

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
PILOT PROGRAM

City of Morgantown

2015
PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Pilot Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on December 1, 2015 by emailing Debbie Browning at debbie.a.browning@wv.gov, West Virginia Development Office, West Virginia Home Rule Pilot Program, State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 553, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0311, 304-558-2234.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality: Morgantown		
Certifying Official: Jeff Mikorski	Title: City Manager	
Contact Person: Ryan Simonton	Title: City Attorney	
Address: 389 Spruce Street		
City, State, Zip: Morgantown, WV 26505		
Telephone Number: 304-284-7477	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address: rsimonton@morgantownwv.gov		
2010 Census Population: 29,660		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class II	<input type="checkbox"/> Class III
<input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
C. Pilot Program Entry Phase		
<input type="checkbox"/> Phase I (2007 Legislation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phase II (2014 Legislation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phase III (2015 Legislation)
D. Attest		
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.		
Jeff Mikorski		
Type Name of Certifying Official	 Signature of Certifying Official	11/30/15 Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Regulation of Upholstered Furniture on Exterior of Premises
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? April 7, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>Along with other initiatives, contributed to a 14-year low in nuisance fires within the City. One hundred fourteen (114) notices were given by the City Code Enforcement Department to remove upholstered furniture from the exterior of houses since the ordinance was enacted. After a warning period, 21 citations were given to property owners or tenants that would not remove furniture.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p>

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Initiative: Court Technology and Maintenance Fee
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? April 7, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The ordinance assesses a five dollar fee on each municipal court defendant found guilty or pleading no contest to a misdemeanor – excluding parking violations. Fee collections have funded an upgraded video system permitting efficient presentation of evidence and with video arraignment capability. Total collections through November 24, 2015, amount to \$5,998.00.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p>

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Initiative: Authorizing Intergovernmental Agreements by Resolution
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? May 19, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>This charter amendment allows the City to make agreements with other jurisdictions by approval at one council meeting, where two were previously required to adopt an ordinance. The measure has promoted efficient governance, being used in several instances to adopt agreements with the United States Department of Transportation, Monongalia County Development Authority, and West Virginia University.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>Community support for this efficient governance measure was important, as the charter change by ordinance required that no written objections were filed.</p>

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Initiative: Public Nuisance removal liens
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? May 19, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>No liens have been requested for public nuisance abatements since the ordinance was enacted. Although these situations are infrequent, when a situation occurs, this ordinance is a good tool to recover costs.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p>

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Initiative: Fire Marshals Arrest Authority
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? October 20, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>Personnel granted arrest authority have completed more than 200 hours of certified law enforcement training, including laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal procedures, civil liability, use of force, defensive tactics and weapons, firearms use and qualifications, prisoner processing, and reports and forms.</p> <p>The initiative has been in place for approximately one month, and no arrests have been required under its authority.</p> <p>The City Fire Marshal’s office has established uniform reporting with the West Virginia State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation, and has been recognized as a law enforcement agency.</p> <p>Dumpster and other nuisance fires are at a 14-year low, and the Fire Marshal’s office believes this enforcement authority has contributed to the fire reduction along with the exterior upholstered furniture prohibition and increased fire prevention efforts by community stakeholders including West Virginia University and its student government.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>Law enforcement training for personnel granted arrest authority is essential to ensure the initiative is implemented appropriately. Coordination with other government agencies was required to allow for processing of individuals arrested by the Fire Marshals in the City’s data entry system.</p>

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Municipal Sales Tax
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s) Concerns that businesses located within the city will be less competitive with nearby businesses outside city limits have led the City not to adopt the tax at this time.
REVENUES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance. n/a
SUCCESES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.