

MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD SPECIAL MEEETING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2024

The Town Council held a special meeting on February 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Morgantown Fire Station. Curry & Associates presented their findings to the Council concerning the water utility study. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President, Joe Blevins. Those members present were; Courtney Allen, Penny Anderson, Jeremy Baker, David Johnson and Council President, Joe Blevins. Also present were; DPW Kyle Rooks, Town Attorney, Lee Robbins and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh. Special guests were; Jill Curry, Lori Young, Dawn Brady, John Lynch with Curry & Associates, Mike Kleinpeter Grant Administrator, and 3 members of the Brown County Water Board.

Jill Curry and Lori Young spoke to the Council about the results from the Town of Morgantown Planning Study for Drinking Water. The most significant issues are water quality, age of mains, and limited supply for flushing of water mains. The existing wells issues include Wells 1 & 3 are useful but each running at only 20-25-gpm. Well 1 should operate at 70-85-gpm but cannot be adequately repaired. Well 2 drilled in 1947 and rehabilitated in 2022 pumps sand. Wells 2 & 3 cannot operate together. Well 3 should have a 100-gpm capacity. Well 4 is a good well with new meter but not connected to WTP. Well 4 capacity is 105-gpm. Jill spoke about what the Town does have in existing water treatment. Water loss is another concern for the Town. The percentage of loss since the year 2019 has been as high as 31.5 % and as low as 14.2 %. Existing valves and hydrants are in variable condition. The Town has frequent leaks repair clamps are required for most leaks due to lack of valves. The Town's water tank is still new but needs to be inspected. The growth in Morgantown has been slowly increasing and at present the Town has 447 customers. The Town must look at future demand of its drinking water.

Jill Curry and Lori Young presented a couple of options to the Council. Option 1: add 2 new wells and replace the WTP. Option 2 would be to connect to Brown County Water Utility.

The Brown County Water Utility Board spoke to the Council about what their utility could offer either in a permanent hook up or an emergency hook up. Brown County utility is a member of the IURC and all rate increases must be presented to the IURC for approval. The Town Council would like to hear more information about purchasing water whole sale from Brown County.

Jill and Lori presented a summary of project alternatives, the estimate or probable cost and the rate impact on the Town. They also spoke about the scoring of the OCRA drinking water grants and felt Morgantown had a very good chance to receive a good score to qualify for addition grants.

Council President, Joe Blevins asked the Council members to go home and think about the information they had received. The Council will meet sometime in the future to begin planning a project. Town Attorney, Lee Robbins felt the Council should at least try for a 4-million-dollar project.

Council President, Joe Blevins appointed Jewel Blevins to the Park Board to replace Madison Ham whose 1-year term had expired.

Town Attorney, Lee Robbins spoke to the Council about what he had discovered in reviewing the Fire Departments Resolution and contract. This is concerning the Fire Department becoming a Fire Territory between Jackson Township and the Town of Morgantown. There would be a 3-person Board that approves the Fire Department Budget each year. Lee felt it would be good if there were a 5-person board. Two from the Fire Department, two from Morgantown Council and 1 person at large. Lee has suggested this to the Fire Department's attorney who was going to take it to his client, the Fire Department. The vote will be taken at a March 20<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting whether the Council will approve the inter local agreement with the Fire Department. Council President, Joe Blevins felt the Council members should be thinking about this information so they are prepared to vote at the meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

There was no other business before the Council and the meeting was adjourned.

Council Special Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2024, signed March 11, 2024

ATTEST:

Sharon McIntosh

CLERK TREASURER, SHARON MCINTOSH

3/11/24

Dated

Joe Blevins

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JOE BLEVINS