

City of Morgantown
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 2023

Regular Meeting: September 19, 2023: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Wednesday, September 19, 2023, at 7:15 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: Louise Michael, Danielle Trumble, Dave Harshbarger and Brian Butcher. Bill Kawecki was present via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: August 29, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes; September 5, 2023, Special Meeting minutes; and September 5, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes were approved as presented by acclamation.

Correspondence: None

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

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

There being no appearances, Mayor Selin declared the Public Hearing closed.

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

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

There being no appearances, Mayor Selin declared the Public Hearing closed.

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Amending Articles 523, Entitled "Litter", 1139, Entitled "Solid Waste Collection", and 1145, Entitled "Weeds and Noxious Materials"

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

There being no appearances, Mayor Selin declared the Public Hearing closed.

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Amending Section 155.05 of the City Code Providing for Furnishing of Bond by Members of the Parking Authority

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

There being no appearances, Mayor Selin declared the Public Hearing closed.

Unfinished Business:

An Ordinance Providing for Establishment of Alley H: The Ordinance was presented for approval.

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

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Michael, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance by allowing Alley H to become part of the City Street System. Motion carried 7-0. After discussion, motion by Councilor Michael, second by Councilor Trumble, to amend Alley H to say "Lavender Way." Motion carried 7-0.

City of Morgantown

Boards & Commissions:

Motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to appoint, by consensus, Sameera Abu-Ghannam, to the Woodburn Commission for a 3-year term: 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2024.

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

There being no individuals who spoke, Mayor Selin declared the public portion closed.

Special Committee Reports: None

Consent Agenda:

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

An Ordinance Amending Articles 523, Entitled “Litter”, 1139 Entitled, “Solid Waste Collection”, and 1145, Entitled “Weeds and Noxious Materials”

An Ordinance Amending Section 155.05 of the City Code Providing for Furnishing of Bond by Members of the Parking Authority

Motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to approve the above-entitled Ordinances. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Monongalia County Commission for Animal Control Services: The Resolution was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

A Resolution Authorizing Application for Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant: The Resolution was presented for approval.

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

Fire & Police Pension Annual Report:

Finance Director Kevin Tennant explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Michael, to approve the Fire & Police Annual Report. Motion carried 7-0.

2024 City Council Meeting Calendar:

After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to approve the 2024 City Council Meeting Calendar. Motion carried 7-0.

City Manager’s Report: shared that much of the airport’s success is based on enplanements, or the number of passengers the processes through the airport. The city’s goal is to hit at least 10,000 enplanements because that increases the level of FAA contributions to the airport significantly. As of the end of August they have had 4600, and last year for the entire year they had 7200 passenger enplanements. The estimate is that we are going to be right on course to equal last year, sharing that there have been several issues to deal with as it relates to flights. One is pilot shortages due to the large commercial airlines that offer a significant sign on bonus. The other part is the type of aircraft that we use, many of the parts for replacement and repair come out of Ukraine. Regardless, for approximately three months, at least one flight is canceled each day, most of the time that’s in the morning. And that’s once again due to

City of Morgantown

crew shortage, mandatory rest issues, and things like that. Certainly, the runway extension will help improve the enplanements because the airport will be able to bring in larger aircraft. The IT Department has overseen the placement of approximately 24 surveillance cameras to date downtown. There are 26 more cameras to be installed in the downtown area. They have added a couple of locations that were not initially part of this project. Several of them are going to be focused on hot spots. They are hoping that these cameras will help not only to deter crime but hope to help law enforcement be able to do their jobs more efficiently. These cameras will be live and monitored by MPD Dispatch.

Report from City Clerk: shared that on September 30, the Fire Civil Service Commission will be holding an agility open house for folks who have not applied for the fire department but for someone who may find an interest in becoming a firefighter. Municipal Government Week is October 16-19, 2023. The first event is on Tuesday the 17th, and that's the touch a truck event at Eastwood Elementary. This event is for the students. Vehicles such as a fire truck, police cruiser, bucket truck, dump truck, snowplow, and an airport snowplow will be there. Wednesday is the mock city council meeting and that will be held in the municipal courtroom. Thursday the 19th, the Clerk's Office will be visiting employees and sharing with them a treat as a token of appreciation from our administration. On October 28, 2023, at 9am there is a Police Civil Service Commission entry level police officer exam and agility, and applications are still being accepted. If folks would like more information about that they can find the information on the city's website or they can reach out to the clerk's office.

Report from City Attorney: shared that he will be having a phone conference with municipal attorneys this coming week. If any council members have issues that they have heard other cities are working on and would like information about or would like him to discuss with other cities, please let him know. He shared that he is aware that they have been working with the clerk's office on scheduling legislators to come in ahead of the upcoming session to talk about legislative agenda items or just other state level initiatives to prepare for. He stated that he will be happy to help them with those whether that is drafting or just reaching out to delegates to work with them on how to pursue those objects. They will be conducting a special litter prevention officer training on the 27th. Some Fire Marshals, Code Enforcement Officers, and Development Services Director are all newly designated or re designated as Litter Prevention Officers with citation authority under the ordinance adopted tonight.

Report from Council Members:

Councilor Kawecki: No Report

Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam: shared that the MHS students are excited to go down to the courthouse for the mock city council meeting. He reminded council that they are all invited to come as upset citizens. Director of Communications Drew Bailey is going to come and do a presentation to his marketing students, and the tourism class as well, and talk about the new logo and branding as it relates to cities and travel. He had the opportunity to attend the Social Justice fair at Ruby this past Sunday and he shared that it was fantastic. He heard Al Anderson from Osage noting that he is a wonderful singer. You watched his family play the steel drums and learn a little bit about all the different things around town that you can do and help with, and the League of Women Voters getting people to sign up to vote. Monday is the First Ward neighborhood meeting at Jack Roberts Park at six o'clock, and the Tree Board meeting on Monday as well as they will be planning for Morningtown's Arbor Day, which is in October. He shared that he appreciated the opportunity to get the tour again at the airport, which he always loves as he is a big fan of airports. He grew up basically inside one because his dad worked for Dulles Airport for many years. So, to see our small airport grow gives him hope.

Councilor Michael: thanked IT Manager Tim Povroznik, Kim, Emily, and everyone that was involved in helping get the cameras installed. She believes the cameras will be helpful for the safety of our residents and businesses, and enforcement, and she is very excited to see this done. She realizes it is a huge job to install the cameras and get them in operation.

Councilor Trumble: shared that she is excited about the cameras being installed. She reminded everyone that it is voter registration day and that if you are not sure if you're registered or if you have any changes to make to your voter's registration, go to www.govotewv.org and make sure that your registration is updated and all correct. She attended a subcommittee meeting with the Green Mountain Neighborhood Association about Brockway truck traffic, and they came away from that with a few action items that the group is working on. They will meet again next week. Bill Austin, the Director of the MMMPO, attended that meeting and she believes they came away with a couple of good things to start. She also attended the airport meeting and got to drive around all over the property and see a lot of the work that's being done. Last week she attended a meeting for the warming shelter, and she advised that we are still in crisis with that initiative. The city has set aside some funds, the county has set aside some funds, they have an organization who has stepped up to take over that. Morgantown Community Resources has committed to making sure that the day room at Hazel's House of Hope is open at least during the daytime hours during the winter. Right now, they are open for anyone that doesn't know. The Day Services Center at H3 is open from 10am to 3pm, Tuesday through Friday for showers and laundry service. Health Right, Christian Help Bartlett House, and other organizations are registering some of their clientele. They accept walk-ins as available. They have committed

City of Morgantown

to making sure that it is open longer hours and more days during the winter, but they are still having a hard time finding anywhere that has enough space for any type of overnight accommodation. They are meeting again next week. And then the Coalition to End Homelessness has a meeting in the first week of October. They intend to bring this to them and ask what their suggestions are at that meeting. She shared that her son takes classes at the Mountaineer Homeschool Hub in the Woodburn Complex and Chris Dale with MUB was kind enough to set up a field trip for that group today. They had 15 or 20 kids and their parents there. She thanked MUB and Chris Dale for setting that up, the kids had a great time. M. T. Pockets, this weekend and next weekend, is doing a One Act Play Festival show, which is one of their largest and most well attended over the course of the year. There's a MonDems picnic tomorrow at 5pm at Krepps Park. They're going to have a few of our delegates there and a few candidates for office. The Morgantown Hockey Association Blades are having a fundraiser this Sunday the 24th at 11am at Levels downtown. It is a \$10 open play cover and that goes to benefit the hockey team.

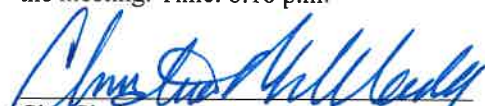
Councilor Harshbarger: shared that the next MUB meeting will be this Thursday at 5:30 pm and if council has any items for discussion to please let him know. The Mon River Trail Conservancy, they have not had a half marathon in a year due to bus logistics and the costs with that. The largest fundraiser has become a bike ride called The Century Ride where several riders cover the entire course of 100 miles on the rail trail. Donations and pledges towards those riders can be made per mile and that's going to take place between October 14 to the 22nd where they will pick the day during that window and ride the entire rail trail, raising money for our rail trails. There has been some discussion on how to address the Japanese Knotweed along Decker's Creek. Councilor Harshbarger spoke with Zach Fowler of the Arboretum because they deal with it as well, and his suggestion was to just cut it down, remove it as a barrier and then wait and herbicide it next year. The best way to herbicide it is to let it grow until June, cut it down in June and then let it be until early September and then cut it down one more time. Then lastly herbicide it. They had a South Hills picnic a week ago Sunday and it was fun. They had about 70-80 residents attend. He had an opportunity to tour the airport and he shared that it was amazing to see how much has been done and how much property is out there with the additional purchase that the city has secured.


Councilor Butcher: shared that on September 28 at 7pm there is a Suncrest Neighborhood meeting, they still are trying to decide a location for that meeting. On October 27, they will have the Pride parade, and then on October 28 they will have a Homecoming Out which is the LGBTQ affirming dance for high school students talking to eighth grade and up and it will be at Morgantown Art Party. Last week he attended the WVU Board of Governors Meeting. There was a three-hour public comment session on the cuts being made at WVU. He stated that it was disturbing and heart wrenching to see all the faculty and students that are to be affected by these cuts. The LGBTQ Center, the library's already have their recommendation, which is an \$800,000 reduction of library at the libraries. Part of that assessment was already found that the libraries were understaffed, yet they've recommended another \$800,000 reduction. Several other programs such as WVU Press, the STEM Center, our Center for Veteran, Military and Family Programs, Career Services, Global Affairs, Accessibility Services, are all under review. He shared that many on council have interacted with these programs and what happens to them moving forward can really affect our community. He hopes council can have some better dialogue with the administration going forward as a community.

Mayor Selin: shared that she and the City Manager met briefly with the Superintendent of Schools and the President of the school board on site at Suncrest Primary School, and it was regarding last spring's vote by the school board to take down the Suncrest Primary School which is currently not being used by the school system. At the next neighborhood meeting at the end of this month, they will be discussing some of their ideas for use of that property. The current plan is to take down the school and then make the property into a grassy area and place some picnic shelters. She and the City Manager suggested that the neighborhood would like more and that they would be glad to partner on possibly writing grants or whatever else was needed to upgrade that idea. The plan for that property by the School Board and the school system is possibly for a preschool building/center. The deed for that property states that it needs to be used for educational or recreational purposes, and the neighborhood association is aware of that. She has heard from her fellow council people about initiatives in the downtown and in the neighborhoods and she looks forward to continuing their work and working with our management and our community to continue making our city better. Mayor Selin also stated that she does appreciate the cameras downtown.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Michaelk to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:16 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor