to a very great point. We let the public comment without saying a word, give us the same respect. All I did was make a comment and thank the person for coming out face to face instead of Facebook, which is toxic. That's what's toxic. This council isn't toxic. To say we are and that you hate coming to meetings to see what we do, so be it. You should appreciate what we are trying to do up here. To be screamed at is disrespectful, uncalled for, and honestly, she should have been removed. My



opinion. I'm not going to sit here and take it anymore. I'm tired of the attacks, the constant downing all of us. It gets us nowhere. Shake your head, agree with me, disagree with me. That's all I have to say.

Mr. McKee: I'll add one more thing, like it or not, we're going to sit up here and we're going to continue to do our jobs. We're going to do what we think is the right thing to do. We're going to do what our constituents asked us to do and that's it.

Ms. Hlahol: agrees with council. Regarding misinformation, we're correcting blatant commentary not that we're telling people they can't post, but if somebody's posting something, no reason why council people can't correct misinformation. People believe what they read on Facebook and to post there is no children's program when there is, is a blatant lie and needs to be corrected. Many things posted on Facebook are incorrect. We never tell anyone that they can't speak at public comment, they're more than welcome to speak and no one says anything to them.

Regarding the costs, we're looking to improve this town, everyone knows there's no parking downtown, so studies don't cost a lot. When we direct the engineer to do a study, they do a proposal, and they come back and tell us the cost and council decides whether we want to move forward or not. Parking garages are \$40,000/spot, so do the math what that would cost. We're not taking that out of the Borough, we're looking for grants. We need engineers to look at it. We need to see, if feasible. Do we need one? You can't park downtown, if we want to develop downtown, what are we going to do without parking? Some may think this is frivolous, but this is how you plan a town, this is how you plan development and improvements to get this town back to where it used to be and not keep it on a downward spiral.

Mrs. Johnson: \$40,000 for a spot and looking into that. Spending money on a study outweighs a \$7,000 party in the park. It's about the benefit all around. We're trying to keep it open and honest when we're sitting up here. Might look like we've made it easy, but when we have our discussions according to the Sunshine Law. before anybody gets the idea that we're having some sort of private conversation, it is to look at the big picture and then take it down to the minutia to figure about what we think is best. There's no one running around just making up stuff. It does take planning; it takes sacrifice of our time. I do not get on Facebook, so I don't know what you all are talking about and personally felt like why even address it. I agree that if misinformation is going on out there and someone has spotted it because somebody's on Facebook, it needs to be corrected because someone is reading that and getting misinformation. Saying facts and not opinion is all that has happened here. Facts are facts. Numbers are numbers. That's not an opinion. It's got to be done. It must be said. Someone who goes on Facebook, not myself, must have gotten misinformation somewhere. It is irresponsible to not address it. Kudos to Helen for making sure it gets addressed. I don't get on Facebook, so I wouldn't have known if I was sitting in her seat.

Ms. Hlahol: Melissa I'm not on Facebook anymore either, but people send me stuff.

Mrs. Johnson: it would be irresponsible not to address it. With that said, I'm ready to go home.

15. Adjournment at 8:31 p.m.

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

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