

MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 11, 2023

Attendance

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

New Business

Council member, Joe Blevins made a motion to adopt amended Ordinance 2022-11, compensation of bonuses for the year 2023. The motion was seconded by Council member, Penny Anderson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

The Morgantown Fire Department came before the Council to asked permission to proceed with establishing a Fire Territory. The representatives explained those is a lot involved in getting the Fire Territory established. There will be 3 Public Meetings that must be held. The Fire Rating, the ISO rating, for homeowners and business in this area is too low and has caused insurance for this area to become expensive. The Fire Department said with the Fire Territory they hope to provide improved service to this area and raise the ISO rating. The Fire Territory would allow the Fire Department to have their own tax rate which would be collected with the property taxes.

2024 Salary Ordinance

The Council discussed raises for the employees and Clerk Treasurer. The Police Department asked for a 4% raise for Ryan Swank, John Bise, and Kyle Adcock. There was discussion about increasing Zach Burton's hourly wage to \$19.00 an hour beginning January 1, 2024. Council President, Courtney Allen said she understood that Kyle Rooks wanted to reduce his salary until he gets his wastewater license. Kyle said he never said that and he would not take a pay cut and he didn't know of anyone that would. Kyle said he was barely making it now. Kyle's compensation was not discussed further. Council President, Courtney Allen did say that the DPW needed to use the cc worker from the jail for extra help. Council President, Courtney Allen explained that the Council had asked the Clerk Treasurer to take back the supervision of the Town Utilities a few months ago. The Council was not completely aware of the Utility Clerk's duties and the Clerk Treasurer would have knowledge of the utility clerk's duties and responsibilities. There are internal control standards that must be meet by the Town required by the SBOA. The Clerk Treasurer and the Utility Clerk should be working together to meet the

Internal Control Standards for the office. The Council could not change the Clerk Treasurer's salary in the year she was working but they had promised the Clerk Treasurer an increase in her Salary for 2024 for taking over the supervision of the Town Utilities. The Clerk Treasurer had asked the Council for a \$5.00 an hour increase. Town Attorney, Lee Robbins explained that instead of increasing the Clerk Treasurer's salary create another position for the supervision of the Utilities and the Utility Clerk. Council President Courtney Allen suggested the hourly increase to be \$3.00 an hour and then in June of 2024 revisit the hourly rate. Every Council member would have to be in agreement during a vote because at this time there are only 4 Council members as Walter Abbott passed away on November 7th. There seemed to be a question as to whether there were 4 votes to pass the 2024 Salary Ordinance. The 2024 Salary Ordinance requires a second reading to adopt. It was decided to bring the 2024 Ordinance before the special Council meeting on December 9, 2023.

Discussion of Rate Increase for Water & Wastewater

This topic was postponed until a later date.

Old Business

Council member, Joe Blevins reported he had spoken to Hallaway and they had a few more residents to review before they finished the survey.

Financials

Council member, Penny Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes dated November 13, 2023. Council member, Jeremy Baker seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Joe Blevins made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of November 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council member, Penny Anderson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve the Claims dated December 11, 2023 for \$182,879.73. Council member, Joe Blevins seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Penny Anderson made a motion to approve the November 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 October 2023 Bank Rec. The motion was seconded by Council member, Penny Anderson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Police Department

The Town Marshal had nothing to report.

DPW Department

The DPW manager had nothing to report.

Town Attorney

Town Attorney explained to the Council members about the Annual Certification they must sign each year. Lee passed the certification for the Council member's signature which were then given to the Clerk Treasurer to keep on file at Town Hall.

Public Comment

Paula Smith said that the Town had spent a lot of money to update the Town's website. Paula said the minutes and agendas were not up to date. The Clerk Treasurer said that she had been extremely busy and had just failed to get them send to Lumar Elliott to be uploaded to the website.

Paula Smith asked if the Town still used Janet Alexander at \$150.00 an hour to help with the utilities.

The meeting was adjourned by the Town Council, President, Courtney Allen.

DECEMBER 11, 2023 MEETING MINUTES APPROVED & SIGNED JANUARY 8, 2024

Sharon McIntosh DATE 1/8/2024

ATTEST: CLERK TREASURER

SHARON MCINTOSH

Joe Blevins

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, COURTNEY ALLEN Joe Blevins

Penny Anderson

PENNY ANDERSON

Jeremy Baker

JEREMY BAKER

David Johnson

JOE BLEVINS' David Johnson