

REGULAR MEETING January 22, 2019: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 7:15 pm.

PRESENT: City Manager Paul Brake, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Attorney Ryan Simonton, City Clerk Christine Wade, Mayor William Kawecki, and Council Members: Rachel Fetty, Ryan Wallace, Deputy Mayor Jenny Selin, Ron Dulaney, Mark Brazaitis, and Barry Wendell.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kawecki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 8, 2019, Special Meeting minutes were approved by consensus. January 8, 2019, Regular Meeting minutes were approved as corrected by consensus.

CORRESPONDENCE: For Head Ballot Commissioner, Mayor Kawecki administered the Oath of Office to City Clerk Christine M. Wade, and for Ballot Commissioner, City Clerk Christine M. Wade administered the Oath of Office to Daniel Langdon, for the April 30, 2019 Municipal Election. City Clerk Christine M. Wade administered the Oath of Office for Deputy Clerk to Heather R. Carl.

Councilor Brazaitis spoke regarding a letter from the Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition (MVGSC) to Morgantown Utility Board (MUB). MVGSC is a local 501C3 non-profit greenspace advocacy organization which would like to see public non-motorized recreational use of the Cobun Creek reservoir while recognizing the privacy of MUBs mission to protect and provide clean source water to Morgantown and surrounding communities.

Councilor Fetty received correspondence which was provided from Mr. Travinski and some follow up emails from others addressing specific concerns related to city services. These items were provided to the City Manager.

Councilor Wallace and the other Councilors received an anonymous letter regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) regarding some opposition to amending the tier I priority list. Wallace also received several communications between him and Mr. Banks regarding the Ward and Boundaries Commission. Mr. Banks voiced his concerns regarding steps which have been taken and some which were not taken. Wallace also shared a letter from the Executive Director of the Caritas House, Justin Sikos. He advised that the Caritas House operates as an emergency cold house when the Bartlett House is to capacity. Councilor Wallace also received communication from Diana from the City of Keyser and she is interested in beginning a Health and Wellness Commission. Keyser has a new Mayor and they shared that they are planning to work similar to that of Morgantown for health and wellness.

Deputy Mayor Selin shared concern of an out building which is being created near her residence. She provided this information to the City Manager's office.

Councilor Dulaney stated that he had a follow up telephone conversation with Frank McGreevy who spoke at the previous Council meeting. He has forwarded the information to City Manager Brake. Mr. McGreevy is more interested in purchasing the city owned parcel at White and Hutchens. He specifically is looking for a clear explanation of the process and time frame by which the City will determine what to do with the parcel. This has been forwarded to City Manager Brake. Dulaney received an email from a 5th Ward Constituent regarding parking on their street, and this was forwarded to City Manager Brake. Additionally, Dulaney mentioned the eagerness of one of the Traffic Commissioners regarding resuming meetings.

Mayor Kawecki received a New Year's card from Morgantown's Sisters Cities Mayor thanking him for the support and care to the friendly relationship between them and Morgantown. He is looking forward to a fruitful bilateral cooperation with support and facilitation. He sent his wishes that Morgantown will continuously prosper and wished the citizens happiness and health. Mayor Kawecki also received communication from the State Auditor regarding training on auditing and budgeting. Training will be in Clarksburg and Bridgeport, all fees are waived, and he encouraged all Municipal officials to attend.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

Motion by Deputy Mayor Selin, second by Brazaitis, to reappoint Jessica Eichlin, by consensus, to the Historic Landmarks Commission for another 4-year term.

Motion by Dulaney, second by Brazaitis, to re-appoint William Hutchens, by consensus, to the Transit Authority for another 2-year term.

Motion by Dulaney, second by Wallace, to appoint Gigi Villarreal, by consensus, to the Planning Commission as the Administrative designee.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Selin, second by Fetty, to appoint Karen Kunz to the Morgantown Utility Board for a 5-year term. Motion carried 6-1.

Motion by Brazaitis, second by Fetty, to appoint Barbara Parsons, by consensus, to the Morgantown Utility Board for the unexpired term.

Councilor Dulaney spoke regarding the direction of the Council in the decision to not appoint the City Manager as a member of the Morgantown Utility Board.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion open.

Christine Wallace, 339 Virginia Avenue, spoke about the furlough assistance for those affected by the federal government shutdown. She also voiced her concerns regarding district boundaries and the nominees for those areas. She urged City Council to consider the landscape and preservation of communities.

Roger Banks, 444 Overhill Street, spoke regarding the Wards and Boundaries of the districts.

There being no other speakers, Mayor Kawecki declared the Public Portion closed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilor Wallace spoke of the upcoming WV birthday celebration scheduled for June 22, 2019, and the collaboration among the agencies involved in the planning. The Health and Wellness Commission has identified its 2019 goals and budget requests, and they have been submitted to the City Manager.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE “COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT” WITH THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN LAND REUSE AND PRESERVATION AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE AGENCY TO EXERCISE DEFINED POWERS TO PURCHASE TAX-DELINQUENT PROPERTIES

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

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:
Information:

- 1. General Fund Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures - November 2018**
Attached is a copy of the budget report from November for the General Fund. City Manager explained, quarterly reports will be provided to members of City Council regarding revenues and expenditures balances. No action was taken.
- 2. Morgantown Planning Commission - 2018 Annual Report**
The report provides an overview of activities, initiatives and progress of the commission over the past year. City Manager explained and noted that a copy of the Planning Commission report will be available to the public on the City website. No action was taken. This was presented for information purposed only.

New Business:

- 1. Proposed Assistance for Furloughed Government Employees**
A plan to aid city residents who are also federal government employees furloughed by the government shutdown. City Manager explained, motion by Wallace, second by Brazaitis, to allow the administration to provide assistance for furloughed government employees through bill deferment, which will be repaid in equal payments within six months after the shutdown is over. Motion carried 7-0.
- 2. Recommended Bus Shelter Locations to Traffic Commission**
A proposed location of bus shelters in the downtown area and possibly in other areas. City Manager and Assistant City Manager explained, motion by Wendell, second by Fetty, to approve the requests of bus shelters and direct them to the Traffic Commission. Motion carried 7-0.
- 3. Financial and Program Transparency Proposal**
Transparency in financial reporting within the City. It was proposed that the City Council direct the City Manager to prepare and make a financial and program transparency proposal and provide it in the next City Council meeting. Motion by Wallace, second by Deputy Mayor Selin, to propose and be ready for the next City Council Meeting. After discussion, motion carried 7-0.

REPORT FROM CITY CLERK: City Clerk Christine Wade provided information regarding the Morgantown Police Department’s recruitment for new officers. She shared that applications are available on the City website and are being accepted until 5:00 pm on March 15, 2019, in the City Clerk’s office. She also spoke about the updates to the website regarding the upcoming City election. Citizens can find voter registration, polling locations and additional election information on the City’s website.

REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY: None

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilor Fetty advised that she is seeing Morgantown resilience which makes it a pleasure to live here. She appreciates the city's assistance for furloughed employees, and the fact that we are able to make these accommodations. She encourages open heartedness in play long after everyone goes back to work, because if you are not furloughed or in comeless this challenge with management will be a test to take what we are learning from this furlough into the future. She commented about the wards and boundaries situation because there are some pretty delicate boundaries that she has been trying to avoid in respect to allowing the Ward and Boundaries Commission to precede with its functions in the time that it would without any interference from any member of this body. She requested some clarification from council regarding what if anything any sitting city council member could do to address the function of a body that is supposed to operate without the council's influence. She has been concerned why reports were received too late because we were notified by the commission that this was going to be the outcome. She stated that she has been waiting for this body to do work that it may not have been trained to do. She requests more information on a timeline on the upcoming budget process and how nonprofits can make requests from the city. She is always appreciative of the time the volunteers put in for the boards and commissions in particular MUB. She appreciates the endurance as it has been a long time. She shared that the next Neighborhood meeting is next Monday, January 28, 2019, at 6:30 pm at MTEC.

Councilor Wallace shared his appreciation of the Wards and Boundaries Commission. He is concerned about the function of the commission and wants to ensure that they receive the tools and resources that they need to do their work. He has no intention of meddling in the function of the commission, however, when something is supposed to happen and it does not, he states that it is the council's job to investigate and do what they can to ensure things happen the way they should. He believes the Ward and Boundaries did note that the boundaries should be modified. He requests that council meet with the commission to discuss what went wrong and what went right to ensure a better outcome in the future. **Mayor** advised that he sat in on their meeting and stated that they changed their criteria in that they went from 15% to 10%, they added registered voters, the population census, plus, which put the skids on that particular activity. He shared that he did not know if council could have done anything else that would have satisfied all the members of that commission. He does agree that something should be done. The Mayor stated that council should agree that the course of action is to schedule a meeting with them. **Councilor Fetty** is concerned that council does not have the authority to have a joint public meeting. She asks if it is within the parameters of what they do. She is not sure that a debrief is appropriate and states that there is a need for legal counsel. **City Attorney Ryan Simonton** summarized the present discussion that Council is asking the City Manager to provide the resources necessary and to answer questions. He stated that it is important to recall that the Commission's report which reflected the opinion of the members of the commission said that this is a new process that involved the use of census data. Simonton stated that he understood that the difficulty was analyzing the data to create new boundaries. He noted that a possible solution is to retain a Demographer. **Wallace** stated that he appreciates the input of the council and asked to agree to schedule a meeting with the Wards and Boundaries Commission. He asked for the status of the agreement with the county to transport prisoners to the regional jail. **City Manager** shared that the agreement was provided last week, and it has been signed. Additional information will be provided at the next council meeting. **Councilor Wallace** requested for a financial disclosure statement to be included in the Municipal Election packet, as it falls along the line of transparency. Councilor Wallace asked if the city can implement the disclosure. **City Manager** advised that this topic is already on the Committee of the Whole agenda.

Deputy Mayor Selin shared her appreciation of the work of the city employees such as the work on the roads. She noted an upcoming public meeting/collaboration between the Suncrest Neighborhood Association and the Engineering Department of the City of Morgantown regarding Baldwin Street on schedule for paving this year. The meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2019, at 7pm located at Suncrest Middle School. She noted a request to attend and discuss ways to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Suncrest neighborhood, as well as the upcoming paving of Baldwin Street and Krepps area, traffic, buses, and bus stops. Deputy Mayor noted that this is the public's opportunity to provide input about city streets. She advised that she has heard comments regarding the need to clean the sidewalks and how to get the sidewalks clean downtown, and that possibly in the past that the city may have leased equipment from the University perhaps.

Councilor Dulaney noted that the Woodburn School Redevelopment Commission will be holding a public meeting on Thursday, January 31, 2019, at 6 pm at the Boys and Girls Club. He shared relating to the Woodburn site that the city is looking for an Architectural and Engineering firm to design ADA improvements. He and Commission Chair Chris Haddox were invited to serve on the search committee. He advised that they received six proposals and have a list of three finalists who will be interviewed on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Regarding the quality of downtown experiences, there have been discussions regarding Walnut Street. Merchants met with a few downtown agencies and there were constructive conversations regarding how to serve the underserved and how to address the concerns of shoppers downtown. He noted that there are ongoing meetings with constructive conversations to address vagrancy, addiction, and how to serve the underserved downtown. Councilor Dulaney stated to save the date, June 22, 2019, for the WV birthday celebration downtown where many exciting things will be happening such as good music, drinks, food and family friendly activities.

Councilor Brazaitis shared information regarding the movies at the Metropolitan Theatre and noted that 122 people attended the viewing of the Raiders of the Lost Ark. An upcoming film, Black Panther, will be shown with admission at \$4.00, and Monsters Inc. will be shown as well. He shared that the Metropolitan Theatre hosted a Martin Luther King celebration on January 21, 2019. Councilor Brazaitis also stated that it is wonderful to support the furloughed employees.

Councilor Wendell: Provided the following.

I've been working on compassion in the new year, although it wasn't always evident tonight. I was ill Saturday, and after I called WVU Medicine, a doctor called me back and said to go to the emergency room. Once there, they admitted me to the hospital. There was a heightened pancreatic enzyme, which scared me because my mother and her father died from pancreatic cancer. I was miserable but got better. The man I shared my room with, my age, with liver and kidney failure,

is a Vietnam veteran, poisoned by Agent Orange. My illness was temporary (although I am still healing), but his is permanent. They never figured out exactly what happened to me, but it's not cancer.

Tomorrow, I will speak to a drama class at North Marion High in Farmington about the Holocaust. I wracked my brain thinking of Holocaust-themed books and movies I had read and seen to recommend to them and reviewing them triggered strong emotions and tears. I have no first-hand experience of the Holocaust, as I was born after World War II, but it is part of my DNA. The students are doing a play about refugees from Germany who were turned away from the United States and other countries in 1938, and I feel shame that I haven't done enough to pressure our current administration to take in more refugees from the Middle East and Central America.

I'm proud that Morgantown is offering to defer payments from those affected by the government shutdown. It's a compassionate thing to do and shows again how local government is there when the Federal government is not.

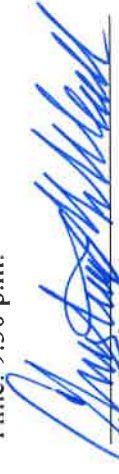
The Urban Landscape Commission meets tomorrow at 4:30 in Council chambers. They will discuss a proposal for Morgantown's policy about memorial gifts such as trees and plaques to be presented to Council.

Sumcrest Neighborhood Association meets January 31 from 7 to 8:30 at Sumcrest Middle School to hear about repaving Baldwin Street and traffic calming in the area.

Mayor Kawecki shared a letter from Senator Beach which stated that he looks forward to a busy and productive legislative session and is requesting input on important issues. Mayor will have an opportunity to speak with Beach at the upcoming Municipal League mid-winter conference. The Mayor asked that if Council has anything to pass on to him please provide it. He shared that the Library activities are numerous and to go online to see all those activities. He noted a few activities such as the University magic flute, the Botanic Gardens activities, the Bob Huggins annual fish fry, and the Monongalia Art Center third free form dance gathering.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Wallace, second by Wendell, to adjourn the meeting.

Time: 9:30 p.m.



City Clerk



Mayor

* ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON DVD IN THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE*