

Work Session
06-14-2016

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION MEETING HELD BY MORGAN CITY COUNCIL IN REGULAR
SCHEDULED OPEN PUBLIC SESSION ON TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016 AT 6:00
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, and Bill Cobabe.

Excused: Council Member, Fran Hopkin.

City Staff: Gary Crane, Attorney.

Others present: Oliver Middleton; Royal Coburn; Crystal Middleton; Tina Cannon, Morgan County Council; Renn Hoopes; Steve George, Morgan Recreation; Kyle Thackeray; Adam Birt; Robert Kilmer, County Council & Recreation; Carol Brooks, Morgan Recreation; Ken Durrant, School Board; Marie Heiner; Jennifer Vesper, Morgan County News; Sally Jensen, and Ann Marie Robinson.

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

Items for Discussion

County Officials

Presentation of Check

John Barber representing the County Council/Economic Development Board stated they have been working on attracting businesses to the County and helping businesses that are already located here. He stated they have received a Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) grant from the State. Through this grant they were given \$75 per visit to interview each business within the community. Shayla Hurlbut, Economic Development Director for the City has been conducting the interviews for the City. This has been a very valuable tool in getting to know the businesses and find out what their needs are. The County oversees this grant asked if monies from this grant could be used to reimburse the City \$2,000 for the money they spent on the Commercial Street upgrade project.

Mayor Little stated John lends leadership to this committee that is very valuable. John told the members he appreciates all entities and individuals that contribute to these economic development meetings. He appreciates the efforts being made. He presented the City with a check for \$2,000 for the reimbursement.

Recreation Board

Recreation Funding

Mike turned the time over to Robert Kilmer is the Chair of the Recreation Board. Robert introduced the recreation board members. He stated there will be several present making comments regarding the recreation agreement. Tina Cannon stated when they met with the City last year it was asked why the recreation board is not funded by a special service district. Tina stated the fire department in Mtn. Green is a special service district. If you make it a

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special service district, the County and City lose the ability to determine where the funds go; the special service board decides where to spend the funds. The general public does not have any input either the board has total control over the funds.

Tina stated she feels having the funding for this program done the way it currently is appears to be the best way to operate this program. Tony stated it does not need to be a special service district, could it be funded as a line item on the property tax billings. Tina stated this has to go through a process. Historically the public does not approve increase in taxes. She feels it should be presented by an individual and not a council member if this is the approach to be taken. Tony asked if it has to be a special service district, or are there other options? It was stated there could be a Recreation and Park (RAP) tax imposed.

Robert introduced Carol Brooks to those present. She is the secretary to the board and is very valuable.

Steve George spoke next and stated he does the maintenance at the recreation complex. He gave a brief history of the recreation program. He started his own business before the opportunity to serve Morgan Recreation became available. His business took over the programs and the maintenance of the recreation complex. He stated the facility is in disrepair and will take several years to get back into good shape. Getting the fields in shape was a priority for this year. He has received compliments on the fields. He read minutes from a council meeting where it was stated the facility was a mess. He wanted to make the members aware of the improvements that are being done.

Steve stated there is a lot of interest in the programs that are being held at the facility. This attracts people to the area; it is great to see the families that are together at the games being held. He asked the members to contact him if they have any questions or concerns about the complex. Tony stated the remarks about the disrepair of the facility were made by him. At the time he made the remarks, this area looked terrible. There have been improvements and he has noticed. It looks much better than it did at the beginning of the year. Steve stated they have several Eagle Scout projects that want to help improve this area.

Bill stated he appreciates the efforts to get the community involved, through Eagle Scout projects, etc. He feels this is huge to the success of the program.

Adam Birt introduced himself to the members. He stated he works for Ridley's. There is a tangible increase in business when there are recreation games being held. He stated the soccer program made a big difference in their business this year. It is very beneficial to have the residents from Mt. Green come to the store. It is more convenient for them to go to other counties to shop. If they come into the City and see what the stores have to offer, this is very beneficial.

Kyle Thackeray stated he works for Blaine Smith, owner of J's Drive In, Pretzelmaker, and Nebco. They are huge fans of soccer. During May of this year their sales were up over \$10,000 and a huge part of this was due to the soccer games being held and the families that come to watch. Every night of the week there are people with baseball hats at J's Drive In. The more that can be done to attract people into the City, the better for all involved.

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Steve George stated there will not be a break this year between the different events – soccer, football, baseball, softball. There are several teams from other communities.

Tony stated you do not have to sell him on the recreation program; he is a great supporter of recreation. His concern has always been the way it is funded. If it was up to him, they would have more funding. Robert Kilmer stated they are looking at how to do fund it until a better way can be found. They have not had any success on getting increases in taxes for items. Robert stated most items that have been successful it is due to grass roots efforts and the community takes an interest and want what is being proposed.

Robert stated they are hopeful the City will see the benefit this brings to the City and will be willing to give more funding. Mike Kendell who is the City representative on the recreation board reviewed the funding for the program. The City charges for the utilities for the facilities, but were willing last year to fund more money to the program. He is hoping the City is willing to do the same this year. He is proud of the board and the improvements that have taken place. They are asking the City to fund the same amount as they did last year. \$13,058 instead of the amount in the contract and the amount budgeted of \$6,058. This is an extra \$7,000.

Mayor Little stated he appreciates all those who have attended and the information they have presented. He asked if those present know how much the City gets from sales tax. The City gets ½ of 1% of the tax collected. The County gets 100% of the restaurant taxes collected, the City gets none. The other taxes are collected through property taxes and all entities – the City, County and School benefit from these taxes not only the City. It was asked what the school district gets for the \$22,000 they contribute. They provide the land and the facilities where the events are held. Mayor Little stated in the past they have used the funds to help pay for the coaches. This is no longer being done. Tony stated the School is very generous to the recreation board. Ken Durrant stated the reason is for the youth. They feel it is very valuable to the community to have the kids in these sports. This is what the benefit is – you cannot always look at the money part – there are other benefits. The City has done a lot to improve the City Park and they benefit from this. The City probably benefits from the recreation events more than the other entities.

Bill stated he agrees with Ken there is the need to look at the total picture. They need to look at all benefits not only the financial gain. They need to look at the value to the youth and residents. Mayor Little stated he agrees he just wanted to let all know that everyone benefits – not only the City.

2016-17 Budget - Public Hearing
Adoption – Related Resolutions and Ordinances

Mayor Little stated the budget is set to be adopted tonight along with all the rate increases, salary schedule and other related items. There was discussion about increasing the line item for recreation. The members had no other amendments to consider at this time.

Ordinance #16-05
Historic District Amendments

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Mayor Little gave those present a brief overview of the changes being made to the historic district ordinances. These have been discussed by the planning commission at length and sent to the council for consideration.

Bill stated he has a couple of wording changes he will suggest during council meeting. He would like to see changes made where the historic district would be approved, and refer to a manual or book – not actually be set out in the ordinance. This is very restrictive to have it in the ordinance – especially if any changes need to be made. He feels this gives more flexibility as far as making changes to the guidelines.

Attorney Crane stated the legislature and the businesses have concerns over how communities govern historic districts. He would recommend they do it in the same fashion as other standards are done. They could be reviewed and changes as needed, but would not be in the ordinance. Bill stated that is what he is recommending – it is very cumbersome to handle it this way. Attorney Crane stated the members could look at making this change in the future. The members discussed some changes they would like to make to the ordinance as proposed.

Ordinance #16-06
Industrial Park Landscape Amendments

This item was not discussed.

Ordinance #16-07
Fence Ordinance Amendments

This item was not discussed.

Mahogany Ridge, Phase 3
Final Acceptance

This item was not discussed.

Council Department Review

This item was not discussed.

Attorney Crane
Council Training

This item was not discussed.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


Julie A. Bloxham, Recorder

These minutes were approved at the 06-28-16 meeting.