

City Council Discusses Housing, Public Safety, and Tax Resolution in Monthly Meeting



▲ PHOTO | LYNN BLEDSOE
Morgantown City Council review new ordinances.

By Lynn Bledsoe
Jobe Reporter

On February 13, Morgantown held their regular monthly meeting. Council members Dionne Merritt and Sharon Johnson were absent.

Planning and Zoning reported one inquiry this month for a billboard sign. P&Z consulted KRS regulations and some adjustments to the size may have to be made.

There are currently nine vacancies in housing, with 36 families on the waiting list. They are currently getting new property and address signs. New lighting will be installed on the outside of all the units. All the flooring has been installed in all the units. A contract was awarded to Complete Comfort for 39 new furnaces. Housing is now accepting bids for installing a 3-ton unit at the police department and 2 3-ton units at the main office.

Tourism reported the application for grants and donations can be picked up at City Hall. They are due March 15. These are for nonprofits.

MOGO Transit

reported 1,688 riders and 245 meal deliveries.

Code Enforcement issued two citations on older cases, had 5 notices of violations issued, and resolved four cases. There are currently nine to eleven open cases.

The Fire Department reported two structure fires in the county, one call for assistance in the county, and three total runs for the month. In 2024 the Fire department responded to 86. New officers; Chief- Brian Hope, Assistant Chief -Wayne Johnson, First Lieutenant-Rebecca Beliles, Second Lieutenant- Niasha Johnson.

Public works reported in February they fixed potholes, did three days of snow removal, and had 11 loads of brush.

The Police Department reported for the month of Jan. there were 207 dispatch calls for service, nine arrests, 10 vehicle accidents, 63 traffic citations, and 23 traffic citations. One scene was turned over to KSP due to an officer being related to both parties. The total number of calls for service in February was 800.

City clerk reported they have been busy

planning the Summer Social and Dive In Movies events. They have spent many hours training and are preparing for auditors in May.

Mayor report- Fire Department all architectural designs and plans have been approved by the state. The bid packet is in the process of being put out for bid soon. The Police Department is fully staffed once again. The Summer Social will be on May 3. April 24 will be the Chamber Event. Dustin Embry will be stepping down as a Council member on February 28. He will be a code enforcement and ABC officer for the city.

In new business; Resolution 2025-01 opposes the centralized collection of local occupational fees and taxes. The KY League of Cities wants Morgantown to create this resolution opposing the state collecting local taxes. The taxes now are processed through the city and the funds go into the General Fund to pay bills such as police, fire, and emergency management. The State wants to collect all occupationals and send a check

back to the city. The Kentucky League of Cities opposes this due to how long it may take the state to send a check back to the cities. The City Council accepted the resolution.

Ordinance 2025-01 amending ordinances 2021-04 section 22 regulatory License Fee Section Sub Section A. A 5% regulatory fee on alcohol sales is now in effect. City Council agrees to drop the fee to 1.5 gross sales. Beginning July 1, 2025. The City is not able to spend the 5% because only a percent can be used for the purchase of items such as automobiles, leaving the city to finish the payments. The lowering will make the city more able to use the funds from alcohol sales to provide things for the city without placing a burden on the city's finances. This can be readdressed each year.

New Business: Mayor Phelps suggested everyone offer a name for a replacement council member by March 3rd. On March 10th at 5:00 pm, at a Special Called meeting, they will decide who is the best candidate. City council agreed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Thank a Farmer Breakfast



Join Butler County FFA at our annual Thank a Farmer Breakfast! All farmers, FFA Alumni and supporters in the community are welcome to stop by for a bite to eat and chat with fellow farmers.

Saturday, March 22nd
6 - 11 AM
BCHS Commons Area

Rescheduled to
Feb 23-Mar 1

Butler County FFA

National FFA Week

LET'S MAKE THIS RESCHEDULED WEEK THE BEST

SUN 23	• SAE Sunday - Post Your SAE on Social Media and Tag Butler County FFA
MON 24	• Day of Service - Morgantown Mission at 3 p.m. • Dress Patriotic
TUE 25	• After-school Scavenger Hunt from 5 - 7 p.m. Around Morgantown. • Dress for Your Future Career
WED 26	• Advisor Appreciation Day - Post on Social Media and Tag Butler County FFA • Dress in Blue and Gold
THUR 27	• Firehouse Night from 3 - Closing • Club War - Dress in Your Favorite BCHS Club Shirt!
FRI 28	• Anything but a Car or Truck Day (Permission Slips Required) • Share Your FFA Story and Tag Butler County FFA • Dress in Camo
SAT 1	• Farmers Health Banquet 5-7PM @ Jaymes Davis RSVP Text or Call (270)634-2654 Catering from Green River Catering, Door Prizes & Goody Bags



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access to medically necessary care for conditions like thyroid or hormonal disorders. The bill draws a clear line between essential health care and elective procedures, which prevents state agencies from pushing unauthorized policies behind closed doors.

SB 15 exempts minor league baseball players from Kentucky's wage-and-hour laws to align with their federal collective bargaining agreement, which provides salary increases, year-round pay, health insurance, and housing. This ensures Kentucky's minor league teams remain operational.

SB 18 expands insurance options for vehicle dealers by allowing required bonds or coverage from a broader range of insurers, including certain non-admitted insurers. It also updates insurance statutes to streamline compliance.

SB 24 strengthens protections against insurance fraud by closing loopholes and expanding the definition of fraudulent statements in property and casualty claims. It includes repair cost misrepresentation,

towing, storage, and associated expenses.

SB 28 establishes an agricultural economic development program within the Department of Agriculture to boost agribusiness, create jobs, and support rural communities. It creates a funding board to oversee financial support for agriculture projects statewide.

SB 67 proposes a constitutional amendment to freeze property tax assessments for Kentucky homeowners aged 65+ to protect them from tax increases due to rising property values. Requires voter approval in 2026.

SB 69 modernizes animal health regulations by creating new licenses for animal chiropractors and equine dental providers. It establishes an advisory committee, updates rabies vaccination record laws, and clarifies that only veterinarians can prescribe equine dental medications.

SB 77 expands eligibility for appointments to the Education Professional Standards Board by allowing the governor to appoint either a

chief academic officer or the head of an educator preparation program from independent not-for-profit colleges.

SB 79 updates state personnel policies to improve efficiency and accountability. It clarifies job classifications, requires remote state employees to return to in-person work with limited telework allowances, and reclassifies wardens as non-merit employees to improve juvenile facility leadership.

SB 84 ensures Kentucky courts interpret laws independently rather than deferring to state agencies. It mandates de novo judicial review, aligning with a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling to prevent excessive agency authority.

SB 103: Increases transparency in the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation by prioritizing in-state service providers, requiring annual reports to the governor, and preventing arbitrary service fees.

SB 104 expands investment options for

Kentucky's Deferred Compensation program by authorizing self-directed brokerage accounts, strengthening fiduciary protections, and ensuring compliance with federal regulations.

SB111 strengthens Kentucky's juvenile justice system by

prioritizing mental health treatment for high-risk youth, improving facility safety, and creating a structured continuum of care for mentally ill juveniles.

SCR 43 expresses the General Assembly's support for the Crisis Recovery Support Network, which helps schools and colleges

recover from crises like natural disasters and school shootings, particularly in rural areas.

It's a privilege to serve you in Frankfort. If you have questions or ideas, feel free to contact my office at (502) 564-8100 or email me at Stephen.Meredith@kylegislature.gov.

BCA VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL ALUMNI GAME

THURSDAY FEB. 27TH

STARTS @ 6PM

BELMONT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

DONATIONS WELCOME