

**MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 9, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE**

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Blevins. The Clerk Treasurer noted Council members; Walter Abbott, Penny Anderson, Jeremy Baker, Joe Blevins and Courtney Allen were present. Also present were; Town Marshal, Ryan Swank, DPW, Kyle Rooks, Town Attorney, Lee Robbins and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh. Special guests were the President of Bastin Logan, Joe Paszek and John Britton. The town certified water operator, Jason Lemire was also present.

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

The first order of business was the election of Town Council President. Joe Blevins made a motion to approve Courtney Allen for Town Council President. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Baker. All members voted in favor of the motion.

**WATER ISSUE**

John Britton explained to those in attendance what happened when the Town had no water on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Monday after. There was a 6-inch main break by the water tower. The water drained from the Tower due to the leak and the alarm in the water tower to notify them when the water level is low did not work because of the cold weather. Bastin Logan was called in on Monday to come and adjust the levels to get water from the wells. DPW Kyle Rooks was doing everything he could but the Town does not have the water capacity to fill up the water tower and meet the demand of the residents. Another leak was discovered on Church Street a few days later which helped hinder the process. Bastin Logan provided the Council with information and updates on all 4 wells. They reported Kyle Rooks has been proactive with maintenance performed on the wells more so than in the past. Well #4 is the Town's best water option but it does not have a chlorination system. The Town Council needs to look at options concerning the wells whether it be the inter connection with Brown County Water or drilling for a new well. People are using more water now than they did before. Several members of the public were in attendance to ask questions about the cause of the water being off for such a long period or to address any other concerns they might have with the town's water. Jason Lemire explained the water is tested every day and every month a report is mailed into IDEM. Those in attendance felt the town needed to communicate more with the customers about the issues. The town is in the process of working on a notifications

system. It was mentioned that the weather had a great deal to do with the water issue as well. Joe Paszek provided the Council with several options in moving forward. Town Attorney, Lee Robbins explained that the options the town is looking at is going to cost money which will be a cost to the customers. At this point the Council has to look at the future of the town.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marie Nealy asked about the decision on the proposed gas station. Lee Robbins explained this decision will be made by the Board of Zoning Appeals not the Town Council. If the Board of Zoning Appeals approves the gas station, they can also impose conditions to provide the town with some safe guards

## **FINANCIALS**

Penny Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes dated December 12<sup>th</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup>. Joe Blevins seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Joe Blevins made a motion to approve the Claims dated January 9<sup>th</sup> totaling 14,461.28. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Baker. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Walter Abbott made a motion to approve the invoices from Halls Signs, Intelli-Leap, Subsurface Indiana, Lowe Excavating totaling \$8,222.17. Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Jeremy Baker made a motion to approve the Payroll Check Register for December 2022. The motion was seconded by Walter Abbott. All members voted in favor of the motion.

The Clerk Treasurer presented the Bank Rec sign off sheet to the Town Council which was signed by all members.

The Clerk Treasurer presented her bond along with the utility clerks to the Town Council members.

## **DPW**

January 11<sup>th</sup> will Dustyn Patton 90 days with the town. Kyle Rooks would like to hire Dustyn full time with an increase from \$23.00 to \$24.50 an hour and his take home truck. Joe Blevins made a motion to hire Dustyn Patton as an employee for the town. Jeremy Baker seconded the

motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Penny Anderson made a motion to increase his hourly rate from \$23.00 to \$24.00 an hour. This motion was seconded by Joe Blevins. All members voted in favor of the motion. The Council will revisit his salary in 90 days.

Kyle Rooks asked for approval to purchase tires thru NAPA for \$1,291.12. A motion was made by Joe Blevins to approve the purchase of new tires. The motion was seconded by Penny Anderson. All members voted in favor of the motion.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Ryan Swank asked the Council to approve spending \$576.00 from the LECE Fund for training through the Police One Academy 6 online subscription. Penny Anderson made a motion to approve the expenditure for \$576.00 from LECE. Joe Blevins seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Ryan Swank requested an Executive Session with a Special Meeting following concerning a police officer retiring, hiring his replacement and a part time position. The meeting was set for January 24, 2023 with Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. and the special meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by the President.

JANUARY 9, 2023 MEETING MINUTES APPROVED & SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023

Sharon McIntosh

DATE 2/13/23

ATTEST: CLERK TREASURER

SHARON MCINTOSH

Courtney Allen

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT, COURTNEY ALLEN

Walter Abbott

WALTER ABBOTT

Penny Anderson

PENNY ANDERSON

Jeremy Baker

JEREMY BAKER

Joe Blevins

JOE BLEVINS