

REGULAR MEETING April 21, 2015: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:04 p.m.

PRESENT: City Manager Jeff Mikorski, City Clerk Linda Tucker, Mayor Selin, and Council Members: Bill Kawecki, Wes Nugent, Assistant City Manager Glen Kelly, Deputy Mayor Marti Shamberger, Mike Fike, Nancy Ganz, and City Attorney Ryan Simonton. Council Member Ron Bane was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the April 7th Meeting were approved after discussion, amending page 5 under Ordinance 735.24 changing a word “specifics” to “generalities”. Motion carried 3-2. (Shamberger abstained) (Ganz and Selin voted no)

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Selin read letters as part of the record (**Exhibit A**) from Rick Hill; retired Captain from the Fire Department, in support of amending the Home Rule Plan is an excellent opportunity to address the fire problem that is specific to Morgantown. (**Exhibit B**) Mark Lambert, 507 Burroughs Street, fully supports granting limited law enforcement training of City Fire Marshals. This training will continue to be an asset and a credit to the City of Morgantown. (**Exhibit C**) Mike Williams, MTW Apartments, property owner, has rental property located at St. Marys Street, Third Street and Beverly Avenue has had dumpster fires and appreciates the quick action of the undercover Fire Marshal personnel. Mr. Williams is in favor of expanded authority for Fire Marshals. Mayor Selin presented Proclamations to Morgantown High School Girls Basketball Team and WVU Rifle Team for their Championships. Mayor Selin also presented a Proclamation to Frank Gmeindl for Morgantown Bike Month. She also welcomed the Political Science class 220.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN HOME RULE APPLICATION

Tom Wiley, property owner, stated that he was in support of the Home Rule Ordinance for the Fire Department. He gave examples on a few instances that have occurred to his family involving fires that were set to his property.

Jim Craig, Rental Property Owner, 2 14th Fairway Court, stated that he is glad the Fire Marshals will be able to site individuals as needed.

Bill Burton, Rental Property Owner, 450 Linden Street, he also supports the Fire Marshals Ordinance, that it will free up our Police Officers.

Don Corwin, Rental Property Owner, 251 Beechurst Avenue, is also in support of the Fire Marshals in getting enforcement powers. In this city there has been a culture of arson and the students do not believe they will get caught.

Arthur Trusler, Co-Chair of Morgantown Housing and Advisory Commission, he noted that the Fire Marshals need to be on the front lines constantly and Council needs to vote in favor of this Ordinance.

City Manager Jeff Mikorski clarified that approval of this Ordinance will be later on after approval of the Home Rule Board.

There being no other appearances, Mayor Selin declared the Public Hearing closed.

PUBLIC HEARING - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1505.01 AND 1511.02 OF THE MORGANTOWN CITY CODE TO GRANT CITY FIRE MARSHALS AND DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS ARREST AUTHORITY AT FIRE SCENES AND FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS OF THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE.

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

PUBLIC HEARING - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER LINE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 23, PARCEL 44, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEROF.

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

PUBLIC HEARING AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 28, PARCEL 134, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEREOF.

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

PUBLIC HEARING - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 747.02 PRESCRIBING A FIRE SERVICE FEE.

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

PUBLIC HEARING - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 735.24 SETTING THE BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX RATE FOR SERVICES BUSINESSES.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER LINE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 23, PARCEL 44, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEROF. The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER LINE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 23, PARCEL 44, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEROF.

Motion by Shamberger, second by Ganz to adopt the above entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 28, PARCEL 134, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEREOF. The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 28, PARCEL 134, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEREOF.

Motion by Shamberger, second by Ganz to adopt the above entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 747.02 PRESCRIBING A FIRE SERVICE FEE. The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 747.02 PRESCRIBING A FIRE SERVICE FEE.

After City Manager's explanation, motion by Kawecki, second by Ganz to adopt the above entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 5-1.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 735.24 SETTING THE BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX RATE FOR SERVICE BUSINESSES. The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 735.24 SETTING THE BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX RATE FOR SERVICE BUSINESSES.

After City Manager's explanation, motion by Kawecki, second by Fike to adopt the above entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 5-1.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: The City Clerk, Linda Tucker, informed Council that Diane DeMedici, Administrator for the County Commissioner, emailed the Clerk that Ed Hawkins will be the new appointment for the Met Theatre. By acclamation, Council approved the appointment.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Nicki Byrne Hoffman, 1289 Carlisle Avenue, has come to the Council Meeting on behalf of the Jerome Park Neighborhood Association and Woodburn Commission commending the City Council in passing the Fire Fee to help pay for the City's needs and funds. She stated that her family owns a B & O Tax Service base business and that even though there have been multiple conversations about the raising of the fire fee, it will affect their business. She stated that she does not mind if they pay an additional \$25.00 a year they know that the money will go towards City needs and Funds.

Jimmie Simmons, 127 Willowdale Road, stated that she worries about the fate of zoning in the City; we have to manage the development. City Council needs to look at R-1A and R-2 zones and the products that come from that. One side is going to win, one will lose. Single family housing is at risk.

WVU Student body President George Capel (**Exhibit D**) and Vice President Ashley Morgan along with a large contingent of student leadership asked Council to consider placing a student on council as an ex-officio member.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: No reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT WITH MUB FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEWER LINE: The below was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER LINE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 23, PARCEL 44, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEREOF.

After City Manager's explanation, motion by Nugent, second by Kawecki, to pass the above entitled ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MORGANTOWN UTILITY BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE ON A PORTION OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON UNION DISTRICT TAX MAP 28, PARCEL 134, AND DECLARING THE ATTACHED EASEMENT AS A PART THEREOF.

After the City Manager's explanation, motion by Bane, second by Nugent to pass the above entitled ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 347.02 SETTING THE FIRE FEE: The above entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 347.02 PRESCRIBING A FIRE SERVICE FEE.

City Manager explained where the Fire Fee will be utilized. After discussion, motion by Kawecki, second by Ganz to approve the above entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 4-2. (Counselor Bane and Nugent voted no)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 735.24 SETTING THE BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX RATE FOR SERVICE BUSINESSES: The above entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE 735.24 TO SET THE B & O TAX RATE FOR SERVICE BUSINESSES.

City Manager explained generalities on how the funds would be used and how the monies would be generated. Questions and discussions from Council, motion by Kawecki, second by Ganz to approve the above entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 4-2. (Bane and Nugent voting no)

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

New Business:

1. Street Paving Bids

First two memos attached from Public Works Director Damien Davis are bid results for the street paving material and labor to pave City streets in 2015.

On April 2, bids were opened for the advertised purchase of hot laid bituminous asphaltic cement. One company provided a bid for the material, Greer Industries, for a price of \$253,520. I recommend Council approve the purchase of asphalt for paving to the lowest bidder, Greer Industries, for \$253,520.00.

Motion by Nugent, second by Kawecki to accept Greer Industries for \$253,520.00 to purchase asphalt for paving for 2015. Motion carried 6-0.

On April 7, bids were opened for the advertised purchase of contract services of milling and paving City streets. One contractor submitted a price for paving services, Parrotta Paving, for \$292,395.30. I recommend City Council approve the contract for Parrotta Paving in the amount of \$292,395.30.

After discussion, motion by Nugent, second by Kawecki to approve Parrotta Paving for \$292,395.30 for the milling and paving of the streets. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Landfill Laboratory Service Bids

As seen in attached memo from Public Works Director Damien Davis, bids for laboratory services for the closed Municipal Landfill were opened on February 26, with one company submitting a cost for the advertised services. I recommend City Council approve the contact with Reliance Laboratories in the amount of \$9,914.00 for services to be provided.

After discussion, motion by Kawecki, motion by Shamberger, to contract Reliance Laboratories in the amount of \$9,914.00 for advertised services. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Demolition Bids

As seen in the attached memo from Public Works Director Damien Davis, bids were requested for the demolition of the condemned building at 645 Brockway Avenue. Anderson Excavating, LLC submitted the lowest bid. I recommend City Council approve the contract for demolition services to Anderson Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$29,994.00.

Motion by Ganz, second by Kawecki, to approve Anderson Excavating, LLC to demolish condemned building on Brockway Avenue for \$29,994.00. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Brownfield Environmental Services

As a part of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant awarded to the City of Morgantown, environmental services are required to accomplish the Phase I, Phase II, Site Remediation and associated tasks needed on selected properties in Morgantown for potential redevelopment. Core Environmental Services, Inc. was selected out of a field of five companies that submitted qualifications. I recommend City Council approve the contract and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract for services outlined in the attached scope of work.

Motion by Ganz, second by Shamberger, to approve Core Environmental Services, Inc. to accomplish tasks needed on selected properties in Morgantown for potential development. Motion carried 6-0.

5. Capital Escrow Budget Revision #6

With last week's announcement of the Air Force Reserve IRT project taking place next year to begin the grading for a runway extension project; it has advanced our timeframe for a Runway Extension Environmental Assessment for the project to be initiated. A number of documents need to be completed as soon as possible to take advantage of the IRT opportunity and begin grading next year. The City of Morgantown must contract with the airport engineering of record, Michael Baker International, to begin the assessment. The cost of the contract for the Environmental Assessment is estimated at \$500,000. A contract will be available Tuesday to accompany the Capital Escrow revision, and I recommend that City Council approve the budgeting of the environmental assessment from Capital Escrow contingency funds to pay for the study and allow the City Manager to sign the contract. In addition, I recommend the budgeting of Urban Forestry funds, Urban Landscaping special project funds, and Campus Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation (Sunnyside Up) funds also from the Capital Escrow contingency funds. These funding levels were discussed during the Fiscal Year budget 2015-2016 Council meetings. Budgeting from existing Capital Escrow contingency funds will replace the funding of the projects in the upcoming FY budget, allowing for additional paving to be budgeted in the FY 2015-2016 budget.

Motion by Ganz, second by Shamberger, to approve the contract Environmental Assessment, estimated at \$500,000 budgeting of the Urban Forestry Funds, Urban Landscaping special project funds, and Campus Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation funds from the Capital Escrow. Motion carried 6-0.

Information:

1. Information Requested By Council

Attached is information that was requested by City Council during last Council Meeting. Attached is a memo from Chris Fletcher, Director of Development Services regarding the requested information on a re-zoning. Also, attached is an estimated breakdown of funds to be utilized by Council requested Business and Occupation Tax increase and Fire Fee increase.

After discussion, motion by Nugent, second by Kawecki, to approve the Planning Commission annual report. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Woodburn School Grants

The Woodburn School Redevelopment Commission presented a three phased approach to redeveloping the lower portion (playground area) of property. Before moving ahead by working with the City on grant opportunities, the Commission would like City Council to show support for the proposed project by approving the plan to move forward. The Manager's office will work with the Commission to apply for grants through the City, as property owner, and bring grant agreements forward for Council's action and possible matching fund requirements.

After discussion, motion by Ganz, second by Kawecki, to approve the Woodburn School Grants. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORT FROM CITY CLERK: Mrs. Tucker announced that a new Liquor License application was received for Pre-Gamers, LLC. and that it goes out to the ABCC on April 22, 2015. Mrs. Tucker also announced that the Early Voting continues (with 203 votes so far) until Saturday, April 25, 2015 in the City Hall Building Lobby from 8am to 5pm. There will be parking on Fayette and also under the Pavilion where the Farmers Market is held. Election Day is April 28, 2015 and polls open at 6:30 am and will close at 7:30 pm. If there are any questions about where you need to vote or polling place, please call the City Clerk's Office at (304) 284-7439.

REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained the Home Rule Amendment Process to City Council. He then advised if any of council has questions in regards to the procedures to contact him.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilor Bane:

Absent

Councilor Kawecki:

No Report

Councilor Nugent:

Councilor Nugent commended the Outstanding Community participating this evening in the debate and discussion from the WVU Student Body President George Capal and Vice President Randy Jones. He also noted Chocolate Lovers Day as a great event. He noted sadly that Elegant Alley Cat is closing soon. He commended the Clerk on the Election, the Public Service Announcements and the Banners throughout the Community. Councilor Nugent commented about revenue decisions and said that in the future he would be more supportive. Councilor Nugent then requested more information to Council about the survey that is being conducted from the City Manager in a

report to City Council. He also submitted several code related incidents and asked the City Manager to follow up as soon as possible for these are health related issues.

Councilor Shamberger

Councilor Shamberger requested that from now on there be a report given from the Assistant City Manager on the Agenda. Mayor Selin noted a reminder to Assistant City Manager/Airport Director, Glen Kelly, a request for a Grand Opening and a tour of the new airport project. Glen Kelly explained the scope of the project and noted that he would keep Council informed. She then thanked Casto and Harris for the testing of the Election equipment. She then told Council of her experience speaking with a group of people in Fairmont about Neighborhood Associations. She informed everyone that the next First Friday event at Woodburn School will be May 1st; Apple Pappy will be the Band and art mural by Jamie Lester to view while attending the event. She then announced that one of the Basketball players from Morgantown High School that received Honors this evening will play on the WVU Girls Basketball Team this fall.

Councilor Fike:

Councilor Fike stood up in honor of WVU Students who spoke this evening in reference to the ex-officio member on City Council. After discussion, by consensus Mike Fike agreed to place ex-officio topic on a future COW Agenda.

Councilor Ganz:

Councilor Ganz noted the opportunities of working with students, Town and Gown, the Mutual Clean-ups, Service Learning Boards, and Civic Engagement. She noted there are also opportunities for students to serve on Boards and Commissions and Neighborhood Associations. Counselor Ganz agreed that the students need to be inter-related with Council; which would give elected officials ability to attend

their meetings also. Councilor Ganz explained Councilors could attend such meetings as Board of Governors or Faculty Senate. Councilor Ganz commented President Gee has stated we are inextricably connected so I continue in having that great relationship. Councilor Ganz also thanked Glen Kelly, Assistant City Manager/Airport Director for the progress at the Airport. Councilor Ganz also noted that the revenue decisions of the budget are tough for all of Council. She also commended the City Manager and Deputy Mayor for working with students with the Service Learning Project on the City's Survey. Councilor Ganz then reported the Suncrest Neighborhood Association meeting will be on April 30th at 6:30 pm. at Calvary Baptist Church.

Mayor Selin:

Mayor Selin publicly requested nominations are now being taken for Celebration of America; she along with the County Commission are seeking candidates for the July 4th Celebration. Mayor Selin noted in reference to the budget and expending of money and the basic services she thinks that the citizens would need to know what they will be getting for their money as we are spending money would that mean next year would we have more money for other expenses; we need to show citizens more accountability. Mayor Selin requested that a process be developed for a sidewalk program in the next couple months with a cost projection. Mayor Selin requested from the City Manager to Council an update on the Survey to clarify any questions they have. Mayor Selin then mentioned that she had spoken to a few business owners about the B & O Tax Rate and the City should have a clear answer to all business owners as we go forward.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further items of business or discussion, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:25 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

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

Exhibit A

Zimbra

llittle@cityofmorgantown.org

MFD Support

From : rickhill2000@aol.com

Fri, Apr 17, 2015 01:08 PM

Subject : MFD Support

1 attachment

To : llittle@cityofmorgantown.org

Hi Linda,

I have attached a letter I drafted in support of MFD. Please allow it to become part of the public record.

Thanks,

Rick Hill

Rick Hill MFD Support.docx

— 12 KB

April 17, 2015

City of Morgantown Public Hearing /
WV Municipal Home Rule Oversight Board

Dear Board Members,

Our fine city has been plagued with arson and malicious fires for the past 30 years. As the first appointed Morgantown Fire Marshal with 27 years of service at MFD, I witnessed the fire problem escalate to dangerous levels during my career. I fully support the City's proposed home rule ordinance to expand the investigative authority of its fire marshals to include the power to detain or arrest perpetrators setting fires. It is my understanding the West Virginia State Fire Commission voted to approve the city's proposed ordinance granting additional authority to fire marshals, and the West Virginia Attorney General issued a formal opinion supporting the legal basis of the proposal.

The citizens and taxpayers have a right to enjoy their community without fear of widespread property damage from dumpster and rubbish fires. I recently read a report that indicated the City of Morgantown ranked 2nd in the United States for the number of dumpster fires. The statistics are shocking when you realize more dumpster fires occur here than in Los Angeles or Philadelphia.

Amending the Home Rule plan is an excellent opportunity to address the fire problem that is specific to Morgantown. Please accept my comment of support into the official public hearing record.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hill
Captain (Retired)
304-685-9048

20 April 2015

Morgantown City Council
Public Hearing &
WV Home Rule Board
Morgantown, WV

To whom it may concern,

Please accept my correspondence into the public hearing record. My name is Mark Lambert. I spent 23 years in the Investigation Division of the WV State Fire Marshal's Office. During the last several years I spent WVU home game weekends in Morgantown assisting the city FD/PD with the numerous malicious fires set in certain areas of town. In light of that firsthand experience, I fully support the granting of limited law enforcement authority and training of city fire marshals. Often times your marshals are drawn into dangerous situations with police units tied up on other, just as dangerous, situations. The decision to train individuals for the possible use of deadly force is never one to be taken lightly, and I fully believe with the proper training, city fire marshals will continue to be a valued asset and credit to the city of Morgantown.

Most Respectfully,

Mark R. Lambert
507 Burroughs Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-687-7228

Exhibit C

Zimbra

llittle@cityofmorgantown.org

Expanded authority for Fire Marshall

From : mike williams2 <mike_williams2@frontier.com>

Sun, Apr 19, 2015 07:12 PM

Subject : Expanded authority for Fire Marshall**To :** llittle@cityofmorgantown.org**Reply To :** mike williams2 <mike_williams2@frontier.com>

I wanted to voice my support for any expanded authority given to the Fire Marshal's office to discourage dumpster fires, particularly arrest power. I have rental properties located at St. Mary Street, Third Street, and Beverly Avenue.

I have had dumpster fires at the Third Street and Beverly Avenue locations. One fire would likely have resulted in substantial building damage but for the quick action of undercover fire marshal personnel that night.

Michael T Williams (MTW Apartments, LLC; GMCW Ventures, LLC; MTW Management, LLC)
304-669-5571

Exhibit D



April 20th, 2015

Distinguished Members of Morgantown City Council:

I am writing to encourage you to join myself, and the WVU student body, in our effort to create a permanent seat for an ex-officio, non-voting, WVU student member on the Morgantown City Council.

As students, we view this city as our home, and we want to take on a greater role to help make a difference for Morgantown, West Virginia. We believe that communication is essential to the success of our shared community, and we want to foster a more cohesive relationship between our WVU students and the City of Morgantown.

There is no doubt that Morgantown has changed over the years, as I have witnessed these changes with my own eyes. However, I am absolutely convinced that our greatest times are still ahead of us, provided that we pull together to make them a reality. We have a collective vision for a Morgantown community that chooses to break down its social barriers in furtherance of those common goals that are held by all of our major constituencies. In the words of former WVU President David C. Hardesty, "...we need to look around every community in West Virginia to see if we are doing everything we can to empower those who want to make something of themselves and their communities. Laws may need to be changed. Linkages must be forged. Collaborations must be fostered." I believe these words embody the situation at hand.

Tomorrow evening, our students will assemble with this vision in mind to make their voices heard at city hall. Needless to say, great power comes with great responsibility, but I believe that our students are up to the task. As Student Body President, I speak on behalf of nearly 30,000 students, and we humbly ask you to join us in advancing our cause. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working with you to realize our vision for the betterment of the entire Morgantown community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'George W. Capel'. Below the signature is the printed name 'George W. Capel' and the title 'WVU Student Body President' in a blue sans-serif font.

George W. Capel
WVU Student Body President