

MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD MARCH 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President, Penny Anderson at 6:00 p.m.

Present were; Council members, Walter Abbott, Council member, Penny Anderson, Council member, Greg Randolph, Council member, Vern Snyder. Absent was Council member, Courtney Allen.

Also present were; Town Marshal, Ryan Swank, DPW, Jesse Jones, Utility Clerk, Becky Rose, Town Attorney, Lee Robbins and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh.

Special guest was Steve Brock.

An election was held for 2021 Town Council President. Penny Anderson was nominated for President of the Council for 2021 by Council member, Greg Randolph and seconded by Council member, Walter Abbott. All members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Council member, Greg Randolph to approve minutes dated, November 9, 2021, February 10th and 11th, and February 23, 2021. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to approve Claims dated, January 11th, February 8th and March 8, 2021. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Walter Abbott made a motion to approve the Check Registers for November and December 2020 and Check Registers for January and February 2021. Council member, Greg Randolph seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

The Clerk Treasurer brought to the Council a copy of the Miscellaneous Appropriation Transfer List to bring all appropriations to a positive balance at the end of 2020. The Clerk Treasurer provided a copy of the Cancellation of Warrants and a copy of the Annual Financial Report, Cash & Investments for Civil Town of Morgantown which was advertised and prepared by the Clerk Treasurer. A copy of the current Fund Report was provided for February 2021.

A Public Hearing was opened by Attorney, Lee Robbins for the Waste Water Rate Increase. Steve Brock, the Town's financial advisor gave a rundown of the proposed rate for the group.

One member from the Public was in attendance, Terry Lewis who lives on Sycamore Street asked several questions about the rate increase. His questions were concerning the amount of the rate hike ,what a minimum bill would be, and the impact on those users that pay a minimum bill, and the actual cost of the the project. Steve Brock responded to his concerns about the rate change. Steve explained the free money the Town is receiving toward the project and the amount of loan the Town has secured through the SRF. Terry Lewis felt the Town was doing a good job in light of the issues it is dealing with.

The Public Hearing was closed. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to approve the proposed rate increase, Ordinance 2021-1. Council member, Vern Snyder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed. The new rate becomes effective as soon as Keystone can change the Town's utility software.

The following Utility Adjustments were approved by the Council for customers Alex Kelly, Bill Bryant and Tyler Billings. A motion was made by Council member, Greg Randolph and seconded by Council President, Penny Anderson to approve all adjustment requests.

A screening and report was prepared by IDEM on the Highland Street and Sycamore Street soil contamination site where a former railroad bed had been located in town. IDEM determined that the investigation should continue through 2022 based on soil exposure to arsenic and chromium contamination.

Two Wellhead Protection contracts were presented for the Council's consideration. Wessler submitted a contract quote for \$15,000.00. Curry Consulting submitted a proposal for \$6,000.00. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to accept the proposal of Curry Consulting for \$6,000.00. Council member, Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

DPW, Jesse Jones introduced the DPW department's new employee, Jonathan Lucas, to the Council members.

Jesse Jones asked the Council if they would consider adding more parking at the Town Park. With the construction project at the 252 lift station the baseball league will lose some of the parking space used at the front diamond. Council member, Greg Randolph suggested getting a price from Wallace to enlarge the parking space and putting down gravel.

There was discussion about getting bids for the demolition of the house that sets on the property the Town recently purchased for an addition to the Town Park. Town Attorney, Lee Robbins said the Town must get 3 bids for the removal of the house and open the bids at the next meeting.

It was reported the engineer is working on submitting the last two easements for the WW Improvement Project. One of those easements is at 150 W Washington Street, Frenchie's Pub, and they are requesting the Town furnish the asphalt behind the business after the project is complete. Jesse explained the sewer main runs behind the business and the driveway will be disturbed. This also affects the Nursing Home parking as well. At 329 W Washington Street the owner is requesting the Town replace a tree on the property at anywhere from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. These items can be paid from the contingency fund. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to allow Jill Curry to go ahead on the two easements. Council member, Vern Snyder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council President, Penny Anderson asked Jesse if he was getting the Park Agreement signed.

Town Marshal, Ryan Swank, reported there has been damage to 4 properties from semi's taking the I-69 detour and getting stuck on Morgantown Streets. Ryan spoke to INDOT and they are working on getting new signage out there to direct the semis.

Ryan asked the Council to allow him to switch internet providers in the police vehicles from Verizon to ATT. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to switch from Verizon to ATT. Council member, Vern Snyder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Knights do not have any roll offs available for a spring cleanup day. Ryan did call Best Way and they are working on getting the Town a better rate and did not have the bid done in time for the meeting. Ryan is looking to a May cleanup day.

Ryan requested Council approve police department employees receive 1.5 compensation at 40 hours work instead of 43 hours. The change will be included in the Salary Ordinance.

Ryan said there are two businesses that work on Golf Carts and they are asking if they should have a permit to drive the golf cart on town streets when doing repairs. Lee Robbins is going to add an exception to the Golf Cart ordinance and have it to approve at the next meeting. The charge for a business would be \$30.

The Council decided for the Town Hall to remain closed to the Public for another month.

Council President, Penny Anderson would like to beautify Main Street with flags on light poles and fresh mulch. Jesse said he has new trash can picked out which are \$800 each with a 50 year warranty. Jesse will get a bid together to present at the next meeting.

Resolution 2021-1, adopting a Capital Improvement Plan was presented to the Council for adoption. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-1. Council President, Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Ordinance 2021-2 reestablishes a Cumulative Capital Development Fund and maximum tax rate. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-2 on first reading. Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 2021-2 on second and final reading. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Ordinance 2021-3 is a Bond Ordinance which is allowing the issuance and sale of revenue bonds for the WW Improvement Project. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to adopt on second reading. Council member, Vern Snyder, seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the ordinance.

The Salary Ordinance was presented to the Council for adoption. The ordinance includes a 3% increase for employees, except Jeff Downey and all elected officials. Jesse Jones salary was raised to \$24.00 an hour. Lee has lined out the line that says the police are except up to 43 hours which now will be changed to 40 hours. Bonuses of \$500 were authorized for the Town Marshal, 1st and 2nd deputy, utility clerk and operations assistant. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to adopt the Salary Ordinance 2021-4. Council member, Walter Abbot seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Council member, Greg Randolph made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt on second and final reading. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Penny Anderson.

Council Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2021, signed April 12, 2021

ATTEST:

Sharon McIntosh

4/12/21

CLERK TREASURER, SHARON MCINTOSH

Dated

Penny Anderson

Town Council President, Penny Anderson

Walter Abbott

Council Member, Walter Abbott

Courtney Allen

Council Member, Courtney Allen

Vern Snyder

Council Member, Vern Snyder
