

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 6, 2025

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, October 6, 2025 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Edward L. Bennett, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland, Councilman Neil E. Gartland, and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Charles Kensinger was absent*)

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn, Patrolman Tom Lykens, Dustin Russell, Amy Hockenberry, Jessica Reilly of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance, Gary Watters of AMED, Randy Acker, Reba Stuller, Sandy Weyant, Colette Costlow of the Altoona Mirror and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

Also in attendance were members of the surrounding communities regarding the upcoming ambulance service renewal:

Amy Barnes	Arley Hooder	Paula McCready	Kecira Reilly	Robert Smith
Michael Barnes	Beth Hoover	Karen Nicodemus	George A. Replogle	Susan Stern
Jayne Bowers	Candy Keim	Kristina Pollard	Linda Robison	
Julie Bowers	Eric Keim	Destany Reilly	Kevin Smith	
Gerald T. Corbin	Homer McCready	Jacob Reilly	Lisa Keim Smith	

The following five community members volunteered to speak in support of keeping the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE SERVICE**: Eric Keim, Linda Robison, George Replogle, Susan Stern and Michael Barnes. Gary Watters of AMED and Jessica Reilly of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance also were given time to speak in support of their ambulance services and were available for questions. The Martinsburg Borough Council at their March meeting had appointed a committee to review the upcoming contract that expires on December 31, 2025. The committee did meet several times since March. Proposals were sought from both Hollidaysburg Ambulance and AMED and the committee did individually meet with a representative from each of the services. The committee felt that AMED had the better proposal of the two. ***Based on the committee's recommendation after meeting with the ambulance services and reviewing their submitted proposals council on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by Neil Gartland, approved to sign the contract with AMED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026.*** With the motion and second on the table President Dickson had each council person express which service they preferred and why. Following their individual opinions ***with a show of hands the motion passed with five yays from Rob Dickson, James Dell, Mark Gartland, Neil Gartland and Darin Meck and one nay from Ed Bennett.*** While Ed Bennett believed in keeping Hollidaysburg Ambulance for their loyalty through the years as no complaints were ever received on their performance the rest of the council members felt they had a duty to the tax payers to vote for the service that not only could provide excellence but also save the tax payers money and the \$1,000 a month building rental that AMED proposed plus no longer having to allocate \$3,500 per year to the service will give the borough budget \$15,500 more that could be used towards other things such as the ambulance building maintenance.

[most of the audience present for the ambulance discussion disbursed at 7:45 p.m.]

The MINUTES of the meeting of September 2, 2025 were approved on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.

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Fire Chief Randy Acker was present to request that council consider increasing the \$10,750 annual allocation to the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**. The last time the fire company approached council for an allocation was in 2002. The fire company's tanker, rescue truck and ladder truck are all getting old. The last vehicle they purchased was in 2016 for \$500,000. Roaring Spring Fire Company recently purchased a similar vehicle for \$1.3 million. A few other increases in costs the fire company is seeing is keeping up with regulations, annual testing of the ladder truck, and the need to replace fire gear every ten years. ***Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Mark Gartland, approved to increase the annual allocation to the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company from \$10,750.00 to \$16,125.00 starting with the 2026 budget. The motion passed unanimously.***

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for September 2025 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

The LIST OF BILLS for September 2025, check nos. 11883-11922 in the amount of \$78,082.45 (including transfers to the Reserve Fund totaling \$52,000) approved on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Police Chief Justin Davis presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The department handled 90 **COMPLAINTS** last month. The department has recently been subjected to four routine **AUDITS** this year all in one month keeping the police department busy. They have two more to go through but they are not financial audits. Chief Davis thanked council for the **NEW FIREARMS** they approved last month and thanked Paul Cunningham of Base Camp Guns. Chief Justin Davis has been attending school safety drills and has three more to attend. Chief Davis attended **TROY JARRETT** police academy graduation last Wednesday. Troy also received the Marksmanship Award.

[all of the audience left except Dusty Russell, Amy Hockenberry, Beth Hoover, Sandy Weyant, Gary Watters, Jessica Reilly, Cati Keith and Colette Costlow]

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

SEP 4 – met with the reporter for the Morrisons Cove Herald on the **RAG ISSUES** we are having at the wastewater treatment plant

SEP 16 – black-topped **UTILITY CUTS**

SEP 17 – attended a **CYBER SECURITY** class

SEP 20 – had a **WATER LEAK** on McHale Lane

SEP 30 – had a **WATER LEAK** at 501 E. Allegheny Street

OCT 4 – repaired **SEWER LINE** issues coming out of the water plant

OCT 4 – repaired a **WATER LEAK** on a service line on Oakdale Road – at the time we were not sure if it was the main line or a service line

ATTORNEY NATHAN KARN had nothing to report.

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Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Darin Meck, approved to renew the new Police Agreement with HUSTON TOWNSHIP by Resolution No. 2025-1006-01 for the years 2026 and 2027 proposing the hourly rate to \$51.00 for 2026 and \$52.50 for 2027 and using the annual IRS recommended mileage rates. The motion passed unanimously.

A proposal was received for four SECURITY CAMERAS for town center at the signal light. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell, approved the proposal from Cove Air LLC for four security cameras for town center at the signal light at a cost of \$2,800 and to pay the \$40.00 per month for internet service to run them to be paid for from the Reserve Fund this year. The motion passed unanimously.*

An EXECUTIVE SESSION for personnel matters was held from 8:15-8:19 p.m.

Next year in 2026 our country will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary and in 2032 Martinsburg Borough will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary. The same patriotic banners could be used for both anniversaries. *Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Darin Meck, approved to purchase ten (10) BANNERS and (6) brackets for \$2,300.00 to be paid from the Reserve Fund this year. The motion passed unanimously.*

Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Mark Gartland, approved to advertise the 2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP for Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Drought WELL LEVEL GRAPHS were included in the council agendas showing the months of September 2024 through September 2025.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:30 p.m. on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary