

City of Morgantown
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 5, 2023

Regular Meeting: September 5, 2023: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:03 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

Present: City Manager Kim Haws, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Clerk Christine Wade, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Mayor Jenny Selin, Deputy Mayor Joe Abu-Ghannam and Council Members Bill Kawecki, Louise Michael, Danielle Trumble, Dave Harshbarger. Brian Butcher was present via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: August 29, 2023, Special Meeting minutes was presented for approval as presented by acclamation. August 29, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes will be presented at the next regular meeting September 19, 2023.

Correspondence:

Urban Deer Archery Hunt Recap 2022 & the Upcoming 2023 Hunt Presentation – Rick Bebout

Rick Bebout presented a recap of 2022 and for the upcoming 2023 hunt.

All Star Community Award – City Ambassador Award & Presentation – Kim Katarski

Mayor Selin presented to Kim Katarski and Ed Mason the City Ambassador Award received at the WVML 2023 Summer Conference that was held in Wheeling, WV at Oglebay Resort. Kim and Ed provided a pamphlet to all of council and administration. Kim and Ed provided a brief overview of what has happened since the Ambassador Program began.

Public Hearing: None

Unfinished Business: None

Boards & Commissions: None

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Haley Day, 2935 University Avenue, New Local Governance Liaison for the Student Government at WVU introduced herself to City Council and Administration and is looking forward to working with council and administration.

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 Articles 523, 1139, and 1139: The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Amending Articles 523, Entitled “Litter,” 1139, Entitled “Solid Waste Collection,” and 1145, Entitled “Weeds and Noxious Materials”

City of Morgantown

City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

An Ordinance Amending Section 155.05 of the City Code: The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Amending Section 155.05 of the City Code Providing for Furnishing of Bond by Members of the Parking Authority

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

A Resolution Authorizing Application for Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant: The entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

A Resolution Authorizing an Application for the WVDEP Covered Electronic Devices Grant: The entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Councilor Trumble, second by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

Set time for Trick-or-Treat:

Mayor Selin explained. After discussion, there was a motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Trumble, to set Trick-or-Treat for Tuesday, October 31, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

City Manager's Report: expressed his appreciation to our Ambassadors for the wonderful job they do. He shared that he receives a lot of positive responses from the community and businesses about them. He reminded everyone that this program was an outgrowth of the ARPA dollars. He also expressed his appreciation to Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli for thinking about it and seeing the need for some positive connection with the downtown businesses. It certainly has panned out. He shared that for several years, they have been talking about trying to seek ways of funding the study of a pedestrian bridge from the White Park area across the Boulevard to the trail area. The Grant Writer and others have worked with the MMMPO trying to get their stamp of approval on it, and they finally got it from Bill Austin stating that it's time we made application for the study of such a project and location of the project. City Manager Haws shared that council will be receiving soon a grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to study this pedestrian bridge. 400 of that will be government state dollars and the remaining \$100,000 would require local match. The National Transportation folks approved the Mon River Waterway as an M-79 designation or navigable designation, and this is huge for Morgantown. He shared that he believes that the river is an underutilized gem of a resource for our area, and this designation really does give us an opportunity to expand.

Report from City Clerk: shared her congratulations to the Ambassadors, and stated she wished she had been there at the Municipal League Conference to hear the Director say all those kind words about them and their program. The State Auditor's training is on Wednesday, September 20 in Bridgeport. The Fire Civil Service Commission, in collaboration with the Morgantown Firefighters will be holding an agility open house on September 30 at 10:30 am. The clerk's office has reached out to all of those who have shown interest in being a firefighter since the beginning of 2021 to invite them to the Northside Fire Station for the open house. Municipal Government Week is October 16 through the 19th. Things are rolling along where we're getting new ideas and planning new things and we're reaching out to our Department Heads to do something fun and to celebrate our employees. The Police Civil Service Commission will be holding entry level police officer exam on October 28, that is a Saturday at 9am. Applications can be completed online or in person.

Report from City Attorney: shared that the city council previously adopted an ordinance annulling a portion of First Street and accepting a Declaration of Easement for new right-of-way adjacent to align that street with the newly relocated Campus Drive. Those property transfer documents are now received and complete, and the city's Public Works Department will be meeting with the contractor tomorrow and are expected to issue a notice to proceed. He shared that he appreciated the opportunity to sit in on the city council's joint meeting with the County Commission this evening. Following up on at least one of those issues discussed, there does appear to be parallel authority for both entities to have what are commonly called Unsafe Structures Ordinances. He will follow up with the council and staff on providing those laws in a City of Morgantown ordinance, enacting that law and some opportunities to cooperate on it.

City of Morgantown

Report from Council Members:

Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam: extended his appreciation to our city ambassadors. He shared that he talked to several businesses, and they have nothing but the best things to say about them and he truly does appreciate them. Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam stated that he saw them at the concert series, and he thanked them for all that they do.

Councilor Kawecki: shared regarding the ambassadors that it is the enthusiasm they bring to the job that makes the job done so well. He appreciates their attitude and their enthusiasm for the work they do. The South Park Association of Neighbors is having their block party this Friday evening at Eaton Park, which is on the corner of Morris and Park Street. It will start at six o'clock and everyone is welcome. There will be some music and cornhole for fun.

Councilor Trumble: thanked the County Commissioners and Senator Oliverio for coming in for a joint meeting. She also thanked Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli for her idea of bringing in a City Ambassador Program, noting that they do great work. She and her son have had the pleasure many times to participate in cleanups with the ambassadors. Councilor Trumble had a meeting last week and she had the opportunity to do some state travel in between that meeting and now. She visited the Town of Elkins and spoke with their mayor and got some good recommendations. Tomorrow, there is a DOT Vulnerable Road User Assessment Open House at the Mountain Line Transit Authority in Westover from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. If you are particularly invested in being a pedestrian or a cyclist in our community, it is a great way to provide some input to the folks in charge of our roads. BOPARC is hosting a gallery opening at the Wiles Hill Community building at the Deborah Palmer gallery. Sherry Lynn Bennett is opening her show, Grids Glow Weave and Flow, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Friday evening. The Arts Walk downtown is from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm that evening as well. Now that the summer concert series has come to an end, our Summer and Fall Movie Series is kicking off, Sundays at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Councilor Michael: shared that 461 is complete, the grass is mowed, and now you can see the road and curbs. The neighbors are happy. They are moving forward on with demolishing it in the future at some point. She thanked the city workers for doing a great job.

Councilor Harshbarger: thanked the ambassadors and stated that he appreciates their work. He appreciated the opportunity to meet with our County Commission and shared that meeting like this is always very valuable. The South Hills block party is this Sunday from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. He invited everyone to attend and shared that it will be at the top of Vandalia.

Councilor Butcher: thanked the clerk for allowing him to join the meeting by zoom. He shared that he is sick, but feeling okay and did not want to get everybody else sick. He thanked the city ambassadors, and the County Commission for the productive meeting this evening.

Mayor Selin: thanked the city ambassadors for their service. She shared that they put a lot of energy into it, that she appreciated their infectious attitudes, and their work ethic. Clearly, they are making it into a program probably unexcelled anywhere. She shared that they should get a lot of credit individually for the program's success. Mayor Selin also gave credit to Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli who is the brainchild behind it, noting that we just need people working together to make this type of thing work and to make people feel welcome in our community. She appreciated the meeting with the County Commission and looks forward to future meetings in the same type of setting and same time frame, stating that we should be thinking about what kinds of agenda items we'd like to work on and be prepared to discuss. She expressed her appreciation to all the people who have been working on city activities, such as the people working on city hall, people every day who are cleaning up the streets, those doing enforcement, or code out there working on different efforts.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Deputy Mayor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Trumble, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:06 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor