

REGULAR MEETING March 20, 2018: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:00 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.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kawecki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 6, 2018 Special Meeting minutes and March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

CORRESPONDENCE: Sheriff Fletcher from Hancock County presented the City of Morgantown Police/Fire Dive Team a Plaque for their assistance and recovery of a victim in the Ohio River, that brought closer to a family on January 7, 2016. Susan Arnold, Hagans Evans Chapter of the DAR, noted that to promote American History and Women the Chapter this evening will be honoring Morgantown Mayors. She stated Dorothy Comuntzis was the first female Mayor in Morgantown, as Charlene Marshall was the first African American in Morgantown and West Virginia. Mayor Scafella read the Women's History Proclamation proclaiming March 2018 as Women's History Month and honoring Dorothy Comuntzis and Charlene Marshall. **Ex. A.** Susan Arnold presented certificates of recognition to former Mayors, Florence's Granddaughter accepted certificate for Florence Merow, Jenny Selin and Marti Shamberger. Susan Arnold stated that the plaques that are being given this evening to Dorothy & Charlene are to be placed in City Hall, she noted that their biography will be on the DAR American History Web-site. Susan Arnold asked Charlene Marshall to come forward to accept her Plaque and the Mayor presented her with the Proclamation. Mayor Kawecki presented a proclamation for *March as Bleeding Awareness Month* and Council wore red ties in honor of individuals with bleeding disorders at the meeting. Mayor Kawecki introduced Rev Prichard to the podium from Trinity Episcopal Church. Rev. Prichard presented a letter from the Commission on Racism and Diversity of the Episcopal Diocese of WV applauding Council for the passage of the Human Rights Ordinance. **Ex. B.** Deputy Mayor Brazaitis mentioned a request from Bob Jones, 1205 Macomb Street, requesting a sidewalk along Dorsey from Circle K to Luckey Lane for the safety of neighbors and youth in that area and noted that he favors annexation of Marjorie Gardens. He noted receiving e-mails from WVU journalism students writing stories about City Government issues and e-mails on changing City Council Terms. **Ex. C.** Councilor Fetty mentioned an e-mail from Scott Watkins, 1216 Avalon Street requesting that Republic please start getting the recycling or he will add his recycling to the regular garbage and refuse to pay for the bill. **Ex. D.** She noted that she received e-mails from Richard Bragonje, **Ex. E.** Ken Martis, **Ex. F.** Ann Olham **Ex. G.** and Michael Bradley **Ex. H.** She mentioned receiving an e-mail from Jim Manilla and appreciated his comments. **Ex. I.** She noted a resident in First Ward concerned about litter pick-up; tree replanting at Jack Robert Park and parks in general as we transfer from winter to spring. Councilor Wallace noted corresponded from a constituent stating that the City should keep non-partisan Elections, avoid combining elections and term limits. He received an e-mail from Roger Banks indicating his concern for four-year-term and noted that he sees he is here this evening and will let him speak later on the issue. Councilor Selin read a letter from L. J. Giuliani about Main Street Morgantown stating that Council should invest in their community partners in making the City inclusive. Councilor Wendell stated he received an e-mail from Nancy Ganz stating that she supported the staggering of the four-year term.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PLAN REVIEW AND PERMITTING FEE SCHEDULE.

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Hearing open.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A GENERAL BUSINESS LICENSE IN THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN AND AMENDING RELATED PROVISIONS OF PART SEVEN OF THE CITY CODE REGULATING BUSINESS AND TAXATION.

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Hearing open.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019:

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Hearing open.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PLAN REVIEW AND PERMITTING FEE SCHEDULE.

The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PLAN REVIEW AND PERMITTING FEE SCHEDULE.

City Manager explained, then deferred City Attorney to explain the Amended Fee Schedule. Motion by Wallace, second by Selin, to adopt the above entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A GENERAL BUSINESS LICENSE IN THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN AND AMENDING RELATED PROVISIONS OF PART SEVEN OF THE CITY CODE REGULATING BUSINESS AND TAXATION. The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A GENERAL BUSINESS LICENSE IN THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN AND AMENDING RELATED PROVISIONS OF PART SEVEN OF THE CITY CODE REGULATING BUSINESS AND TAXATION.

City Manager explained, motion by Wallace, second by Dulaney, to adopt the above entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019.

City Manager explained, after discussion, motion by Fetty, second by Wendel, to adopt the above entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Mayor Kawecki noted no appointments now to give candidates that were not available this evening a chance to interview.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion open.

Steve Glass, Area Leader for Lions Club International, announced to Council that Lions Club International is forming a new club in the Morgantown area. He noted that members will be in Morgantown the week of March 25-31, 2018 and is requesting Council's support of this community initiative.

Jordan Glass, Harrison County Lions Club, announced that Saturday March 24, 2018 the Club will be out in Mon County distributing information.

Roger Banks, 444 Overhill Street, stated that he is in strong opposition of the Charter change that Council is proposing the way it is. He noted that he has supported combining elections and staggered terms, but only as a package. He commented that if he had to vote for a charter change on staggered terms only he would vote against the change.

Richard Dumas, 444 Overhill Street, he added to the comments of Rev Prichard commending the Human Rights Commission on the work they did on the Ordinance and for Council adopting the Ordinance. He stated that he agrees with Roger that the changes to the charter need to be as a package as one unit by being more progressive, inclusive and increase voter turnout.

Don Spencer, 687 Killarney Drive, stated that Don Price, Charter Board Member stood at this podium every time speaking against such change. Mr. Spencer requested Council table the Charter Amendment Ordinances for further debate.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Kawecky declared the Public Portion closed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES II AND VII OF THE CITY CHARTER ESTABLISHING THE COMPOSITION, ELIGIBILITY, ELECTION, AND TERMS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND FOR THEIR NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS.

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

New Business:

- 1. Agreement for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) for Hazel Ruby McQuain Riverfront Park**
March Westin has been selected as the Construction Manager for the upgrades to the existing Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheater, Riverfront Park and revitalization of the Walnut Street Landing. As mentioned in the previous meeting packet, this is the first phase of the construction project following the award announcement of \$4.1 million from the Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust.

Under this arrangement, the Construction Manager will provide the overall project management services for the construction of upgrades and new construction at the waterfront park and facility. Staff has negotiated the contractual agreement through an American Institute of Architects (AIA) form.

Staff recommends the authorizing the City Manager to enter into the agreement with March-Westin for the above-mentioned project.

After discussion, motion by Wallace, second by Selin to authorize the City Manager into an agreement with March-Westin for construction at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Update - Agreement for Solid Waste and Recycling Materials – Republic Services Contract

Staff is diligently working with the corporate legal counsel on the finalized agreement for solid waste and recycling materials collection services as provided by the City's current provider, Allied Waste Services of North America, LLC dba Republic Services of West Virginia. As you will probably recall, an initial draft was presented at the February Committee of the Whole. Since that time, input was received from the City's Green Team on the specific provisions in the agreement document.

Assuming this is completed in a reasonable amount of time, the final draft of the proposed agreement between the City and Republic Services of West Virginia will be send a separate email not later than the close of business on Monday, March 19. If are unable to consummate a tentative agreement, I will detail the timeline moving forward.

Republic Services provides trash collection for 9,564 residential accounts through, once a week, collection Monday through Friday (depending on location). This also includes collection from 1,058 commercial accounts varying from once weekly, all the way up to day collections (depending on the contract). They also conduct curbside recycling of single stream content that includes such materials as newspaper, glass, metal, cardboard and plastics. Also, included in the franchise, the hauler provides two (2) free bulk pickups per month.

Republic Services operates within the City of Morgantown pursuant to Permit No. H-10824 approved by the West Virginia Public Service Commission and certificates of convenience and necessity are issued by this state agency.

The waste hauler also provides roll-off containers for WVU student move out during the first two weeks in May. Lastly, the trash hauler also provides solid waste collection services to City buildings and facilities, including the City's open street receptacles.

Assuming an agreement can be finalized in a timely fashion, representatives from Republic Services will be present at Tuesday's meeting to answer any questions or clarify the contract.

After discussion, motion by Wallace, second by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis to approve the Republic Services Contract. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Residential Solid Waste Billing Agent – Morgantown Utility Board Billing Agreement

Attached is the Memorandum of Understanding between the Morgantown Utility Board (MUB) and the City to become the billing agent for residential solid waste accounts. Fees associated with this service will be included in each of the customers billing accounts. Republic's cost of service would decrease by a similar amount since they would no longer be responsible for conducting the billing.

It is a change of billing cycles; Republic Services charges a quarterly bill and MUB bills on a bi-monthly basis. The cost of the service would be adjusted accordingly. As mentioned in previous meetings, Republic Service will be imposing higher costs due to inflationary adjustments into future years. Any of the cost increases (into the future) are not reflective of the billing agent change.

The same agreement will be presented to the MUB Board of Directors and consider at their March 19 Regular Board meeting.

After discussion, motion by Wallace, second by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis to approve the Morgantown Utility Board Billing Agreement. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Adopting the FY 2018-2019 Capital Escrow Budget

Included in the packet is revised pages to the FY 2018-2019 Capital Escrow Budget. The total proposed budget is \$6,115,259.60 for the upcoming fiscal year. Since the document was first presented, this includes a modification to one of the non-profit organizations (Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia). This entails including the consolidation of the three line-items into a single appropriation for this group. As mentioned during the budget workshop, the Foundation has vetted grant applications from 11 art organizations located within the City. City Council specifically mentioned three other organizations to be including for funding. City Manager explained the rationale and methodology for the funding of the agencies.

After discussion, motion by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, second by Selin to adopt the Capital Escrow Budget for 2018-19. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Adopting the FY 2018-2019 Municipal Airport Budget

Included in the budget document is the proposed operating budget for the Morgantown Municipal Airport for the upcoming fiscal year. The spending plan includes \$2,633,206 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Motion by Wallace, second by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis to adopt the 2018-19 Airport Budget. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Adopting the FY 2018-2019 MET Theater Budget

Also included in the budget document is a copy of the operating budget for the Metropolitan Theatre. This is a relatively new budget as the operations was previously handled through an operating agreement with the College of Creative Arts (CCA) at West Virginia University. The Theatre Manager has worked with the City Finance Director for a second year to determine a budget plan needed to continue the operations of the Met. The total budget is \$233,400 for the next year.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, second by Wendell to adopt the 2018-19 Met Theatre Budget. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Adopting the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (FY 2018-2023)

The City Charter requires a five-year capital program to be prepared and submitted to City Council. The five-year will cover the fiscal years 2018 – 2023 and the document was handed out on February 20th. This plan will provide for the continued delivery of municipal services in a manner that is consistent the long-term needs of the community. Included in the packet is the summary pages of the document.

City Manager stated that council action is recommended of the adoption of the FY 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Plan as accepted in principle to guide long-term capital investments in the community.

After discussion, motion by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, second by Wallace to adopt the 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carried 7-0.

REPORT FROM CITY CLERK: City Clerk, Linda Tucker announced that the deadline for Police applications has been extended to April 6, 2018

REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY: No report.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Councilor Fetty: Councilor Fetty noted a group she has been meeting with Alcohol & other Drugs Task Force that meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 9 am. Dan Shook will be having a meeting with stakeholder on 3-23-18 from 2pm – 4pm at the Erickson Alumni Center to develop a Sobering Center. She announced that the First Ward Neighborhood Meeting will be on March 26th, 2018. She notes a Housing Advisory Meeting on 3-28-18 at 8am. She announced that there will be a Housing Fair at the Mountaineer Mall on April 21, 2018 from 10 am to 3pm.
- Councilor Wallace: Councilor Wallace announced the Wiles Hill/Highland Park Neighborhood Meeting will be on 3-21-18 at 6:30pm. He thanked Council for being so agreeable on the Elections and for the spirit of working together. He noted appreciation of the County Commissioners for he viewed the Community Forum Meeting and the open communication between the two entities. He noted that he thinks it is a myth that there is competition on annexation with the County. He stated that annexation promotes prosperity for the County and the City and am planting that seed as a positive thought for all to ponder.
- Councilor Selin: Councilor Selin mentioned that with all the sidewalk Grants that the City has received or are working that the City needs to keep the public informed of the status and timeline of these projects.
- Councilor Dulaney: Councilor Dulaney stated how proud he was of the Police and Fire Award given earlier this evening and our Women Leaders recognized. He noted that the City recently passed an ordinance for residence leaving trash receptacle on the street and he requested educating the public and start enforcing this rule. He noted attending a meeting with Councilor Selin and other stakeholder about Hazel Ruby McQuain Park and the parks progress. He noted photo graphs one of his constituents had sent to him of needles and garbage in Whitmore Park which is a concern to not only the neighborhood, but to the City. City Manager responded that the sight has been cleaned up.
- Deputy Mayor Brazaitis: Deputy Mayor Brazaitis noted he is heartened to see students walk out for 17 minutes on March 14 in support of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. He stated these students have courage and whatever one thinks about guns; students have the right to feel safe in school. He announced that next March for Our Lives will be on 3-24-18 at 10am at the Coliseum. He reported that Dave Johnson, Westover Mayor, spoke on annexation saying that Westover needs B&O taxes to offer residents the city they deserve. He announced figure skating shows will be on 3/22 and 3/25 and Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition meeting 3/22 at 5:30pm in Brooks Hall. He noted a favorite e-mail from aa student at Alta-Aurelia High School in Alta, Iowa stating that they are reading his story “Blackheart” in class and the class would like to know if Emily lives or dies at the end of the story and if so, how?
- Councilor Wendell: Councilor Wendell noted that there was another school shooting today in Maryland, so this issue is an ongoing thing that must be stopped. He commented that the Police and Fire Department are amazing with all they must do when saving a life. He thanked Rev Prichard for presenting the thank you letter from WVED thanking Council for supporting the Human Rights

Ordinance. He mentioned that he will be leaving Thursday to Key West, FL for a wedding.

Mayor Kawecki:

Mayor Kawecki suggested looking at a fine for residents that leave their garbage cans on their sidewalks for days; and for cans that have no lids. He then made the following announcements: Morgantown Farmers Market, 3-24-18, 11-1; Woodcock Walk, 3-24-18, 7 pm; Protecting Pollinators, Botanic Garden, 3-25-18, 2 pm; Indoor Easter Egg Hunt, Library, 3-25-18, 3-5 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Deputy Mayor Brazaitis, second by Dulaney, to go into executive session. Pursuant to West Virginia Code section 6-9(A)4 (2)(B) (12) to discuss acquisition of real estate in the downtown area. Motion carried by acclamation. Present: City Manager, City Attorney and Council. Time 10:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business adjourn by unanimous consent at 10:36 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor

A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON DVD AT THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE

E. A.



The City of Morgantown

389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505
(304) 284-7439 Fax: (304) 284-7525
www.morgantownwv.gov

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas, Morgantown is proud to be a City that benefits from the leadership and service of women; and

Whereas, in 1987 the US Congress designated March as National Women's History Month, which creates a special opportunity in our schools, our workplaces, and our community to recognize and celebrate the often-overlooked achievements of American women; and

Whereas, Businesswoman Dorothy Comuntzis was elected to the Morgantown City Council in 1972 and became the first woman elected Mayor of Morgantown in 1973-74 and 1974-75. She was very proud of her role in bringing a bus/transportation system to the busy, hilly, university town. She was a charter member of the Junior Women's Club, serving as president three times. Dorothy was awarded the honorary rank of Colonel in the W.Va. Army National Guard's 201st Field Artillery Regiment in 1963 after authoring the 228-year history of the unit, the longest continuously serving in the country, and served as president of its Auxiliary for 40+ years; and

Whereas, Charlene Marshall was the daughter of a coal miner who became the first African American female mayor in West Virginia when she was elected to the Morgantown City Council in 1991. During her record-setting seven terms as mayor, she launched a campaign to renew and revitalize the city and its neighborhoods, resulting in many improvements like the Caperton Rail Trail along the Monongahela River. She represented the 44th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1998-2002 and 2004-2014, becoming an effective advocate for Human Rights and Education. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from West Virginia University in 2015; and

Whereas, The lives of these two women demonstrate the power of voice, of persistent action, and of believing that meaningful and lasting change is possible in our democratic society.

Now Therefore, I, Bill Kawecki, Mayor of the City of Morgantown do hereby proclaim March 2018 as

Women's History Month

and encourage all citizens to celebrate the contributions of Dorothy Comuntzis and Charlene Marshall and all women whose leadership guide our City.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Morgantown to be hereto affixed this 20th Day of March 20, 2018

Seal:



William Kawecki, Mayor

Ex-B

CORD

Commission on Racism and Diversity of the Episcopal Diocese of WV

1608 Virginia St. E. 25311

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, Bishop

Honorable Bill Kawecki, Mayor

City of Morgantown

City Hall – 389 Spruce Street

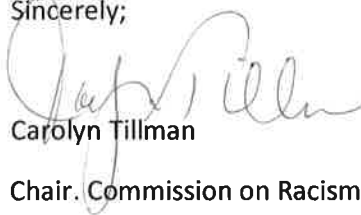
Morgantown, WV 26505

January 18, 2018

Dear Mayor Kawecki;

The Commission on Racism and Diversity of the West Virginia Episcopal Diocese applauds and congratulates you and the City Council of the City of Morgantown for unanimously approving legislation prohibiting discrimination against lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender citizens of Morgantown, WV on Oct 18, 2017. This Amendment of your Human Rights Ordinance helps the LGBT community to secure equal rights, personal autonomy and the American dream of liberty and pursuit of happiness. Your actions demonstrate your commitment to fair treatment, understanding, respect and appreciation for all people, everywhere. Thank you for your efforts to support peace and justice and true diversity.

Sincerely;



Carolyn Tillman

Chair, Commission on Racism and Diversity

CC

Mark Brazaitis, deputy mayor, councilor from Ward 6

3-6-2018

Correspondence

can you help us who live along dorsey avenue from circle k to luckey lane to obtain a sidewalk to increase safety for the neighbors who walk along dorsey, especially the growing number of youth participating at mountainview school, the playground and other neighborhood activities.

some who attempt to negotiate the tiny or non-existent berm along dorsey while cars are speeding by regard the experience as unsafe as do i when walking from my bus drop-off to the street near my home.

i received a negative response to a request to [name] in the streets and sidewalks office because apparently dorsey avenue is not in the city. so, i was redirected to the state. i've not done that yet but i intend to do so.

i also intend additional discussion with my neighbors in the green bag road portion of first ward. initial conversations with them have been supportive.

since dorsey avenue is not in the city, i don't know the extent to which you might be able to help although your constituents are affected.

this kind of thing is one reason i favor annexation of the property where marjorie gardens is located. those neighbors are highly affected by this situation.

any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

best wishes.

bob jones
1205 macomb street
morgantown, wv
rjoneswvu@gmail.com

I received emails from several WVU students who are writing stories for their journalism classes about a variety of city council endeavors, including pedestrian safety, the opioid epidemic, and annexation.

I've received a number of emails about council terms.

Changing city council terms:

- I'm all for saving money. Given a choice of equal options – if one is less expensive – yes, that would make sense. But saving money can't be put at the forefront of the argument here. That's the same argument the governor of Michigan is making in deciding not to hold a special election to fill the congressional seat from Michigan's 13th district.
- It was interesting to hear part of the motivation for the original change in council terms: Council was getting very divisive and territorial, and the writers of the charter wanted to end that pettiness. That was back in the 70s, but it's not an unfamiliar story here in the second decade of the 21st century. If there's a track record of less-than-enlightened behavior by council, the people need to be able to check that sooner rather than later. Thus: two years.

Council Report:

- I was heartened to see students at MHS, UHS and elsewhere in our community walk out for 17 minutes on March 14 in support of their fellow students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. There's real courage there – and whatever you think about guns – students have the right to feel safe in school. In this instance, I hope we can learn from the young people in our community and in our country and honor their courage with courage of our own.

Morgantown version of March for Our Lives – Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Coliseum

Dave Johnson, Westover's mayor – spoke about Westover's annexation efforts. Very courteous to all parties – the county commission included – but was forthright about saying, Westover needs the B&O taxes in order to offer Westover residents the city they deserve.

Figure Skating shows – Thursday 7:30 to 9 \$5 \$3 rental skates

Sunday, 4:15 to 5:05 - \$5, \$3 for children under 12

Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition will meet Thursday at 5:30 in Brooks Hall room 325

Via email, I am facilitating a relationship between the Jerome Park Neighborhood Association and the Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition. The latter is working on a on a plan to see what green space we have, see what groups on working on particular greenspace efforts, and, ultimately, see if we might be able to connect the areas in a green belt that would benefit the city.

Favorite piece of correspondence that came to my council email address—

From a student at Alta-Aurelia High School in Alta, Iowa:

Dear Deputy Mayor,

We are reading your story “Blackheart” in class and we would like to know if Emily lives or dies at the end of the story and if so, how?

E D

recycles

Scott Watkins <rappeller@comcast.net>

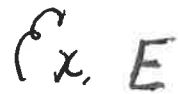
Wed 3/14/2018 5:23 PM

To: Rachel Fetty <rfetty@morgantownwv.gov>;

When will city council hold the current trash and recycle pick up company responsible for doing what they are being paid for? My wife and I live at 1216 Avalon Street off of Dorsey. Our trash and recycle pick up is every Monday. The trash gets picked up religiously but the recycles are when ever they get to it. This means we leave our recycle bins setting at the edge of the road for days on end before they are picked up. As I stated before, Monday is our scheduled collection day and here it is Wednesday and they are still setting here along with our neighbors on Avalon Street. I am about to start throwing the recycles in the regular trash and refuse payment for recycling. It's amazing how they expect to be paid for their service even when their service is subpar. And council renewed their contract knowing what kind of service they provide.

Nelson Watkins

1216 Avalon Street



Proposed charter changes

Richard Bragonje <rbragonj@wvu.edu>

Tue 3/13/2018 9:44 AM

To: Rachel Fetty <rfetty@morgantownwv.gov>;

Hi Rachel,

I live on Madison Avenue in 1st Ward.

As for the proposed charter changes, I don't have any problem with the staggering of terms and 4 year terms. But -- if this is changed, then the election date should be linked to the county/state/federal elections. If we are only going to be electing 3 members to council, how can you justify the costs of running that 'special' election?

And I very strongly feel that voting should be restricted to ward residents voting ONLY for their representative council candidates. I don't know what issues are important to Suncrest residents, so shouldn't be voting on someone to represent them.

Rich

Rich Bragonje
Madison Ave

Elections

Kenneth Martis <Ken.Martis@mail.wvu.edu>

Sun 2/25/2018 11:37 PM

To: Rachel Fetty <rfetty@morgantownwv.gov>;

An editorial I wrote for the Dominion Post Election eve 2016
I respectfully send to you for your consideration
Ken Martis

I have been researching and writing about American elections for decades. Watching the returns on election night was both a professional and personal journey. I followed the returns on a local television station specifically because I was also very interested in the results of local races. As the results streamed across the bottom of the screen one item especially caught my attention, vote counts for the Fairmont city council races. Yes, our sister city elects its city council on the general election day. It is time for Morgantown to do the same.

The literature on voting gives numerous reasons to have city elections synced to county, state and national elections; cost, efficiency and increased turnout are among the benefits. It seems to me the more citizens voting for city council the more they will investigate candidate qualifications and stances on issues; and, subsequently, the more will have a vested interest in the results and performance of the councilors.

Article II Section 2.01 of the Morgantown City Charter governs the election procedures for city council. The Charter directs that councilors be elected by ward. In my opinion the geographic representation on city council is a valid method of governance. In order to be on the ward ballot, 75 persons from that ward must sign a petition. This is a low threshold to be placed on the ballot, yet in two of the seven wards in the last election there was only one candidate.

To illustrate how fast the next election cycle is approaching, the ward petition deadline is just a few days from now, February 14th. Interestingly, the Charter does not actually state that city council elections be nonpartisan, yet, by the method established, no party affiliations are listed on the ballot. Again, in my opinion, nonpartisan elections are well suited for council selection.

The Morgantown Charter also directs "The regular election of Councilmembers shall be held on the last Tuesday in April, in each odd-numbered year...." At the time of the April 2015 council election there were 17,107 registered voters. In that election 1,521 voted, that is 8.9 percent of the electorate. This is low by any standard of democratic elections.

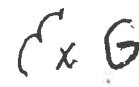
The next city council election will be held in just a few months. Already much of the nation is in "election fatigue." Hopefully it will not be the case in Morgantown, yet, measured by the turnout of the last few elections, this probably will be the case. It is time for a change.

3/20/2018

Mail - rfetty@morgantownwv.gov

I propose the Morgantown City Charter be amended to read "The regular election of Councilmembers shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, in each even-numbered year." This will effectively set the next city council balloting for general election day November 2018. The Charleston City Charter was recently amended to do the very same thing.

Morgantown should join Fairmont, Huntington, and now Charleston, in consolidating city elections with the county, state and national date.



city election timing

Avoldham <avoldham@aol.com>

Mon 3/5/2018 8:48 AM

To: Rachel Fetty <rfetty@morgantownwv.gov>;

Taking the opportunity to save time, resources, and taxpayer money by moving the city elections to coincide with the general county elections in the fall is the responsible move in this case or "The Right Thing To Do".

To say that city elections are non-partisan seems naive. The fact that councilors don't run on a party ticket doesn't make political leanings any less obvious!

Voters who care to be informed about city elections will pay attention no matter when elections are held. Those who have limited time may pay more attention when fully engaged in a political season

In these times where costs of everything continue to increase, the opportunities to save money are few. Changing an election time like this seems relatively painless, at least for the taxpayers!

Please vote to move city elections to coincide with fall general county elections.

Sincerely,

Anne Oldham
4th Ward Resident



Changing the Charter

Michael Bradley <patronzo1@icloud.com>

Tue 3/6/2018 9:15 PM

To: Rachel Fetty <rfetty@morgantownwv.gov>;

I was impressed by the discussion tonight about proposed changes to city elections, but I think Barry Wendell's comments were an excellent summation of the way I feel about the matter.

Another thought I had during the discussion: 4-year terms will not guarantee 4-years of stability. Can you imagine what things would be like if some of the last batch of Councilors were still around?

Wishing you all the best

Michael Bradley

Sent from my iPhone

Ex I

Re: Charter Change

Jim Manilla <jimmanilla@gmail.com>

Tue 3/13/2018 10:54 AM

To: Rachel Fetty <rfetty@morgantownwv.gov>;

Cc: B Conley <bconley@dominionpost.com>; City Council GOV <citycouncil@morgantownwv.gov>; D Wilson <dwilson@wvradio.com>; Paul Brake <pbrake@morgantownwv.gov>;

Hi Rachel, I've thrown some ideas out there from my previous e-mails to consider. Again, my opinion is that all need to be on board before you move forward on whatever changes you come up with. It's a charter change. I'm glad to hear you say we have a lot to consider.

Thanks

On Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 10:37 AM Rachel Fetty <rfetty@morgantownwv.gov> wrote:

Hello Jim, Thank you for your comments. We certainly have a lot to consider!

Rachel L. Fetty

Morgantown City Council

1st Ward

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)**From:** Jim Manilla <jimmanilla@gmail.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:34:03 AM**To:** City Council.GOV; Paul Brake**Cc:** B Conley; D Wilson**Subject:** Re: Charter Change

I just read you want to hold the charter change vote in the November election to get higher voter turnout and save money. Are you serious? That contradicts the reasoning for keeping the current date voted on by four councilors. What happen to "the informed voter" reasoning?

On Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 9:03 AM Jim Manilla <jimmanilla@gmail.com> wrote:

One last comment. If the voters turn this down you have nothing. Also you'll have wasted taxpayers dollars holding the election. Again you don't need four options you can use two or three. As a charter change I think you need to discuss this to the point your all in agreement. What's the hurry? Thanks

On Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 10:11 AM Jim Manilla <jimmanilla@gmail.com> wrote:

Council,

Here's a simple solution to the debate about changes to the charter on terms and dates. Why not put all the options on the ballot and let the voters decide? It takes all the politics out of the debate.

Jim Manilla