

**MORGANTOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Joe Blevins at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council member, Jewel Blevins.

ATTENDANCE

Council members present were; Courtney Allen, Jeremy Baker, Jewel Blevins and Council President, Joe Blevins. Absent was Council member, Stacie Baker. Also present were; Marshal, Ryan Swank, DPW, Kyle Rooks, Town Attorney, Lee Robbins and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The 2026 Budget Public Hearing was opened for comments. There were no questions or comments from the public. The public hearing was then closed. The adoption hearing will take place on October 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing for the Additional Appropriation for CCI and Local Roads and Street was opened for comments or questions. There were no comments by members of the public. The public hearing was then closed.

Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-9, an Additional Appropriation for \$14,514.00 to Local Roads and Streets. The motion was seconded by Council member, Courtney Allen. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10, an Additional Appropriation for \$294.00 to Park Fund. Council member, Courtney Allen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

TOWN HEALTH INSURANCE

Kevin Parks with Edinburgh Insurance Company was not able to attend the meeting and will reschedule.

DOG INCIDENT

A discussion was held by Council concerning the dog incident that happened a few days before the meeting. A dog had to be put down and the other dog involved was determined to be a vicious animal. Ordinance 2024-2 was reviewed by the Council members and the Town Attorney, Lee Robbins. Comments that were made; electric fences are not considered a true fence. The Council felt there needed to be stronger consequences and increased fines from \$500.00 to \$2,000.00. No action was taken by the Council.

APPOINTING APPRAISERS

Council President, Joe Blevins had received 3 appraisals. All three appraisals were considered too high. Joe is going to see if he can get a better price. No action was taken.

UPDATE ON TOWN HALL REMODEL

An update on the Town Hall Remodel was given to the Council by the President. The plumbing and the electrical are complete. Rose Construction is now ready for the drywall. Rose Construction submitted an invoice for work completed for \$53,920.96. Council member, Jewel Blevins made the motion to approve the invoice for \$53,920.96. The motion was seconded by Council member, Courtney Allen. All members voted in favor of the motion.

WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Reed & Sons is still waiting on the valves that were ordered that must be American made which has slowed the project. Fleis & Vandenbrink, invoice #74848 was presented to the Council for approval. Council member, Jewel

Blevins made a motion to approve the invoice #74848 for \$4,000.00. The motion was seconded by Council member, Jeremy Baker. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Presented was Pay Application #3, for \$287,678.46 from Reed & Sons for approval by the Council. This Pay Application will be paid with OCRA funds. Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve Pay Application #3 for \$287,678.46. The motion was seconded by Council member, Courtney Allen. All members voted in favor of the motion.

YARD SPRINKLING CREDIT ORDINANCE 2012-5

Council members reviewed the Yard Sprinkling Ordinance. Council member, Jewel Blevins felt that customers must apply yearly for the credit. It was decided to amend the Ordinance by removing the last sentence from the Ordinance. The Town Attorney will have the amended Ordinance for the next meeting for approval.

DUMP TRUCK

The Town is selling their dump Truck for \$15,000.00 on the municipal on line site.

TRECS

The utilities manager has set the Town up with the company, TRECS. TRECS helps cities and towns collect outstanding utility bills balances from mainly renters. Liens can be placed on homeowners but not on renters. The names, address, social security number are sent into the company and when that individual receives their tax check the money and fee are taken from their check and the money sent to the Town. This service is free as the customer is responsible for paying for the service.

DEPUTY CLERK POSITION

Council member, Jewel Blevins feels the Town hall is busy enough that Becky Smith, the Deputy Clerk should be working full time. Jewel is in Town Hall several times a week and sees how busy the office is. Council member, Jeremy Baker said that Town Hall is busy every time he has been in the office. Jewel also suggested that Becky receive a \$2.00 raise for all her hard work. The office has corrected many errors from previous utility clerks resulting in correct water bills being sent to the customers resulting in more income for the Town. Courtney felt that the Council should wait on the raise until the Salary Ordinance which will be approved in November or December for 2026. Council member, Jewel Blevins made a motion to make the Deputy Clerk position full time with the \$2.00 raise considered with the Salary Ordinance at the end of 2025. The motion was seconded by Council member, Jeremy Baker. All members voted in favor of the motion.

PARK REPORT

Council member, Jewel Blevins provided the Council with an update on the park boards plans. Jill Curry, with Fleis & Vandenbrink has been working on the application to DNR for a Trails Project Grant. Right now, the group is working on setting the cost and match for the project. The Town had prepared the trail at 6 foot wide but DNR said the path must be at least 8 feet so that is added cost to the project. Council President, Joe Blevins must sign a commitment letter. The Clerk Treasurer must provide the Funds the match will be paid from. The application is due to be submitted on or before October 1st. The match will probably be somewhere around \$35,000.00 to \$41,000.00. Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion that the Town should apply for the DNR Grant. The motion was seconded by Council member, Jewel Blevins. All members voted in favor of the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Council member, Jewel Blevins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Council member, Courtney Allen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve the Claims dated, September 8, 2025 totaling \$341,843.31. The motion was seconded by Council member, Courtney Allen. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Council member, Courtney Allen made a motion to approve payroll for September. The motion was seconded by Council member, Jewel Blevins. All members vote to approve the motion.

Council member, Jewel Blevins made a motion to approve the Bank Rec for July 2025. Council member, Jeremy Baker seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

UTILITY ADJUSTMENTS

The Council voted to approve a water adjustment of \$150 and a WW adjustment of \$254.42 for Ron Key. Total credit would be \$404.62. Council member, Jewel Blevins made the motion to approve the credits to Ron Key's account. The motion was seconded by Council member, Courtney Allen. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Christina Poe had a small leak which resulted in \$24.89 credit to her account. The motion was made by Council member, Jewel Blevins and seconded by Council member, Jeremy Baker. All members voted in favor of the motion.

POLICE REPORT

Town Marshal, Ryan Swank reported the Durango that hit a deer was fixed. The cost for the repair is \$307.00 more due to new hinges that needed replaced. Council member, Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve the extra cost of \$307.00. Council member, Courtney Allen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the increase in cost by \$307.00.

Ryan also reported there is a possibility that Jared Smith may leave to take another position. Ryan wanted to know that if Jared did leave until Ryan got someone else would it be alright to pay overtime to the other two deputies. No one had a problem with that issue.

DPW REPORT

The Town received a noncompliance letter from IDEM explaining several violations were found at the Lagoon at their inspection. The Town must come up with an Additional Action Plan to IDEM about how the Town is going to fix the unsatisfactory issues. The Collection System area is continuing to have excessive inflow and infiltration; SSO's documentation of the inspections must be documented, as this was stopped in January 2025, two of the 3 mixers were out of service and needed repaired, constant trickle of flow of groundwater must be investigated and repaired, all records/reports must be retained at the site or a copy, several of the reports were submitted late, construction permit needed to install or modify any water treatment, and there is an added liquid chlorine tank without IDEM approval. The tank is open to the elements and has no containment. Kyle Rooks said the lagoon needs more aerators. Joe Blevins explained that he is working with Lori Young to address IDEM concerns. Joe said he has also written a letter to IDEM in response to their noncompliance letter.

STREET LIGHTS

Council President, Joe Blevins explained that he has been told by Duke there are only certain street lights that can be used during the INDOT project when the street lights are replaced in late summer of 2027. The utility company will install each street light and will replace the bulbs as well. Joe said he felt like the street lights should be higher because more light is needed. Joe had a brochure for the Council to make a choice from the approved lighting source. The Council decided to go with Style B, Boston Harbor, Sanibel lights.

UNSAFE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Vern Snyder asked that his name not be considered for the Unsafe Building Committee. Council President, Joe Blevins appointed Chad Butts and Greg Randolph to the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned by the Council President.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES APPROVED & SIGNED ON OCTOBER 13, 2025

Share with others

DATE 10/13/25

ATTEST: CLERK TREASURER

SHARON MCINTOSH


TOWN COUNCIL PRES

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JOE BLEVINS

COURTNEY ALLEN

Jeremy Baker

JEREMY BAKER

Stacie Baker

STACIE BAKER

Jewel Blowers

JEWEL BLEVINS