

REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 2, 2013: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: City Manager Terrence Moore, Deputy City Manager Jeff Mikorski, City Attorney Steve Fanok, City Clerk Linda Little, Mayor Jim Manilla and Council Members: Ron Bane, Wes Nugent, Jenny Selin, Marti Shamberger, Bill Byrne, and Linda Herbst.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2012 were approved as printed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Manilla recognized a member of Boy Scout Troop 64 in attendance to earn his citizenship badge.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Ms. Little reported the request from the Urban Landscape Commission, with regard to their wish to eliminate a commission seat specific to the Chamber of Commerce. She will research and report back with more information.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilor Byrne reported that the Sister City Commission is working on an upcoming dinner meeting with members of the WVU Chinese Student Association. Councilor Shamberger then reported on the latest meeting of the BOPARC Senior Center Advisory Board, reminding citizens that they may exercise at the Senior Center on Eureka Drive.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Tom Bloom, Monongalia County Commissioner, inquired about the possibility of combining and expanding existing recreation program administration and facilities with Monongalia County, stating there is interest in pooling resources with Morgantown.

There being no other appearances, Mayor Manilla declared the public portion closed.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget Adjustment Considerations Regarding Arts Alive Funding

After explanation from the City Manager, followed by discussion, motion by Bane, second by Selin to approve the budget adjustment for the Arts Alive Festival. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Authorization of FY2013-2014 Proposed Budget Calendar

After brief explanation from the City Manager, motion by Selin, second by Shamberger to approve the proposed FY13-14 budget calendar. Motion carried 7-0.

REPORT FROM CITY CLERK: Ms. Little reminded Council to forward any more items of discussion on legislative priorities to Mayor Manilla by January 9th; Council by consensus, agreed.

Next the City Clerk asked Council if they wish her to make arrangements with the County Clerk and pursue a ballot referendum for changing the City's Election date to be in line with Monongalia County's Primary Election; further asking for direction on any other Charter Changes, or other measures being considered by Council.

Discussion began on what issues with the Charter may arise, and whether Council wishes to move forward with changing the election date. The City Attorney also advised Council that a Charter Review Board cannot make a recommendation in time for the April 30th Election, stating also that the Board must be comprised of professionals who have the ability to make quality recommendations. Discussion continued and Council remained divided on the issue and did not come to consensus about placing the election date change on the ballot at this time. It was decided that the possibility of a Charter Review Board and research on Ward & Boundary review will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Lastly, Ms. Little announced that Candidate Packets for the upcoming election are available both in the office and online. Council then began to discuss when it is appropriate to start obtaining signatures for their petitions.

REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY: No Report.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilor Bane: Councilor Bane talked about the loss of Tim Saab, and then cautioned Council to be more conservative in the coming fiscal year in light of the current federal economic conditions.

Councilor Nugent: Councilor Nugent echoed comments for Mr. Saab and his family. He welcomed Commissioner Bloom and stated that it will be an interesting opportunity to further discuss combining recreation services with the county. He announced that the annual WVU Garden calendars are now available.

Councilor Selin: Councilor Selin also consoled the Saab family, and then asked that Council revisit the recently moved public portion and agenda order. Lastly, Councilor Selin urged everyone to purchase local goods and services, in the coming year.

By acclamation, Council agreed to discuss the public portion and agenda order at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councilor Shamberger: Councilor Shamberger complimented the Street department for their work clearing snow recently. She also congratulated the MHS Band for their Rose Bowl Parade appearance. She is also looking forward to discussing the combining of recreation services with the county.

Councilor Byrne: Councilor Byrne concurred with remarks of sympathy for the Saabs. He reminded citizens that the new recycling program begins

soon with use of the new totes. He then discussed the proposed change to the membership of the Sister Cities Commission at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilor Byrne expressed that he feels Home Rule is the most important legislative priority for the City.

Council then gave consensus to pursue the advancement of Home Rule as the body's sole legislative priority.

Councilor Selin then interjected a question about citizens who have not yet received their recycling totes. Mr. Moore urged her to contact the Manager's Office to have the issue resolved.

Councilor Herbst:

Councilor Herbst also extended condolences to the Saab family and added she is open to a discussion of consolidating BOPARC with the county. She remarked that citizens should be educated as to what the Home Rule program is, and what its impact would mean for the citizens and business owners of Morgantown.

Mayor Manilla:

Mayor Manilla remarked about Mr. Saabs passing. He noted that trash pickup has been hindered by recent winter weather. He recalled previous discussions to combine recreation administration with the county, and is glad to see the initiative being reviewed again. He looks forward to discussing the idea. Lastly, Mayor Manilla announced the Coalition for Social Justice's MLK Day events to be held on Monday, Jan. 21st at the Met Theatre.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further items of business or discussion, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:05 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

*A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS IS AVAILABLE ON DVD AT THE MORGANTOWN CITY LIBRARY.