



REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

November 6, 2023

Ronnie Thompson, Mayor

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

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

Interpreters
Danette Steelman-Bridges
Ernest Williams, IV

- I. Call to Order in Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Call to Order Open Session in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- III. Public Comment – *Anyone wishing to speak during this time must sign in with the Clerk before the meeting begins, and upon being called will have 3 minutes to address the Council.*
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- V. Invocation Given by the Rev. Latrese Lylerly, New Hope in Christ Baptist Church
- VI. Special Recognition - Presentation by Jessica Rossi of Kimley Horn - NC American Planning Association Award for Great Transformation recognizing the Courthouse Square Renovation Project.
- VII. Introduction of Council

VIII. Public Advocacy Issues and Strategies

- a. Announcement: Tomorrow, November 7th, is Election Day – Vote.
- b. Announcement: The City of Morganton has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2022 and Jessie Parris, Finance Director, and the City of Morganton Finance Department has been awarded an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) in recognition of being primarily responsible for earning the Certificate.
- c. Announcement: Morganton Public Safety has been awarded a Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant in the amount of \$29,816.24 for the purchase of rescue equipment.
- d. Announcement: Morganton Public Safety has been awarded a Molded Fiberglass Foundation – Recon Commando E-Bikes Grant in the amount of \$15,150.00 to be used to purchase four E-Bikes to be used on our greenway system and at major events and festivals to better serve the City of Morganton. Nick Stepanek, Molded Fiberglass, will present the grant.
- e. Announcement: Community Appearance Advisory Commission Merit Awards – Cheryl Gratton, Chairman of Community Appearance Advisory Commission to present awards to:
 - **Alpine Mill** – Ginny Erwin, Owner/Developer; Wes Ward, Maintenance Director; James Hester, Grounds Director; Margaret Hester, wife of James
 - **Burke Arts Council** – Deborah Jones, Executive Director
 - **Grace Ridge Retirement Community** – McKayla Vance, Director; John Lanier, Plant Operations Director; Jon Mercer, Chief Operating Officer at UNC Health Blueridge
 - **Murphy's Farm Apartments** – Logan Smithers, Community Manager; Christina Kyes, Assistant Community Manager; Ed Ward, Service Supervisor; Mark McCaskill, Service Technician; Troy Davis, Grounds Keeper

- f. Announcement: MADE Competition Awards – Abby Gentry-Nelson, Main Street Coordinator and Paul Gantt, Burke County Public Schools
- **Middle School Awards**
 - 1st Place – New Dimensions School
 - 2nd Place – Morganton Day School
 - 3rd Place – East Burke Middle School
 - **High School Awards**
 - 1st Place – NCSSM-Morganton
 - 2nd Place – Patton High School
 - 3rd Place – NC School for the Deaf
- g. Proclamation: Burke County Nonprofit Day – November 28, 2023
Accepted by: Abigail Taylor and Evelin Vincente-Rodriguez, Burke County United Way
- h. Proclamation: National Apprenticeship Week – November 13-19, 2023
Accepted by: Dr. Cindy Davies, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Workforce, Western Piedmont Community College and accompanied by Glen Privette, Senior Human Resources Director, Leviton; Kevin Roy, Plant Manager, Cummins-Meritor; and Eric Childers, Continental.
- i. Upcoming events:
- **Downtown/City Hall**
 - Art in the Hall: *Tea Yang – Hmong Storytellers* – Ms. Yang is the Values and Culture Director for The Industrial Commons. The Hmong Storytellers showcase traditional textiles and artifacts from Southeast Asia, and art from contemporary Hmong-American artists, which will continue to be displayed at City Hall during the month of November.
 - Holiday Farmers Market: Saturday, November 18, 2023, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 111 North Green Street.
 - Winter Carnival 2023: Saturday, November 18, 2023, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the Historic Courthouse Square.
 - Memorial Tree Lighting 2023 – Saturday, November 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Historic Courthouse Square.
 - Small Business Saturday – Saturday, November 25, 2023, Shop all day to celebrate and support small businesses.

Breakfast with Santa 2023 – Saturday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. at the Morganton Community House. Tickets are on sale now at the UPS Store in downtown Morganton.

Christmas Parade 2023 - “Sounds of the Holidays”
Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 p.m. in Downtown Morganton.

- **CoMMA Performing Arts Center**

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Jen Kober Power Hour of Stand-Up Comedy

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Pretty Woman: The Musical

IX. North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Update

X. Consent Agenda – All items below are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member, staff member or citizen so requests. In the event a request is made, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered under Item XIII.

A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – For a Regular Meeting held on October 2, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve minutes as submitted.

B. Consideration of Tax Releases in the Amount of \$638.00

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve tax releases in the amount of \$638.00.

C. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Grant Funds in the Amount of \$15,150 from The Molded Fiberglass Foundation for Public Safety

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$15,150 to recognize receipt of grant funds from the Molded Fiberglass Foundation to Morganton Public Safety for the purchase of four Recon Commando E-Bikes for use downtown, on the greenway system and at major events and festivals.

D. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Grant Funds in the Amount of \$29,816.24 from The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for Public Safety

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$29,816.24 from The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation to Morganton Public Safety for the purchase of Fire Services equipment.

E. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Insurance Reimbursement for Damage to a Public Safety Vehicle

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$4,543.25 to recognize receipt of insurance reimbursement for damage to a Public Safety vehicle.

F. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Accept Transfers from the ARPA Fund for a Change Order on the Wash Station Project

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$13,500 to accept transfers from the ARPA Fund for a change order on the Wash Station Project.

G. Consideration of Accepting a Resolution Accepting an ARPA Grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) for Stormwater Planning

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to accept a resolution authorizing staff to accept a grant for \$400,000 from North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

XI. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

XII. New Business

A. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing and Consideration of Applying for a Building Reuse Grant with the NC Department of Commerce for Local Incentives for a Local Business Identified as Project Fern

B. Other Business

1. Consideration of Award of CDBG Entitlement Funds to Non-Profits for FY 2023

2. Consideration of Approval to Sell Timber for the Select Cutting of the Two Adjoining Parcels (PIN 2702169624 and 2702266786) Owned by the City of Morganton on Williams Road
3. Consideration of Award of Contract for Utility and Tax Billing and for Payment-Processing Platform
4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
 - a. Human Relations Commission
 - b. Morganton Housing Authority
5. 30-Day Notice Boards and Commissions
 - a. Foothills Regional Airport Authority
6. Consideration of Approving a Development Agreement with 400 Meeting Street, LLC, in Connection with the Sale of City-owned Property in the 400 Block of East Meeting Street

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

XIV. Reports

XV. Adjournment

