

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY 1, 2024

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, July 1, 2024 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Ed Bennett, Pro-Tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Neil E. Gartland and Councilman Darin B. Meck

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Nathan Karn, Sandra Weyandt, Reba Stuller, Rob Craig and Larry Cardone of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance

Rob Craig and Larry Cardone of the **HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE** were present just to keep council updated on what is going on. Their billing is improving as they hired a fulltime biller. Call volumes have been keeping them steady. They are gearing up for the Agricultural Parade and festivities next week. Council expressed their appreciation for having them in town. Rob Craig reviewed the call volumes for 2023 for the borough and surrounding townships.

[Rob Craig and Larry Cardone left at 7:02 p.m.]

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of June 3, 2024 were approved with a correction to include in last month's Manager's Report that "about \$6,000 has been paid by the borough so far to Gary Calvert for soil testing at the 114 W. Penn Street lot." on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for June 2024 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for June 2024, check nos. 11385-11425 in the amount of \$149,441.27 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Janet Blattenberger was concerned that the park wasn't posting a listing of the upcoming **JULY FESTIVITIES AND EVENTS** anywhere other than digitally.

Police Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. Chief Hoover plans to check the solar speed sign data to see what kind of traffic the Agricultural Parade brings to town. Compros was here on June 11th. The radio in the newest police car was purchased in 2020 for \$2,524. Chief Hoover suggested donating it to the fire company. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approved to donate the radio purchased in 2020 that is in the newest police car to the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company. The motion passed unanimously.* The other old police portable radios will be donated to the borough crew to use. The police department is gearing up for next weeks festivities at the park.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JUN 4 – went to a **WATER/SEWER CLASS** in Altoona

JUN 7 – Grannas Brothers did the **PAVING** on the borough streets

JUN 11 – sprayed the curb lines for **WEEDS** – thanked Gartland Lawn Care for using their license to spray

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JUN 13 – Amy Hockenberry passed her **NOTARY TEST**

JUN 25 – Amy Hockenberry went to the courthouse to get sworn in as the borough's **NOTARY**

JUN 27 – met with PennDOT to review the **PAVING PROJECT**

We will be **SWEEPING STREETS** in preparation for the upcoming Agricultural Parade and Bargain Days.

Janet Blattenberger inquired why the **MONTHLY ORDINANCE REVIEW** stopped. Nothing was discussed in February through July. Chief Hoover responded that they did already cover the most important ones. Charles Kensinger suggested that council may want to just review them as the need arises. Janet Blattenberger felt the nuisance ordinance was the most important and would like it to be reviewed next month. A copy of the ordinance will be provided in the August packet.

An invoice was received for the 2024 paving project. It was about \$3,000 higher than bid since they needed to use more material on E. Christiana Street for all of the low spots. ***Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded Neil Gartland, approved to pay \$63,226.99 to Grannas Bros. Stone and Asphalt Co., Inc. from the Highway Liquid Fuels Fund for the 2024 PAVING PROJECT. The motion passed unanimously.***

A bill was recently received from the geologist Gary Calvert LLC for testing done on the Zimmerman lot **114 W. PENN STREET** from August 2023 through May 22, 2024 in the amount of \$28,765.18. A check was already received from the Zimmerman's for one half of the invoice as per the agreement they signed with us in September 2022 to pay for 50% of the environmental lot test. Gary Calvert has submitted a report to DEP and they have ninety (90) days to approve it. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. does not foresee any reason for them not to approve it. Council has already budgeted \$5,000 for the lot test for 2024 so the balance of the invoice can be paid from the Reserve Fund. Janet Blattenberger inquired how much the borough has paid towards the lot so far. Charles Kensinger felt that what the borough has paid so far has been well worth getting the lot sold and fixed up and the borough over time will get our money back through taxes, jobs and services offered to the borough. ***Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to pay \$28,765.18 to GARY CALVERT, LLC (\$5,000 from the General Fund and the balance from the Reserve Fund) with the understanding that Jonathan and Megan Zimmerman will be refunding the borough for 50% of the invoice. The motion passed unanimously.***

Chief Kerry Hoover reported that he and the mayor met with the **AGRICULTURAL PARADE COMMITTEE**. They are always looking for ways to improve the parade. It was decided that Ritchey's Dairy would drive through the parade route and hand out their milk before the parade starts to avoid the gaps it causes during the parade. A fire truck will run with them for protection.

James Dell received correspondence from Representative John Joyce regarding the **BLAIR COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY** being awarded \$352,780 to support their continued growth and development.

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*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:44 p.m. on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary