

City of Morgantown
389 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2021

Regular Meeting: September 21, 2021: The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held via Zoom on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 7:32 pm.

This meeting was held via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2716139586> using the meeting number 271 613 9586. The public participated by joining the Zoom meeting linked above or by calling 301-715-8592 and using the meeting ID 271 613 9586. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed at a later date on the City of Morgantown website. If possible, the city will broadcast the meeting live on Morgantown Channel 15 and live stream it via the City of Morgantown website at <https://morgantownwv.viebit.com/>, however, live broadcasting and streaming of the meeting will be dependent on the completion of the scheduled power outage planned at City Hall. The public is encouraged to join the meeting via Zoom. If members of the public wish to comment on a particular issue or public hearing, they should fill out the public comment sign-up form on our website, prior to the start of the meeting which can be found at: <https://www.morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Public-Comment-Sign-Up-Sheet-14/Public-Comment-Morgantown-City-Council-R-157>. Additionally, the public can submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cwade@morgantownwv.gov.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

Approval of Minutes: September 7, 2021, Special Meeting minutes were approved as printed by consensus. September 7, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes were approved as corrected by consensus. Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence: Mayor Selin presented a proclamation to proclaim September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Andrea Stephens and son Ben, who is a Neuroblastoma survivor was present via Zoom to receive the proclamation.

Chief of Police Eric Powell presented to council, along with two of his officers, PFC Mike Charlton, and PFC Bernie Molek, on what the School Resource and Prevention Resource Officers do in the schools.

Public Hearing: An Ordinance granting a Cable Franchise to Atlantic Broadband (PENN), LLC:

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing open.

Francis Bradley spoke and presented a PowerPoint and answered questions from council.

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

Public Hearing: An Ordinance amending article 1751 Housing Code:

Mayor Selin declared this Public Hearing open.

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

Unfinished Business:

An Ordinance granting a Cable Franchise to Atlantic Broadband (PENN), LLC: The below entitled Ordinance was presented for second reading.

An Ordinance granting a Cable Franchise to Atlantic Broadband (PENN), LLC

Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above Cable Franchise to Atlantic Broadband (PENN), LLC. Motion carried 7-0.

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Boards & Commissions: None

Public Portion:

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Wil J. Smith, 200 Webster Avenue, spoke in regard to 196 Webster Avenue structure and the improvements to the property.

Lucien Lewin 215 & 217 Wall Street property owner, spoke about the homeless who have been hanging out on Wall Street and around downtown. He mentioned that they have been littering, sleeping (on Wall Street), laying (on Wall Street), and abusing drugs and alcohol. He wanted to let council know the issues that they are causing. He mentioned that when the police were called, they were there when needed. He requested to have the police patrol on a daily basis, several times a day.

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

Special Committee Reports:

Civilian Police Review & Advisory Board – Mayor Selin announced that applications are being accepted on our website and in person at the City Clerk’s office.

Special Committee on Unsheltered Homelessness – Members: Mayor Selin, Councilor Harshbarger. Deputy Mayor Trumble, Councilor Vega, and Councilor Butcher. Deputy Mayor Trumble provided an update on the last meeting from September 16, 2021, where the work groups were reorganized, and changes were made. The next meeting scheduled will be October 28, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Consent Agenda:

Consideration of Approval of An Ordinance amending article 1751 – Housing Code:

Consideration of Approval of A Resolution supporting the City of Morgantown’s application for a Grant to Commission a Mural at the Woodburn School site:

Consideration of Approval of the open appointment on the transit Authority Board of Directors to Jeremy Evans, City/County WVU Representative:

Consideration of Approval of a Fairs & Festival Permit for the Cupcakerie for the Sweet Life Happy Hour event on October 1, 2021:

Motion by Councilor Vega, second by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, to approve all the items above. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business:

Consideration of Approval of (First Reading) of 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 (Revision 03) attached hereto and made a part of this ordinance as the same applies to the General Fund

City Manager Kim Haws explained. Kevin Tennant Finance Director explained. Motion by Councilor Kawecky, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

Consideration of Approval of a Resolution amending 2021-2022 Budget Revision to the Capital Escrow Fund: The entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

Kevin Tennant Finance Director explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

Consideration of Approval of the American Rescue Plan Funds:

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City Manager Kim Haws and Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained and provided an overview of Action Plan #1. (Exhibit A attached) After discussion, motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Butcher, to approve the above-entitled American Rescue Plan. Motion carried 7-0.

Consideration of Approval of a Vacant Structure Exemption Request for 301 East Brockway Avenue: *(It is anticipated that this matter may be discussed in executive session as permitted by WV State Code 6-9a-4(b)(12))*

City Manager Kim Haws explained. City Attorney Ryan Simonton explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Councilor Vega, to go into executive session. Pursuant to West Virginia Code §6-9A-4(2)(b)(12). Motion carried by acclamation. Present: City Council, City Manager, City Attorney. Time: 10:49 p.m.

Regular Session: Council continued the meeting at 11:03 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Vega, to approve the above Vacant Structure Request until the end of the fiscal year of 2021-2022 and to waive all registration fees. Motion carried 7-0.

City Manager's Report: No Report

Report from City Clerk: No report

Report from City Attorney: No report

Report from Council Members:

Deputy Mayor Trumble: 5th Ward Traffic Commission volunteer is needed; Downtown Clean-up Day is Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 6pm, meet at Main Street.

Councilor Vega: Morgantown Fall & Winter Children's Consignment Sale at the WV National Guard Readiness Center. Thursday, September 23, 2021, and Friday, September 24, 2021, 10am – 6pm. and Saturday, September 25, 2021, 8am – 1pm.

Councilor Abu-Ghannam: he attended his first 1st Ward meeting last week and it went really well. They have decided to change the date of the meetings to the last Monday of each month. He reminded everyone to go vote early at Mountaineer Mall, or on Saturday, September 25, 2021, for the School Board Access Levy.

Councilor Harshbarger: he stated that there was voting today at the Mountaineer mall was from 9am – 5pm, and that Wednesday, September 22, 2021, will be the last day to early vote.

Councilor Butcher: announced that everyone should vote for the access levy. He mentioned that on October 2, 2021, there will be a Support Abortion Access and will be sponsored by Morgantown Now.

Councilor Kawecki: he announced that the 2nd Ward South Park Neighborhood Association of Neighbors meeting is Wednesday, September 22, 2021, social hour at 6:30 pm and meeting starting at 7pm at Eaton Park.

Mayor Selin: announced that an ARPA meeting for the Rescue Funds at the State level will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 10am in City Council Chambers. County Commission will be having their County/City meeting, Wednesday, September 22, 2021, from 6:30pm – 8pm at the County Commission Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Councilor Vega, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 11:13 p.m.


City Clerk


Mayor