

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 1, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, August 1, 2022 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 Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger Councilman, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell, and Councilman Darin B. Meck

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Matt Gieg, Bob Carper, Dione Metzger, Gloria Hartman, Sandy Weyandt, and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald and their intern Duncan Weigand

**GLORIA HARTMAN** was present to bring up a **SAFETY ISSUE** on South First Alley. She and her husband live at 402 E. Allegheny Street and this alley is behind their house. Since the handicapped playground was put in the traffic on that alley has increased and there are more children on the alley at times. She is concerned about one of the children getting hit by the traffic that uses that alley. Her suggestions were to either make it one way or add some signs to slow down the traffic. Council will consider her suggestions and review the situation.

*[Gloria Hartman left at 7:20 p.m.]*

Bob Carper and his daughter Dione Metzger were present to bring to council's attention the **CAT PROBLEM** they are encountering at 214 Locust Street. At times there are as many as thirteen stray cats in their yard and the neighbor has been feeding them so the problem will not go away. Dione Metzger said she sent a letter to council about the problem months ago. Chief Hoover reported that since the June 3<sup>rd</sup> letter he had a talk with the neighbor feeding the cats and has also been in contact with a program called Trap and Release so the department is working on the problem. Currently the Blair County Humane Society is overwhelmed with stray cats and will not take any more in right now. Council will address the problem and be in touch with Bob Carper and Dione Metzger.

*[Bob Carper and Dione Metzger left at 7:36 p.m.]*

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of July 11, 2022 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for July 2022 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for July 2022, check nos. 10763-10787 in the amount of \$14,914.31 was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

**MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER** (Sr.) presented his report as written.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

JULY 12 – gathered up **BLEACHERS** and put them along the parade route for the Agricultural Parade that evening

JULY 13 – cleaned up the streets and took **BLEACHERS** back from the parade

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JULY 20 – Penelec had a **SCHEDULED POWER OUTAGE** throughout the borough including the municipal building – we had to hook up a temporary generator to supply power for the phones and computers

JULY 26 – had our million gallon **WATER TANK INSPECTED** inside and out – its been in since the early 1990's

Borough Secretary Jane Staily reported that PMRS finally released the most recent GASB pension report and it was forwarded to Ritchey, Ritchey and Koontz so they can complete the **2021 AUDIT REPORT**.

Janet Blattenberger reported that she contacted PennDOT and paving of **S. MARKET STREET** is not in the five or ten year plan to be paved.

Janet Blattenberger also mentioned there was **TRASH** all around following the Agricultural Parade. Charles Kensinger reported that the Boosters empty the trash cans. It would help to maybe have a group at the end of the parade to pick up the trash. Mayor Rich Brantner is on the parade committee and will bring up the suggestion to them. There were more people than normal at this year's parade so the change to having it the second week in July worked out well.

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that he held off preparing and advertising the **NUISANCE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT** after Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. suggested there may be another issue that could be incorporated into the amendment to address the increase in roll off dumpsters on the streets. Residents are not allowed dumpsters except for short term construction purposes. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger approved to amend to our existing nuisance ordinance to incorporate how to handle the **ROLL OFF DUMPSTERS** on the streets. The motion passed unanimously.*

There was an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss personnel matters from 8:00-8:45 p.m.

*Council on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by James Dell, authorized to advertise the component of the nuisance ordinance amendment to incorporate the **ROLL-OFF/WASTE DUMPSTERS**. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief Kerry Hoover has been checking on prices of a new police cruiser. He is recommending a 2022 Ford Explorer from Laurel Ford for a cost of \$47,546.00 as the best price. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by James Dell, authorized the purchase of the **2022 FORD EXPLORER** at a cost of \$47,546.00 to be purchased from Laurel Ford to be paid for from the ARP money. The motion passed unanimously.*

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. is recommending that the **COMPOST SITE** be cleaned up again. From 2014 through 2021 we have taken in \$19,790.00 of compost fees and expended \$13,856.96 that of which the balance has been carried in the Reserve Fund. For nine hours of labor and equipment T. L. Long Excavating, Inc. can clean up the site for \$2,700. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to have T. L. Long Excavating, Inc. clean up the **COMPOST SITE** for a cost of \$2,700.00 to be paid for from the Reserve Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

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The personnel committee brought to council's attention that they felt the police wages were below what they should be to retain our current police force. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized to INCREASE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WAGES at the following rates beginning with the next pay on August 12, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.*

Chief	\$1.25/hr. increase [from \$27.22 to \$28.47]
Lieutenant	\$1.25/hr. increase [from \$23.36 to \$24.61]
3 <sup>rd</sup> Full-time	\$2.50/hr. increase [from \$18.73 to \$21.23]
Part-time Patrolmen	\$2.00/hr. increase [from \$16.78 to \$18.78]

President Rob Dickson formed a committee to address the SOUTH FIRST ALLEY safety issue brought to their attention this evening. He appointed Darin Meck, Janet Blattenberger, James Dell, Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. and Chief Kerry Hoover to be on the committee.

Chief Kerry Hoover THANKED council for the wage increase.

*The meeting ADJOURNED at 9:00 p.m. on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Ed Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary