

REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2010:

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The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers on Monday December 7, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Interim City Manager Jeff Mikorski, Mayor Bill Byrne, City Clerk Linda Little, City Attorney Steve Fanok. Council Members Ron Bane, John Gaddis, Charlie Byrer, Jenny Selin, Marti Shamberger and Don Spencer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the regular meeting on November 16, 2010 were approved as printed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Byrne read a Certificate of Appreciation to Frances Toro for serving on the BOPARC Board. Mayor Byrne then asked Chief Caravazos, Captain Rinehart, and Captain Speicher to come forward as the City Clerk administered the oath to them for being promoted to Captain.

Mayor Byrne presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Pam Hodge for all her with the Sister Cities Commission. Mayor Byrne mentioned he received letters from Mountain View elementary school and talked about the concerns that the children expressed to him in those letters. He remarked that he was touched that such young students are concerned with local government.

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PUBLIC HEARING – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1718.04 OF THE BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN BY ADDING A REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE REQUIRED REGISTRATION OF SUBJECT VACANT STRUCTURES.

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

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE, REGISTRATION FEES: The above entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1718.04 OF THE BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN BY ADDING A REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE REQUIRED REGISTRATION OF SUBJECT VACANT STRUCTURES.

Motion by Bane, second by Gaddis to approve the above entitled Ordinance. Interim City Manager suggested a minor amendment adding the language "Registrations shall be required annually". Motion by Councilor Spencer, second by Byrer to approve the amendment to the Ordinance. Motion carried 7-0. Vote was taken on main motion. Motion carried 7-0.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: By acclamation the following appointments were approved by City Council: Thomas Shamberger; Board of Zoning Appeals 3 year term, Anna Marlene Robinson; Morgantown Utility Board 5 year term, William Wyant & Peter Demasters; Planning Commission 3 year term and Transit Authority; Ron Bane(Council Appointment) & Hugh Kierig(City/County Appointment) 3 year term.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Chris Lewallen, WVU Student Body President, thanked Council for their partnership and stated that the Students collected \$41,000 for the United Way. He stated that the Community Relations Committee is working well, and there is a student on almost every City Board and Commission and they are getting great feedback from those meetings. He commended WVU City Council Liaison Nelson France for his dedication and hard work, for none of these initiatives could have been accomplished without him.

Nelson France, WVU BOG City Liaison, stated that he supports the Resolution on the agenda tonight of the temporary traffic signal at Third Street and Beechurst. Mr. France also stated the Students are committed to helping with the

removal of snow this year and will coordinate those efforts with City Administration in the next few weeks.

There being no more appearances Mayor Byrne then declared the Public Portion closed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT: Councilor Spencer gave an update from the Airport Advisory meeting stating the various changes at the Airport, a new Terminal, new rates to fly cheaper from Morgantown Airport, and in the future the new runway which will help bring bigger Airplanes to Morgantown. He thanked Jackie Marhefka and the Director Glen Kelly for their hard work and dedication. The future at the Airport is looking good.

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NEW BUSINESS:

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CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO INSTALL A TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND FOURWAY LADDER MARKED CROSSWALKS AT THE INTERSECTION OF THIRD STREET AND BEECHURST AVENUE: The above entitled Resolution was presented for approval:

After discussion, motion by Spencer, second by Selin to approve the above titled Resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

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CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

New Business:

1. In early 2010, the Morgantown City Council took the first steps in addressing the homelessness problem that exists in Morgantown and Monongalia County by creating a Task Force on Homelessness. The Task force provided a report in October, 2010 that outlined some of the issues surrounding homelessness and suggested the formal establishment and continuation of the Task Force to study the issues further. The attached document describes the scope of the Task Force and a list of suggested members of the Task Force on Homelessness. I recommend that City Council approve the suggested members for the Task Force so this group of volunteers can continue to provide the City and County with needed information and recommendations to reduce the number of people considered homeless in the community.

Motion by Selin, second by Shamberger to approve the members of the Task Force on Homelessness so that the City/County can work on reducing the number of people considered homeless in the community. Motion carried 7-0.

2. The Monongalia County Commission is in the process of developing new aerial photographs to update GIS mapping of the County. The City of Morgantown has agreed to be a part of the mapping project to utilize the data once the project is complete. The cost of the project is being shared among governmental agencies that can utilize the data. The City of Morgantown's portion of the cost is \$35,000. I recommend that \$35,000 be allocated from the Capital Escrow account to fund this valuable Inter-governmental project.

After discussion, motion by Gaddis, second by Byrer, to approve funding the Inter-governmental agreement of \$35,000 from the Capital Escrow to help fund the process of developing new aerial photographs in GIS mapping of the County.

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CITY CLERK:

1. Ward and Boundary Commission Report to the Clerk.

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City Clerk Linda Little reported that the Ward and Boundary Commission had no changes at this time, but will have a meeting once the 2010 Census is available to look at possible changes at that time.

City Clerk Linda Little also announced that the City is taking applications for Police Officer and applications are available in the Finance Department.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No report.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Councilor Bane: Councilor Bane thanked Interim City Manager Jeff Mikorski for a job well done while filling in these past few weeks. Councilor Bane wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- Councilor Gaddis: Councilor Gaddis thanked Jeff Mikorski for his hard work during the interim. He announced the South Park meeting coming up where they will do a cookie exchange. He also inquired that even though our bridges are owned by the state, is there any way that the City could talk to the DOH to have the snow removed in the winter time because it is difficult for pedestrians. Mr. Mikorski replied that they are continuously working with the DOH on snow removal and other issues.
- Councilor Byrer: Councilor Byrer attended the open house for the new McDonald's on University Avenue and it will employ 84 people in our community. He reminded everyone to attend the open house at the Museum Commission this weekend. He mentioned the Wiles Hill neighborhood meeting coming up where Joe Fisher of WVU will speak. He wished everyone a happy holiday and announced the Neighborhood Watch Christmas party.
- Councilor Selin: Councilor Selin mentioned the Suncrest meeting coming up where the neighborhood plan will be discussed. She thanked Mr. Mikorski for his hard work and skill at problem solving. She agreed with Councilor Gaddis about the snow removal on bridges.
- Councilor Shamberger: Councilor Shamberger also thanked Mr. Mikorski and all the City employees for their work. She noted that she was pleased that the WVU students have been proactive with snow removal this winter. She wished everyone all the best for the holidays.
- Councilor Spencer: Councilor Spencer also mentioned Mr. Mikorski stepping up during this time of change, and added that he is looking forward to continue working with him in the future. He announced the legislative meeting at the Aull House and mentioned that since the airport terminal is being renovated that this would be a good time for the museum to make a display for them to include.
- Mayor Byrne: Mayor Byrne mentioned that the employees will receive their annual Christmas Bonus, which has already been accounted for in the City's Budget. He also wished everyone a happy holiday. He also mentioned what a fine job Marchetta Maupin does on the Christmas Decorations and he thanked the Public Works department for their work on the Christmas decorating as well. He again reminded everyone of the Museum event and that there will also be an event at the Old Stone House to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Also, Mama Mia will be playing at the WVU CAC. He talked about a letter to the editor about snow removal and responded that the culture of our community has not caught up with the idea of keeping our sidewalks clean and we need to raise awareness to keep the community clean with the help of the students. He mentioned the Christmas Parade and commended the Jaycees for their organization. He thanked the Statlers for their contribution to the Met Theatre and remarked that it was a very nice event. He stated that Council met last week with President Clements of WVU and from now on there will be regular meetings to make sure issues are continually being addressed. He stated that Mr. Mikorski is very professional and has done an excellent job as the interim City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:20 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

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