

City of Morgantown
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2023

Regular Meeting: October 17, 2023: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Wednesday, October 17, 2023, at 7:08 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

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

Approval of Minutes: October 3, 2023, Special Meeting minutes was approved as presented. October 3, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes will be on the next regular meeting agenda for approval.

Correspondence:

Mayor Selin presented a proclamation proclaiming November 1, 2023, as Extra Mile Day in the city.

Mayor Selin also presented a proclamation to Fire Chief Deem and Firefighters, and Police Chief Powell, proclaiming October 28, 2023, as National First Responders Day.

Public Hearing: None

Unfinished Business: None

Boards & Commissions:

Motion by Councilor Michael, second by Councilor Trumble, to appoint, by consensus, Dylan Thomas to the Health & Wellness Commission. The term he took over was as follows: 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2023.

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Danny Ludwig, 326 Brockway Avenue, spoke regarding the Warming Shelter.

Trista Huff, 439 Baird Street, spoke regarding the Warming Shelter.

Amanda Goddard, 439 Baird Street, spoke regarding the Warming Shelter.

Jennifer Powell, 215 Monongalia Avenue, spoke regarding the Warming Shelter.

Kait Layman, 143 Marchand Drive, spoke regarding the Warming Shelter.

Annie Cronan Yorick, 520 Pocahontas Avenue, spoke regarding needing volunteers for the Human Rights Commission and stated that if they would like to apply you can contact the City Clerk or apply through the city's website.

Tanner Ramsey, 116 Five Fork Drive, spoke regarding the Warming Shelter.

Ren Peterson, 742 Globe Avenue, spoke about the Warming Shelter and asked if the city can provide the funding for the winter.

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

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Special Committee Reports: None

Consent Agenda:

New Business:

A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Grant Funds (\$250,000) Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund:

The above-entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement: The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Jaclyn Sommavilla at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Michael, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilor Trumble voting no because the Lease Agreement was sent out to them in time to review before the meeting.

City Manager's Report: he stated that the city is continuing to attempt many opportunities in the recruitment process of law enforcement officers in the police department: Women in Law Enforcement Activity held at the Defense in Depth, and was a very good turnout with thirty in attendance and 20 interested in the whole process. He thanked everyone who helped make this happen and also expressed his appreciation to those in attendance. He stated that the Museum Manager position that is open will be offered to an individual that is hoping to start soon. He mentioned that the City Hall construction site was broken into, and about \$1,000 worth of tools were taken. Because of the surveillance cameras installed, the police were able to identify and arrest the individual. He stated that our police department did a great job on the investigation and that it is the start of positive things to come.

Report from City Clerk: No report

Report from City Attorney: No report

Report from Council Members:

Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam: Municipal Government Week October 16 – 20, 2023. Thanked Christine Wade and Drew Baily for presenting to several of his classes the branding process along with the new logo for the city. MHS students will be having a mock city council meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2023, in the Public Safety Building Municipal Court at 10am if anyone would like to attend. He mentioned that Morgantown High School Wrestling team hosted a Bingo on Saturday, October 14, 2023, and was successful. He reminded everyone that October 31, 2023, our city celebrates Halloween and Trick or Treat will be 6pm – 8pm.

Councilor Kawecki: he announced there will be a SPAN meeting Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at Eaton Park. He thanked those who come to help plant trees on Cedar Street below Maple Avenue, but it was delayed and has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10am if anyone would like to come and help.

Councilor Michael: announced that Friday, October 20, 2023, WVU will be having their Homecoming Parade at 6pm, and the roads will be closing at 4:30pm.

Councilor Trumble: Woodburn Association of Neighbors meeting will meet October 18, 2023, 7pm at the Woodburn Complex Gymnasium. She stated that if you have not read the proclamations presented, you should take them to heart because there is some work that needs to be done in those areas. She has been working on the Warming Shelter for 30 days after it closed last year. She noted she is very passionate about it and stated that the city has put aside money to fund it along with the county. That is not the issue, no organization has come forward to run it during the winter months. She mentioned that the Day room will be open daily from morning until the Salvation Army dinner service. She stated that they are working with Barlett House to expand their capacity for the winter, for the triage and or emergency services from twenty-eight bed to at least a forty bed. They are looking to see if there is any other space to add more beds to extend it beyond the forty beds. She stated that if there is anyone willing to take their own personal time to run the Warming Shelter, let her know. She noted that she has put her own personal time into this and does not want to see anyone in the elements. She gave a brief update on Hazel's House of Hope: Narcan vending machine at the Hope Hill Sobering Center is more popular

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than the facility. Salvation Army served over 2500 meals within September, 85 per day, and the Food Box Program gave out 117 food boxes and in addition Robyn Hess was able to work with the Mountaineer Food Bank to give away a lot of produce that day as well. Bartlett House is moving at least ten people a month into housing a month. Wells Spring served 131 clients, the Day Room is open for Laundry and Shower services and can sign up to get the services. Those who have signed up were twenty women to shower, fifty men to shower, and 130 loads of laundry were done. She stated that she has given tours to Hazel's House of Hope to those requesting them. Lauren's Wish will be celebrating their 1-year anniversary and have 302 clients with an average stay of over 8 days with an 87% placement rate. She mentioned that the average age is between 19 - 74 years of age. 202 of the 302 said that they had overdosed before with an average of five overdoses per person and are now in treatment. 130 of the 302 clients experienced some type of Physical, Mental, or Sexual abuse and 188 of those clients reported having 458 children.

Councilor Harshbarger: Gave Rail Trail updates. New amenities will be installed by the amphitheater before the calendar year ends, totem pole weigh finding signs between the Kayak Rental Facility and Decker's Creek Interchange to the Mon River Trail that will help direct people to other services and amenities in the downtown wharf. Lighting will be installed under the bridge where it meets Decker's Creek by the Mon River Trail and will be operational before the end of the year. There are riders still doing the Century ride that covers every aspect of the Rail Trail for the 100-mile ride that are raising funds for the maintenance of the Rail Trail. If you would like to sponsor riders for pledges, you may get on the Mon River Conservancy website.

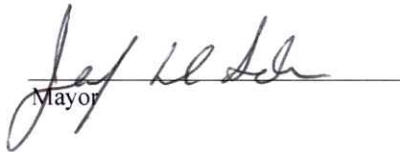
Councilor Butcher: attended the Philanthropy West Virginia Conference in Wheeling, WV, located at Oglebay Resort. One of the items discussed was the Warming Shelter and Hotel Program and how they interact together within the community. He mentioned the passing of Darin Lester who was a good friend that will be missed in the community.

Mayor Selin: she appreciated all of those working on the Warming Shelter because people started so early last year, everyone thought it would be solved by now. She noted that there is funding for it, but no one has stepped up to run it during the winter months. She announced that the recruitment for Women in Policing was held on October 11, 2023, had a great turnout. Morgantown Municipal Airport held a meeting of Women in Aviation. She asked if Halloween hours can be posted on our website to remind everyone that Trick or Treat will be Tuesday, October 31, 2023, from 6pm – 8pm. She appreciated everyone sharing all the events happening around town. She also mentioned the 50-year RDVIC event that took place on Friday, October 14, 2023, she was not able to attend due to a conflict.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to WV State Code Section 6-9A-4(2)(9) to discuss acquisition and or development of real estate in the Fifth Ward. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Time: 8:15 p.m. Present: City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 10:50 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor