

**City of Morgantown**  
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 16, 2023**

**Regular Meeting: May 16, 2023:** The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:01 pm.

**Present:** City Manager Kim Haws, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, City Clerk Christine Wade, Mayor Jenny Selin, Deputy Mayor Danielle Trumble, and Council Members Joe Abu-Ghannam, Bill Kawecky, Ixya Vega, and Brian Butcher. Dave Harshbarger was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

**Approval of Minutes:** April 18, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes were approved by acclamation. May 2, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes will be put on the next regular meeting agenda, June 6, 2023, for approval.

**Correspondence:**

Mayor Selin presented a proclamation to Ixya Vega, thanking her for her great service to the city and wishing her the best on her new adventure.

**Public Hearing: An Ordinance providing for the Zoning Reclassification of certain parcels of Real Estate in the Seventh Ward of the City of Morgantown, Tax District 15, Tax Map 55, Parcel 92, from PRO, Professional, Residential, and Office District to B-2, Service Business District amending Article 1331 of the Planning and Zoning Code of the City of Morgantown as shown on the exhibit hereto attached and declared to be a part of this Ordinance as if the same were fully set forth herein**

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

**Public Hearing: An Ordinance providing for the Zoning Reclassification of certain parcels of Real Estate in the Seventh Ward of the City of Morgantown, Tax District 15, Tax Map 55, Parcel 93, commonly known as 699 Burroughs Street, from PRO, Professional, Residential, and Office District to B-2, Service Business District amending Article 1331 of the Planning and Zoning Code of the City of Morgantown as shown on the exhibit hereto attached and declared to be a part of this Ordinance as if the same were fully set forth herein**

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

**Public Hearing: An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget of the City of Morgantown as shown in the Revised Budget attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance as the same applies to the General Fund**

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

**Public Hearing: An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget of the City of Morgantown as shown in the Revised Budget attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance as the same applies to the Coal Severance Fund**

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing Open.

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

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## Unfinished Business:

**An Ordinance providing for the Zoning Reclassification of certain parcels of Real Estate in the Seventh Ward:** The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

An Ordinance providing for the Zoning Reclassification of certain parcels of Real Estate in the Seventh Ward of the City of Morgantown, Tax District 15, Tax Map 55, Parcel 92, from PRO, Professional, Residential, and Office District to B-2, Service Business District amending Article 1331 of the Planning and Zoning Code of the City of Morgantown as shown on the exhibit hereto attached and declared to be a part of this Ordinance as if the same were fully set forth herein

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

**An Ordinance providing for the Zoning Reclassification of certain parcels of Real Estate in the Seventh Ward:** The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

An Ordinance providing for the Zoning Reclassification of certain parcels of Real Estate in the Seventh Ward of the City of Morgantown, Tax District 15, Tax Map 55, Parcel 93, commonly known as 699 Burroughs Street, from PRO, Professional, Residential, and Office District to B-2, Service Business District amending Article 1331 of the Planning and Zoning Code of the City of Morgantown as shown on the exhibit hereto attached and declared to be a part of this Ordinance as if the same were fully set forth herein

Director of Planning and Development Services Rickie Yeager explained. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0, with Councilor Harshbarger absent.

**An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget of the General Fund:** The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget of the City of Morgantown as shown in the Revised Budget attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance as the same applies to the General Fund

Director of Finance Kevin Tennant explained. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0, with Councilor Harshbarger absent.

**An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget of the Coal Severance Fund:** The below-entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

An Ordinance Amending the FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget of the City of Morgantown as shown in the Revised Budget attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance as the same applies to the Coal Severance Fund

Director of Finance Kevin Tennant explained. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0, with Councilor Harshbarger absent.

## Boards & Commissions:

### Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

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

**Special Committee Reports:** None

**Consent Agenda:** None

### New Business:



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## **A Resolution Authorizing Application for a Transportation Alternative Program Grant for Morgantown Municipal Airport Streetscape Construction:** The above-entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 6-0, with Councilor Harshbarger absent.

## **A Resolution Authorizing Application for a Transportation Alternative Program Grant for Morgantown Municipal Airport Streetscape Design:** The above-entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 6-0, with Councilor Harshbarger absent.

## **A Resolution Authorizing Application for a Transportation Alternative Program Grant for Morgantown Municipal Airport Streetscape Design:** The above-entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. Motion by Councilor Vega, second by Councilor Kaweck, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 6-0, with Councilor Harshbarger absent.

**City Manager's Report:** he attended with Councilor Kaweck the Economic Vitality Committee Meeting, part of Main Street Morgantown, and was impressed with the level of commitment and terms of creating a foundation of framework that can identify existing properties that can be marketed and participate with property owners. He mentioned that he received a safety report that showed the number of reports that were filed within the last 6 months and those numbers have dropped. He stated that Republic has started unveiling the new carts and said that he anticipates there will be questions. Morgantown Municipal Airport Director Jon Vrabel brought forth that there is a pilot shortage for Southern Airlines and could have some impacts in the future at our airport.

**Report from City Clerk:** stated that the Police Civil Service Commission is holding an entry-level test on Saturday, June 17, 2023, 9am and will take place at the Public Safety Building. She mentioned that there are currently 17 applicants that have signed up to date. She noted that the last entry-level testing was held in March and there were 27 applicants who applied, only 10 candidates passed the written, and none passed the background. She noted that if anyone would like to apply, they may go to our website at [www.morgantownwv.gov](http://www.morgantownwv.gov) or you can come to the office to receive an application. She also mentioned that the Police Civil Service Commission has set the entry-level test date for October 28, 2023, 9am at the Public Safety Building. She congratulated the new officers that graduated from Fairmont State University's 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Police Academy and Officer Brad Palmer for taking the Sergeant Promotion Exam, who will be promoted once his medical exam is complete. She thanked Councilor Vega and wished her the best.

**Report from City Attorney:** stated that the Engineering, Public Works, along with the Development Services Department continue to move forward with implementing city works as a city-wide permitting solution and currently working on updating the terms and conditions public applicants for those forms to be imputed into the system, which would provide a unified permitting process that would make the city a lot more efficient with processing applications by multiple departments. He updated and circulated a checklist that was provided to the Deputy Building Official and the Building Officials that covers the process of performing inspections and issuing notices of violations, pursuing demolition, and filing liens under the Building Code when required. A group of city staff are working on bringing some food trucks to the Morgantown Market Place Pavilion during lunch time hours. He noted that he spoke with the WV Fire Marshal's Office to see if the market place can be used for that purpose. In which, it can be used for that purpose. The form of application permit has been prepared for those food trucks who are interested. He thanked Councilor Vega for her service to the city council and stated that it has been a pleasure working with her and wished her the best.

## **Report from Council Members:**

**Councilor Abu-Ghannam:** Congratulated 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Schmidle on reaching retirement and wished him the best. He also congratulated all the MHS Class of 2023, graduating Saturday after next. The upcoming MMMPO meeting he will be attending, always looks forward to meeting up with Councilor Kaweck along with Mayor Selin. He announced that the Tree Board will be meeting Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. He announced those who would like to take part in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Community Yard Sale, there will be a sign-up for a google doc to see on Facebook of where their house would be added to a google map, so that all neighbors would know where all of the treasurers are in the 1<sup>st</sup> ward the day of the yard sale, June 24, 2023, 8am – 2pm. He encouraged everyone to please remember there is a leash law and to keep your pet on a leash at all times when in the park. He thanked Councilor Vega for being so welcoming, being his friend the past year and a half and thanked her for her service during her term and wished her the best.

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**Councilor Kawecki:** had a procedure done called Cervical Myopathy where the nerves were decompressed and had a few vertebrae fused together. He stated that he had put it off long enough and said it was time to have it done. He wished Ixya Vega for her service and wished her the best on her journey.

**Councilor Vega:** she gave an overview of how the Cinco de Mayo event went on May 6, 2023. She thanked those who participated and those that helped make the event happen. She also gave a special thank you to the MHS Spanish class along with their teacher Lola Contreras for leading the whole event. She noted that next year, they will host a Latino Cultural Month instead of a Cinco de Mayo. She thanked everyone for all the knowledge that she received during her time on council.

**Deputy Mayor Trumble:** she attended the Cinco de Mayo event and really enjoyed it, especially the Trivia and Fashion show. She also attended the Fairmont State University's 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Class Graduation with City Manager Kim Haws and Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli. She stated that it is a good resource to have for our city and state. She stated that the Economic Vitality Committee has started a new program called Restore Morgantown. This allows the storefronts that are not being occupied a chance to promote the already existing stores downtown for promotion. She also mentioned that if the businesses downtown who are interested in wanting their storefront decorated, they do that as well and would need to contact Main Street Morgantown. She mentioned that while she was out of town, she received a lot of concerns. The ones that stood out the most to her were the City Administration and Staff, multiple trash concerns along with the trash carts that have started being delivered by Republic Services, and downtown bar detail during the evening into the early morning hours. She mentioned that there has been a lot of traffic concerns in the Fifth Ward regarding cars speeding. She has been in contact with the City Engineer Damien Davis, and Staff Engineer Drew Gatlin several times within the last few months regarding the speeding issue. She stated that something needs to be done to slow those traveling in our neighborhood. She mentioned safety concerns downtown and stated that when police are patrolling during the late hours of the night into the morning, there is not as much happening as there would be if no police were patrolling. Main Street is hosting the following: May 17, 2023, Cruising with Classic Cars down High Street, 4pm – 8pm; May 18, 2023, Pop-up Plaza on the courthouse square at lunch time; May 20, 2023, Woodburn Association of Neighbors will be having a cleanup in the Woodburn area. Meet behind Mario's Fishbowl on Richwood Avenue at 10am; that evening, the Moonlight Market will be held downtown at the Farmers Market Pavilion

## **Councilor Harshbarger: Absent**

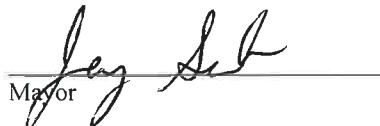
**Councilor Butcher:** he mentioned that Pride Month is close and stated that there is going to be a lot of events that will be happening in the month of June. He mentioned that he spent a week in Tennessee to close out a Housing Organizing Fellowship, and mentioned where it took place (The Highlander Center) which is where the Civil Rights Movement happened. He thanked Councilor Vega for everything that she had done and for being there when needed. He wished her all the best.

**Mayor Selin:** she attended the May 13<sup>th</sup> Arts Walk and really enjoyed it. She mentioned that on Saturday, May 20, 2023, Gene Vance Day will take place at 11am on the Monongalia Court House Square. There is a special flag that flew over Camp Vance, and since has been completed and closed, was brought to be raised up on the court house square to fly over during the ceremony. She has several items to read at the memorial and asked if any of the council members would like to come. She thanked and appreciated all staff that worked at the events and those that will take place during the summer months. She announced that Transportation Week will be May 14 – 20, 2023, and stated that the Morgantown Area Partnership will be sponsoring an event May 17, 2023, at the Alumni Center. She is not sure of the time, but you can find it online. She thanked Councilor Vega for everything she has done for the city and wished her all the best.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to West Virginia State Code Section 6-9A-4(2)(9) to discuss acquisition and or development of real estate in the Sixth Ward. Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Vega, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Present: City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney. Time: 8:35 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, motion by Councilor Vega, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:05 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor