

**City of Morgantown**  
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 29, 2023**

**Regular Meeting: August 29, 2023:** The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Wednesday, August 29, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

**Present:** City Manager Kim Haws, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Clerk Christine Wade, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Mayor Jenny Selin, Deputy Mayor Joe Abu-Ghannam and Council Members Bill Kawecki, Louise Michael, Danielle Trumble, Dave Harshbarger and Brian Butcher.

**Approval of Minutes:** August 15, 2023, Special Meeting minutes and August 15, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.

**Correspondence:**

Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority Annual Report – Christal Crouso, Executive Director presented an annual report on the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority.

Community Coalition for Social Justice – Michael Attfield presented an annual report on the Coalition for Social Justice.

Presentation of An Ordinance Amending Articles 523, Entitled “Litter”, 1139, Entitled “Solid Waste Collection”, and 1145, Entitled “Weeds and Noxious Materials” – Director of Development Services Rickie Yeager

Director of Development Services Rickie Yeager explained. After discussion, the above Ordinance will be placed on the next meeting agenda on September 5, 2023.

Presentation of An Ordinance Amending Section 155.05 of the City Code Providing for Furnishing of Bond by Members of the Parking Authority – Parking Authority Director Dana McKenzie

Parking Authority Director Dana McKenzie explained. After discussion, the above Ordinance will be placed on the next meeting agenda on September 5, 2023.

**Public Hearing:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**Boards & Commissions:** None

**Public Portion:**

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Michael Attfield spoke regarding cleaning up Willey Street.

Joan Gibson spoke regarding her property and the city’s unwillingness to assist with neighbor’s use of her property on Cypress Street.

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

**Special Committee Reports:** None

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## Consent Agenda:

An Agreement with the Monongalia County Board of Education providing a Prevention Resource Officer at Suncrest Middle School.

An Agreement with the Monongalia County Board of Education providing a School Resource Officer at Morgantown High School.

Motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above agreements, by acclamation. Motion carried 7-0.

## New Business:

**An Ordinance Authorizing Agreement on Cypress Street:** The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Authorizing Agreement Regarding Cypress Street and Providing for Establishment of Cypress Street in the City Street System

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

**An Ordinance Providing for Establishment of Alley H:** The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Providing for Establishment of Alley H in the City Street System

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Kawecky, second by Councilor Trumble to approve and open Alley H. After further discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Kawecky, to amend the Ordinance to name the unnamed Alley H to Weez's Way. Motion carried 7-0.

**Amend the 2023 City Council Meeting Calendar:** The Amended 2023 City Council Meeting Calendar is being presented for approval.

City Clerk Christine Wade explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Councilor Butcher, to approve the amended City Council Calendar for the remaining of the 2023 year. The change was moving the Committee of the Whole meeting in October from the 31<sup>st</sup> to Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> to allow council to attend Trick-or-Treat. Also, to move the meeting date originally scheduled for November 8 to November 7, and to move the originally scheduled meeting from November 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 21<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried 7-0.

## City Manager's Report: None

**Report from City Clerk:** shared information related to the upcoming state auditor's training in Bridgeport. The Fire Civil Service Commission in collaboration with the Morgantown Firefighters will be holding an open house for their physical agility on September 30, 2023, to help prepare those potential candidates for the agility test. She shared that the goal is to reach many people and that any interested people can reach out to the Clerk's office or complete a Fire Job Interest Form that is currently on our website at [www.morgantownwv.gov/fire](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/fire). An email invite was sent to about 225 folks who had completed the job interest form. It's going to be at the Northside fire station and basically the firefighters will set up the agility course and show the potential candidates how the agility course is run and allow them to ask questions and do the test. The Police Civil Service Commission will be holding a promotional exam on October 4 for one first sergeant and two sergeants. Municipal Government Week is October 16-19, and we will be engaging our community, our students, and celebrating our employees. The Police Civil Service Commission will be holding entry level police officer testing on October 28. We're still taking applications and information can be found on our website at [www.morgantownwv.gov](http://www.morgantownwv.gov).

**Report from City Attorney:** shared that council received the presentation of updates to the litter code this evening, and that one of the things that portion of the city code does is designate special litter prevention officers who can enforce the litter prohibitions. He stated that we regularly do training for the city employees who are designated to those positions because they don't have the ordinary law enforcement training regarding citations and other enforcement measures. Another training session is set for late September where the new Fire Marshal and new Deputy Building Official will attend and then go through that training process to be prepared to issue those citations and enforce the code. He referred to Director McKenzie's discussion about ongoing work with the Parking Authority on

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managing their codes and facilities. One of the things they're looking at with Development Services and Arts and Culture is how food trucks are regulated and permitted in the downtown areas. These departments are coordinating to get together to look at changes to both ordinances and permitting processes. The Lakeland Hydroelectric Project is undergoing relicensing through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Mon River Trails Conservancy has intervened and filed comments regarding the recreation plan if any council members have interest in that facility and operation, this is the Cheat Lake Dam.

## Report from Council Members:

**Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam:** shared that there was a misrepresentation made of the trees on High Street and he provided a correction. The trees are Frontier Elms. If you Google that it is the first choice for residential, as well as city streets streetscapes and when they were planted around 2006 the organization that planted them did not bury them enough causing some of the current root problems. He stated he appreciated the hard work and expertise of our Tree Board. He did report that those trees are much happier now with a little more room to grow. The next First Ward meeting is September 25 at Jack Roberts Park, and they will be discussing the upcoming Halloween trick or treating. He shared his appreciation with Clerk Wade for the collaboration in working on events for Municipal Government Week stating that the kids are really looking forward to it. The next MMMPO meeting is Wednesday, September 6, and they will be hosting the West Virginia Vulnerable Road User Assessment and it will be an open house for people to discuss thoughts and concerns as it relates to the pedestrian safety in and around our community. The meeting will be from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm at Mountainline Headquarters in Westover, and he will have that posted on his Facebook for anybody interested in attending.

**Councilor Kawecki:** shared that there will be a South Park Association meeting on August 30. The meeting will be held at Eaton Park located at the corner of Park and Morris Street. There will be new officer elections and there will be some discussion about the block party, which will be coming up on Friday, September 8.

**Councilor Michael:** thanked Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli and City Manager Kim Haws, for their help in getting the Alley H issue completed as it's been a lot of years in the making. She also thanked them for their help with the abandoned house, stating that it's been such a long and tough legal issue. She is happy that they are going to be able to do something to clean the neighborhood up and make it look nice. The First Ward sign is here and will go up in a couple of weeks at the corner of Willowdale and Afton.

**Councilor Trumble:** shared that the Woodburn sign is up. It has been a long 22 months since it disappeared. She invited everyone to drive by the Richwood and Mon Avenue intersection to see it. She has already talked to the Urban Landscape Director, and they are working on some landscaping plans and hope to have a ribbon cutting this fall when they do their Woodburn neighborhood party. The City of Huntington is moving forward to a Private Outdoor Designated Area (PODA). They have installed their signs, they are getting their permits, and they really took advantage of all the hard work that she and the attorney put in, and the two of them are trying to get Morgantown to take advantage of that as well. She had the opportunity with Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam to attend the Grand Opening for Lauren's Wish over the weekend. They have been open for several months but just had their grand opening. They have now served to as of Saturday 262 clients with a 92% placement rate into longer term rehabilitation. They are doing a lot of good work there. If you haven't had a chance to visit that facility, she highly recommends contacting them and scheduling a visit there. They're really filling a gap that existed in our community. She also had the opportunity with some city staff and Councilor Kawecki to attend a celebration of some firefighters who have celebrated 25 years with the city, Captain Lemley and Lieutenant Jenkins with the Morgantown Fire Department. Last week, they got together with the Fire Civil Service Commission and helped honor them with a presentation of plaques and congratulatory letters. She encouraged all of us as we go into Labor Day weekend to really reflect on city employees and ensuring that they are shown the appreciation that they deserve because a lot of people in the city work very hard, especially our civil service employees as a lot of times that's a thankless job and it's a difficult job. She is not sure that they're getting the gratitude that they deserve, especially from us in the city. She is still requesting a charter review subcommittee to be formed to explore potential changes to the charter.

**Councilor Harshbarger:** shared that there was some concern in the Sixth Ward about speeding. He thanked Drew Gatlin as within 24 hours there was a radar gun sign showing your speed and telling you you're going too fast, or you're going slow enough. He shared that Mr. Gatlin was responsive and that the neighbors really appreciated it. The South Hills Annual Block Party is September 10 from 4 pm to 7:30 pm, up the top of Vandalia in South Hills. Mon River Trail Conservancy (MRTC) was awarded a grant through the DOH to repave a section of the trail that will go out to bid on September 12, and will go from the Arboretum to the end of the pavement in Star City. Once it occurs, because it is a DOH project, the potential is that the trail will be shut down through that stretch until it's completed in December. There are a few special events that MRTC hopes to work with the DOH's vendor on who is doing the paving. There are a couple of fun runs and such that can be held. If you're using that area for recreation or transportation, it's a good chance if this proceeds with the bid on September 12 that it could be down for most of the fall.


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**Councilor Butcher:** thanked all the WVU faculty and students that have spoken out against the cuts that are looming on the university, and for them organizing an event at 123 in protest at the university. He hopes that the administration can find a better path forward with those people in mind.

**Mayor Selin:** thanked Councilor Butcher, Matt Cross, and Chris for an excellent block party. The party was to open the Fairy Garden which, if you're not familiar with the fairy garden, has some fairy houses that were made by children in the center. The Fairy Garden is located at Turtle Park, which is otherwise known as Suncrest Mini Park off Collins Ferry Road. It looked to have been a wonderful time and well attended, and a proper celebration of all the hard work of those who live in that area and others who came and helped to plant. It is a good example of stewardship in the neighborhood, working in their park and going through all the permissions which took a lot longer than the actual making of the garden.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to West Virginia State Code Section 6-9A-4(b)(12) to discuss potential or pending litigation and matters protected by attorney-client privilege. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Time: 8:33 p.m. Present: City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Butcher, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 10:23 p.m.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Mayor