



REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

March 4, 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: Given by Rev. Jasper Hemphill, Morganton Public Safety Chaplain.
- V. Introduction of Council
- VI. Service Pins
 - A. Tammy Kirkpatrick, Finance Department, Accounting Assistant, 20 years.
 - B. David Langley, Public Works Department, Warehouse Manager, 25 years.
- VII. Public Advocacy Issues and Strategies
 - A. CoMPAS Update: Greg Branch, Director, CoMPAS Cable

- B. Morganton Arts Commission Update: Sharon Jablonski, Director, Cultural and Creative Development – Announcing *Sculpture on the Town* winners and announcing Art Crawl for April.
- C. Proclamation: Burke County Chamber of Commerce - 2024 Litter Sweep Week, March 20 – 27, 2024.
Accepted by: President & CEO Tonia Stephenson, CCE
- D. Proclamation: 2024 Vietnam War Veteran’s Day – March 29, 2024
- E. Upcoming Events:

- **Parks & Recreation**

Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 23, 2024, Games start at 10:00 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 11:00 a.m., Catawba River Soccer Complex. Co-Sponsored by Morganton Parks & Recreation and Summit Community Church.

Baseball Opening Day – Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Catawba Meadows.

- **Downtown/City Hall**

Art in the Hall: February/March 2024 – Watercolor and Pencil by Terry Ratchford – Terry is a self-taught watercolor and colored pencil artist from southern Gaston County NC. Terry’s art is inspired by objects experienced and seen around her every day. Her work is an opportunity to revisit the childlike joy of being surprised.

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

ACC Chili Cook-Off: **Friday**, March 15, 2024, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Morganton Community House. Tickets are \$10.00 each. **Please note that this event is on Friday rather than Thursday as in previous years of this event.**

- **CoMMA Performing Arts Center**

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
The Peking Acrobats

VIII. North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Update

IX. 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 XI.

- A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes – For a Regular Meeting held on February 5, 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve minutes as submitted.

- B. Consideration of Participation in the 2025 Urban Archery Season

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve an Urban Archery Season for 2025 (January 11, 2025 to February 13, 2025) in accordance with the regulations established by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and to authorize the City of Morganton to submit a Letter of Intent to participate in the 2025 season.

- C. Consideration of Approval of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Proceeds from the Sale of Property and the Related Expense of the Contract to Sale

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$24,968.80 to recognize proceeds from the sale of 0.06 acre of property located at 210 West Meeting Street and the related expense.

- D. Consideration of Approval of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Insurance Reimbursement for the General Fund

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,557.12 to recognize receipt of insurance reimbursement for the general fund for damage to Recreation vehicles.

- E. Consideration of Approval of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Insurance Reimbursement for the Wastewater Fund

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,897.55 to recognize receipt of insurance reimbursement for the Wastewater fund for damage to Wastewater Treatment Plant truck.

- F. Consideration of Approval of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of Insurance Reimbursement for the Electric Fund

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$6,721.07 to recognize receipt of insurance reimbursement for the Electric fund for theft at a substation.

G. Consideration of Approval of a Budget Amendment to Recognize Receipt of an ElectriCities Downtown Revitalization Grant

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$10,000 to recognize receipt of an ElectriCities Downtown Revitalization Grant.

H. Consideration of Approval of the 2024 Downtown Calendar of Events and Consideration of an Ordinance Scheduling Temporary Closures of Certain State Highways for City Sponsored Special Events

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Downtown Calendar of Events and Approve Ordinance Scheduling Street Closures.

I. Consideration of Approval of Contract for Audit Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve a contract for audit services to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. for the fiscal year 2024/2025 audit at a cost of \$40,500 and to authorize the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute such contract and any other necessary documents.

X. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Request to Permanently Close and Abandon an Unopened Right-of-Way Portion of Romarco Road
2. Public Hearing and Consideration of Text and Map Amendment to Introduce an Active Frontage Overlay in the Downtown Morganton National Historic District

B. Other Business

1. Consideration of Approval of Budget Amendment for the Purchase of Transformers
2. Consideration of Approval of a Contract for Construction of an Addition to the Beanstalk Journey Adventure Course and a Related Budget Amendment
3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
 - a. Cultural Arts Commission
4. 30-Day Notice Boards and Commissions – None to report.

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

XIII. Reports

XIV. Adjournment