

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 4, 2022

Regular Meeting: January 4, 2022: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 7:08 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 Kawecki, Ixya Vega, Dave Harshbarger, and Brian Butcher.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

Approval of Minutes: December 21, 2021, Special Meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Correspondence: None

Public Hearing: None

Unfinished Business: None

Boards & Commissions:

Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to appoint, by consensus, Logan Shamberger to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Motion by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Vega, to appoint, by consensus, Gregory Dahl, to the Tree Board.

Motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to appoint, by consensus, Kevin Meehan to the Board of Zoning Appeals as an alternate member.

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Mindy from the Monongalia County Democratic Party spoke on the importance of warming shelters being available in all seasons.

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

Special Committee Reports:

Civilian Police Review & Advisory Board – No report

Special Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness – Members: Mayor Selin, Deputy Mayor Trumble, Councilor Vega, Councilor Harshbarger, and Councilor Butcher. The next meeting is January 27, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. by Zoom.

Consent Agenda: None

New Business:

Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 (A) Ordinance: The Bond Ordinance was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance authorizing the conveyance to the Morgantown Building Commission of such Real and Personal Property as may be necessary in connection the Design, Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of Improvements to certain existing facilities of the City of Morgantown, including City Hall, the Public Safety Building, the Norwood Fire Station, and the City Public Works Garage, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto (The "Project"); The Leasing of the Project Property and all Project Improvements and Appurtenances thereto from the Morgantown Building Commission; The Sale and Issuance by the Morgantown Building Commission of its not to exceed \$7,000,000 Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 A (Multiple Facility Improvement Projects) (The "Series

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2022 A Bonds"); Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Agreement and Lease and other Instruments and Authorizing and Approving other documents and matters relating to the Terms and Security of the Series 2022 A Bonds; and providing for certain other matters in connection therewith

City Attorney Ryan Simonton, Tom Aman, and Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

City Manager's Report: shared that he hopes everyone had a wonderful holiday and New Year. Something that has continued is the process of the budget, developing the budget and that will be coming to city council soon to get their input. That's one of the areas that is the prime responsibility of city council in making sure that's the direction we want to go. He shared that he hopes they have taken all of council's input and have put that into the budget projections and expenditures.

Report from City Clerk: shared that the Police Civil Service Commission will be holding Police Officer Entry Level examinations on February 19 and June 11, 2022, at 9am and to please reach out to the Clerk's office if you would like information on testing. Information can also be found on our website at www.morgantownwv.gov.

Report from City Attorney: provided an update on the outdoor dining ordinance noting that they had some more work to do with the ABCA's suggestions for our permitting types and processes. He shared that he spoke with their general counsel yesterday and that it was a very helpful conversation. He also spoke with our Development Director today about some ideas he has for that ordinance. We hope to bring that to the January Committee of the Whole and continue to work with them on making sure all permits remain as we move forward to get those changes in place. He reminded council that the Legislative Session begins on January 11th, and to please feel free to let him know if there are pieces of legislation in which they have interest.

Report from Council Members:

Councilor Ixya Vega: shared that she hopes everyone enjoyed their break. She stated that it is significant to reiterate the importance of getting involved in our community, shared that there are plenty of boards and commissions ready for folks to apply for and what better time to get involved than the new year. She reminded folks that covid-19 numbers are very high again, and to be sure to mask up, stay safe and get vaccinated. Councilor Vega stated that Morgantown High School's Health and Safety group is having a Period Product Drive for the month of January. She posted about it on her council page and a couple of other pages, and they did get a lot of donations. She commented that the community really did come together, however, this period of giving is not done yet. If folks are able to support our high schoolers and our young people on projects like this, it would be great, especially because it encourages them to continue to be involved.

Councilor Kawecki: no report

Councilor Abu-Ghannam: no report

Councilor Butcher: shared that he hopes everybody had a great holiday. He echoed Councilor Vega's comments regarding the rising covid-19 numbers and shared that he would be in agreement to move to remote again.

Councilor Harshbarger: shared that there are some projects that council has spoken about over the last year or so that involve safety on some of the streets in West Sabraton that he would like to provide some answers to his constituents in Sixth Ward with. They have discussed the truck traffic coming through Route 7 and the quality-of-life impact on the neighbors there. Also, there are some existing ordinances that are worth looking at that if we worked with the Police Chief, perhaps enforcing now, we don't need to enact anything new.

Deputy Mayor Trumble: shared that she is aware of a handful of people who are starting to test positive, who are generally vaccinated and careful about things. She commented that as one council member that elected government should be one of the last things to go virtual, and that if they wish to move back to remote, she would like to discuss ways that they will go about protecting the rest of our community and our city staff. If staff is in the office dealing with public face to face, they should be. She has received a lot of questions recently about the lower Richwood Redevelopment. An update on this matter will be provided at the quarterly Woodburn Association of Neighbors (WAN) meeting on January 19th at 7pm via zoom. If folks would like the link for that meeting, follow the WAN Facebook page or email Deputy Mayor. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of the city's Christmas tree recycling program and to call the Public Works Department at 304-291-7469 if interested. She has touched base with several city staff members about things that have been brought to her attention by various constituents over the last few weeks, so if someone is waiting for a response from her know that today was most of the city's first day back. She is looking forward to the upcoming planning meetings,

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and the comprehensive planning meeting tomorrow. Lastly, she will be attending the Main Street Morgantown promotions meeting where they will be planning out some of the downtown events for the year.


Mayor Selin: shared the passing of the food co-op stating that it has been quite a fixture in the community for many years. As a member for many years, she has enjoyed shopping there and enjoyed watching their work in the community. Additionally, she stated that she appreciates everyone who held it together as many years as it was held together. Mayor Selin also shared a story from our local newspaper, Dominion Post, stating she wanted to give credit where credit is due. An elderly gentleman went into one of the Evansdale businesses, Boston Beanery, and seemed confused when the owner spoke to him. She found him a seat, got him something to eat, and then called the non-emergency police number and requested help. A Morgantown Police Officer responded and was able to help the man remember his name and how to contact his son. The officer continued to sit and talk with the gentleman for over an hour until his son arrived to pick him up. The officer offered to pay for the man's meal, but the owner said no, that she would like to take care of it. The officer asked that his name not be disclosed as he didn't want any personal recognition because he said he was just doing his job and he said that he firmly believed that any other officer the Morgantown Police Department had they been dispatched to the call would have responded in the same manner. The officer stated that the entire department deserved the credit, not one single officer. He shared that he would credit the response to the crisis intervention training that Chief Eric Powell had instituted throughout the department and stated that type of training has allowed himself and other officers to respond to situations such as these with the utmost professionalism and care for people. Mayor Selin shared that this is the year of planning and projects for the city. One of them is the bonding for the projects that have to do with safety and making sure we have the basics in our city hall, our public safety building, the Norwood fire station, and the garage. There will also be work on the Marilla pool this year, and the ice rink will be next year. There have been a lot of BOPARC upgrades on courts, playgrounds, and trails. She shared that the city ambassador program is coming into place, and if folks want to know more about it, please talk to our Assistant City Manager. Arts entertainment in the downtown will be a feature, downtown outdoor dining, the airport, and lots of road projects are upcoming. Also, continuing to being welcoming to all the people in our community

Executive Session:

- A. Pursuant to West Virginia Code 6-9A-4(2)(B)(12) to discuss potential or pending litigation. Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Butcher, to go into executive session. Motion carried by acclamation. Present: City Council, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney. Time: 7:55

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Councilor Vega, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:20 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor