



We meet here every year to look back at what we've accomplished in the year and to look forward at what lies ahead in the year to come. As I've spent the last few days reflecting on the 2022 year, I can't help but see the difference where we are to where we were 8 years ago. In 2015, the City had found itself burdened with debt and on the brink of bankruptcy. Since then, and thanks to the careful measured oversight of the City, our General Fund has increased by over 550 % with an overall revenue increase of nearly 60% in just 8 years. Soon I will be working with the City Council to start the process of lowering Insurance Premium tax in the city, this measure will put money back into the pockets of our residents.

With this, we are nearing the end of the largest capital investment the City has ever undertaken- the Charles Black City Park renovation. We are in the process of building a downtown pocket park. We have hosted the second Holiday Hoopla, an event the City created in 2021 that we feel confident will be an event for generations to come. We are ahead of schedule of our city paving plan and continue to build and repair Sidewalks all over our city. Our free public transport, the MOGO, has ran nearly 1200 hours and has given nearly 10,000 rides. We had 70 pool parties and 4 dive -in movies. We hired roughly 30 summer workers. We also received a \$750,000 grant, the largest grant in the history of the City of Morgantown, for a new fire station and have budgeted to include a new police station in the project (AS LONG AS BIDS ARE REASONABLE) We hired 4 new police officers that all graduated from the KY Dept of Criminal Justice Police Academy, all at the top of their class, and join our department to better protect and serve the citizens of Morgantown, marking the first time in our history to have 8 full time officers. With a new fire department and a larger police dept, we are proving our efforts to secure the safety of our residence, businesses and work force. We also had the largest fireworks show in the history of our city to accompany the 40th Green River Catfish Festival to show our continued efforts to reach out into our region to promote tourism to Morgantown.

We have had new businesses open in Morgantown in 2022, one of which went through our Entrepreneur Program and was the recipient of an Entrepreneur grant. We have 2 other businesses set to open in the coming weeks, both of which have graduated from our entrepreneur program and will receive entrepreneur grants to help boost their prosperity through their first year of business. Also, this shows the city's commitment to promoting new business in Morgantown.

In the upcoming year, we will be opening the City Park and unveiling our Veterans Park featuring the M60 tank that was donated to the City of Morgantown, an endeavor that I started in 2015. We hope to begin the construction of the pocket park in the vacant lot on the corner of GL Smith street and Main Street, we will continue to host Holiday Hoopla, another brilliant firework show, and will begin construction on the new Morgantown Fire Department and police department, a boat dock, and wayfinding signage throughout the City, and other projects im sure yet to be seen.

Mayor Billy Phelps

City of Morgantown

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I keep saying "WE" I'm referring to all of us – the City Council, the City boards, the City Staff, and myself. None of what we have accomplished in the last 8 years or what we hope to accomplish in the upcoming year would be possible without every person in this room- (the 1 time a year we bring all boards together as 1 City unit) because we are all part of making tough decisions, answering difficult questions, working overtime, sacrificing weekend and holidays when needed, budgeting, planning events, overseeing grants, hanging Christmas lights, plowing snow, and protection our citizens and community. I feel confident that I speak for myself and on behalf of the City Council when I Say "thank you" and we are looking forward to a wonderful, prosperous 2023 because we are all fighting for

TEAM MORGANTOWN.