

COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

PRESENT: SEAN SIKORA, President
THOMAS BLOOM, Member
JEFFREY ARNETT, Member

1. Moment of Silent Meditation and Pledge to the Flag

2. Call to Order

The Monongalia County Commission met in regular session on the 8th day of May 2024 beginning at 10:02 A.M. in the Monongalia County Commission Meeting Room, at the Monongalia County Courthouse. Agendas attached. A video copy of the work session will be available upon written request to the County Commission at cost.

3. Consent and Approval – (see exhibit)

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried for the Commission to give their consent and approval to the following agenda items:

- a) Erroneous Assessments – None
- b) Commission Minutes – May 1, 2024
- c) Pay Vouchers
- d) Miscellaneous Bonds, etc.
- e) Budget Revisions
- f) Vacancies for Boards and Authorities
- g) Fiduciary Orders as noted on exhibit

4. Introduction of new employees/personnel changes

a) A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to approve the employment of Hannah Elizabeth “Jack” Miller as a part-time seasonal Maintenance Worker for Chestnut Ridge Park at a rate of \$12.00 per hour effective May 13, 2024.

b) A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to approve the employment of Camryn Davis as a part-time Case Aide/Drug Screening Technician for the Monongalia County Day Report Center at a rate of \$13.50 per hour effective May 13, 2024.

5. Comments from the Public

Danielle Trumble, 1141 Charles Avenue, Morgantown – Thanked the Commission for allowing the Morgantown City Council to use county property for meetings while City Hall underwent construction, thanked Commissioners for attending ribbon-cutting ceremony to re-open City Hall, asked for assistance in addressing the financial issues related to Bartlett Housing Solutions (suggested a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a warming shelter, joint meeting between the City of Morgantown, Monongalia County Commission, and representatives from municipalities, and funding for bus transportation to Hazel’s House of Hope).

Phoebe Hunley, Cassville Mount Morris Road – Stated that her residence and surrounding residents do not have internet service due to ClearFiber internet service provider’s legal troubles, asked the Commission for information on how residents can acquire internet service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to suspend the rules. Commissioner Bloom asked for clarification of the issue. Commissioner Sikora explained that if a grant has been given to a provider for an area then it can become difficult for other providers to service the area. Commissioner Sikora asked Ms. Hunley to provide her contact information to follow-up. Commissioner Arnett asked Ms. Hunley to send the Commission quotes and documentation from the internet providers she has contacted.

Derek Jackson, 792 Alpine Street – Alpine Street is an orphaned road that is not getting serviced, causing significant needs for the residents, applied to the orphan roads grant program, received two updated quotes to fix the street ranging between \$141,000.00 and \$150,000.00, requested assistance from the Commission.

Commissioner Arnett stated he visited the site and recommended discussing options at the next staff meeting. Commissioner Sikora asked for the updated quotes. Commissioner Bloom asked how much money will be contributed to the project by residents and Mr. Jackson provided estimates. Commissioner Arnett requested a commitment from the Home Owner’s Association (HOA) for the future upkeep of the road if repairs are completed.

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6. Proclamation – National Police Week

Proclamation read by Commissioner Arnett. A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to proclaim May 10, 2024 to May 16, 2024 as National Police Memorial week and May 15, 2024 as Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day. A wreath-laying ceremony will take place on the Courthouse Square on May 15, 2024. Commissioner Arnett recognized the present and former law enforcement officers in attendance at the meeting.

7. Grants – None

8. Correspondence

- a) BOPARC 3rd Quarter Parks and Recreation Levy Report.
- b) Letter responding to Louis A. Scotchel, Sr. regarding the Commission's denial of his request for a hearing in the Arthur P. Scotchel estate.
- c) Notification from Twin Knobs Limited Partnership regarding their participation in the IRS Code Section 42 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program.
- d) Copy of letter sent to the Sheriff from the City of Morgantown regarding Court Security services provided during their use of the Commission Chambers.
- e) Press Release regarding Major League Baseball announcing their commitment to the MLB Draft League through the 2030 season.
- f) Email from representatives of the United Mine Workers of America.

9. Unfinished Business – None

10. New Business

- a) A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to approve the request by the Monongalia County Abandoned & Dilapidated Property Enforcement Agency to move the property owned by Julian Rene Thomas, Sr. and Elizabeth Thomas described as District 16 Map 1 Parcel 49 to the complaint stage in accordance with County Ordinance 2004-01. Litter Control Officer Alex Hall explained the steps in the complaint process.
- b) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve a resolution to become a participating employer of the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System pursuant to WV Code §16-5V-31 hired on or after June 1, 2024. Jimmy Smith, MECCA 911 Director, described the program in greater detail.
- c) A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to approve Requisition No. 9 for the University Town Centre Series 2023 A Property Tax District Administrative Expense Fund in the amount of \$1,660.00.
- d) A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to approve Requisition No. 87 for the University Town Centre Excise Tax District Administrative Expense Fund in the amount of \$3,328.75.
- e) A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to approve funding up to \$30,000.00 for support of the NCAA Regional Baseball Tournament at the Monongalia County Ballpark Complex.
- f) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to release the Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Application due by June 7, 2024. The Commissioners thanked Collene Coon for her work on the grant application process.

11. Reports from Elected Officials and Department Supervisors – None

12. Reports from County Commissioners

Commissioner Arnett – Thanked Councilwoman Trumble for attending meeting, hopes to resolve housing and warming shelter issues.

Commissioner Bloom – Comments about Major League Baseball's commitment to Black Bears through 2030, Monongalia County Youth Services Center appreciation dinner, celebration for Charlene Marshall and Jean Friend, meeting to elect a new director to the WV First Foundation Region 4 scheduled for May 9, 2024 in the Commission Chambers, attended ribbon-cutting ceremony for Morgantown City Hall, comments about how to address homelessness and opioid issues in the county.

Commissioner Sikora – Staff reports, meeting with USI representatives about health insurance, Development Authority Executive Board meeting, broadband tag up, human resources (HR) call with County Administrator, Morgantown City Hall ribbon-cutting ceremony, guest of J.B. McCuskey and his wife at West Virginia for Life dinner, encouraged public to vote, thanked Councilwoman Trumble for attending meeting, letter from Anthony DeFelice announcing Dr. Lee Smith's retirement and requesting to add Dr. Brian Huggins as a signer on accounts for the Monongalia County Health Department, flyer from the West Virginia Ethics Commission on training for Open Meetings Act.

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13. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to adjourn at 10:48 A.M.

SEAN P. SIKORA
President

THOMAS C. BLOOM
Member

JEFFREY L. ARNETT
Member

Approved on:

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