

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 20, 2021

Regular Meeting: July 20, 2021: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 7:09 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 Bill Kawecki, Ixya Vega, Dave Harshbarger, and Brian Butcher.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

Approval of Minutes: July 6, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes were approved by consensus after correction is made. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence: None

Public Hearing: An Ordinance amending section 1331.08 of the City of Morgantown Planning and Zoning Code as it relates to the poolhouse and swimming pool being one accessory structure

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing open.

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

Unfinished Business:

An Ordinance amending section 1331.08: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

An Ordinance amending section 1331.08 of the City of Morgantown Planning and Zoning Code as it relates to the poolhouse and swimming pool being one accessory structure.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance. After discussion, motion carried 6-0.

Boards & Commissions: City Clerk Wade shared the specific boards and commissions which currently have vacant seats. Council members discussed which boards and commissions each member would be interested in participating.

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Mitchell Bealle, IAFF Local 313 thanked city council for their time.

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

Special Committee Reports:

Civilian Police Review & Advisory Board – Mayor Selin (chair). City Manager shared that a list has been compiled of those who have participated in those meetings.

Special Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness – Members: Mayor Selin, Councilor Harshbarger. Deputy Mayor Trumble, Councilor Vega, and Councilor Butcher all shared that they would like to be members of this Special Committee.

Consent Agenda: None

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New Business:

An Ordinance amending the FY 2021-2022 Annual Budget of the General Fund: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance amending the FY 2021-2022 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

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Butcher, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

An Ordinance amending the FY 2021-2022 Annual Budget of the Coal Severance Fund: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance amending the FY 2021-2022 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

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, motion by Kawecki, second by Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

A Resolution approving and authorizing to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the substantial amendment to the FY 2018 and FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan: The above-entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of A Fairs & Festival Permit:

City Manager explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the Fairs & Festival Permit for the Morgantown Art Party. Motion carried 6-0.

An agreement for seating purchases for the Metropolitan Theatre and Ruby Amphitheater:

City Manager explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Vega, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the agreement for the purchase of seating for the Metropolitan Theatre and Ruby Amphitheater. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of purchase a Verkada Security Video Surveillance System:

City Manager explained. Airport Director Jon Vrabel explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to approve the purchase of Verkada Security Video Surveillance System at the Morgantown Municipal Airport. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Morgantown Municipal Airport (MGW) Runway 18-36 Extension Bid Call 2021-12:

City Manager explained. Airport Director Jon Vrabel explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Councilor Butcher, to approve the Morgantown Municipal Airport Runway Extension 18-36 Extension Bid Call 2021-12 contingent upon grant funding. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion of Hybrid Meeting Options for Council Meetings:

City Manager explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to move the August 3 and 17, 2021, Regular Meetings to August 10 and 24, 2021, contingent upon the availability of council chambers.

City Manager's Report: shared that the city has been awarded some American Rescue Plan Act funds and have been tasked with the task of figuring out how to utilize those funds based on the limitations and restrictions that are placed on those funds. The city has received the first of two installments in the amount of 5.6 million dollars. The second installment is anticipated in the same amount in the spring or summer of 2022. Municipalities have until December 31, 2024, to obligate the funds and December 31, 2026, to spend the funds. The local physical recovery funds, which are the ones that the city has received may be used to support Public Health

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expenditures, address the negative economic impacts of Covid and caused by the Public Health emergency, replace lost public sector revenue, provide premium pay for essential workers, and invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The city is looking to engage the residents, businesses, community members and organizations to give council some feedback as to how those funds might be utilized. The ultimate responsibility of City Council is to make those determinations. It's crucial to get the input of the community. This plan ensures that the city aligns the use of the funds with the priorities of our residents. The city will gather input from the community through online surveys, and offer various public meetings where residents, business owners and community organizations are encouraged to participate. The survey will be available online beginning August 1 and will end August 21, 2021. This survey will be to take preliminary project ideas from the public. On August 18 we plan to have a public meeting that will seek some additional preliminary input. On September 1, 2021, we will hold a public meeting on a draft that would be built as a result of the survey in the public meeting and then September 21 the plan would go before city council for adoption. The city has received input from staff, has received input from various organizations, and community members, but they want to push the online survey out and make sure that everyone has a chance to be heard and then come up with a draft action plan that council can act upon and discuss with the Plan on the 21st. City Manager Haws shared information regarding the Art at the Airport which is Wednesday July 21, 2021, at 5:30pm. This is for the community and the artists to express and show their art. Lastly, staff has been working to roll out the new city website and hopes to have that live around the end of August or the beginning of September.

Report from City Clerk: announced that we have some new appointments to the Fire Civil Service Commission (FCSC). This commission is guided by West Virginia code. It states, in every municipality having a paid Fire Department there shall be a Fireman's Civil Service Commission which consists of three Commissioners, one of whom shall be appointed by the mayor, one of whom shall be appointed by the local International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the third shall be appointed by the local Chamber of Commerce. She shared that IAFF Local 313 appointed Wes Prince at their July 15th meeting as the Fire Civil Service Commissioner. The Morgantown Chamber of Commerce, also the Morgantown Area Partnership, selected Charlie Sims as their appointed commissioner. These two new appointees are taking some spots that have been well served for many years. Shane Mardis began as Fire Civil Service Commissioner in 2011, and Michael Jacks became our Fire Civil Service Commissioner in 2013. She thanked Mr. Mardis and Mr. Jacks for their many years of dedicated service to the city. The FCSC met to set the date for the Fire Chief promotional exam (July 26, 2021), the Fire Captain promotional exam (July 27, 2021), and the Fire Lieutenant promotional exam (July 28, 2021). The Police Civil Service Commission met to set a date for their promotional exams and that's going to be in September of 2021. One Sergeant, one First Sergeant and one Lieutenant will be promoted in September. They also set the date for the police entry level exam, which is going to be Saturday, October 16, 2021. Applications can be received at any time.

Report from City Attorney: shared that he believes that council has received a nice memorandum from staff outlining the technical capabilities and the various meeting options. One way he believes that we can conserve the goals of council is to make it clear how the meetings will be conducted, when the public knows, and so that everyone will know what the options are and how they can manage those is to set those down in some rules for council to adopt. Council has already done this in various ways, most recently with adopting an electronic meetings policy due to Covid-19, but also, we have rules for hearing procedures and general rules for the conduct of meetings. In forthcoming weeks, they will be putting those together in a new format for council to look at to address these proposed changes with rolling in the meeting option for non-pandemic occasions, as well as authorizing remote participation.

Report from Council Members:

Deputy Mayor Trumble: shared that she is excited to be back in chambers for the first time in a long time and that she is looking forward to being here a lot more often. She thanked all of the applicants for the First Ward vacancy and stated that she looks forward to deliberating with other members of Council on how best to get that seat filled. She stated that BOPARC is having another Sounds of Summer Event on July 23, 2021, at Krepps Park and it starts at 7 p.m. At dark they will be showing a Tom and Jerry movie. The Woodburn Association of Neighbors will be having a regular meeting on Monday, August 2nd at 7 p.m., they are also moving back to in-person meetings.

Councilor Harshbarger: No report.

Councilor Butcher: shared that it was really encouraging to see five fairly strong candidates from the First Ward meet with council for the First Ward vacancy. He would have preferred an election, but it was exciting to see that we had so many people come out, especially after the election which only had one person running on the ballot in that ward. He is excited and happy that the City Manager is putting together a plan to get input on the ARPA funding and believes that this is absolutely the right way to handle it. He looks forward to seeing what the community input is and stated that it is important for all to think through the ways that can really impact the community.

Councilor Kawecki: shared that it was good to see everyone, welcomed all, and stated that he hoped everyone found the seats comfortable. He stated that it was nice to be back in the room and working again. Councilor Kawecki shared that the Main Street meeting is Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 8am and it is virtual. If folks are interested in attending, they can reach out to him. He stated that he had not seen any kind of email on the historic post office tour, which happens Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 2:30pm.

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Councilor Vega: shared that she is very excited to finally leave her apartment and be in person with everyone. She thanked everyone who reached out to her and reach out to Mon Power because they did lose power for a little bit over the weekend. She appreciates everyone coming together and reaching out to the folks that they needed to. The Traffic Commission is an issue in the Third Ward, so she asks that if you are interested in participating in this commission to reach out to her. The Wiles Hill Highland Park Neighborhood Association is meeting Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at either 5:30pm or 6pm (time to be confirmed) in the park under the Gazebo weather permitting.

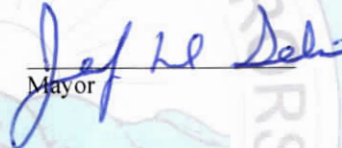
Mayor Selin: shared that neighborhood association meetings can be really valuable for finding someone for the traffic commission. She is very glad to be meeting in chambers, glad that folks are attending in person, and that they are figuring out how to solve the August meeting difficulties. She would like to see how the city is going to spend their once-in-a-lifetime funds and making sure that they are doing it where it would have the most impact in our community. The impact can be under the ground, above ground, or with personnel, or whatever they need to expend the funds on. For people who want something to happen in their government, or in their community, or with a non-profit, she asks that they develop something. The best way to get something done with government is to have a developed idea and something to back it with. It also could be plans or suggestions of how other communities did this successfully.

Executive Session: Pursuant to West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(2)(B)(12) to discuss potential or pending litigation. Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Present: City Council, City Manager, City Attorney. Time: 9:20 p.m.

Executive Session: Pursuant to West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(b)(2)(a) to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Councilor Vega, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 10:38 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor

