



REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 2024

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 in the Council Chamber at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- II. 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.*
- III. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- IV. Invocation - Rev. Latrese Lyerly – New Hope in Christ Baptist Church
- V. Introduction of Council
- VI. Special Recognition
 - A. Tom Anderson, Director of Risk Control & Public Safety Risk Management – North Carolina League of Municipalities - will be presenting a Law Enforcement Risk Management Review plaque to Public Safety. The review assesses an agency's adherence to best practices, court decisions, and policies and procedures related to high-liability activities in law enforcement. The goal is to mitigate liability exposures, enhance officer safety, and validate that training and operating procedures meet industry standards.
 - B. Chief Jason Whisnant, Morganton Public Safety, will recognize PSO Michael Cristobal. PSO Cristobal was nominated by his supervisors for the "Hometown Hero" award. He was chosen as the overall winner and honored at a formal banquet on December 12, 2023 in Raleigh.

VII. Service Pins

- A. Jason Oliver, 30 years, Maintenance Crew Leader, Recreation.
- B. Ronnie Suttles, 20 years, Superintendent D/C, Water Resources.

VIII. Retirements

- A. William Danny Lyle, Fire Engineer I, Public Safety, 29 years.
- B. Michael D. Crotts, Chief Building Codes Enforcement Administrator, Development & Design, 31 years.
- C. William Richard Whisenant, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Wastewater Department, 20 years.
- D. Jason W. Oliver, Maintenance Crew Leader, Recreation Department, 30 years.

IX. Public Advocacy Issues and Strategies

- A. Upcoming events:

- **Downtown/City Hall**

Art in the Hall: January continues to feature a project report by TOSS. In a series of informational panels, the method and magic of community mural-making is illustrated in this "midway" review. There are another three murals planned for 2024 and folks are invited to join the initiative for round two! Community members can attend a listening session, paint party, host an artist, donate a wall, or volunteer during installation. Check out the TOSS website to get involved: <https://www.tosstudio.org/murals>

Pop-Up Winter Farmers Market: Saturday, January 13, 2023, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 111 North Green Street.

- **CoMMA Performing Arts Center**

Friday, January 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr.

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Annie

X. North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Update

XI. 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 XII.

- A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – For a Regular Meeting held on December 4, 2023 and for a Joint Workshop with Planning & Zoning Commission held on December 14, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve minutes as submitted.

- B. Consideration of Updated Pay Ranges

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve the new pay ranges effective January 8, 2024.

- C. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Pay for Increase in Health Insurance Rates Effective January 1, 2024

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve budget amendments totaling \$72,833 to appropriate fund balance/retained earnings to cover additional health insurance costs for the remainder of FY 23-24.

- D. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Restricted Contribution for Recreation Projects

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$15,000 to recognize receipt of restricted contribution for Recreation projects.

- E. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Insurance Reimbursement for General Fund

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$2,269.60 for damage to Public Safety vehicles.

- F. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Accept a Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to Capital Reserve Fund

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$139,757 to accept a transfer from the General Fund to Capital Reserve Fund for the sale of timber on Williams Road.

G. Consideration of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Insurance Reimbursement for the Water Fund

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,330.69 to recognize receipt of insurance reimbursement for the water fund for damage to a Water D&C trackhoe.

H. Consideration of Acceptance of a Building Reuse Grant Agreement, a Contract with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) to Administer a Building Reuse Grant and Associated Budget Amendment for Project Fern

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Motion to accept a Building Reuse Grant Agreement with the NC Department of Commerce.
2. Motion to approve a contract with WPCOG to administer the Project Fern Building Reuse Grant.
3. Motion to approve the budget ordinance for \$200,000 in grants funds and \$10,000 in administration costs.

XII. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

XIII. New Business

A. Other Business

1. Consideration of Approving a Contract with James A. Harrell, III and Associates, PLLC for Lobbying Services
2. Consideration of Sidewalk Encroachment Agreements for 308 South Green Street – Toner’s Irish Pub
3. Consideration of Resolution of Intent to Sell Property at 210 West Union Street
4. Consideration of Amendments to Schedule of Fees and Charges to Reflect New Utility Deposit Amounts
5. Consideration of Amendment and Extension of Contract for Sale and Purchase of Property on East Meeting Street with 400 Meeting Street, LLC
6. Consideration of Approval of Change Order #1 with Garver Engineering for Additional Services

7. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- a. Fireman's Relief Fund
- b. Western Piedmont Council of Governments TAC/RPO
- c. Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board

8. 30-Day Notice Boards and Commissions

- a. Morganton Housing Authority

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

XV. Reports

XVI. Adjournment