

City of Morgantown

Jim Rector, 664 West Virginia Avenue, spoke to council in support of the proposed nuisance property ordinance.

Michael Haase, 262 Overdale Street, spoke to council in support of the proposed nuisance property ordinance.

Bill King, 600 Hobson Street, spoke to council in support of the proposed nuisance property ordinance.

Nicole Diaz, representative for the WV Brownfield, Abandoned, Dilapidated Building Program (BAD), spoke to council about the BAD Buildings Program and how it could help the city tackle its abandoned and dilapidated buildings.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Deputy Mayor Fetty closed the Public Portion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Modification to Diversity Plan

The Diversity Plan with the modifications was moved to the March 3, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Agenda.

2. Nuisance Properties

Council asked the City Manager to schedule a future meeting to present council information on current city ordinances regarding nuisance properties and negligent property owners.

3. Ordinance authorizing an Easement to Mon Power and the Morgantown Municipal Airport

City Manager Paul Brake explained that this is a nonexclusive right-of-way easement in reference to the Mileground project. This item was moved to the March 3, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Agenda.

4. Letter Opposing State Legislation Limiting Municipal Regulations of deadly weapons and Authorizing Firearms to be carried on University Campuses

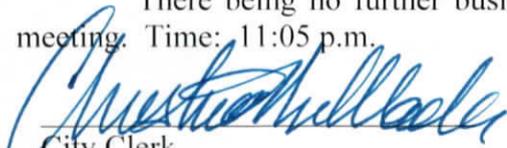
This is a letter that will be sent to the State Legislature in opposition to legislation limiting municipal regulation of deadly weapons and authorizing firearms to be carried on university campuses.

5. January 2020 Monthly General Fund Finance Report and Detailed Budget Report

City Manager Paul Brake mentioned that city council recently received the proposed 2020-2021 Annual Budget. The first reading will be at the March 3, 2020, Regular City Council meeting and the second reading will be at the March 17, 2020, Regular City Council meeting. There will be a City Council Budget Workshop on March 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion by Cruze, second by Harshbarger, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 11:05 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor

City of Morgantown

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

February 25, 2020

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT: City Manager Paul Brake, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Mayor William A. Kawecki, Deputy Mayor Rachel Fetty, Council Members Zack Cruze, Jenny Selin, Dave Harshbarger, and Barry Wendell. Ron Dulaney was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Fetty.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Morgantown Municipal Green Team Annual Report 2019 – Jim Kotcon

Morgantown Municipal Green Team Chair Jim Kotcon presented council with the Green Team's 2019 Annual Report.

2. Modification to Diversity Plan – Don Spencer – on behalf of Human Rights Commission

Don Spencer and Jan Derry, on behalf of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission, presented council with modifications to the proposed Diversity Plan which were made to address concerns from council regarding the plan.

3. Nuisance Properties – Adelheid Schaupp & Liira Raines

Adelheid Schaupp, a resident of the Greenmont Neighborhood, and Barbara Parsons, a business owner in the Greenmont Neighborhood, presented council with a proposed ordinance for nuisance properties which would provide the city with a mechanism to hold absentee and neglectful property owners accountable for allowing their properties to endanger the health and safety of the community.

Liira Raines, representing Our Future West Virginia, and Pastor Bob Roberts of First Christian Church, presented council with information in opposition to the proposed nuisance properties ordinance. She encouraged council to use current ordinances to address nuisance properties.

Police Chief Ed Preston spoke to council about the issues with vacant, abandoned and neglected properties that the Morgantown Police Department deals with on a daily basis.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Deputy Mayor Fetty opened the public portion and asked if there was anyone wishing to speak.

Charkera Ervin, PO Box 883, Bluefield, WV 24701, spoke to council in opposition to the proposed nuisance properties ordinance.

Kevin Ellis, 228 Morris Street, spoke to council in support of the proposed nuisance properties ordinance.

Laura Jones, 4598 Compressor Street Road, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525, spoke to council about her concerns regarding vacant and abandoned properties and the proposed nuisance properties ordinance.

Alexis McMillen, 425 Madigan Avenue, spoke to council in opposition of the proposed nuisance properties ordinance.

Mollie Kennedy, 888 Vandalia Road, spoke in opposition of the proposed nuisance properties ordinance.

Vickie Crowder, 540 Elmina Street, Vice President of the Greenmont Neighborhood Association, spoke to council in support of the new ordinance addressing issues with negligent property owners.

Matthew Cross, 524 Milford Street, spoke to council in support of a way to address the negligent property owners.

Constance Southerly, business owner in the Greenmont Neighborhood, spoke to council about issues with drug use and squatters, and how it is negatively affecting her business and the need to address additional issues in the city.