

City of Morgantown
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 21, 2023

Regular Meeting: November 21, 2023: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Wednesday, November 21, 2023, at 7:21 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam.

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, and Dave Harshbarger. Brian Butcher was present via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: October 3, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes; October 17, 2023, Special Meeting minutes; October 17, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes; October 30, 2023, Special Meeting minutes; October 30, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Correspondence:

City Clerk Christine Wade administered Oath of Office to two new Morgantown Police Officers: Taidgh A. Dowd and Brendon H. Dayton.

Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam presented a proclamation to Amy Loomis proclaiming November 25, 2023, as Small Business Saturday. Amy Loomis shared a few words after receiving the proclamation.

Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam presented a proclamation to Marvin Davis proclaiming November 15, 2023, as GIS Day in the city.

GIS Analyst Marvin Davis presented to council a GIS Geospatial Presentation.

Public Hearing: None

Unfinished Business: None

Public Portion:

Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam declared the Public Portion open.

There being no other individuals who spoke, Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam declared the public portion closed.

Special Committee Reports: None

Consent Agenda: None

New Business:

A Supplemental Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of the Morgantown Building Commission Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2023 A (Marilla Park Aquatic Complex) and the Leasing of Certain Real and Personal Property from the Morgantown Building Commission: Approving the Form of a Lease Agreement, Bond Purchase Agreement, Continuing Disclosure Agreement, Preliminary Official Statement and other Instruments, Agreements and Documents, and Authorizing the Delivery of Such Preliminary Official Statement, all relating to the Issuance of the Morgantown Building Commission Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2023 A (Marilla Park Aquatic Complex): The above-entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained. Tom Aman and Robert Steptoe also explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

A Letter of Support for Health Rights Harm Reduction Program: The Letter was presented for approval.

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Laura Jones explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Mayor Selin, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the Letter of Support for Health Rights Harm Reduction Program. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilor Michael voting No.

An Ordinance authorizing the Purchase of Property in Fifth Ward District: The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance authorizing the Purchase of Property in Fifth Ward District, Morgantown, Monongalia County from the Monongalia County Development Authority

City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Mayor Selin, second by Councilor Trumble, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

An Ordinance authorizing a Lease with West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways: The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance authorizing a Lease with West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways

City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained. Motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. 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 Avis Budget Car Rental, LLC at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

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

Purchase of ETC Lighting System for the Metropolitan Theatre: The Purchase of ETC Lighting System for the Metropolitan Theatre was presented for approval.

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Mayor Selin, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the Purchase of ETC Lighting System for the Metropolitan Theatre. Motion carried 7-0.

An Ordinance abandoning a portion of East Brockway Avenue: The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance abandoning a portion of East Brockway Avenue

City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

A Resolution authorizing the creation of the Opioid Settlement Fund: The entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

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

Award for Council Strategic Planning Consultant: The Award for Council Strategic Planning Consultant was presented for approval.

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the Strategic Planning Consultant to Raftelis in the amount of \$58,000. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilor Trumble voting No.

Purchase a Skid Steer from Sourcewell: The Purchase of a Skid Steer was presented for approval

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Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Michael, to approve the Purchase of a Skid Steer from Sourcewell in the amount of \$66,208. Motion carried 7-0.

City Manager's Report: shared information related to the CDBG program, stating that over the years Morgantown has received its share of CDBG grants to provide funding for various projects. He is still not satisfied with the breakdown, the calculations, and the amount that we get in relation to other cities, but the fact of the matter is that the City of Morgantown continues to draw down CDBG funds for various projects. The process has begun the development of the city's five-year Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 24 through 28, and along with an annual action plan for 2024, and updating the city's analysis of the impediments to fair housing choices. The city is soliciting the views and comments of individuals and organizations concerning Housing, Community, and Economic Development needs in Morgantown. A survey was sent out to residents and will continue to be sent out. As of today, they have received 95 responses to the survey. On the 30th of November a community meeting will be held in the conference room at 430 Spruce Street. All interested residents are encouraged to attend the meeting hearing, and they will be given the opportunity to present oral and written testimony concerning the needs of the City of Morgantown and the use of CDBG funds for the next five years. Written or oral comments can be directed directly to Robin at 430 Spruce Street, by phone at 304-284-7479, or by email to rhess@morgantownwv.gov. They are hoping that those plans come back to City Council for approval early in May of 24. City Manager Haws shared that he had a good meeting with our airline that provides airline services out of our airport the other day with our Airport Director. He stated that Southern has had some major problems getting parts for airplanes, and problems with pilot shortages. The FAA increased its number of hours of training required to the point where it just makes it impossible for these small regional airlines to compete.

Report from City Clerk: shared that on October 4, the Police Civil Service Commission held their promotional exam for the ranks of Sergeant and First Sergeant. After the written exam and medical exams, Rob Balderston was promoted to First Sergeant and Rob Miranov and Joe Patterson were promoted to Sergeant. Congratulations to those officers as they move forward in their career. On December 13, the Police Civil Service Commission will hold their police captain promotional exam. On October 28, the Police Service Commission held their entry level police officer exam. 35 individuals applied, 16 showed up and took the written exam. Out of 16, Seven passed the written exam and five passed the agility. The Commission held their interviews on the same day after the agility exam, and that helped to fast track that process to get officers on board a little quicker. Clerk Wade thanked the Police Commissioners for their dedication. The Police Commission will meet again on December 6 to certify names and interviews have been allotted with our city administration and HR for December 11. The next entry level exam is set for March of 2024. Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis. For information on the next exam and to apply, folks can visit the city's website at morgantownwv.gov, hover over departments, click on the police department, and the PD page will pop up. Click on Apply Now and folks can apply online through that process, or they can visit the clerk's office.

Report from City Attorney: shared that he appreciates the council moving through all the new Marilla Pool construction financing items. They will work with Bond Counsel and the underwriter to get this through to closing tentatively scheduled for December 15. The project engineer has informed the low bidder of their intent to award so hopefully that project will get started soon.

Report from Council Members:

Councilor Butcher: shared that on Monday they held a stakeholder meeting chaired by Bartlett House to have all involved decision makers in the warming shelter effort come together and hammer out tentative agreements and spread information. There will be several volunteer opportunities as Bartlett house is currently hiring to have workers work the warming shelter out there at Hazel's House of Hope. He shared that it was a productive meeting and that they have some good collaborations. The Bartlett House website provides several different resources as far as like signing up to volunteer and making donations. On Sunday December 10, there will be a Human Rights Award Ceremony. There will be free parking and free food. There was also on Monday a gathering for individuals on the Courthouse Square for Trans Day of Remembrance.

Councilor Harshbarger: shared that he really enjoyed the National Christmas Tree coming through town and being at the courthouse. The city did a great job of helping to host and there was a phenomenal turnout. He stated that next week at the Committee of the Whole there will be presentations, and one of them will be from the Morgantown Utility Board. If there are any projects council would like him to prep the general manager on, please let him know. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Trumble: shared that she attended the National League of Cities conference in Atlanta where she attended multiple mobile workshops, sessions, and meetings, which included food insecurity, affordable housing, and homelessness response. She had several meetings with Federal Co-Chair Gail Mansion of the Appalachian Regional Commission. She has been trying to provide updates on her trip on her social media pages. Regarding the warming shelter, she noted that apparently, they should be calling it an emergency shelter because that helps get additional funding from other governmental agencies. We continued conversations, she went to the stakeholder meeting on Monday, had many phone calls, meetings, emails while she was gone, and they continue to try to work out the final facilities

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use agreement. Hope Hill Sobering Center has agreed to allow Bartlett House to utilize their space. They are ceasing sobering center operations as of November 30, and they will commit at that point to allowing Bartlett to utilize the spaces as an emergency shelter. They are still waiting on the board of Morgantown Community Resources to finalize their approval of the use agreement. They do have a board meeting next Tuesday before the Committee of the Whole so hopefully at least by that time they will have a definitive plan. Small Business Saturday is this weekend. There are a lot of fun stuff planned downtown, from specials at the local shops, to a vintage market, to the moonlight market in the afternoon and evening. There are food trucks, there's entertainment, and free parking.

Mayor Selin: shared that she is glad to witness the two new police officers taking their oath today. She spent last week in Atlanta at the National League of Cities meetings and brought back lots of ideas. She is excited to see our city moving forward with the new skid steer, lighting at the theater, moving the roadway to further the Richwood project, as well as the council strategic plan. She loved that the National Forest provided the National Christmas Tree coming through town, as it was better than a Hallmark movie. She thanked everyone who organized it.

Councilor Michael: wished everyone a nice thanksgiving.

Councilor Kawecki: shared regarding the strategic planning coming up, based on the progress that was made, he is hopeful that council can continue that, and even broaden some of the aspirations. He is looking forward to it and hopes that council will take it very much to heart, and work to establish something that will continue the forward progress. He thanked the City Clerk for linking the packet as it helps to get through it more efficiently, and once having read it to go back and find the specific items. Councilor Kawecki shared information about his garbage pickup. He stated that it had rained last night when the garbage company collected his garbage, they did not collect his recycling. He shared that they left both lids open after they had removed the garbage from his two cans. When he went out, he found his garbage cans and his newspaper recycling soaking wet. He stated that he didn't think it is terrible to ask, or difficult to ask, whoever is emptying the garbage to shut the lid, especially when it's raining. He hopes that this is communicated to the appropriate sources. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hopes that everybody has a good family gathering and plenty to eat.

Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam: shared that there was a successful event downtown, noting that it is still very whimsical out there, grinch aside, for Small Business Saturday. Speaking of downtown and it being whimsical with all the Christmas trees, the Tree Board has a meeting on Monday if anyone would like to attend. The following Monday is the First Ward neighborhood meeting at MTEch at 6pm, it is the first Monday of December, December 4. He shared that they have started working on their neighborhood sign and they have the perfect spot for it. He thanked everyone for the event that was put on downtown, noting that he heard a lot of really great things about it. He was excited to share that he received a phone call from Senator Manchin's office today advising that his wrestling team will be going to DC for a match and they're going to give them a tour of the Capitol next Friday. The kids are excited.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Councilor Michael, to adjourn the meeting.
Time: 9:43 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor