

COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

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 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 beginning at 10:00 A.M. in the Monongalia County Commission Meeting Room, at the Monongalia County Courthouse. Agenda attached. A video copy of the work session will be available upon written request to the County Commission at cost.

3. Consent and Approval

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

- a) Erroneous Assessments
- b) Minutes – April 28, 2021 and May 5, 2021
- c) Pay Vouchers
- d) Miscellaneous Bonds, etc.
- e) Budget Revisions
- f) Vacancies for Boards and Authorities
- g) Fiduciary Orders

i) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve the first quarter file status report from Fiduciary Commissioner Matthew Gutta.

4. Introduction of new employees/personnel changes

a) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve the employment of Erick White as a part-time Processing/Transport Officer for the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department at a rate of \$11.85 per hour effective May 16, 2021 and Melissa A. Bittinger as a full-time Court Security Officer for the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department at a rate of \$2,493.04 per month effective May 16, 2021.

b) A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett, seconded by Commissioner Bloom and unanimously carried to approve the employment of Tommy Rushing Sr. as a full-time seasonal employee for Camp Muffly at a rate of \$11.00 per hour effective May 12, 2021.

5. Comments from the Public

a.) Russ Rogerson, President and CEO Morgantown Area Partnership - Update on ongoing activities and plans for assistance to employees of the Viatrix plant. A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to suspend the rules for discussion. Commissioner's thanked Mr. Rogerson for providing an update and clarification for the public.

6. Public Hearing

a.) Public hearing regarding the proposed enactment by the County Commission of an Ordinance authorizing and approving the current refunding of the Monongalia County Building Commission Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2014 A (Monongalia County Justice Center) (the "Series 2014 A Bonds"), authorizing the leasing by the County Commission of the Monongalia County Justice Center from the Monongalia County Building Commission; approving the sale, issuance and delivery by the Monongalia County Building Commission of its Lease Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 (Monongalia County Justice Center) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$16,000,000 (the "Series 2021 Bonds") to: (i) finance the current refunding of the Series 2014 A Bonds; and (ii) pay certain costs of issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds and related costs.

Hearing opened at 10:10 A.M.

- i) Correspondence received prior to public hearing – None
- ii) Presentation by applicant provided by Jason Turner, Bond Council for Monongalia County Commission
- iii) Statements in Support of Application – None
- iv) Statements in Opposition of Application – None

Hearing closed at 10:12 A.M.

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7. Proclamation – Emergency Medical Services Week

Proclamation read by Forest Weyen, Executive Director Monongalia County EMS. A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve the proclamation.

8. Grants – None

9. Correspondence

a) Letter received from Jim Manilla regarding his resignation from the Mountain Lion Transit Authority Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett, and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Jim Manilla from the Mountain Lion Transit Authority Board.

b) Copied on letter to Mon River Trails Conservancy from Timothy Guminey

c) Two letters from the state development office approving TIF applications

d) Letter from Hazel’s House of Hope requesting letter of support from the Commission for grant application. A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to support said letter.

10. Unfinished Business – None

11. New Business

a) Second reading of ordinance by Jason Turner, Bond Council for Monongalia County Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve enactment on second reading following a public hearing of an Ordinance authorizing and approving the current refunding of the Series 2014 A Bonds, authorizing the leasing by the County Commission of the Monongalia County Justice Center from the Monongalia County Building Commission; approving the sale, issuance and delivery by the Monongalia County Building Commission of its Series 2021 Bonds to: (i) finance the current refunding of the Series 2014 A Bonds; and (ii) pay certain costs of issuance of the Series 2021 Bonds and related costs.

b) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve for adoption by the County Commission an Order which would approve Amendment No. 2 to Project Plan No. 1 for the existing redevelopment district known as “Monongalia County Redevelopment District No. 2 – Morgantown Industrial Park” to extend the period during which said TIF district is in existence from 25 to 30 years; amend the boundaries of said TIF District by removing certain parcels; and providing for other items in connection therewith.

c) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and carried to approve the adoption by the County Commission an Order which would approve and create a new Tax Increment Financing District to be known as “The County Commission of Monongalia County Development District No. 5 – Harmony Grove”; approve Project Plan No. 1 for said TIF District; establish a tax increment financing fund for said TIF District; and providing for other items in connection therewith.

d) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Marine Forces Special Operations Command and the Monongalia County Commission and Monongalia County Sheriff’s Office to conduct periodic training in Monongalia County for a term of five years.

e) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve Requisition No. 46 for the University Town Centre Series 2017 Administrative Expense Fund in the amount of \$2,808.75.

f) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve Requisition No. 53 for the University Town Centre Economic Opportunity Development District Subaccount in the amount of \$854,694.25.

g) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve the proposal provided by Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield for county employee health insurance premiums.

h) A motion was made by Commissioner Sikora, seconded by Commissioner Bloom, and unanimously carried to conclude RFP MCC2021-001 and approve an award of a firm fixed-price contract agreement in the amount of \$250,657.00 to Ice Miller Whiteboard to provide a comprehensive strategic broadband plan for Monongalia County. A motion was made by Commissioner Sikora, seconded by Commissioner Bloom, and unanimously carried to recommend, at the sole discretion of the future Commission, that Ice Miller Whiteboard be given exclusive consideration towards negotiation of a follow-on contract to assist the Commission in implementing the final approved comprehensive strategic broadband plan once approved by the Monongalia County Commission.

i) A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to approve a letter of support for the Historic Morgantown Post Office Building Renovations and Expansion of Programs.

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12. Reports from Elected Officials and Department Supervisors – None

13. Reports from County Commissioners

Commissioner Arnett – Several job openings at Camp Muffly for seasonal work, passing of his great-uncle who was a World War II veteran and his personal hero.

Commissioner Bloom – Passing of his father-in-law, raising awareness for Alzheimer’s Association, attended ribbon cutting ceremony for Nurse’s Oasis Room at Mon Health, Treasury’s ARPA funding guidance webinar.

Commissioner Sikora – Meeting in Charleston with DOT/DOH with Commissioner Bloom, phone calls including MAP Executive Committee meeting, call with Blue Cross Blue Shield to finalize new healthcare premiums, Broadband Initiative discussion of final offers, meeting with WVU Hospitals and Health Department, Happy Mother’s Day, Airport Commerce Park finance discussion, JUMA meeting, thanks to Broadband Initiative members, middle school track meet, National Police Week, thanks to Sheriff’s Department personnel.

Commissioner Bloom (continued) – Meeting in Charleston with DOT/DOH regarding Exit 155.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloom, seconded by Commissioner Arnett and unanimously carried to adjourn at 11:04 am.

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SEAN P. SIKORA  
President

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THOMAS C. BLOOM  
Member

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JEFFREY L. ARNETT  
Member

*Approved on:*