

City of Morgantown
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
August 16, 2022

Regular Meeting: August 16, 2022: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 7:06 pm.

Present: City Manager Kim Haws, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, City Clerk Christine Wade, Mayor Jenny Selin, Deputy Mayor Danielle Trumble, and Council Members Joe Abu-Ghannam, Bill Kaweck, Ixya Vega, Dave Harshbarger by zoom and Brian Butcher by zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

Approval of Minutes: August 2, 2022, Special Meeting minutes; and August 2, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Correspondence: None

Public Hearings: None

Unfinished Business: None

Boards & Commissions: None

Public Portion:

There being no individuals to speak, Mayor Selin declared the public portion closed.

Special Committee Reports:

Special Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness – Members: Mayor Selin, Deputy Mayor Trumble, Councilor Vega, Councilor Harshbarger, and Councilor Butcher.

Consent Agenda: None

New Business:

An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement: This Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement with EAN Holdings, LLC at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

Salt Bid for FY 2022-2023: This Salt Bid request was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above-entitled Salt Bid for FY 2022-2023. Motion carried 7-0.

City Manager's Report: shared that there is a group of individuals who are working on developing a recommendation to council regarding vacant structures that will be brought to council within the next month. He advised that they will also address the fee structure as what can be done to incentivize better the care for older structures and dilapidated structures. City Manager attended a vitality committee meeting for Main Street for the downtown. He mentioned that there is a pilot program going on for three months in which the partnership is assuming management of the downtown Morgantown organization, noting that Amy Loomis has been assigned temporarily to over oversee it. He shared that one of the chief areas of concern that was addressed by many of the business owners in the downtown area was the misconduct of certain residents in the downtown area, noting that these things make it difficult for businesses and property owners to attract businesses to the downtown. There is going to be an effort by the business community to provide some recommendations as to how we can work together to help mitigate some of these issues in the downtown. Manager Haws attended the

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Sunnyside organization meeting with the architect who they have a contract with to design and provide some concepts for what the Sunnyside area is going to look like.

Report from Deputy City Clerk: shared that they are still accepting applications for police officer. One quick way to locate the application is to go on to our website at Morgantownwv.gov. The written exam and agility will be held at the end of October or early November. She reminded to reach out to the clerk's office for additional information. Regarding the Fire candidates, 27 passed the agility. The written test is coming up at the end of August. Municipal Government Week is October 17 – 20, and she asked that council get back to her on some of those ideas she sent. City Clerk Wade also shared that the clerk's office has been vamping up for the election, working with Andrew Stacy and his staff to do the marketing because it is going to be different this year as not all Ward's will be up for election.

Report from City Attorney: shared that they are working on various ordinances for council's consideration. The next Home Rule Plan Amendment is among those. They have discussed various forms of it for quite a while now and they are working with state agencies to get comments in support for the initiatives that have been discussed pursuing. One was to put city tax liens or fee liens on parity with federal and state taxes that are collected at delinquent sales. The other item to update is that city council approved the application to the voluntary remediation program through the EPA for the White Park site. He shared that they did receive the conditional acceptance of the application to the program. There are a few comments on the exceptions to address and staff has already updated the map to address those, and our consultants are working to provide a plan to address the other couple of sampling related comments, but they are moving through that program and moving forward.

Report from Council Members:

Councilor Abu-Ghannam: reminded folks that the WVU students are back, and he thanked everyone for their patience. Teachers go back to work this weekend, and students will return to school the following week. Get ready for the school buses to be on the road again, plan for your trip to work to have a little bit more of a delay because of that. He shared that he had a wonderful time at the WV Municipal League conference. He was thankful for the help in getting him signed up. He gave kudos to Deputy Mayor Trumble for her presentation at the Municipal League conference.

Councilor Kawecki: shared that we performed very well as a city at the WV Municipal League conference with our Deputy Mayor making her presentation, and our GIS Analyst Marvin Davis also presenting. He gave kudos to staff and the wonderful activities that are occurring here as sometimes you don't hear about them. In terms of what our City Manager said earlier on, we are addressing Sunnyside up, he was very proactive in terms of saying as we talk for example, about how Sunnyside might access the Riverfront. He was suggesting that it was not just simply Sunnyside that needed the access, but also the rest of the city and that we should consider that in a more holistic manner. He believes that the entire concept of Sunnyside was not simply meant to be Sunnyside only, it was meant to be near campus neighborhoods that were being developed. He shared that they are cognizant of that and that we are taking that into consideration. In the Second Ward and over in South Park, bring your pocketbook over to the area on Saturday, it is the great super sale where you can find all kinds of wonderful items. The church is going to be offering refreshments. It is a lot of fun and it's quite good for the neighborhood. Then next SPAN meeting is on the 24th and that will be at Eaton Park located at the corner of Morris and Park Street in the green area.

Mayor Selin: shared that she appreciated that the Municipal League came to Morgantown and everyone's participation in it, noting that these types of meetings are nice learning opportunities because of all the classes that were offered. And opportunities to network with other cities and being able to discuss municipal issues in a variety of settings, including social settings. She thanked the clerk's office for their participation in it and helping with the organization before and during and thanked everyone else who did such a nice job representing our city. She looks forward to continued work with MUB on recreation possibilities as it is a unique opportunity to offer recreation and a brand-new water body in our area, including non-motorized boating, fishing, walking, and biking. Regarding Municipal Government Week, she recommended something like a read aloud activity at the library as one possibility. Mayor Selin stated that the concert series is wrapping up for the year, she shared her appreciation of BOPARC and their Sounds of Summer concert series which takes place in the neighborhoods, and the wonderful concerts that have been going on at the Waterfront. People really appreciate these activities; they express that appreciation and they come back repeatedly to the concerts and it's making a big difference in our community.

Councilor Vega: shared that she was out with COVID for almost three weeks, and that she is lucky to be alive and grateful. She invited folks to drive to Wiles Hill to check out the blessing box at that Church of the Brethren. Many great folks are filling it, but not many are taking anything out of it. She asked council if they could post the information on their council pages to make sure that people know that this is available. She was excited to share that there is a Sister Cities Commission meeting on the 25th, and now if you work inside the city of Morgantown, you can apply to be a part of the Sister Cities Commission, and this is a very exciting opportunity so please feel free to apply. There is a single stream recycling drop off event August 27. They are hoping to have the Health and Wellness Commission at the next Artwalk to talk about mental health and to spread awareness about the changed phone number for the suicide hotline, which is 988. Councilor Vega asks folks to spread the word to make sure that people are focusing on their mental health. It's been a rough,

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weird couple of years with COVID and coming out and coming back in and seems like the world's always on fire so be sure to be checking in on yourself.

Deputy Mayor Trumble: shared that she was excited that despite getting canceled earlier in the week, the Chris Haddox and Hillbilly Gypsies concert was rescheduled and happened on Sunday, noting that they are always happy to watch the Woodburn Fifth Ward resident Chris Haddox perform. She attended last night with Councilor Kawecki, the YCF and the Arts Council of Greater Morgantown arts grants award ceremony at the Met. Deputy Mayor attended that event last year and this year she was excited to see that there were several organizations whose main mission isn't necessarily arts programming, but they are getting in there and supporting the arts. Friends of Decker's Creek is planning to do an outdoor art series, MRTC is doing the handmade market and they're putting a mural in the wharf district, and the Botanic Garden is looking to expand some sculpture in their area. The Planning Commission met last week and there was a recommendation for some firearms zoning regulations, however no action was taken on that. The Development Services Director and staff made a few recommendations for alternatives that she feels they should consider compared to what was brought before them by protect Morgantown. They decided to take some additional time, get more information, and get more community input. There will be a Woodburn Mural Community Paint on Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 12pm to 5pm at the Woodburn Community Complex in the gymnasium. The artist is doing a fabric style mural that adheres to the wall, so she is having community members come out and help her paint panels for that to be incorporated. If you're interested in public art and in having your artistic talents shown off in a mural stop by. Celebrate Woodburn an Arts Community, which is one of the BOPARC sounds of summer concert series concerts, will be happening Thursday, August 25, from 6pm to 9pm at Whitmore Park behind the original Mario's Fishbowl. Chris Haddox will also be performing, along with Lords of Lester, and Sugar Maple. The final Woodburn event upcoming on Sunday, September 11, from 3pm to 6pm they will be having their community block party and picnic in the 600 block of Louisa Avenue.

Councilor Harshbarger: thanked the city and our contractor Anderson Excavating for being able to paint three sections of our Rail Trail. Those sections were 20 years old, original paving and they are now smoother than ever. The South Hills Neighborhood are having their annual Block Party picnic the same day as the Deputy Mayor is from 4pm to 7:30pm in South Hills. He will send out invitations once he has them to folks who are able to attend.

Councilor Butcher: shared that Morgantown Pride is going to have their parade on the 27th and block parties on the 28th. There are somewhere around 50 vendors registered. Registration has closed unfortunately; however they are still accepting donations.

Executive Session: Pursuant to West Virginia Code 6-9A-4(b)(2)(9) to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege or potential litigation. Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Time: 7:43 p.m. Present: City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Councilor Vega, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 11:02 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor