I. Call to Order – The Meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Thompson.

II. Public Comment – No speakers were signed up or appeared.

III. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Mayor Pro-tem Fleming led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

IV. Invocation – The invocation was given by Pastor Mike Chandler, Summit Church.

V. Introduction of Council – The Mayor introduced the Council and staff stating that Councilman Hawkins had a work related meeting and was unable to attend.

VI. Retiree Resolutions

• The Mayor read a resolution honoring Deborah M. Coleman who retired from the City of Morganton on March 1, 2019 with 20 years’ service. Debbie retired from the Electric Department as a Meter Reader. Debbie was unable to attend the meeting and will be presented her resolution at another time.

Upon motion by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Resolution #19-10 honoring retiree Deborah M. Coleman.

VII. Service Pins – The Personnel Committee and City staff have decided to recognize long-term employees for years of service at a Council meeting. David Langley is Warehouse Manager in the Finance Department with 20 years’ service. Langley was unable to attend and will be presented his service pin at a later time.
Gary Beam is an Equipment Operator in the Public Works Department with 25 years’ service. Beam was unable to attend and will be presented his service pin at a later time.

VIII. Public Advocacy Issues and Strategies

a. Burke County Homebuilders Association Presentation – Stoney Story, President and Bob Ramsey, Executive Officer of the Homebuilders Association were on hand to present a plaque of appreciation to Senior Building Inspector Mike Crotts.

b. World Changers Presentation - Mike Chandler and Jonathan Puckett of Summit Church shared with the Council a presentation about World Changers. Chandler shared the background of World Changers stating they first came to Morganton in 2015. He stated there will be over 250 students in Burke County in summer 2019. Chandler stated their hope to partner with the City on projects while the students are in town.

The Mayor asked how someone could donate to the World Changers project if they wished. Chandler stated they could call him at Summit Church and shared the telephone number.

The City Attorney asked if they were limited to residential work. Jonathan stated that they go “wherever there is a need”, however there is some criteria such as the person must be the property owner.

Councilwoman Cato asked if they had contacted Blue Ridge Community Action. She stated they may have projects and monies available and might partner with World Changers.

c. Resolution of Support to Re-establish a Passenger Rail Connection for Western North Carolina – The Mayor read a resolution to support the reestablishment of passenger rail in Western North Carolina.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Cato, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted a Resolution #19-11 in Support of Re-establishing a Passenger Rail Connection for Western North Carolina.

d. The Mayor announced the following upcoming events at CoMMA: Peter Pan and Friends on Ice, March 12; Jersey Boys, March 21; Traveling Down an Irish Road with Switchback, March 26; and An Evening with Alberta Hall, March 30.

The Mayor announced upcoming events in Downtown Morganton including the ACC Chili Cook-off, March 14 at the Community House. He said there would be a St. Patrick’s Day FAB Crawl, Saturday, March 16; as well as a Farmers' Market Pop-up on March 16.
IX. North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Update – The City Manager stated there were no updates.

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

Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda was approved and each individual item adopted as stated, these being as follows:

A. Approved Minutes for a Regular Meeting and a Closed Session, both held on February 4, 2019 as submitted.

B. Approved tax releases in the amount of $104.40.

C. Approved a budget amendment (Ord. #19-04) in the amount of $23,827 to appropriate the receipt of funds from an insurance claim and to appropriate funds for the replacement Kubota.

D. Approved a budget amendment (Ord. #19-05) in the amount of $42,109 to appropriate receipt of CDBG funds for public sewer infrastructure as part of the Green Street Revitalization project.

E. Approved a budget amendment (Ord. #19-06) in the amount of $2,000 to appropriate contributions from Haugen and the DDA to cover travel expenses for Abby Nelson to attend the National Main Street conference in Seattle, WA.

F. Approved a budget amendment in (Ord. #19-07) the amount of $3,880 to appropriate an insurance reimbursement for repairs to the dumbwaiter at the Community House

G. Approved an Urban Archery Season for 2019-2020 in accordance with the regulations established by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and authorized the City to submit a Letter of Intent to participate in the season.

H. Set the date for advertisement of unpaid real estate tax accounts for April 3, 2019.

I. Authorized and approved the revision as worded to the City of Morganton Standards and Specifications for Paving, Curb & Gutter, Water and Sewer Line Specifications.

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

XII. New Business
1. Consideration of Entering Into an Audit Contract with Elliott Davis

The City Manager stated that Elliott Davis has submitted a proposal for audit services for fiscal year 2018/2019 as well as not-to-exceed numbers for an additional four years. This firm has provided exemplary service to the City for the last three years at a year 1 cost of $36,500; year 2, $37,000; and year 3, $37,600. Their proposal for the next few years is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018/2019</td>
<td>$38,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019/2020</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020/2021</td>
<td>$39,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2021/2022</td>
<td>$40,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2022/2023</td>
<td>$41,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is the recommendation of Finance Director Karen Duncan that a contract be awarded to Elliott Davis for the fiscal year 2018/2019 audit.

Upon motion by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Councilwoman Cato, and carried unanimously, the Council awarded an audit contract to Elliott Davis for FY 2018/2019 at a cost of $38,500.

2. Consideration of License and Encroachment Agreement between the City of Morganton and MMI Atlantic, LLC

The City Manager stated that MMI Atlantic, LLC, is a company licensed to conduct business in the state of North Carolina. MMI Atlantic wishes to extend fiber optic communications cable (fiber) in certain areas of the City within public rights-of-way.

Points of interest regarding the agreement:
- Would be in effect for a period of five years.
- Only pertain to those streets, sidewalks or public rights-of-way as listed on Exhibit “A.”
- City retains the right to bar installation if it poses a risk to public health or safety or would unreasonably interfere with existing utilities or services.
- Any City facilities, such as streets, sidewalks, driveways, utility lines et cetera; damaged will have to be replaced and/or repaired at the expense of the company.
- The agreement may be terminated by either party by giving sixty (60) days written notice to the other party.

Staff recommends approval of this agreement.

Councilman Fleming asked if the City received any benefit from this company for allowing them to use the right-of-way.

The City Attorney stated the City gets control over when, where, and how they do the work. He stated this guarantees that they inform staff prior to beginning work so staff
can make sure there is no disruption to a utility already in place. It also allows the City to require the company make repairs up to the standard in which they were found if they cause any problems.

Councilman Fleming stated if the City chose to run lines through other people’s property the City would probably have to pay a fee. The City Attorney stated this is in a public right-of-way and not crossing private property. The City Manager explained the difference between the public right-of-way vs private property.

Upon motion by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Councilwoman Cato, and carried unanimously, the Council authorized the City Manager to execute a license and encroachment agreement between the City of Morganton and MMI Atlantic, LLC for the purposes of installation of fiber optic cable within various City rights-of-way.

3. Consideration of Rescinding Economic Development Agreement for Project Copy

The City Attorney stated that in October, 2018, City Council, following a public hearing, voted unanimously in favor of entering an Economic Development Grant Agreement with a company identified for confidentiality reasons as “Project Copy”. The Agreement provided for joint incentives from both the City and Burke County. Before the County approved the Agreement, the company changed its immediate plans, and asked that the governments postpone action. Project Copy still intends to pursue some form of expansion or reconstruction project, and BDI continues to work with the company on a new incentives plan. However, the exact nature of the project, and therefore the terms of the incentives or grants, will surely differ from those set out in the original Agreement. Since the City actually approved that Agreement, and it was signed by the Mayor and Manager, it is now necessary to revoke or rescind that Agreement. When a revised agreement is ready, City Council will then consider it anew, after a new hearing.

Rescission of the 2018 Agreement should not be seen in any way as expressing any objection to, or reservations about, the plans of the company known as Project Copy.

The City’s Resolution supporting the application to the State by BDI on behalf of Project Copy for a Building Re-Use Grant remains in full force and effect.

Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilwoman Cato, and carried unanimously, the Council approved rescinding the Economic Development Grant Agreement for Project Copy.

a. Appointments to Boards and Commissions – Morganton Housing Authority

The Mayor stated there are currently two vacancies on the Morganton Housing Authority Board and one term that is expiring. Victoria Smith, Public Housing / Office Manager, sent a request to have Adriana Morris reappointed for another 5-year term and to appoint Lt. Brad Buchanan and Ms. Marcia T. Peterson to fulfill vacant terms.
March 4, 2019 - continued

The Mayor reappointed Adrianna Morris to the Morganton Housing Authority Board for a term to expire February 1, 2024.

The Mayor appointed Marcia Peterson to fulfill a term to expire on February 1, 2020 and Lt. Brad Buchanan to fulfill a term to expire on February 1, 2022.

XIII. Other Items from City Manager and City Council Not on Agenda – There were no other items presented.

XIV. Reports – Reports were distributed to Council.

XV. Adjournment – The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Preparation of Minutes. These minutes were prepared by Mikela D. Russell, Assistant 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                        Assistant City Clerk