



1. Pledge of Allegiance Recited

2. Roll Call

Elected Officials:

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

Borough Admin/Officials:

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

3. Community Announcements/Presentations

- a. Easter Egg Hunt, April 4 at 10:30 am at Patriots Park/Summerseat.
- b. MLL Opening Day Parade Saturday, April 11 at 10 am starting at Clymer Avenue/Summerseat.
- c. Mike Italia, Regional Manager for Barry Isett & Associates, and Larry Del Vecchio, Code Enforcement Officer spoke about the Rental Inspection Program. *Discussion took place.*
- d. Summerseat 250th celebration events discussion

4. Engineer Report/Gilmore & Associates, Jacob Rigg

Traffic Signals for E Bridget/Delmorr Ave and E Bridge/Penna Ave: Green Light Go PennDOT application. Project Cost \$1,121,100; Grant Request \$896,880; Municipal Match: \$224,220

Minor Subdivision T.M.P. #24-012-081 on S Penn Ave & E Cleveland. A subdivision plan will create two new lots (2.048 acres and 11.156 acres). One includes the parking lot and part of the playground, while the other will remain vacant. The subdivision is needed to separate erosion and sediment permits from an active environmental remediation/NPDES permit.

Morrisville Borough Trail Opportunities - 4 recommended trails. *Upgrading the levee trail to the southern riverfront preserve* with paving, benches, lighting, signage, and better connections.. *Levee trail* – improve the existing levee trail. *Franklin St “loop”* – provide connection from levee trail to Delaware Canal Trail at Franklin St. *Clymer Ave* – Connect Patriots’ park & neighborhood to Delaware Canal Trail. Significant coordination with DCNR.

W Palmer St Curb Ramp: DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund for \$247,444. Estimated engineering budget of \$45K but portion is eligible to be covered by grant (10% or \$24,744.00) with a balance of \$20,255 to be covered by the Borough. Anticipate design and bid by summer 2026. Construction prior to school start.

Non Agenda Project Updates:

- 1.2026 Road Program – Anticipate construction May/June with 1-2 months for construction. JDM will provide advance notice for residents.
- 2.Manor Park / Senior Center Parking Lot –Anticipate construction starting early April with a 1-2 month completion date. Will coordinate with the Senior Center operations.
- 3.Patriots Park – Approval from RACP grant offices to proceed with bidding. Anticipate bidding through the spring with a summer award. *Discussion took place.*

5. Borough Manager Report/Mr. James Dillon – no report.



6. **Solicitor Report/Scott Holbert** – to follow up from last meeting, we had an incident during public comment. Public comment period, it is called a limited public forum, meaning there are restrictions on who may speak, what topics are appropriate, and how discussion should be conducted. Comments should focus on borough-related issues or agenda items and be directed to council members and borough officials. Political statements, lobbying, or issues unrelated to borough business—such as school matters—should be addressed in other appropriate forums. Public comment is not intended as an open platform for personal or political statements, but rather as a respectful opportunity for residents and taxpayers to raise concerns with elected officials. Public comment should not become a back-and-forth debate, as it disrupts meeting flow. Instead, council members are encouraged to take notes during comments and respond later during council discussion or through follow-up by borough staff when necessary.
7. **Police Chief’s Report/Chief Ciampa** -explained that he shifted away from discussing crime statistics in favor of highlighting current events and positive work by police officers, but after hearing feedback from a resident, decided to share updated crime data. Part One offenses are down 16%, while Part Two offenses are up 28%. Although crime trends are decreasing nationally, calls for service remain high and arrest numbers are similar to last year. Noted recent incidents involving motor vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles, urging residents to lock their cars and park in well-lit areas. Described a recent police pursuit involving a stolen vehicle connected to crimes in both Morrisville and Falls Township, which ended in a crash and three arrests; officers recovered a pellet gun. Also has been meeting with organizers of upcoming protests and rallies to coordinate safety plans and maintain open communication. *Discussion took place.*
8. **Community Outreach**

Mr. Holbert discussed letters of interest for the Vacancy Board Chair position and noted that Michele McGowan is ineligible because she currently serves on the Zoning Hearing Board. He explained that members of the Zoning Hearing Board cannot hold any other borough employment or appointed office due to the board’s quasi-judicial role. He said this type of conflict is common, as active community members often seek multiple ways to serve without realizing the legal restrictions. He also shared a similar example involving township auditors in other municipalities, where individuals had to resign from one position after being elected or appointed to another incompatible role.

 - a. Appointment of Vacancy Board
Letters of interest: Larissa Fallon and Allison Pilla
Nomination of Larissa Fallon made by Ms. Kelso.
Nomination of Allison Pilla made by Mr. Ratti.
Motion to appoint Larissa Fallon passes by roll call vote 4-4 with the mayor breaking the tie (Votes for Larissa Fallon: Helen Hlahol, Diane Lanahan, Marie Kelso, and Scott Robinson. Votes for Allison Pilla: Debby Colgan, Anna Langer, Shawn Ratti and Peggy Walsh)
Discussion took place.
9. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Bill List from 2/01 to 2/28/26 in the amount of \$273,908.90.
 - b. Adopt resolution authorizing the submission of a Green Light-Go grant application through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and designating officials to execute documents for the modernization of the traffic signals at E Bridge St & Delmorr Ave and E Bridge St & Pennsylvania Ave.
 - c. Approval of Chief Ciampa disposing of a nonfunctioning Hewlett Packard Laser Jet Pro200.



- d. Approval of Ivins Outreach Center Run Through History 5K event and associated safety plan (Reviewed by Police Chief) on Saturday, June 13, 8am to 1pm at Williamson Park.
- e. Approval to allow Summerseat to use Patriots Park for Celebration 250 events, with the stipulation that Summerseat provides waivers and insurance to the Borough prior to any event. Any muskets discharged during events must be reviewed and approved by Morrisville Police Department before use. (Events are not cosponsored by the Borough.)
- f. Approval to allow the fourth of July wagon parade road closures (Clymer, Harper, Hillcrest and Legion Avenues surrounding Summerseat) pending review and approval by Chief of Police. Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Kelso.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

10. Action Items

- a. Motion to approve the Part-Time Police hourly rate increase from \$29.00 to \$32.00 effective April 1, 2026, with \$1.00 incremental annual increases January 1, 2027 (\$33.00) and January 1, 2028 (\$34.00). Motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Ratti.
Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- b. Motion to approve Resolution granting Final Minor Subdivision approval to Morrisville Borough for the Minor Subdivision of T.M.P. #24-012-081, located at Penn Avenue. Motion made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Langer.
Discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- c. Motion to authorize Gilmore & Associates, Inc. to proceed with preparation of a grant application through the DVRPC Regional Trails Program for the four trail segments outlined in the trail grant opportunities grant report (levee trail and southern riverfront preserve, levee trail, Clymer Avenue bridge, and Franklin Street loop). Motion made by Ms. Colgan and seconded by Ms. Lanahan.
Discussion took place. Motion carried by roll call vote 4-4 with the mayor breaking the tie (Nay votes being: Debby Colgan, Anna Langer, Shawn Ratti and Peggy Walsh).
- d. Motion to authorize Gilmore & Associates, Inc. to proceed with the engineering and design for the W. Palmer Street Curb Ramp Project for an amount of \$20,255.00. The balance of the engineering costs is anticipated to be covered by the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund grant funding. Motion made by Ms. Kelso and seconded by Ms. Walsh.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- e. Motion to authorize Chief of Police to purchase a new 2026 Ford Explorer Police vehicle with an estimated cost of \$77,000 (including upfitting). Motion made by Ms. Lanahan and seconded by Mr. Robinson.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.
- f. Motion to co-sponsor "Rock and Roll 250" music event on Saturday, May 16, 12pm to 8pm. (No additional cost to the borough) Motion made by Mr. Ratti and seconded by Ms. Colgan.
No discussion took place. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

11. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- 1. Linda Myer – Hamilton Blvd., provided a report on the library and various programs.
- 2. Holly Harman – Plaza Blvd., stated agenda should be posted 24 hours prior to meeting and it was not posted last night around 10:30 pm.

12. Council Discussion Items

Ms. Langer: on January 26th she emailed the Borough Manager requesting financial documents. On Feb



3rd, Mr. Dillon responded, asking Virginia to put the information together and keep a time log. Feels there is a failure to communicate because they are at the beginning of a working partnership. Believes in full transparency and total disclosure of Morrisville Financial health, the premise of her request. Has full confidence Mr. Dillon would never compromise his reputation. Requesting financial documents as a council member is her fiduciary duty. Questioned why Helen responded, asking Virginia to work with the solicitor to ensure the account numbers are redacted and provide an estimated cost for completing.

Discussion took place.

Ms. Hlahol: spoke about new garbage totes; to be delivered to each address. If you do not have a tote by the end of the day April 3rd, contact the office. April 6th is the official start date for pickup using the new totes, you can only use the new garbage cans. There will be paperwork inside the tote which contains specific instructions and pertinent information.

Discussion took place.

Ms. Kelso: being a council member, I have previously seen very enthusiastic changes attempted only to see and then realize it not to have happened due to procedural steps that need to be addressed. I am speaking to the new members; you will hopefully be seeking advice for varying matters and speak to the seasoned council members to get feedback. As for social media, there was something that apparently was said in the beginning of January. If we are striving to be a unified council, I am strongly requesting you refrain from any negative comments about the council members. Thank you.

Ms. Walsh: thinks council should have working sessions. At boot camp, they were told that one meeting a month is the bare minimum and in talking with other municipalities most of them except for most of our surrounding boroughs and municipalities, with the exception of Bristol Township, do have a working session or an agenda session. She feels they can hash out some of the questions, suggestions, and reservations at work sessions.

Ms. Hlahol: what would help this council if the contentious comments being made by the four new council members against the other council members did not happen. A lot of those comments are incorrect, they are inaccurate and I might want to remind some of the people that those that used to sit in the audience snickering are now complaining about current people in the audience snickering. I am going to say meeting adjourned.

Mr. Ratti: I had an unrelated thing to bring up, something not contentious, a street issue that was brought up to me by residents. Bowling Green Court, it is a non-dedicated street issue, they do not receive plowing services. Residents called during the last snowstorm and because the street is non-dedicated, it is not covered by the borough, public works could not plow the street. He would like to get the street dedicated.

Discussion took place.

- 13. Mayor Comments** – March is social work month; he thanked all the social workers for all they do especially Taylor downstairs. He talked with Taylor about how a lot of elderly residents seem to be forgotten about by family, friends, loved ones and their being left alone. Let us keep our eyes out for our neighbors, if we see mail piling up or the grass not being cut, feel free to call for a wellness check, or knock on the door and make sure everyone is okay. Let us take care of one another. Have a great evening.

Ms. Colgan: In January she emailed Mr. Dillon to let him know that parks and rec were meeting the last Thursday of the month. She did the same in February, but when she arrived for the meeting, there was a sign posted on the door saying the parks and rec committee was not an authorized committee and they are not authorized to utilize Borough Hall. Does not understand why she was not notified earlier and why they cannot meet at Borough Hall. Got an estimate of \$159/month for the borough to have port-a-potties at the park and feels it is not too much money to do for a few months. She requested to have the escrow balances listed on the financial reports.



Mr. Holbert: Borough Hall is not a public use building from the standpoint of anyone can just come in here and meet. If we let anyone meet here, we have to let everyone meet here and that would require an actual policy and development if you want to do that but just know that no one can just walk in here and hold a meeting, so that was the reason. It is just the fact that it is either no one or it is everyone and right now the borough's policy is no one other than Borough Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, those entities.

Ms. Colgan: that is a new decision, group has been a resident committee for years and meeting here, why we would wait until the day of the meeting to put a note on the door to tell people they cannot meet here. Stated she has no mechanism to relay information to the engineer what the residents have been asking for for years.

Mr. Holbert: you can relay it through the manager or council president.

Ms. Lanahan: doesn't he have an email; we can email him and a phone number?

Mr. Dillon: stated you have my email; I do respond to my emails. I am not aware of any other municipality that has committees. A comparable municipality got rid of their committees 45 years ago. You have a committee of the whole, which is your elected officials, and you discuss it and act on it as a committee of the whole, having a park and rec committee, police committee, street and highway committee, they went out many years ago. I am not aware of anybody in Bucks County that has such a committee. I think this borough has gotten a lot done in the last year and a half, two years.

Ms. Hlahol: it has been getting a lot done and lately there has been a lot of roadblocks put into prevent Mr. Dillon from doing his job. Mr. Dillon, can you assure the public that we are financially solvent?

Mr. Dillon: yes, and we have outside certified public accounts that do the audits, not sending our financial records to an email address and God only knows where it is going to be dispersed and who is going to be making interpretations. You have a certified public accountant firm that does your audits and you are in excellent financial shape.

Ms. Hlahol: regarding port-a-potties, John Later can attest to this, and I can attest to this, PECO had port-a-potties sitting down on the Cloverleaf property while they were doing work and I saw that port-a-potty turned over three or four times. What happens when that port-a-potty gets damaged, it then becomes the borough's responsibility. John Later, I do not want to put you on the spot either, but I do believe that you mentioned you did not want port-a-potties down at the Culvin's Ferry Park because of that kind of issue, because of vandalism, because it is out of the way.

Mr. Later: I did say something like that, but I also said whatever council wants, if council wants it, we will put them down. If you tell me to put ten down there, I will put ten down there. They do have an issue of knocking them over, that is true.

Discussion took place.

14. Adjournment at 9:08 p.m.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZOIwzDxVh0>