

Council Meeting  
11-10-15

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD BY MORGAN CITY COUNCIL IN REGULAR SCHEDULED OPEN PUBLIC SESSION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE CITY OFFICE LOCATED AT 90 WEST YOUNG STREET

Present: Mayor, Ray W. Little.

Council Members: Tony London, Jeff Wardell, Mike Kendell, Fran Hopkin and Bill Cobabe.

City Staff: Gary Crane, Attorney.

Others present: Jennifer Vesper, Morgan County News; Carl Harding; Richard Slate; Chanelle Jones; Stan Start; Roland Haslam; and several scout members.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor, Ray W. Little.

Mayor Little asked the Scout group present to introduce themselves to those present and stated they would be providing the opening ceremony and leading the group in the pledge of allegiance.

The opening ceremony was presented by Roland Haslam.

The pledge of allegiance was led by a member of the Boy Scout Group – Boston.

**Minutes and Warrants**

MOTION: Tony London moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 meetings and three sets of warrants.

SECOND: Mike Kendell. Vote: 5 ayes.

**New Business**

**Canvass of Election Results**

**Motion to Accept**

The members reviewed the election results. This was the first election that was held entirely by mail. The turnout was 54.1%. This is a tremendous increase from previous elections, the last two being 17.1% and 15%. There were 5,417 ballots sent out county-wide. Out of these, 2,394 were returned (625 delivered in person, 1769 were mailed).

The results for this election are:

**Mayor – 2 year term**

Ray W. Little – 607  
Gordon Tolley – 345

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**City Council – 4-year term**

Jeff Wardell – 760  
Tony London – 798  
Michael L. Kendell – 720

**City Council – 2-year term**

Daniel L. McBride – 319  
W. Francis Hopkin – 599

The other item on the ballot was a county wide issue, proposition #1. The tally for that was 878 for and 1581 against.

MOTION: Tony London moved to accept the canvass of the 2015 municipal election as presented.

SECOND: Mike Kendell. Vote: 5 ayes.

**Ordinance #15-10**  
**1% Transient Room Tax**

Tony stated the City does not currently have a tax that could be imposed on room rentals, such as hotels, motels, campgrounds, bed and breakfast facilities, etc. This ordinance would enact a 1% tax on these types of facilities when they are developed.

MOTION: Bill Cobabe moved to adopt Ordinance #15-10, and ordinance enacting a transient room tax in Morgan City; providing for repealer; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

SECOND: Tony London.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mike Kendell – aye  
Bill Cobabe – aye  
Jeff Wardell – aye  
Tony London – aye  
Fran Hopkin – aye

**Citizen Comments**

Chanelle Jones stated she lives at 640 Heiner Lane. She attended a meeting a few months ago where she discussed the trees that were removed with the Young Automotive development. She thought when she left that meeting it was agreed they could not start Phase 3 of their development until the trees were replaced. She is here to ask about the status of the tree replacement.

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Mayor Little stated he remembers the discussion about the tree replacement, but he does not recall it would be required before they started Phase 3. He felt it was agreed the tree replacement would be done at the time of landscaping Phase 3. She asked what type of guarantee she can be given that these trees will be replaced. Mayor Little asked what type of guarantee she wants. She asked if there is anything official. Mayor Little stated she can look at the Planning Commission minutes to see what was discussed.

Mike stated he attended that meeting and there was discussion about the trees and what types need to be planted. He asked Young Automotive to consider not only planting the minimum required, but more. This was not approved –mainly because there was a Planning Commission member that stated he had been to the area and did not feel the noise was as bad as presented. She can request a copy of the minutes from the City office.

Tony clarified the Planning Commission member that stated the noise was not too bad, was one that had been doing some work near the Ford business and did not feel the noise was at an extreme level. Mike stated they intended to replace the dead trees and were willing to look at planting additional ones.

Dick Slate stated adjacent property owners are usually given written notice or a phone call when there is something is on the agenda that affects residents. It was clarified the type of notification Dick is referring to is only given when it is a zone change, or something similar. Regular agenda items do not require property owner notification.

Dick Slate stated he lives at 553 N. 700 E. He provided the members with a picture of the Young Automotive property where there are no vehicles to be allowed until they do the required improvements. This picture was taken today and there are 17 vehicles on this property. He stated Garth Robinson who often represents Young Automotive is not responsive to complaints and only gives “lip service” when contacted. He has asked Mark Schmid to look at the lights many times and he has not.

Mike stated there has been discussion about doing some changes on portfolio assignments and how these types of problems are handled. Mayor Little stated he will do the official portfolio assignments at the first meeting in January. Attorney Crane stated Young Automotive knows they are not to have vehicles in this area – he will have Steve Garside contact them and request they remove them until the improvements are installed. Chanelle stated she has heard from many people that if someone is doing something wrong in the City there is never anything done – they only get their hands slapped. She feels there should be a process and some type of penalty given.

Dick Slate stated when Mike Kendell went to the dealership the vehicles were removed, then Spencer Young called the Mayor and the cars were allowed to be put back on the property. He does not feel this should be allowed.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

  
Julie A. Bloxham, Recorder

These minutes were approved at the 11-24-15 meeting.