

REGULAR MEETING February 6, 2018: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7:20 p.m.

PRESENT: City Manager Paul Brake, Linda Tucker City Clerk, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Mayor Kawecki, and Council Members: Rachel Fetty, Ryan Wallace, Jenny Selin, Ron Dulaney, Deputy Mayor Mark Brazaitis and Barry Wendell. Assistant City Manager Angela Cline.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kawecki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 9, 2018 Regular Meeting was approved as amended by acclamation and January 23, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as printed by acclamation.

CORRESPONDENCE: Deputy Mayor Brazaitis mentioned correspondence that he received from a previous Council Member noting his concern of lengthening council terms from two years to four years. He referenced the Peace Corps, stating that there would be fewer applicants and therefore less diverse and qualified candidates. He questioned if a 4-year term would make Council more accountable, and asked if Council is considering this change now? **Ex. A.** Councilor Wendell mentioned an article in the Dominion Post on Saturday by Patrick Nabors and noted that he made comments that mis-characterized him. **Ex. B.** Councilor Fetty mentioned concerns from constituents about the Republic contract and that billing with MUB will add cost and requested this to be resolved before the change in billing takes place. Councilor Wallace noted that Commissioner Bloom contacted him about 1249 Central Avenue, and that their trash has not been picked up for some time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: No appointments at this time. Mayor Kawecki stated that at a Special Meeting this evening Council interviewed candidates for the Wellness Commission and ran out of time to make selections for the commission. He noted that Council will deliberate at a future meeting and announce the members.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion open.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilor Wendell noted that he attended the reception honoring Dave Fryson for his service as VP for WVU Division of Diversity. His work was centered on making it comfortable for African Americans, International Students and setting up the LGBT Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SOUTH PARK GREENMONT DESIGNATED PARKING

DISTRICT: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SOUTH PARK GREENMONT DESIGNATED PARKING DISTRICT:

City Manager explained. After discussion, motion by Wallace, second by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, to approve the above entitled ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TAX CREDITS: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TAX CREDITS FOR NEW AND EXPANDING BUSINESSES.

City Manager explained. After discussion. Motion by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, second by Wallace, to approve the above entitled ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1373.07 RELATING TO NONCONFORMING SIGNS: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1372.07 OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN PLANNING AND ZONING CODE AS IT RELATES TO NONCONFORMING SIGNS.

City Manager explained, motion by Wallace, second by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, to approve the above entitled ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 929: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BY THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN AMENDING ARTICLE 929 OF ITS STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, AS THE SAME APPLIES TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE CONTROL.

City Manager deferred explanation and questions to Tim Ball. Council suspended the rules to have Tim Ball, MUB Director, explain and answer questions. After discussion, motion by Fetty, second by Selin, to approve the above entitled ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.14: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.14 OF THE GENERAL OFFENSES CODE RELATING TO SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF DOGS AND CATS.

City Manager explained. After discussion, motion by Wallace, second by Wendell, to approve the above entitled ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

New Business:

1. Award Bid – Thermal Imaging Camera

The Morgantown Fire Department has sought bids to purchase four (4) thermal imaging cameras. The cost of the purchase is covered 90% through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Firefighters Assistance Grant program. Attached you will find a copy of a memorandum from Chief Caravaso recommending a preferred vendor. Based on the tabulations in consideration of deficiencies and adhering to the specifications, the Fire Department is recommending awarding the bid to Dills Fire & Safety in the amount of \$28,720. City Council is needed to approve the bid.

City Manager explained. After discussion, motion by Wallace, second by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis to approve the bid to Dills Fire & Safety for \$28,720. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Investing in Opportunity Act

It was brought to the City Manager's attention of an opportunity that the new tax federal bill provides for localities. Included in the overall bill is the "Investing in Opportunity Act", which seeks to bolster economically depressed areas across the country with tax breaks in those areas. It enables governors to

designate "Opportunity Zones" where investors can develop projects with the capital gains of their investments, which will not be taxed. It will allow investors to harbor wealth tax free in struggling, low-income neighborhoods.

Within 90 days of the bill's enactment (mid-March), all governors must designate Opportunity Zones in their states (not to exceed 25% of the low-income qualified census tracts). The U.S. Treasury Department will then either approve or deny these designations.

Opportunity Zones must have the following characteristics, which are essentially the same as New Market Tax Credit eligibility factors:

- have a poverty rate of at least 20 percent;
- in a metropolitan area, have a median income that does not exceed 80 percent of the metro area's median income; or
- be a census tract adjacent to a low-income area as long as the median income doesn't exceed 125 percent of the area median income.

Morgantown should consider whether it wants to press the State of West Virginia (Governor's office, Woody Thrasher, state legislators, etc.) to include some of Morgantown's low-income neighborhoods in its designation. This would provide an incentive for high-wealth investors to park money in Morgantown for community development. The attached map show what areas of the City would qualify for this incentive.

City Manager explained to Council that the memorandum from Sustainable Strategies giving specific information about the new federal program. He recommended City Council to direct the City Manager to work with our consultant, Sustainable Strategies, to pursue this designation through the State of West Virginia.

After discussion, motion by Dulaney, second by Selin to work with the consultant of Sustainable Strategies to pursue the designation through the State of West Virginia. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Public Works Request to Purchase Three Pickup Trucks

Staff is recommending the City Council to forgo the competitive bidding process, per City Ordinance 129.05(e), and purchase a proposed street sweeper through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA). This group represents thousands of competitively solicited equipment and the City has previously purchased equipment earlier this year. You will recall the City made a previous purchase, through this same purchasing organization, for a new street sweeper - December 5, 2017 regular City Council meeting. City Manager presented a memorandum which included the details and specifications of each of the three (3) GMC Sierra pickup trucks in the amount of \$91,006.43. City Council approved of the bid amount and a description of the piece of the equipment as recommended.

After discussion, motion by Wendell, second by Wallace to approve the purchase of the (3) GMC Sierra pickup trucks in the amount of \$91,006.43. Motion carried 7-0.

4. WV Bites and Brews for Festival Permit

City Manager noted that The Spark! Imagination and Science Center has made a request for a festival permit for the "WV Bites and Brews" event. This is a second annual event hosted by this group at the WV National Guard Readiness Center at 90 Army Way. This will offer attendees samples of "bites" from local food trucks and mobile vendors as well as tastes of several microbrews. Spark! Imagination and Science

Center inspires people of all ages to explore science and the arts. City Manager explained that Staff recommends City Council to authorize a festival permit to be sent to the ABCC to all the WV Bites and Brews to take place on April 28, 2018.

After discussion, motion by Fetty, second by Selin to approve the above stated festival permit. Motion carried 7-0.

Announcements:

1. MUB Taking over Bill for Republic

City Manager clarified that the bills will not be higher and that the three percent increase would be added as per compliance. After discussion, City Manager explained in a presentation Chief Ed Preston gave that he said there were 1000 citations given out for the enforcement of the Green Tags for trash in 2015. City Manager clarified that there were only 250 citations given out and wanted to make that known to the public.

2. Hazel Ruby McQuain Park

City Manager updated Council on the progress that the bid document went out to construction specialists to establish a team, a contractor, architect, landscaper and that the City will be evaluating their qualifications. He noted that the Request for Qualification is on the Cities Web, Dominion Post and other State Publications and one month from tonight in the City Managers Report there will be a recommendation of a team to hire.

REPORT FROM CITY CLERK: No report.

REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY: No report.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Councilor Fetty: | Councilor Fetty mentioned concerns from constituents about the Oxford House developing in the Second Ward. She asked what type of proposal is going to be on the ballot. She asked is it going to be about the Council length of terms and change of election dates. |
| Councilor Wallace: | Councilor Wallace thanked all the health care workers that are battling the flu in our State. He reported attending the Granville Planning Commission Meeting last week and noted it benefits both leaderships to know each other. He noted his concern about animal cruelty and tethering of dogs and will be presenting an ordinance to Council on this issue. He expressed about the Elections financial transparency is important and would like to see Campaign Finance Reports one week before the election. He noted on Annexation that he would like to see Council move forward with property owners on minor boundary adjustments. |
| Councilor Selin | Councilor Selin reported that she and the Mayor attended Mon County Day at the Legislature. She noted that Preston County was there and meetings were scheduled for Tourism, Commerce, and Highways that they attended. She announced that the Evansdale Neighborhood Association will have their next meeting at Perceval Hall on 2-7-18 at 6:30 p.m. Councilor Selin suggested that in reference to Annexation that City Administration come up with a comprehensive plan to address this issue. |

Councilor Dulaney: Councilor Dulaney mentioned that there are 3 applicants interested in the openings on the Woodburn School Redevelopment Commission. He noted that out of the three applicants they are all in the 5th ward, it would be nice to get applicants outside the ward. He reported on the upcoming Planning Commission meeting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. He noted topics that will be discussed, such as a recommendation report for future study area 2; new proposal for hostel hotels and a few minor subdivisions to be addressed.

Deputy Mayor Brazaitis: Deputy Mayor Brazaitis urged the public to let us hear from you on issues of importance. He mentioned the bankruptcy of the Charleston Gazette is disheartening. He noted his appreciation to our local media stating that the City needs a strong, independent, economically viable, and involved press. He thanked all the applicants that interviewed for the Health and Wellness Commission. He appreciated Councilor Fetty supplying a healthy dinner this evening for Council. He mentioned that the City should celebrate the Hazel Ruby McQuain Foundation's \$4.1 million grant and its implementation. **Ex. A.**

Councilor Wendell: Councilor Wendell noted that he is humbled by how privileged he is, and noted that during the Health & Wellness interviews Council heard about children that could not take Gym Class because of not having tennis shoes. He stated that when he was growing up, he always had nice clothes to wear to school. He mentioned that he had the flu a month ago, and Medicare paid for his medicine, and he had a spouse to take care of him. He said that it is sad that in such a wealthy country that there is so much poverty and lack of health care for everyone. He announced that he ran for Council in 2016 because the State Legislature inspired him to come forward and make some social changes. He mentioned that there will be a "Fairness Lobby Day" at the Legislature on 2/8/17 to highlight the growing need for fully inclusive LGBT nondiscrimination laws.

Mayor Kawecki: Mayor Kawecki noted that there was a meeting about the Oxford House with the South Park Neighborhood Association and Chris Fletcher attended and answered questions. He stated that this house can go in this neighborhood by Federal Mandate and the residents have been very receptive. He stated that minutes from that meeting are available for the public to review. He noted that there are other homes in Morgantown such as this in Woodburn and one Spruce/Pleasant. He stated that on changing the terms on Council there are disagreements, but this issue will be debated at the Neighborhood Coordinating Council Meeting at 7pm on 2/12/18. He mentioned that the City Manager and Mayor visited Clarksburg Mission and met with Chris Mullet, Executive Director on homeless issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to West Virginia Code section 6-9(A)4. (2)(B)(9) to discuss litigation. Motion by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, second by Wallace, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Present: City Manager, City Attorney and Council. Time 9:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business adjourn by unanimous consent at 10:23 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON DVD AT THE MORGANTOWN CITY LIBRARY

Mark Brazaitis, deputy mayor, councilor from Ward 6

1-23-2018

Correspondence

We received a letter from a former Morgantown Deputy Mayor, with concerns about the proposal discussed at the Committee of the Whole to create 4-year, staggered terms for council members.

I'll elaborate briefly on my concerns, which incorporate some of his – and would appreciate, as I'm sure we all would, the public's input.

2 years versus 4 years

The Peace Corps (two years) would like a longer commitment from its volunteers but understands the talent pool would decrease if this were the case. There would be fewer applicants and therefore a less diverse and qualified Peace Corps. In our case, would the pool of likely candidates narrow to entrenched interests and discourage qualified people?

Would 4 year terms make council less accountable to the people? What realistic recourse would voters have to reign in a renegade council? (Staggered terms don't necessarily help here: It takes 4 votes to move bad things forward – or stall good things from moving forward – or discourage our public employees.)

The US House of Representatives is a 2-year term, specifically to keep that body close to the people. Isn't that the intention with our two-year terms?

Why are we considering this change now and in this form? Is it a response to a specific, perhaps one-off or unique situation or is it in response to a systemic, long-standing problem?

Have we war-gamed for unintended consequences and what might those be? Or to quote Donald Rumsfeld, what are the known knowns, the known unknowns, and the unknown unknowns?

I appreciate that we're looking elsewhere in WV to see what other municipalities are doing. But are we also appreciating Morgantown's distinct character – with WVU here, in particular – as a somewhat transitory community?

Finally: if we're going to make a charter change, which is a big deal, are we looking at a range of ideas?

A not-necessarily-ready-for-prime-time idea: What if we had 8 council members elected to 2 year terms on the third Tuesday in April and a mayor elected to a 4-year term in the November

general election? The mayor wouldn't replace the city manager, but this would acknowledge the more public and ceremonial role – and other responsibilities – the mayor takes up. He or she would have the same responsibilities – and the same vote – as under our current system. Perhaps the mayor could receive a greater salary. And perhaps the councilors' salary could be provided based on a sliding scale – which might encourage people from all different economic situations from running for these positions.

I am not expressing, at this point, a personal opinion. I want to ask questions raised by the letter and others.

Boards and Commissions:

The Met Theater Commission will meet Thursday at 6 in the Morgantown Museum.

Council Report:

Let us hear from you, the public, on issues of importance.

News of the bankruptcy, and filing of chapter 11, of the *Charleston Gazette* is disheartening.

This is a shout out to our media – DP, DA, WAJR, NPR, etc. -- we need a strong, independent, and involved press in Morgantown – and I hope our media remains economically viable. At the DP, Randy Vealey and his staff have been writing editorials on important local issues – including annexation. I don't always agree with those editorials, but I appreciate the public dialogue.

Thank you to the applicants to the Health and Wellness Commission.

Thank to you Councilor Fetty for the healthy dinner.

We should celebrate a victory for Morgantown – the Hazel Ruby McQuain Foundation's \$4.1 million grant and its implementation. We're looking forward to seeing progress!

Ex B

Opinion

4-A THE DOMINION POST SATURDAY, FEB. 3, 2018 OPINION PAGE EDITOR ■ RANDY VEALEY ■ 904-291-9470 ■ Email: opinion@dominionpost.com

GUEST EDITORIAL

Conversion therapy is child abuse

Wash, bill doesn't restrict clergy, volunteers or even parents from attempting practice

Conversion therapy for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth is child abuse, plain and simple. The Washington Legislature should have banned this horrible practice long ago.

If action in the Senate is any indication, 2018 will be the year for a sensible approach to changing state law to stop conversion therapy.

The proposal would make it "unprofessional conduct" for a licensed health-care provider to perform conversion therapy on a patient younger than 18. The bill would not restrict clergy members and volunteer counselors or even parents from attempting the practice, but child-abuse laws could come into play in those circumstances.

Some speakers at a public hearing last week expressed concern this bill would restrict therapists from even talking with children about their sexuality, but that is an exaggeration of the proposal and its intent.

The bill is simple and similar to laws that have already passed in nine other states, including California. The proposal would change the state discipline statutes for health-care providers to add conversion therapy to a list of unprofessional conduct that already includes fraud as well as misuse of drugs or alcohol. The law allows sanctions including license revocation or suspension, mandatory criminal education and fines.

According to numerous scientific studies, conversion therapy does not work in any way. You cannot convert someone away from his or her true nature. Conversion therapy can, however, make young people more depressed, more marginalized, more suicidal and more likely to run away from home.

This therapy is more than unprofessional. It is outrageous. This practice must be banned in Washington state. The proposal before the Legislature this year is a good start and should win approval.

THIS EDITORIAL first appeared in The State Times last week. The Dominion Post has a special archive page for view and print subscriptions. See a link at the bottom of the page.

W.Va. House: Clergy can refuse marriages

Editorial

CHARLESTON — West Virginia's House has passed a bill that says clergy in the state don't have to perform marriages that don't conform to their "sincerely held religious beliefs" and cannot be sued for refusing. Judiciary Committee Chairman John Shott, a Bluefield Republican, says it clarifies the law, though he was aware of no such lawsuits in the state. The bill passed 90-5.

Delegate Mike Pughlin, a Charleston Democrat, says the First Amendment already protects clergy against such infringement on beliefs, and the bill is an attempt to "pander" to what some lawmakers see as "an intolerant element in their own base."

Delegate S. Marshall Wilson, a Gerrardstown Republican, says a quick Google search produced an article about an Atlanta city law that allows pastors to perform gay marriages for \$200 a pop.

First Amendment CORNER

State does not need another failed court

West Virginia's legal system is broken. Cases for my business have taken years in Mason County Circuit Court for the simplest matters. In one case, it has suffered for four years while attorneys read an insurance policy to determine if coverage exists.

After \$5,000 in legal bills, four years and the West Virginia Supreme Court ruling in our favor, how I avoided my legal fees? Nope, after my wife, attorney's real-life, beatifiable, brother.

The Legislature thinks the solution to this mess is a big gotcha by introducing another form of bureaucracy — an inter-ministry appellate court.

Only lawyers would dream up this "solution." More filings and more steps result more of your money for their million dollars, millions and TV ad-vertisements. This will not speed cases up. It's just another step preventing final resolution.

Our courts use 11 different forms that are not updated or supported by lawyers. We need a system where the loser of a case pays all attorney's fees.

The US is one of few countries where someone can sue, stuck in litigation forever, eventually win their case and then suffer paying their own legal defense.

We need reforms that force lawyers to work instead of email, teleconference and play football at their client's expense. Clients pay for both attorneys to file proposed orders, so judges don't cuff the indicants of working. Talk about waste.

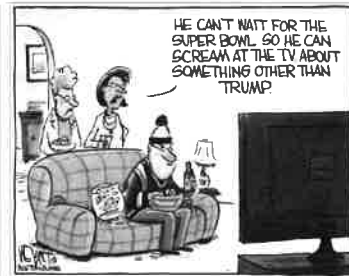
It is long past time for substantial legal reforms in this state. Reforms that will contribute to efficient justice, not the kind that pads the pockets of lawyers and causes delays. Please stop the insanity. We need a judicial system courts, please. We hear enough of them already.

D. Shannon Kinnes
Vienna

Rampant hypocrisy why Trump was elected

What if Leonard Pitts were smart? I understand that his purpose is to show support for left-wing ideals. He does this

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



LETTERS TO EDITOR

MAIL LETTERS to the editor to The Dominion Post, 1251 E. 1st St., Morgantown, WV 26503. Email letters to opinion@dominionpost.com. Include your name and phone number for confirmation purposes. Letters should not exceed 300 words.

I resent the idea that if you don't live on the coasts or in a major city, you are clueless, sexist, racist, homophobic or worse.

Well, not only does he repeat every left-wing talking point, he often chooses to apply negative embellishment and exaggeration to them.

Does Pitts truly lack intelligence or does he just choose not to recognize the obvious? Whether you like President Donald Trump or not, if you have been paying attention for the last 30 or 40 years, you know that he is not stupid.

To state that Trump has "no fixed ideological moorings" and doesn't believe in anything but himself is either a deliberate falsehood or the height of ignorance.

If you were paying attention, you know he ran on a belief in the rule of law and ideological

moorings based on the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

If you follow the logic that Pitts is attempting to sell, a smart president would institute tyranny to rule the nation.

With Hillary Clinton's tendency to ignore the rule of law to promote a welfare state and up in leaders while expressing a desire to disarm citizens, it's obvious who would enact the tyranny.

It's like the group that claims to be anti-fascist yet is the most fascist. They are willing to block public streets, destroy public and private property and attack people to stop those who don't agree with them from speaking to people from listening to them. This behavior is the definition of fascism.

These examples of hypocrisy one way Trump was elected. I resent the idea that if you don't live on the coasts or in a major city, you are clueless, sexist, racist, homophobic or worse.

It reminds me of an obnoxious gentleman I met a few years ago who lived in several major cities on the coasts before moving here. He had such a prejudicial and preconceived idea of this community that he said he and his spouse could not live here. They still here and he is now on City Council.

He was wrong about people who live in communities like ours as are so many others around this area, including Leonard Pitts.

Patrick Nabors
Morgantown

Let's mind our own business, while she minds hers

MELANIA TRUMP APPEARS TO BE A PRIVATE PERSON. Or, at least, she would be, if she had any privacy.

Everything she does — every saying, every remark — is analyzed, parsed, ferreted through some kind of political, Jello mold to see what shape it takes. Various and contradictory personalities are assigned to her based largely on who with expensive habits, shiny like operetta who holds her cards close, protective heteroclit mom, tallent FLUTUS who owes us a worthy "phantom" and make a detailed interview on live TV.

But private is one thing that, for all her privilege, she does not get to be. This is a shame.

She's stuck with a miserable fishbowl of an unpaid roughie. It's hard not to suppose that most former first ladies have been glad to see their terms come to an end.

Like most things in our ostensibly egalitarian culture, the rules for political wives and political husbands still limited in number, but growing are different. We expect married women on political



JACQUELYNN FLOYD

allies to help husbands who, while supportive, don't have to show up for every event, don't have to give interviews to women's magazines about what it's like to be second banana to the star of the show. They get to have their own lives.

Yet we harbor an unwholesome assumption that political wives have to perform a unique cultural role as combination subtlety ambassador, mime to the great man, and global exemplar for how American women think, believe, behave. From here, it feels grinding.

There have been disapproving murmurs all around that Mrs. Trump is not playing the role we expect, even while her husband — like it or not — reinvents the rules of

the presidency. Why doesn't she speak up, show up, organize more events, champion more causes, have her picture taken with major players and vote and first responder?

The "Power of the Day" — well, really of the Other Day, since the reality of Mrs. Trump's long-distance commutes pretty much blew after Melania goes out of the public spotlight — where Melania — is that it's all a quiet show of "moderation" that might uphold our expectations for future first ladies.

Mrs. Trump may be doing more than say if her predecessors to upend our expectations of the slavish devotion a first lady must display toward her husband," writes Kate Andersen Brower, author of "First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies."

Maybe so. But just the fact that the white-savagiest rule persists even in these "modest" lanes suggests that there is a set of expectations this role carries — an unenforced threshold to the neck-soaked days when the only way

for a woman to be recognized as a Big Shot was to be Mrs. Big Shot.

You might argue that some of the most influential and politically collaborative first ladies preside the "modern" White House — Abigail Adams, Sarah Childress Park, Eleanor Roosevelt. You might also argue that as first lady, Hillary Clinton did not really do her own political career a lot of favors. Less baggage from the FLOTUS years might have made her a more popular candidate.

Impossible to speculate on whether she is a subtle radical in the White House. But she takes an awful beating from social media critics and other observers who don't like her husband, don't like his behavior and opinions — as if she were a bundled component of a prepaid package.

We're in one of those tuned-in cultural moments where women's voices are being heard. Marches and #MeToo, yes, and also the plain demand for fundamental fairness and equity and respect. Like men, women have a right

to be heard. And like men, they have a right to not be heard if they don't want to be — to be quiet, to keep their thoughts to themselves.

This is a brand of backlash feminism that demands Melania Trump state her position on her husband's policies, that she publicly discuss her husband's alleged personal peccadilloes.

Why? If his job — not hers. Her marriage — rock-solid or shaky, happy or otherwise — is her private business. If we really expect a first lady who publicly explains her every move, or who dishes about her feelings, we're not as grown-up as we pretend to be.

Feminism — if it's defined in the sense of giving women the same obligations and privileges as everybody else (men) — is not about what your plates are or who your husband is, or what options you choose in life.

It's about having those options in the first place.

JACQUELYNN FLOYD is the first columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

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55-C AP PRESS NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

The First Amendment
The right to petition allows citizens to express their ideas, hopes and concerns to their government. Whereas the right to speak before the public exchange of ideas that is integral to democratic governance, as well as to the whole realm of ideas and human affairs.
Anthony M. Kennedy
U.S. Supreme Court Justice

MALLARD FILMROLE

NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY