

City of Morgantown

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING July 11, 2023

Regular Meeting: July 11, 2023: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Wednesday, July 11, 2023, at 7:08 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy City Clerk Heather Carl, to receive nominations for Mayor and conduct the administration of oaths of office.

Nominations for Mayor:

Motion by Councilor Michael to nominate Danielle Trumble for Mayor.

Motion by Councilor Kawecki to nominate Jenny Selin for Mayor.

Councilor Trumble requested to speak relating to the nomination for Mayor.

Councilor Selin also requested to speak relating to the nomination for Mayor.

There being no other nominations for Mayor, a roll call vote was taken. Danielle Trumble received two votes and Jenny Selin received five votes.

Jenny Sein will be Mayor for 2023-2024.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor by Mayor Selin:

Motion by Councilor Michael to nominate Danielle Trumble for Deputy Mayor.

Councilor Trumble politely declined the nomination for Deputy Mayor.

Motion by Councilor Kawecki to nominate Joe Abu-Ghannam for Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations for Deputy Mayor, roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 6-1 with Councilor Trumble no vote.

Oaths of Office:

Mayor Jenny Selin - 4th Ward

Deputy Mayor M. Joe Abu-Ghannam - 1st Ward

City Council M. Joe Abu-Ghannam - 1st Ward

City Council Louise "Weez" Michael - 3rd Ward

City Council Danielle Trumble - 5th Ward

City Council Brian Butcher - 7th Ward

Present: City Manager Kim Haws, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Deputy City Clerk Heather Carl, Mayor Selin, Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, and Council Members Bill Kawecki, Louise Michael, Danielle Trumble, Dave Harshbarger and Brian Butcher. City Clerk Christine Wade was absent. Councilor Dave Harshbarger was present for the beginning of the meeting to vote for Mayor and Deputy Mayor, then he excused himself for the remaining of the meeting.

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Approval of Minutes: June 21, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes was approved as presented by acclamation.

Correspondence: Councilor Trumble summarized a letter she received from a constituent who was downtown and saw several incidents and stated how uncomfortable she felt. They mentioned how dirty the sidewalks were, along with money that the city has been collecting for years and still no signs of improvement.

Public Hearing: 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

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

Unfinished Business:

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

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

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0. Councilor Harshbarger was absent.

Boards & Commissions:

Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Michael, to reappoint, by consensus, Alice Meehan to the Ward Boundary Commission for another 2-year term. 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Butcher, to reappoint, by consensus, Sarah Barnes to the Ward Boundary Commission for another 2-year term. 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2025.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Butcher to appoint, by consensus, Sarah Barnes to the Sister Cities Commission for a 3-year term. 6/1/2023 – 5/31/2026.

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Mary Ann Fouls 828 Bloody Run Road Morgantown is currently a Mon County resident after moving away for 30 years. She mentioned that she has seen things improve and go downhill in the downtown area and stated things can be done better in the city. She also mentioned that she will be running for County Commission in 2024 against the “God” Tom Bloom and hopes that she gets elected for a chance to collaborate with council. She has extreme passion for this town and that is the reason she moved back. She has a lot of ideas and hopes that council will be willing to listen and keep an open mind. The main thing she wanted to talk about is downtown and stated that she has some ideas that could help with the issues. 1) Fix the first responder’s issues 2) Ambassadors and what they do 3) More Enforcement downtown and to get cameras installed on High Street.

Todd Stainbrook 1035 Bakers Ridge Road Morgantown noted he was not happy with the outcome of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He congratulated the newest members on Morgantown City Council and stated that they will do well in their role. He hopes that all of council can start working together for the better of the city.

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Annie Cronan Yorick Pocahontas Avenue spoke regarding Republic Services and the trash service.

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

Special Committee Reports: None

Consent Agenda: None

New Business:

An Ordinance Amending Section 1329.04.01: The entitled Ordinance below was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Amending Section 1329.04.01 as it relates to establishing a New Firearms Sales Establishments use in the Planning and Zoning Code

Director of Development Services Rickie Yeager explained. After discussion. Motion by Councilor Michael, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0. Councilor Harshbarger was absent.

2023 Paving List: The FY 2023 Paving List was presented for approval.

Director of Engineering Damien Davis explained. After discussion. Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Butcher, to approve the Bid Award to Parrotta Paving in the amount of \$1,739,476.25. Motion carried 6-0. Councilor Harshbarger was absent.

Fair & Festival Permit for Chris Janson Concert at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park Amphitheater: The Fair & Festival Permit was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Trumble, to approve the Fair & Festival permit for the Chris Janson Concert. Motion carried 6-0. Councilor Harshbarger was absent.

Representation to WV First Foundation Regional Director Election: The Representation was presented for approval.

Councilor Butcher explained. Motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Councilor Butcher, to nominate Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam to represent City Council at the WV First Foundation Regional Director Election. Motion carried 6-0. Councilor Harshbarger was absent.

A New City Seal: The New City Seal was presented for approval.

Assisted City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam to approve the new City Seal for the city. Motion carried 6-0. Councilor Harshbarger was absent.

Presentation/Discussion of Standards and Options for Rail Trail Lighting:

Mon River Trails Conservancy Executive Director Ella Belling presented to council options of several types of lighting for the rail trail. After discussion, no vote was taken.

City Manager's Report: he mentioned to Councilor Michael the Project Management Tool and what it is and used for.

Report from Deputy City Clerk: congratulated Mayor Selin and Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam on their one-year term as Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Police Civil Service Commission will be holding a Morgantown Police

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Entry-level test on Saturday, October 28, 2023, 9am at the Public Safety Building. Applications are being accepted in the City Clerk's office or online at www.morgantownwv.gov.

Report from City Attorney: Congratulated Mayor Selin, Deputy Mayor & Councilor Abu-Ghannam and Councilor Michael, Councilor Trumble, and Councilor Butcher on their terms. He mentioned that he attended a National League of Cities Webinar providing a Supreme Court Update from the last term focused on how the decisions of this term effects local government. A recording will be sent, and he offered to share it with council if they are interested. There have been several major changes that will affect Municipal Operations. He will try to identify those and keep up to date on them as they move forward. He shared that administration is continuing to work on the private outdoor designated areas, option from the newly enacted State Law, Main Street is currently taking the lead. A follow-up meeting will get scheduled with area bar owners to talk about how they can get some guidance from the Alcohol Beverage Commission Administration (ABCA) on some of the provisions of licensing and see if something can be done and participate in while moving forward.

Report from Council Members:

Councilor Butcher: he mentioned the following events: July 13, 2023, 6pm Suncrest Neighborhood Association Meeting and Cookout along with the dedication of Turtle Park; July 22, 2023, 4pm 1st Annual Travis Murray Memorial Car Show at the Mountaineer Mall Parking Lot to honor him. He mentioned the issues with Republic Services and stated that he is glad City Manager has taken the initiative in fining Republic Services for all the problems that have been happening with the city's trash issue. Stated he is still getting reports that smaller receptacles have not been received yet and some that have not received one at all. He would like these issues to be resolved soon. He met with Mayor Selin and the Finance Director Kevin Tennant regarding a potential Wage Theft Ordinance and their concerns. He stated that the planning for shelter this winter has started. He also stated that if Councilor Trumble had any updates if she could share those with everyone. Congratulated Councilor Michael on her new term and appreciated her for being at the meeting.

Councilor Harshbarger: Absent

Councilor Trumble: asked City Attorney Ryan Simonton about the PODA Ordinance for Huntington and if it has been established already and operational. City Attorney Ryan Simonton stated that it was adopted and had two applications that were turned in, but no licenses were granted by the ABCA. She thanked the City Manager's action with Republic Services regarding the early pickup that was happening all over town. She gave an update on the MCR regarding Hazel's House of Hope Advisory Committee meeting that they would like give her and Commissioner Arnett updates to share with the public at city council and Commission meetings. She gave an update of Hazel's House of Hope. She also gave an update on Mon County Resources regarding the Warming Shelter and that no organization has stepped up to run the facility for the winter months. She announced some upcoming events downtown: Saturday, July 15, 2023, Moonlight Market at the pavilion in the evening; Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 7pm Woodburn Association of Neighbors will meet at the Woodburn Community Complex Center; Thursday, July 20, 2023, BOPARC Jazz on the Green, part of the Sounds of Summer Concert Series, Jack Roberts Park; Don't forget about the Friday Night Concert Series at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park Amphitheatre. She mentioned the city charter and that council needs to start a charter review sub-committee to evaluate the needs of the community as it is currently. Also discuss what the people expect from council and want to see council do. She thinks that it is time to get together and discuss the election dates and she would like to ask to be included in that initiative. Mayor Selin stated that there needs to be a discussion.

Councilor Michael: stated that she is happy to be present at her first council meeting and is eager to get started. She mentioned that she has a few things going on in the 3rd Ward, a new sign for the Wiles Hill community along with new signage and looking at some of the alley ways. She requested to have an executive session at our next meeting regarding to discuss personnel issues.

Councilor Kawecki: Thursday, July 13, 2023, 7pm, South Park Association of Neighbors is sponsoring a casual walk, learning about trees and neighborhood in care. This will last 30 to 45 minutes, and they ask if you are in attendance to wear comfortable shoes. There will be a guest speaker, Thomas Puwall West Virginia Department of Agriculture Plant Industry Vision Program Coordinator.

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Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam: welcomed Councilor Michael. August 12, 2023, MHS will be holding their annual 5-K to raise money for the auditorium in the historic Morgantown High School. You will need to register, \$20, but if you register early, you will get a free T-shirt. If anyone follows him on Facebook, he will have the link posted. Announced July 20, 2023, Jazz on the Green at Jack Roberts Park; September 25, 2023, 6pm Jack Roberts Park First Ward Neighborhood. Expressed his gratitude for Councilor Trumble for stepping in for him. He reiterated the frustrations about Republic Services but stated there is some headway being made.

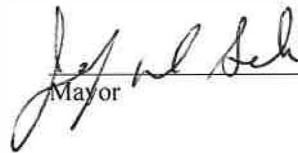
Mayor Selin: noted that another Republic Services meeting will need to be scheduled. She is grateful that fines have been given. She shared some items that was sent from the Mayor of Provo, who recently joined the Big 12 on July 1, 2023. She stated that it would be nice to also send them a care package with items from West Virginia. She thanked Deputy Mayor Joe Abu-Ghannam for becoming the Deputy Mayor and she also thanked everyone for all they do and for their contributions and she really appreciates 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 Councilor Trumble, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Time: 8:53 Present: City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:43 p.m.



City Clerk


Mayor