

## MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

HELD January 8, 2024

President, Courtney Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge was led by Council member, Joe Blevins.

### **Nomination for President**

The floor was opened for nominations for Town Council President. Courtney Allen nominated Council member, Joe Blevins for Council President. Council member, Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **Attendance**

Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh noted Council members, Courtney Allen, Penny Anderson, Jeremy Baker, David Johnson and Town Council President, Joe Blevins were present. Also, in attendance were; Town Marshal, Ryan Swank, DPW Manager, Kyle Rooks, Town Attorney, Lee Robbins and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh. Clinton Chapman with the Morgantown Fire Department was in attendance to present the yearly Fire Department Contract to the Council for approval.

### **2024 Salary Ordinance**

The Salary Ordinance 2023-6 was presented to the Council for approval. There was discussion about how employees should be paid. Some Council members wanted to pay the Utility Clerk out of General and MVH. The Clerk Treasurer explained that employees should be paid from the Fund that goes with their job description and the annual budget. Some members were concerned that the utilities were in the negative. Council member, Penny Anderson said she did not see if the utilities are in the negative why the General Fund could not pay for some invoices. Town Attorney, Lee Robbins explained to Penny that the General Fund does not receive but a certain amount of money each year whereas with the Utilities that is owned by the Town the Council can increase rates if more revenue

is needed to pay expenses. It's the Council's responsibility to have sufficient rates to run the business. The Clerk Treasurer explained the General Fund receives on average 2% to 4 % increase each year. She also explained invoices are paid according the Fund that the invoice is connected to which might include splitting the payment between Funds.

Town Marshal, Ryan Swank presented his request to increase the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy's salary to \$26.44 an hour, or \$55,000.00 a year and reduce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy salary to \$51,000.00 at \$24.52 an hour. Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance 2023-6 with the following revisions; Utility Clerk to be paid from General and MVH, and to increase the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy to \$26.44 an hour and reduce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy to 24.52 an hour. Council member, Jeremy Baker seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve the December 11, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Council member, David Johnson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **Financials**

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve the minutes dated December 28, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council member, Jeremy Baker. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve the Claim Docket dated January 9, 2024 totaling \$439,442.73. Council member, Jeremy Baker seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve the December 2023 payroll. The motion was seconded by Council member, David Johnson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve the November 2023 Bank Rec. Council member, Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

### **Fire Department**

Clinton Chapman with the Morgantown Fire Department presented the Department's 2024 Fire Contract for \$50,000.00. The money for the service contract with the Fire Department will come from the LIT Public Safety Fund. Clinton Chapman provided the following dates for the Public Hearings to be held as part of the Fire Department efforts to become a Fire Territory. The dates are February 6, February 20<sup>th</sup> March 5<sup>th</sup> and the final meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. At least 3 Council members must be present at each public meeting and the final vote by the Town Council will be on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There is concern over the Fire Rating being high and homeowners have seen increased homeowner insurance costs because of the rating. By establishing a Fire Territory this is one step in trying to lower the rating. Clinton Chapman said the Financial Group the Fire Department is using to help set up the Fire Territory will be attending all meetings to answer any questions the Town may have.

### **Police Department**

Town Marshal, Ryan Swank presented his monthly report to the Council. Bise's vehicle is having issues and will be taken to Fletcher's in Franklin. Ryan is hoping the repair issue would still be under warranty. Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to go ahead and get the vehicle repaired. Council member, Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Council member, Penny Anderson asked the Marshal about the number of reserves and made a comment about the extra police vehicle behind Town Hall. Penny said the vehicle is just sitting there with insurance payment of \$600.00 a year. Ryan said he had 1 reserve deputy who is at Field Training and the reserves would use the extra car behind Town Hall. Penny Anderson also wanted to know how many days a week the part time deputy works. On average Ryan said he

works 16 hours a week. Kyle Adcock has resigned as deputy marshal; Ryan will be advertising to hire an officer for the vacant position.

### **DPW**

DPW Manager, Kyle Rooks reported the new meters have come in and they will begin installing them as soon as they can. Kyle said he will be taking classes to help him prepare for the certified wastewater operator test.

### **Public Comments**

Jeff Downey said when he left employment with the Town the utility balances together totaled approximately \$170,000. Jeff asked where that money went. The Clerk Treasurer said that costs increased after Covid. High credit card invoices for both 2021 and 2022 were a factor as well. The Town hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> DPW person which was not budgeted. The Town purchased a new side by side and a new Dodge Ram Truck. There were numerous repairs that needed to be made in both those years. DPW received wage increases that were not budgeted. The Clerk Treasurer explained the Council approves payment of the Claim and then the Clerk Treasurer writes the check.

JANUARY 8, 2024 MEETING MINUTES APPROVED & SIGNED FEBRUARY 12, 2024

Sharon McIntosh DATE 2/13/2024

ATTEST: CLERK TREASURER

SHARON MCINTOSH

Joe Blevins  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JOE BLEVINS

Courtney Allen  
COURTNEY ALLEN

Penny Anderson  
PENNY ANDERSON

Jeremy Baker  
JEREMY BAKER

David Johnson  
DAVID JOHNSON