

REGULAR MEETING January 8, 2019: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 7:10 pm.

PRESENT: City Manager Paul Brake, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Deputy City Clerk Heather Carl, Mayor William Kawecki, and Council Members: Rachel Fetty, Ryan Wallace, Deputy Mayor Jenny Selin, Ron Dulaney, Mark Brazaitis, and Barry Wendell.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kawecki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 18, 2018, Special Meeting minutes were approved by consensus. December 18, 2018, Regular Meeting minutes was approved as corrected by consensus.

CORRESPONDENCE: Councilor Wallace provided an update from the Multiple Disciplinary Team on homelessness, they wanted to extend their gratitude for the traffic mirror on Spruce Street between the Public Safety Building and Health Right. He thanked Councilor Dulaney for his involvement in addressing homelessness in the downtown area, especially in front of the Friendship House, Christian Help and Health Right. He mentioned that Housing and Urban Development, and the Point-in-Time, will be counting the number of homeless in the area on January 23 and 24, 2019, and will be needing volunteers to help. Councilor Wendell received an email from Jeffrey Fritz, Junior Avenue, regarding MUB working with him on a pipe in the area. Councilor Dulaney mentioned that a Constituent from last month, December, shared a concern of a nuisance property that has since been taken care of. He wants to thank all of those who were involved in getting it taken care of. Deputy Mayor Selin mentioned that she received numerous complaints regarding Republic not picking up the recycling on Saturday and Monday, but then picked up recycling on Tuesday at noon. She wants the City Manager's office to make a phone call to Republic to notify them about the situation.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

Motion by Brazaitis, second by Wallace to re-appoint Kevin Meehan, by consensus, to the Board of Zoning Appeals for another 3-year term.

Motion by Wendell, second by Dulaney, to appoint Garrett Tomblin, by consensus, to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 3-year term.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Selin, second by Brazaitis, to reappoint Jeanne Hagen, by consensus, to the Parking Authority for another 3-year term.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Selin, second by Dulaney, to reappoint William Petros, 4th Ward, by consensus, to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term.

Motion by Dulaney, second by Deputy Mayor Selin, to reappoint Mike Shuman, 5th Ward, by consensus, to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term.

Motion by Wendell, second by Brazaitis, to reappoint Carol Pyles, 7th Ward, by consensus, to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion open.

Francis McGreevy, 5 Fork Drive, requested information regarding a lot at the corner of Hutchins and White Avenue.

Carol Hall, 227 Green Street, spoke of concerns regarding a Mountain Line bus stop on Spruce Street for the senior citizens and sheltered areas in the downtown for people waiting for the bus.

Linnie Wiley, 460 White Avenue, spoke of her concerns regarding the Mountain Line bus service's route in the downtown area.

There being no speakers, Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion closed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:

Information:

1. 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan Interim Report

City Manager spoke about the progress made over the past year, regarding the objectives set out in the 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan Interim Report can be found on the City Manager’s webpage. No action was taken.

2. Upgrades to Government Access Cable Channel 15

City Manager spoke about purchasing equipment to facilitate an update from an analog to digital signal on Channel 15 and the improvement in quality over the past year.

New Business:

1. Repayment of Property Taxes collected from University Park at Evansdale and West Virginia Campus Housing

City Manager explained, motion by Wallace, second by Brazaitis, to have Council suspend the rules to allow Jim Goff, Finance Director, explain and answer any questions. After discussion, motion by Wallace, second by Dulaney, to remit funds to the Treasurer of Monongalia County in the amount of \$561,683.85.

REPORT FROM CITY CLERK: Deputy City Clerk, Heather Carl announced that the Morgantown Police Department will be testing on April 13, 2019 for Police Officers and are accepting applications until March 15, 2019. Applications are available on our website at <www.morgantownwv.gov>. If you have any questions, or would like an application mailed to you, please contact the City Clerk’s office at (304) 284-7439. Also, she announced that the 2019 City Election Candidate packets can be picked up in the City Clerk’s office or retrieved via the website at <www.morgantownwv.gov>.

REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY: None

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilor Fetty: Thanked the City Manager for his Strategic Plan that he explained in his report. She responded to the audience regarding the Mountain Line bus changes and stated that there are regularly spaced bus shelters. She also shared that Dave Bruffy would be able to correct any misunderstanding and see if there could be a way to address the problem. Councilor Fetty mentioned the Downtown Task Force meeting on January 14, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Spruce Street United Methodist Church. She noted that the Mountain Line bus now has ride service available. She shared that the water slides at Marilla Park have been updated. She mentioned that the Neighborhood Association Meeting will be held on January 28, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at MTech, and that a Martin Luther King event will be held on January 21, 2019, at the Met Theatre.

Councilor Wallace: Announced a few upcoming events in the 3rd Ward, such as the Neighborhood Association meeting on January 16, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., and the Planning Commission meeting on January 10, 2019, regarding property in the 3rd Ward. He mentioned the movies at the Met Theatre and how they are a good way to bring people downtown. He also mentioned the Finance Open Checkbook Program. He thanked the City Manager for the budget update and wanted to know if it could be provided every month. He thanked the City Deputy Clerk for announcing the 2019 City Election during her report.

Deputy Mayor Selin: Stated that it would be good to have Dave Bruffy, Director of the Mountain Line Transit come to a Committee of the Whole meeting in January or February to do a presentation about the bus routes. She received a message from a citizen regarding the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life”. That citizen asked that it be considered for viewing at the Met Theatre before Christmas. She thought that may bring in some people downtown during the holiday season. She mentioned that the Suncrest Neighborhood Association will be having their meeting on January 31, 2019, to discuss Baldwin Street being repaved, and to offer other suggestions in the area such as a cross walk in front of Suncrest Middle School. She noted that she will be running again for the 2019 City Election.

Councilor Dulaney: Stated that he is for the bus shelters and knows that it will get worked out. He mentions that pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and bus shelters are all tied together through the concept of Complete Streets. He stated that the Woodburn School Redevelopment Commission has not met in some time and hopes to meet soon. He has attended the Jerome Park Neighborhood Association meetings and stated that one of the projects that they are working on is a playground for all located at Paul Preserve. He shared that they are very persistent in trying to find grant programs to help financial support for the project. He mentioned the Planning Commission and the meeting on January 10, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., and that there will be a Rezoning Hearing for 18 continuous parcels in or on Jones Street and in Wiles Hill. If there is interest in that issue, all are welcome. He noted that the Façade Improvement Program, Main Street Morgantown, who is partnered with the City of Morgantown is facilitating the program. The Selection Committee will be meeting on January 10, 2019, to complete their review of applications, so those applicants will hear soon about those awards.

Councilor Brazaitis: Stated that the Green Team is up to exciting things such as the Climate Action Plan to implement the City's Commitment to the U.S. Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda. He mentioned that there is a \$60,000 grant in progress to educate the citizens of Morgantown and beyond about problems of contamination of recycled goods. He shared that he is in favor, along with the other Council Members, of the bus shelters, benches, etc., and that he has heard from constituents the desire to move the bus terminal to downtown. He mentions the Jerome Park Neighborhood Association and that a YMCA it is still being considered for Morgantown in four different sights within the city.

Councilor Wendell: Provided the following.

"The MMMPO is meeting tomorrow from 4-7 at Mountain Line Transit on DuPont Rd. in Westover to discuss changes in proposed Tier 1 projects. There is another meeting Thursday at 6 at the MMMPO offices at the County Courthouse, 243 High St., Room 110. The Green Space Coalition meets at Brooks Hall at WVU, Room 324 from 5:30-7 Thursday, and, also Thursday, the Bike Board meets 6:30 - 8 at the Public Safety Building, First Floor.

Saturday, 4-6 P.M. at Woodburn Circle on WVU's campus, there is a demonstration in support of Michael Critchfield, the transgender Harrison County student who was harassed by an administrator at his school.

Monday, January 14, there is a meeting of the group "Giving Change That Matters," or "The Downtown Task Force "at 6:30 at the Methodist Church on Spruce St.

I spoke to the Unitarian Church this past Sunday. They asked me to speak about Blue Zones, which I did after consulting with Colleen Harshbarger, the head of the Health and Wellness Commission. Councilor Wallace joined me when he could and added to the presentation. I also attended the Green Team meeting last night, along with other Councilors. They are working on a way for Morgantown to reduce our carbon footprint and to save taxpayer money.

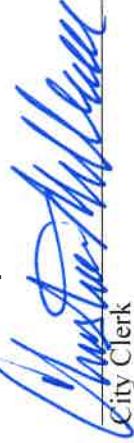
Osher Life-Long Learning starts its four-week winter session next week. OLLI meets at Mountaineer Mall. They can be reached at <https://olliatwvu.org>.

I visited Clinton County, Pennsylvania last week. Lock Haven, the major city in a county of 43,000 people, has a functioning movie theater downtown on Main Street, and a YMCA. It's a goal of mine that we have these things in Morgantown, a larger and wealthier city than Lock Haven.

We mourn the passing of Alan Stolzenberg, a chemistry professor at WVU, on December 22. We mourn with the family and the community at WVU and in Morgantown."

Mayor Kaweck: Announced that there are two positions available on the Transit Authority Board of Directors. He mentioned the number of concerns on the bus shelters and that he has spoken with Dave Bruffy regarding this. He stated that he would like to see everyone get off the idea of placing the blame on others and get back onto the idea of cooperating to make this what it should be, and that the City is interested in cooperating.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Wallace, second by Wendell, to adjourn the meeting.
Time: 8:20 p.m.



City Clerk



Mayor

*** ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON DVD IN THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE***