

**MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AUGUST 14, 2023**

Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Courtney Allen at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge was led by Council member, Penny Anderson. The Clerk Treasurer noted Council members present were; Walter Abbott, Penny Anderson, Jeremy Baker, Joe Blevins and Council President, Courtney Allen. Also, present were; Town Marshal, Ryan Swank, DPW, Kyle Rooks, Town Attorney, Lee Robbins and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh.

Tornado Siren

Mark Tumey with Morgan County EMA wanted to asked the Council if they were still willing to hand over the tornado siren from the Town to the EMA. This exchange had already been agreed upon at a prior meeting. The EMA would take over the maintenance of the siren. Both parties will be working on a contract to completed the transfer.

Solar Eclipse

There was a lengthy discussion about the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse and how it could affect the Town and surrounding communities. Council member, Penny Anderson made a motion to rent 5 porta potties from Chad Setser. The motion was seconded by Council member, Joe Blevins. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Old Business

There was discussion about two items that were to be included in the 2024 Budget for the DPW. A new salt spreader is needed and a new mower so \$30,000.00 will be included in the 2024 Budget for these purchases. The trade in for the skid steer and the mini will also be included for \$10,000.00. The cost of trade in has gone from \$3,000.00 each piece of equipment to \$5,000.00. There was discussion about a DPW Maintenance building to house all their equipment out of the weather. The Town cannot really afford a building at this time because the utilities balances are so low. The Town should not use General Fund money to build a building because it is the utilities that should be paying for it. The Council agreed to add a 3% raise for the employees who work in the department but President, Courtney Allen said this will be decided in the Salary Ordinance.

The Council voted 4 to 1 to approve an 80-hour maintenance contract with Intelli-Leap. Council member, Joe Blevins made the motion to approve the contract. Council member, Walter Abbott

seconded the motion. Walter Abbott, Courtney Allen, Jeremy Baker and Joe Blevins voted yes to approve the Contract. Penny Anderson voted no.

There was a continued discussion about finding a surveyor to review the Sycamore Street property. The Town has not heard back from Hallaway but Town Attorney, Lee Robbins sent a copy of the Town's deed to Hallaway to review. This topic will be continued at the next meeting.

Council member, Joe Blevins reported that he met with 2 Park Board members as well as Jill Curry and David Talbot to discuss grading and drainage issues at the park. Curry & Associates are going to work up a proposal for the Town to address grading and drainage as well as design.

Concerning the Community Crossing Grant, the Town will resubmit but the Town took out Church Street to lower the cost so the Town could meet the local match of \$82,976.33.

Council member, Penny Anderson contracted the Eppley Institute concerning the DNR Grant the Town thought they had applied for. Penny said she was told the Town was too late to apply for the DNR Grant. This was confusing because the Town had worked hard to get all the paperwork together to send to the Eppley Institute by the deadline. The Council asked Town Attorney, Lee Robbins to contact Eppley and find out what happened and how the Town can move forward.

Council member, Joe Blevins said he contacted Mrs. Allen to review the plans to the Washington Street property but did not hear back with her. The Council would like to know how much it is going to cost to finish the building. President, Courtney Allen asked Penny Anderson to contact Roger Hickey to discuss several properties he has in Town to build a Town Hall and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

President, Courtney Allen asked Kyle Rooks to contact the Trafalgar DPW about how to use the time clock.

Financials

Council member, Joe Blevins made a motion to approve the minutes dates July 10th and July 27th. The motion was seconded by Council member, Penny Anderson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Joe Blevins made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated August 14, 2023 for \$153,828.98. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Penny Anderson made a motion to approve the July 2023 payroll. Council member, Joe Blevins seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Joe Blevins made a motion to approve the June Bank Rec. Council member, Walter Abbott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

The Clerk Treasurer gave an update on the Deputy Clerk position. At this time 4 applications have been received. The Clerk needs more time so the Council extended the deadline to September 29th. The Council said if the Clerk needs more time to let them know.

Police Department Report

Town Marshal, Ryan Swank reported that Jared Smith will be riding along with John Bise for the next month.

DPW

Kyle Rooks reported there is an issue with the street lights downtown and he will have to contact an electrician for the repair. The new employee, Zach Burton is doing a good job. Kyle asked for permission to purchase brakes for the F250 truck for a total of \$731.18. Council member, Penny Anderson made a motion to approve the purchase of new brakes for the F-250 truck. Council member, Joe Blevins seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Kyle asked if the department could get the cc workers back since it had been 30 days and Kyle was told by the Council that he could start getting the cc workers again.

Town Attorney

An amendment to the 2023 Salary Ordinance #2022-11 was presented to the Council for adoption. Council member, Joe Blevins made a motion to adopt the amended salary Ordinance #2022-1. The motion was seconded by Council member, Jeremy Baker. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Jeff Conners can longer hold a position on the Planning and Zoning Board as he no longer works for the Town. Kyle Rooks was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board in is place.

Public Comments

Utility Clerk, Sarah Keaton-Dillahay asked if she had a job or not since the Council would no longer be over her and the Clerk Treasurer can hire her own person to be a Deputy Clerk. Sarah said she had no heard anything. Sarah made a point to say the Job Description is still on the door even though it is past the August 4th deadline.

Clinton Chapman, said that the Fire Department has 16 members but only 4 or 5 do everything. Clinton also said the Council might reach out to Terry Brock the Morgan County surveyor to see if he could help with the Sycamore Street issues.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Courtney Allen.

AUGUST 14, MINUTES APPROVED & SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Sharon McIntosh DATE 9/11/23

ATTEST: CLERK TREASURER

SHARON MCINTOSH

Courtney Allen

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, COURTNEY ALLEN

Walter Abbott

WALTER ABBOTT

Penny Anderson

PENNY ANDERSON

Jeremy Baker

JEREMY BAKER

Joe Blevins

JOE BLEVINS