

“What d’ya Know” – About Morgantown City Government?

March 13, 2013

A Self-Scoring Multiple Choice Quiz

1. What is the “permanent” resident population of Morgantown? Your Answers
- A. 27,500 B. 29,500 C. 35,500 D. 41,500 _____
2. There are approximately 16,600 registered voters in the City. What is the average percentage of voters who voted in the first 5 elections in the first decade of the 21st Century?
- A. 9% B. 12% C. 16% D. 22% _____
3. According to Census estimates, there are 12,664 total housing units in the City. Approximately how many of these units are rentals?
- A. 3,000 B. 5,000 C. 7,000 D. 9,000 _____
4. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights while University classes are in session, approximately how many young people gather each night in downtown Morgantown?
- A. 2,500+ B. 5,000+ C. 7,500+ D. 10,000+ _____
5. Police statistical records indicate that since 2009, the numbers of victims from crimes and the number of arrests show a trend:
- A. There are now more victims and fewer arrests.
B. There are now more arrests and fewer victims.
C. There are more WVU students and the numbers of victims/arrests have remained the same. _____
6. How many police officers are now in the Morgantown Police Department?
- A. 67 B. 87 C. 105 D. 179 _____
7. To add one police officer annually costs _____ plus training costs.
- A. \$40,000+ B. \$50,000+ C. \$60,000+ D. \$70,000+ _____
8. The Fire Department responds to calls relating to fire, emergencies, hazmat incidents, car wrecks, disasters, river emergencies, diving team needs, new construction inspections, inspection of all 3 + unit rental properties every three years, etc. How many calls did the Department respond to in the last calendar year?
- A. 1,800 B. 2,400 C. 3,000 D. 3,600 _____
9. How many fire stations are in operation 24 hours a day in the City at this time?
- A. 3 B. 4 C. 5 D. 6 _____
10. The average Fire Service Fee is computed to be \$117. Fire Service Fees pays for what percentage of the actual costs of the Fire Department?
- A. 90% B. 74% C. 59% D. 53% _____

11. Property Taxes for City residents and businesses pay what percentage of the costs of City Government?

- A. 55% B. 38% C. 26% E. 14% _____

12. There are 10,595 residential AND commercial property taxable properties in the City. In FY 2012 these units paid a total of \$3,207,000 in property taxes. This suggests that the average tax paying unit currently pays the amount of _____ per year in Municipal Property Taxes toward the benefits of City government.

- A. \$300 B. \$400 C. \$500 D. \$600 _____

13. If the average tax on utilities for a household or other unit of taxation is \$100, the average Fire Service Fee \$117 and the average Municipal is the amount computed in the previous question, this suggests that the total average cost for a taxable unit in the City is...

- A. \$517 B. \$617 C. \$717 D. \$817 _____

14. What percent of BOPARC program/service registrations are utilized by Morgantown residents?

- A. 42% B. 52% C. 62% D. 72% _____

15. How much in stipends do City Council members receive for attending all regular meetings of Council each year?

- A. \$2,800 B. \$4,200 C. \$6,000 D. None _____

16. In what year was the Morgantown City Hall built?

- A. 1905 B. 1914 C. 1925 D. 1933 _____

17. How many parking spaces does the Parking Authority supervise in the downtown/central city area?

- A. 800 B. 1,300 C. 1,700 D. 2,200 _____

18. The duties of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council Members of Morgantown include...

- Supervision of the day-to-day operations of the City
- Conferring with staff to assess the performance of the City Manager
- Making recommendations to the City Manager on the selection of personnel
- Conducting the policy decision-making of the City independent of the City Manager

- A. All of the above
B. All but one of the above
C. All but two of the above
D. None of the above _____

19. City Council has the jurisdictional responsibility to do the following:

- Control of tow trucks and taxi policies and permits in the city
- Control of placement of stuffed furniture on porches
- Control of solid waste pick-up systems in City
- Placement of utility wires underground
- Requiring fire inspection of all rental properties in the City
- Setting water and sewer rates
- Requiring all landlords to supervise tenants solid waste management

- A. All of the above
- B. All but one of the above
- C. All but two of the above
- D. None of the above

20. To improve thoroughfares within the City in collaboration with the State Department of Transportation, the City Council could conduct a referendum to enact the following:

- Add millage to the State Sales Tax to pay for the road improvements
- Require impact fees to be paid for new development
- Institute a differentiated service tax based on levels of income
- Institute a flat service fee on all wage earners

- A. All of the above
- B. Only one of the above
- C. All but one of the above
- D. None of the above.

21. Office Depot, Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Sheetz, Suncrest Town Center, the Mileground, Sabraton and the Mountaineer Mall...

- A. All are located in the City boundaries.
- B. One is located in the City boundaries.
- C. Two are located within the City boundaries.
- D. None are located within City boundaries.

22. Burroughs Street, Collins Ferry Road, Windsor Ave., Koontz Ave., VanVoorhis Road, Stewart Street, and Dorsey Ave....

- A. All are streets under City jurisdiction.
- B. All are State roads.
- C. All are County streets.
- D. All have been paved during the last 20 years.

23. Where is the newest industrial development center in the City to be located?

- A. At Airport
- B. On University property
- C. In Sabraton
- D. Along the riverfront

24. What is the most recent new commission, board or authority established by the City Council?

- A. Human Rights Commission
- B. Green Team
- C. Sister City Commission
- D. Bicycle Board
- E. Pedestrian Safety Board

25. The Municipal Green Team helped design one municipal building to be constructed according to LEED green building standards. Which building is it?

- A. Airport Terminal
- B. Municipal Ice Arena
- C. Northside Fire Station
- D. City Garage

26. What is the only ward which does not have at least one formal neighborhood association?

- A. First
- B. Third
- C. Fifth
- D. Seventh

27. How many water towers/water storage facilities are located in the City?
A. 4 B. 15 C. 25 D. 34 _____

28. How many pole flower baskets did the City have last year?
A. 38 B. 55 C. 70 D. 100 _____

29. What species is the Morgantown City Bird?
A. American Robin B. American Goldfinch
C. Northern Cardinal D. Eastern Bluebird
E. Black-capped Chickadee F. Pileated Woodpecker _____

30. There are 106 miles of streets within the City. How many miles of “Strategic Sidewalks” connecting public destinations are proposed in the Pedestrian Safety Plan?
A.16 B. 26 C. 46 D. 56 _____

31. The cost per foot of installing a foot of sidewalk and curb is...
A. \$40 B. \$70 C. \$100 D. \$200 _____

32. The cost of milling and paving one foot of neighborhood street is...
A. \$15 B. \$25 c. \$100 D. \$200 _____

33. What are the Bicycle Plan proposals for improving bicycle riding in the City?

- Construction of climbing lanes on the uphill shoulders of the Boulevard.
- Upgrading pavement markings and instructional signage throughout the City.
- Printing route maps and markings to show cycling-compatible routes to destinations.
- Establishing sheltered bicycle parking adjacent to primary destinations.

A. All of the above.
B. None of the above. _____

34. Once a month representatives of all neighborhood associations can meet at City Hall with a City administrator. The name of this assembly is called:
A. All-City Committee
B. Neighborhood Communication Committee
C. Neighborhood Coordinating Council
D. City Neighborhood Committee _____

35. The number of attendees in the preparation of the multi-jurisdictional development of a new comprehensive plan during the past year was...
A. 180 B. 365 C. 750 D. 1,000 _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this challenging Quiz about our City! The answer sheet will be distributed at the close of the session. Take home any unanswered questions to complete the challenge. We wish you good luck with your outcome!

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QUIZ ANSWERS - March 13, 2013

1. B – 29,500 heading toward a more recent estimate of 31,660
2. A – 9% -the average for the first 5 municipal elections in this century
3. D - 9,000 rentals – the number actually varies from approx. 8,500 – 9,000
4. D – According to Police estimates - 10,000 and more most nights
5. B - Big switch from more victims and few arrests to more arrests and fewer victims.
6. A – 67. Wheeling 87, Huntington 105, Charleston 179
7. C - \$60,000+. Actually \$61,111 plus 4 months of training costs at State Police Academy at Dunbar, WV
8. C – 3,000 diverse calls in last fiscal year. There were 206 street fires in 2012.
9. A – There are 3 fire stations: 1) South High Street, 2) Norwood on Sabraton Ave., and 3) Northside on VanVoorhis Road.
10. D – Only 53%. Originally, when established in 1980, the Fire Service Fee paid for 90% of Fire Department costs.
11. E. – 14%. City residents pay approximately (13.4%) of their total property taxes to live in the City. Then they also pay the same property tax as all County residents for the School Board (62%) and for County services (24.1%) as well as a small amount to the state (0.5%).
12. A - \$300 – mathematically \$302. This number is not just a residential Class 2 (owner occupied residences) revenues but includes Class 4 properties (which includes vacant land, rental properties, commercial real estate, equipment and inventory) located within the City.
13. A - \$100 (utility taxes) + \$117 (fire service fees) + \$300 (property taxes) = \$517.
14. A – 42% of the registrations for BOPARC programs are by City residents.
15. C - \$6,000 @ \$250 per regular meeting attended (X 24 meetings per year).
16. C – 1925. There was a horse carriage house on the site before the City acquired the property in 1914. City had no money but acquired the property with a levy. Police, fire department and jail were located in the acquired building. Prior to 1914 the City offices were located in rental property where the Blue Moose Coffee House is located today. The Fire Station and Police Station were located diagonally across Walnut Street from the City offices until the move in 1914.
17. D – 2,200 spaces in parking garages, surface lots and on-street parking.
18. D - None of the above. The role of the Mayor (“ceremonial and shall have no administrative duties”) and the Council (“shall deal with city employees solely through the City Manager”) in a City Manager-Council form of government is stated specifically and forcefully in SECTION 2.05 of the Morgantown City Charter. (See “City Codes” on City web site.)
19. D – None of the above. The Courts have made the WV Home Rule law (1969) ineffective in WV and the State operates as a de facto “Dillon’s Rule State” in which municipalities are not permitted to do any thing that is not specifically provided for in the State Code. The Morgantown City Council has identified approximately 40 ways in which the City has not been able to take action because of lack of authorization in the State Code.

20. B – Only one of the above. The flat service fee is the only permitted means for raising funds to pay off bonds for major construction projects such as road improvements. None of the other means listed which are used in many other states can be utilized in WV because of lack of being included in the WV State Code. An excess levy is only applicable for 3-5 years and are not applicable for addressing long term expenses needed for supporting bonds for road construction and other major projects.
21. C – Two are located within the City: Sabraton and the Mountaineer Mall.
22. B – All are State Roads. All originally were County Roads (including Koontz and Windsor) but on May 16, 1933, all County roads in the State were taken over by the State as authorized by the 1932 Tax Limitation Act. As a result municipalities were left responsible for 6.58% of the State and County roads and all city streets located within municipalities without taxation for roads being permitted but fees for parking, street lights and cleaning being allowed. As for the roads outside of incorporated municipalities, 91.8% of all roads were assigned to the jurisdiction of the State Road Commission – the highest percentage of any state in the country and the 6th highest number of road miles in all states. It is generally accepted that the WV Department of Highways has never been able to keep up with this responsibility and has justified neglect of urban thoroughfares by attempting to “treat all miles of highway the same regardless of where they are located.” Community transportation has not been a stated priority regardless of population density. The break down of jurisdictions for all streets within Morgantown in 2012 was as follows:
- City of Morgantown streets – 106.9 miles (80.2%)
 - State Department of Highways – 26.4 miles (19.8%)*
 - County roads – 10.7 miles
 - State Roads – 4.9 miles
 - National Highways – 10.8 miles
- * Includes all of the most heavily traveled streets in City.
23. A – On land adjacent to the Municipal Airport.
24. C - Sister City Commission (2009). The Human Rights Commission was originally organized in 2001 and then reorganized in 2012. The Bicycle Board was organized in 2006, the Green Team in 2007, and the Pedestrian Safety Board in 2007.
25. C - The Northside Fire Station was designed with the intent of achieving a Silver LEED certification (“Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” developed by the U.S. Green Building Council) but ultimately had to settle for a Bronze level. This facility was the first municipal building in the State to be planned/designed to meet LEED standards.
26. A – First Ward is the only ward not to have a neighborhood association. It has had a First Ward Park organization in the past but not a neighborhood organization which meets regularly to address neighborhood concerns as in other wards of the cities. Fourth Ward has two active neighborhood organizations and Sixth Ward has three. Overall there are 9 active neighborhood organizations in the City of Morgantown.

27. B – There are 15 water towers/water storage facilities in or immediately adjacent to the City of Morgantown. Thirteen are public MUB facilities. The tower adjacent to the WVU President’s home is a WVU tower. The tower adjacent to the Mountaineer Mall is a private tower. Overall there are 34 towers/water storage facilities in the MUB system throughout the County.
28. C – 70 pole baskets. The City landscape director also manages several large beds in parks and green spaces, at the airport, and, with volunteers, in neighborhood “triangles”. The Urban Landscape Commission also supports the landscaping in the City as well as the work of the Urban Tree Board.
29. B – The American Goldfinch was selected to be the “Morgantown City Bird” by City Council in 2010 with the assistance of the Mountaineer Audubon Society and students from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades from primary schools located within the City of Morgantown. The Northern Cardinal is the West Virginia State Bird.
30. B – 26 miles of “strategic sidewalks” which would make it possible for the public throughout the City to walk safely to schools, transit and school bus stops in neighborhoods and to commercial, post office and park destinations throughout the City. The Pedestrian Safety Plan was completed by the Pedestrian Safety Board in 2010 and approved but not enacted by City Council.
31. C – According to the City Engineering Department and the WV Department of Transportation, the average current cost of installing one lineal foot of 4’ sidewalk with a curb is \$100 per foot.
32. B – The cost of milling and paving with blacktop a 20’ neighborhood street is approximately \$25 per lineal foot. According to the Public Works Department, this means that milling and paving one mile of 20’ wide streets would cost \$132,000.
As stated previously, there are 106.9 miles of streets with municipal jurisdiction in the City. Paving on neighborhood streets lasts 15-20 years. Paving on connector streets (such as Willowdale Road, Richwood Ave.) lasts 7-10 years. For the City to keep up-to-date with paving needs requires paving approximately 6 miles per year (\$792,000).
33. A – All of the above. All projects are projects in the Municipal Bicycle Plan awaiting implementation by the City Council. There are also 17 bicycle friendly changes which do not require funding which are awaiting approval. In 2012 Morgantown received a competitive Bronze level national “Bicycle Friendly City Award” based on its plan, the City Council adopted “Complete Streets” policy (2007) and the development of an widely recognized “Confident City Cycling” education program.
34. C – The Neighborhood Coordinating Council was established beginning in 2004 to support communications, coordination and mutual support among neighborhood organizations. The organization meets monthly at City Hall.
35. B – 365 units of public participation were recorded at the four Comprehensive Planning events leading to the preparation of the new multi-jurisdictional plan for Morgantown and Star City. The Metropolitan Planning Organization has also been involved to integrate transportation planning with land use planning.