

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

May 2, 2022

Ronnie Thompson, Mayor

Sally W. Sandy, City Manager
Louis E. Vinay, Jr., City Attorney

Wendy Cato)
Christopher Hawkins) Council
Chris Jernigan)
Butch McSwain)

Interpreters
Danette Steelman-Bridges
Ernest Williams, IV

- I. Call to Order - The Mayor called the meeting to order in the Council Chamber at City Hall at 6:02 p.m.
- II. Public Comment – The Mayor stated the guidelines for public comment and said speakers were to be called in order of sign-up for those who appeared in person; however, due to COVID-19 the Council was still accepting public comments via email, U.S. mail, or hand-delivered letters.

No speakers signed up, appeared, or sent letters/email.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Hawkins.
- IV. Invocation Given by Chaplain Francisco Risso, UNC Health Blue Ridge
- V. Introduction of Council – The Mayor introduced Councilmembers and staff.
- VI. Retirement Resolutions

a. The Mayor read a resolution honoring Mary K. Duckworth who retired from the City of Morganton on May 1, 2022 with approximately 40 years of part-time and full-time service. Mary retired as Concessions Coordinator in the Recreation Department.

Councilmember McSwain presented the framed resolution to Mary. He thanked her for her years of service and dedication. She said that words cannot express how much she has enjoyed working at recreation and she is looking forward to relaxing and enjoying life.

Upon motion by Councilmember Cato, seconded by Councilmember McSwain, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Resolution # 22- 13 honoring retiree Mary K. Duckworth.

VII. Public Advocacy Issues and Strategies

a. The Mayor read a proclamation announcing Public Works Week.

Upon motion by Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember Cato, and carried unanimously, the Council affirmed the Mayor's Proclamation announcing Public Works Week - "Ready & Resilient".

The proclamation was presented by Councilmember Jernigan and accepted by Public Works Director Michael Chapman. Chapman stated his appreciation and thanks for the formal recognition of the Public Works staff. Brad Boris, Water Resources Director, was unable to attend.

b. Councilmember Cato read a proclamation announcing April 28, 2022 to be Olive Hill Community Economic Development Corporation Day.

Upon motion by Councilmember Hawkins, seconded by Councilmember McSwain, and carried unanimously, the Council affirmed the Mayor's Proclamation announcing Olive Hill Community Economic Development Corporation Day.

The proclamation was presented by Councilmember Cato and accepted by Beverly Carlton with Olive Hill Community Economic Development Corporation. She stated that words cannot express what it meant to her that the Council attended the luncheon on April 28th. She is looking forward to continuing to help the community for many years to come.

c. The Mayor announced upcoming Downtown events including Farmers Markets to begin weekly through the end of October; Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting at the Historic Courthouse Square on May 6th; TGIF Summer Concerts to begin in May; Last of the Mohicans Festival at the Courthouse Square on May 14th 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday POPS concerts to begin the fourth Sundays in May through September, 3 to 5 p.m.; and the NC Supreme Court will convene at the Historic Courthouse on May 23rd and 24th.

The Mayor also announced upcoming Recreation events including the Hall of Fame Banquet at the Collett Street Recreation Center on May 26th at 6 p.m.; and the opening of the outdoor pool at the Collett Street Recreation Center on May 28th.

d. The Mayor announced a 4-min "sneak-peak" video regarding the upcoming CoMMA season. Tickets go on sale in June.

VIII. North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Update

IX. Consent Agenda – City Manager Sandy presented the Consent Agenda and asked if any items should be removed. No request was made.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jernigan, seconded by Councilmember McSwain, and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda was approved and each individual item adopted as stated, those being as follows:

- A. Approved minutes for a Special Meeting – PARTF held on April 4, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. and a Regular Meeting held on April 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.; as submitted.
- B. Concurred with the Municipal Program Records Retention and Disposition Schedule and amended current retention practices as necessary to comply.
- C. Approved a budget amendment (Ordinance 22-17) in the amount of \$9,000.00 to recognize receipt of payment reimbursement for water line / meter improvements at Pump Street, paid for by Endeavour Homes.

X. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – There were no items removed.

XI. New Business

A. Other Business

1. Consideration of Approval of Budget Amendment for Electric

City Manager Sandy stated that UNC Health Blue Ridge is in the process of doing improvements on the campus that will result in the need to change, upgrade and create new electric service. The budget amendment in the amount of \$468,819.72 will be used to appropriate funding to purchase equipment or materials with long lead times for the upgrades at UNC Health Blue Ridge, and to receive customer contribution of \$199,838.94 for the parts of the project that are specific to them over and above standard electric service.

Upon motion by Councilmember McSwain, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried unanimously, the Council approved a budget amendment (Ordinance 22-19) in the amount of \$468,819.72 to appropriate funding to purchase equipment with long lead times for delivery on materials for the upgrades at UNC Health Blue Ridge and to receive customer contribution of \$199,838.94.

2. Consideration of Approval and Acceptance of a Grant Agreement for \$15,000 Office of State Budget and Management and Approve a Budget Amendment

City Manager Sandy stated that the City has received a \$15,000 grant award from the NC State Office Budget and Management (NC OSBM). The NC OSBM will process the grant. The grant was appropriated by the General Assembly and it is for the purpose of doing technical and design work for extension of the Greenway.

The design will include a distance from the Rocky Ford Access Area to just before the NC 18 overpass and from just after the NC 18 overpass to the property boundary for River Hills Apartments. The section under the NC 18 overpass will require, due to soils, a boardwalk. City staff is not versed in structural engineering, which is what is required to design a boardwalk and, therefore, this part of the project will have to be designed by consultants.

In order to accept this grant and continue moving forward with the planning/design purposes on future Greenway expansion, the following is required:

- Approval and acceptance of a grant agreement for \$15,000 from OSBM for funds appropriated by the General Assembly to be used for planning and design purposes on future Greenway expansion. (Grant Agreement Attached)
- Approval of a budget amendment to accept grant funds from the OSBM in the amount of \$15,000 (Budget Amendment Attached)

Upon motion by Councilmember Cato, seconded by Councilmember Hawkins, and carried unanimously, the Council approved and accepted a grant agreement (2022-16) for \$15,000 from OSBM for funds appropriated by the General Assembly to be used for planning and design purposes on future Greenway expansion

Upon motion by Councilmember McSwain, seconded by Councilmember Jernigan, and carried unanimously, the Council approved a budget amendment (Ordinance 22-18) to accept grant funds from the OSBM in the amount of \$15,000.

3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- a. Human Relations Commission – This is a Mayoral appointment.

Tricia Evans-Hunt has been a consistent member and wishes to renew a 3-year term to expire on May 5, 2025.

Alice Horton and Patricia J. Irwin have indicated that they will not be renewing 3-year terms, resulting in two vacancies. Their terms expire on May 3, 2022.

Brandon Owens and Gloria Chambers have expressed interest in membership on the Human Relations Commission. Their applications were attached with the Agenda packets and staff recommends appointing them to the Commission.

The Mayor reappointed Tricia Evans-Hunt and appointed Brandon Owens and Gloria Chambers to the Human Relations Commission, all for terms to expire on May 3, 2025.

4. 30-Day Notice Boards and Commissions –

- a. The Mayor announced that due to upcoming expiration of terms, vacancies will exist on the following Boards and/or Commissions. Nominations and appointments will be made at the June City Council meeting.

City Manager Sandy stated if anyone has an interest in volunteering for one of these vacancies, applications for *Request for Appointment to City of Morganton Boards and Commissions* are available on the City of Morganton website or interested individuals may contact City Clerk Renee Carswell.

- Board of Adjustment
- Cable Commission
- Community Appearance
- Main Street Advisory
- Planning and Zoning
- Recreation Advisory

XII. Other Items from City Manager and City Council Not on Agenda

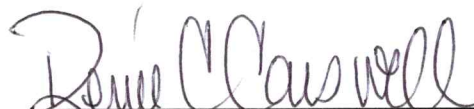
XIII. Reports

XIV. Adjournment – The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Preparation of Minutes. These minutes were prepared by Renee C. Carswell, City Clerk. Copies of all resolutions, ordinances and orders referenced in these minutes are intended to be incorporated into these minutes as if fully set forth herein. Prior to including them into the official minute book, the minutes have been read and approved by the City Manager and the City Attorney, then distributed to each member of the City Council for further review and final approval, at a subsequent Council Meeting.



Mayor



City Clerk