

City of Morgantown
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 21, 2023

Regular Meeting: June 21, 2023: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:03 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

Present: City Manager Kim Haws, Deputy City Clerk Heather Carl, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Mayor Jenny Selin, Deputy Mayor Danielle Trumble, and Council Members Joe Abu-Ghannam, Bill Kawecki, Dave Harshbarger and Brian Butcher. Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli and City Clerk Christine Wade were absent.

Approval of Minutes: June 6, 2023, Special Meeting minutes; June 6, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes was approved as presented by acclamation.

Correspondence:

Presentation: An Ordinance Amending Section 1329, Table 1331.05.01, and Table 1365.04.01 as it related to Establishing a New Firearms Sales Establishments use in Planning and Zoning Code

City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained. After discussion, this item was moved to the next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, agenda.

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with ACME Land Holdings, LLC at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Met Billiards, LLC at the Metropolitan Theatre

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Amending Article 1718 Entitled "Vacant Structure Code"

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Adopting the Fee Schedule of the City of Morgantown

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Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

Public Hearing: An Ordinance Authorizing a Real Estate Purchase Agreement with James L. Laurita, Sr. Family Limited Partnership

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

Unfinished Business:

An Ordinance Authorizing a Real Estate Purchase: The entitled Ordinance below was presented for approval.

An Ordinance Authorizing a Real Estate Purchase Agreement with James L. Laurita, Sr. Family Limited Partnership

Airport Director Jon Vrabel explained. Motion by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0.

Boards & Commissions: None

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

C. Latel Hall, 1053 Ross Street, spoke in favor of the purchase of Real Estate from James L. Laurita at the Morgantown Municipal Airport.

There being no other individuals to speak, Mayor Selin declared the public portion closed.

Special Committee Reports: None

Consent Agenda:

Consideration of **APPROVAL** of **(Second Reading)** of:

An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with ACME Land Holdings, LLC at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Met Billiards, LLC at the Metropolitan Theatre

An Ordinance Amending Article 1718 Entitled "Vacant Structure Code"

An Ordinance Adopting the Fee Schedule of the City of Morgantown

Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, to approve the above-entitled Ordinances. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business:

An Ordinance Amending the FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget: The entitled Ordinance below was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Amending the FY 2023-2024 Annual Budget of the City of Morgantown as shown in the revised budget attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance as the same applies to the Coal Severance Fund

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City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

A Resolution Approving the FY 2023-2023 Budget for the City of Morgantown Airport Improvement Fund: The entitled Resolution above was presented for approval.

Airport Director Jon Vrabel explained. After discussion. Motion by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 6-0.

City Manager's Report: reported about the meeting with Republic and noted that it was a good meeting. He stated that things are starting to look up with the receptacles. He has continued to receive positive comments about the downtown area and how clean it looks. He spoke with Police Chief Powell regarding public events and how many officers it takes. He stated that overtime has been approved but only for the major events.

Report from City Clerk: No Report

Report from City Attorney: stated that he received the Student Resource Officer and Prevention Resource Officer contracts for the upcoming school year from the city clerk's office and have forwarded them to Finance Director Kevin Tennant to review. Once he receives them back, he will prepare the Resolutions to go on a future agenda. He also stated that the Police Civil Service Commission has revised the Rules and Regulations and once he reviews them, he will prepare the Resolution to go on a future agenda. He attended the Steering Committee Meeting for the Comprehensive Plan and plans to be brought forth to the Planning Commission Meeting soon.

Report from Council Members:

Councilor Abu-Ghannam: he took part in the RSA Flight Lesson at the Morgantown Municipal Airport and stated it was fantastic. The next neighborhood association meeting will be held Monday, June 26th, 6pm at Jack Roberts Park. There is also a Tree Board Meeting on June 26th at 4:30 p.m.

Councilor Kawecki: received 2 Community Preservation awards that were presented to the Morgantown Historic Landmarks Commission and Main Street Morgantown from WV Historic Alliance Preservation over the weekend in Lewisburg. He mentioned Republic Services and appreciates what the city is doing, and that Republic is cooperating. He stated the receptacles that were delivered are now being coded with numbers so that each can be identified and will know who to contact if a situation may arise. He noted that the Gas Company has completed the work downtown and asked if a date has been set for the streets to be paved.

Deputy Mayor Trumble: announced that there will be an Art Show on June 30, 7pm – 9pm at the Wiles Hill Community Center to show off Frank Scafella's art work. Hazel's House of Hope held an Open House on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, which several council members, County Commissioners and several State Senators were in attendance. They had a lot of community members come out and thanked all that were present. She thanked the City Manager for getting in touch with the Engineering Department about the traffic concerns in the Woodburn area. She is happy that the carts with Republic are being solved, but she is still receiving concerns and is being forwarded to Carol Allen in the City Manager's office. She received concerns about the restrooms being closed down at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park on Monday, June 19th and Tuesday, June 20th. She would like to see the restrooms open down at HRMP even if it is a holiday. She is not sure who came in to speak with the City Manager about the downtown and how it is improving, but she feels that is not the case. She stated that the cleanup has improved, and there have been officers who have been walking downtown. She has talked with other business owners and 9 out of 10 of those business owners have stated that it is not getting any better. She mentioned scheduling a meeting with the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, and City Staff to discuss what is needed to improve the downtown.

Councilor Harshbarger: he is sorry that he was not able to attend Hazel's House of Hope Open House, but stated that it is a very important resource for our community and hopes to be able to take a tour in the future. He thanked the Planning Commission for bringing forth the Sales of Firearms Ordinance that they have been working on. He mentioned that the Mon River Trail Conservancy connector from Suncrest down to the trail is open and is about a quarter mile in length. There are a few more amenities to add and once that has been completed, an open house will take place. South Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting June 22, 2023, 5pm – 7pm and will have a food truck with a meeting to follow. If it rains, the new location will be at the Quaker House. Greenmont Neighborhood Association will be having their annual block party on Saturday, June 24th at 5pm, on Arch Street Island.

Councilor Butcher: announced Saturday, June 24, 2023, Noon – 6pm Morgantown Pride Block Party down at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park. He has received communication from the 7th ward neighbors that they have not received the letter from Republic stating a doctor's

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note is required to change to smaller receptacles. He stated that none of the plants that were planted at Turtle Park have died and thanked those who have been watering them. He has heard from many people in the downtown and the Wharf district that officers are not arresting, because they are being told they are not able to enforce the laws because city council does not allow them to.

Mayor Selin: she thanked those who have been watering Turtle Park. She appreciated the tour of Hazel's House of Hope. She appreciated the Steering Committee Meeting for the Comprehensive Plan and thanked all the work that has gone into that. She met with WVU Student Government President and a lot of activities coming up during the Fall Semester. She felt that the current student government is more organized than in the past. She noted that it is nice when your neighbors are able to contact Republic Services locally by scanning the QR Code that are located on the receptacles. She mentioned the Art Exhibit featuring Frank Scaffella and his pictures, paintings and drawings that will be on display June 30, 2023, 7pm - 9pm, at Wiles Hill Community Center. She also noted the Debra Palmer Gallery July 29th, 2023, 3pm – 6pm, at Wiles Hill Community Center. She stated that she has noted all of the improvements that have been made in our downtown area and knows that there are many people currently working on it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to West Virginia State Code Section 6-9A-4(2)(9) to discuss acquisition and or development of real estate in the Sixth Ward. Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Time: 8:04 Present: City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney.

ADJOURMENT: There being no further business, motion by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:06 p.m.

Heather R. Carl

Deputy City Clerk

J. S. S.
Mayor

