



**REORGANIZATION MEETING  
MINUTES**  
MORRISVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
35 Union St, Morrisville, PA

7:00pm MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026  
Council Chambers  
Morrisvilleboro.org

SWEARING-IN of Tax Collector Kathryn Schell, and Borough Council Members: Deborah Colgan, Helen Hlahol, Anna Langer, Shawn Ratti, and Peggy Walsh by the Honorable Judge Corryn Kronnagel

**1. Call to Order (The Honorable Gary Wallace, Mayor)**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance Recited**

**3. Roll Call**

**Elected Officials:**

Helen Hlahol  
Scott Robinson  
Deborah Colgan  
Marie Kelso  
Diane Lanahan  
Anna Langer  
Shawn Ratti  
Peggy Walsh  
Gary Wallace, Mayor

**Borough Admin/Officials:**

Jim Dillon, Interim Borough Manager (absent)  
Adam Flager, Solicitor  
Rich Ciampa, Chief of Police  
Virginia Cyphers, Assist. Borough Secretary

Mayor Wallace - good evening to Morrisville and congratulations to our new council. As we begin our new term, we warmly welcome four new council members. We may have differences, our focus must remain on the people of Morrisville. Vital we work together, not in just words, but through real tangible actions. Set aside personal differences and truly collaborate for the benefit of our community. Together, we can achieve meaningful forward movement and ensure a brighter future for all. Thank you, and I look forward to our collective efforts this term. At this moment, I will take nominations for council president.

**4A. Nominations for Council President**

Nomination of Shawn Ratti was made by Ms. Walsh.  
Nomination of Helen Hlahol was made by Ms. Kelso.  
Nomination to appoint Helen Hlahol passes by roll call vote 4-4 with the mayor breaking the tie.  
(Votes for Shawn Ratti: Ms. Colgan, Ms. Langer, Mr. Ratti and Ms. Walsh. Votes for Helen Hlahol: Ms. Hlahol, Ms. Kelso, Ms. Lanahan, Mr. Robinson, Mayor Wallace)

Ms. Hlahol stated, she was going to make a speech but the mayor said it all. Welcome everyone newly elected and hope we are a cohesive unit going forward. Taking nominations for council vice president.

**4B. Nominations for Council Vice President**

Nomination of Shawn Ratti was made by Ms. Walsh.  
Nomination of Scott Robinson was made by Ms. Kelso.  
Nomination to appoint Scott Robinson passes by roll call vote 4-4 with the mayor breaking the tie.  
(Votes for Shawn Ratti: Ms. Colgan, Ms. Langer, Mr. Ratti, Ms. Walsh. Votes for Scott Robinson: Ms. Hlahol, Ms. Kelso, Ms. Lanahan, Mr. Robinson, Mayor Wallace)

**4C. Nominations for President Pro Tem**



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Nomination of Marie Kelso was made by Ms. Hlahol.

Nomination of Shawn Ratti was made by Ms. Langer.

Nomination to appoint Marie Kelso passes by roll call vote 4-4 with the mayor breaking the tie.  
(Votes for Marie Kelso: Ms. Hlahol, Ms. Kelso, Ms. Lanahan, Mr. Robinson, Mayor Wallace. Votes for Shawn Ratti: Ms. Colgan, Ms. Langer, Mr. Ratti, Ms. Walsh)

**5A. Motion to appoint Borough Manager/Borough Secretary/Open Records Officer/Treasurer**

Nomination of James Dillon was made by Ms. Hlahol.

Ms. Walsh stated point of order - add the word Interim to the title of Manager. Mr. Dillon does not have a contract with our borough, and he is actively looking for a full-time Borough Manager for Morrisville. Grateful for what he has done for us, but we need to add the term interim to his title.

Mr. Flager stated the Borough Manager can still serve at the pleasure of the council. Whatever you call them, the council still has the same power to hire and fire. He does have a contract.

*Discussion took place.* **Motion** to appoint James Dillon passes by roll call vote 8-0.

**5B. Motion to appoint Assistant Secretary**

Nomination of Virginia Cyphers was made by Ms. Hlahol.

**Motion** to appoint Virginia Cyphers passes by roll call vote 8-0.

**5C. Motion to appoint Borough Solicitor**

Nomination of Flager & Associates was made by Ms. Hlahol.

Nomination of Kilkenny Law was made by Mr. Ratti.

**Motion** to appoint Flager & Associates by roll call vote 4-4 with the mayor breaking the tie. (Votes for Flager & Associates: Ms. Hlahol, Ms. Kelso, Ms. Lanahan, Mr. Robinson, Mayor Wallace. Votes for Kilkenny Law: Ms. Colgan, Ms. Langer, Mr. Ratti, Ms. Walsh)

**5D. Motion to appoint Borough Engineer**

Nomination of Gilmore & Associates was made by Ms. Hlahol.

**Motion** to appoint Gilmore & Associates passes by roll call vote 8-0.

**5E. Motion to appoint Borough Building Inspector/Zoning Officer/Fire Marshal/Code Enforcement Officer**

Nomination of Barry Isett & Associates was made by Ms. Hlahol.

**Motion** to appoint Barry Isett & Associates passes by roll call vote 8-0.

**6. Discussion By Borough Officials**

**Ms. Walsh:** Thanked the residents of the third ward. Spoke about their trust, promised to fulfill trust and respond to your concerns and questions. Spoke of a steep learning curve but will work hard and be responsive to members of the borough, especially the third ward. Spoke about her budget concern to reopen the 2026 budget in January, \$600,000 decrease in taxes, expired police contract in December and no new negotiated contract. Spoke about MPD staffing, huge debt for paving streets in the first and second wards, and taking on another debt in the spring to repave the third and fourth wards as well as infrastructure needs and staffing needs. Concerned about the lack of public works staff. Would like a more gradual and responsible reduction of the budget instead of \$600,000 in one year – that is irresponsible.



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**Ms. Colgan:** Would like to echo Peggy Walsh. Concerned about budget, the decrease, and to open the budget in January. Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on council and spoke about Morrisville being a special place she is proud to call home. Promises to represent residents faithfully and with fidelity.

**Ms. Langer:** Thanked the fourth ward for their vote and confidence, and honored to represent our ward.

**Mr. Ratti:** Thanks everybody in the first ward who came out to vote, spoke about people participating in the process and appreciates the support from friends, family, and citizens in town. Spoke about moving things forward, bridging gaps, being productive and efficient and responsible with what we have going forward because there's a lot of great things we can do. Spoke about his upbringing and saw Morrisville as unique and special. Wants to see this place thrive and thanks everybody who has given me that opportunity and make a difference.

**Ms. Hlahol:** spoke about the budget concerns and confidence in Mr. Dillon, and believes the budget is accurate. It is a guide and should not be reopened but will ask for a consensus from everyone on council.

**Ms. Langer:** I would like to have the budget reopened please.

**Mr. Ratti:** Yes, I think it is a worthwhile discussion, yes.

**Ms. Kelso:** I am neutral, I don't have any degree in accounting, but that is acceptable.

**Mr. Robinson:** Complete faith in what Mr. Dillon, but if my colleagues have questions, they certainly deserve to have them answered. No problem having Mr. Dillon answer all their questions.

**Ms. Hlahol:** I do believe Mr. Dillon is calling a meeting to go over the budget with the new people. We will see how that meeting goes, and if we need to reopen it, we will.

**Ms. Lanahan:** I don't have a problem with Mr. Dillon explaining things if they have questions about it.

**Ms. Hlahol:** Debby, I know you want to reopen it. Virginia will let Mr. Dillon know.

**7. Adjournment** at 7:32 p.m.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRIO50SJ3MI>