

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, July 11, 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, and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald and their intern Duncan Weigand

DUNCAN WEIGAND introduced himself as an intern working for the Morrisons Cove Herald. He attends Virginia Tech.

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of June 6, 2022 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Ed Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for June 2022, check nos. 10734-10762 in the amount of \$130,814.80 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER (Sr.) presented his report as written. Mayor Brantner initially invited Central Baseball Coach Hoenstine to the meeting this evening but he is out of town. He will hand deliver him a proclamation for the successful year. A lot of the baseball players will be in the Agricultural Parade this year.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The **NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM** for the cruisers has arrived and will be installed on July 22. It was ordered a year ago to be paid for from the ARP money. The new program is called **TRACS**. The program is provided through the state for free. It will issue traffic citations and print them out right there in the police cars. The officers had training on it two weeks ago. It can also do crash reports and will cut down a lot of time preparing reports. During parade week one of the police cruisers had a **STEERING ISSUE**. The electric steering rack is going bad but it is safe to drive right now. The Chief will get prices on getting it fixed. The Chief is planning to request a new police car for the 2023 Budget.

Janet Blattenberger reported that her neighbor's **WEEDS** are getting high again. The police will take a look at it.

Durban Metzler has been observing that no one seems to be stopping for the **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS**. Chuck Kensinger felt the signs were catching the attention of drivers and at least slowing them down in that area. Manager Brantner commented that they cannot be put in the center of the roadway where you mostly see them because of the wide farm machinery that frequents that road.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JUNE 8 – put the new **YIELD TO PEDESTRIAN SIGNS** out at the intersections of Mulberry/Allegheny Street and Walnut/Allegheny Street

JUNE 13 – dug the dirt out for the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL**

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 11, 2022 – PAGE 2

JUN 15 – **SPRAYED FOR WEEDS** along the curb line in the borough

JUNE 17 – **BRIAN MILLER** returned to work from his worker's compensation injury

JUNE 22 – **BLACK TOPPED** the portion of the parking lot to where it intersects to the new sidewalk at municipal building

JUNE 22 – we got about 2 ¾" of **RAIN** in a short amount of time

Penelec has a **SCHEDULED POWER OUTAGE** for a portion of Martinsburg Borough and some surrounding areas on Wednesday July 20th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and the rain date is Friday, July 22.

The estimated deliver date for the **NEW GENERATOR** for the municipal building is mid-August.

There is currently no scheduled delivery date yet for the **NEW DUMP TRUCK** from Stucky's

It was reported that 140 tickets have been sold so far for the **TRAIN RIDE** to the borough on the day of the Agricultural Parade.

Janet Blattenberger mention that **SOUTH MARKET STREET** is so tarred up where all the cracks were sealed. That is state highway and PennDOT does not have any plans to pave it any time soon.

Attorney Matt Gieg had nothing to report other than the **NUISANCE ORDINANCE** under new business.

Charles Kensinger took the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL** plaque into Everette Granite last week. The three pieces of the memorial will be installed on site. The amount due towards the memorial is \$2,995.00. There will be a little left over in the account once the memorial is paid for to be used towards landscaping but more funds will be needed for the entire landscaping cost.

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. reported that the balance of the **ARP MONEY** should be received on July 18th.

Our current **NUISANCE ORDINANCE NO. 563** was created in 2006 to amend parts of the original Ordinance No. 439. The issue the police have been having is the enforcement part of the ordinance when citing for high grass and weeds. The timing between issuing warnings to violators as it is spelled out in the ordinance is too long and there have been several properties in town that the police have had to issue warnings almost every two weeks, and then the grass gets cut prior to the end date on the warning, and no citation can be filed. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Charles Kensinger approved to **ADVERTISE AN AMENDMENT TO NUISANCE ORDINANCE NO. 563** to include wording consistent with initiating a new warning schedule so that after two warnings within a twelve-month period the third offense will result in a citation being issued immediately. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Darin Meck, authorized the **EXONERATION** of eight individuals for the **2021-22 PER CAPITA TAX**. The motion passed unanimously.*

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 11, 2022 – PAGE 3

Bill Replogle approached Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. to see if the borough was interested in buying any of the equipment from the W. Gene Henry Estate. They have a 2004 New Holland Tractor that only has 500 hours on it. The tires and bucket are in really good shape. Rob Dickson also looked at it and in his opinion it is a very good deal and we should not pass it up. It is far superior to the one the borough currently has. It's a 1974 Ford and is getting hard to get parts for. ***Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, authorized to purchase the 2004 NEW HOLLAND TRACTOR from the W. Gene Henry Estate for a price not to exceed \$20,000 to be paid for from the Equipment Fund. The motion passed unanimously.***

Our current cleaning lady Leanna Weaver is moving to Hickory Bottom and her sister has purchased her property just outside of town. Her sister is interested in doing the cleaning as Leanna will not be able to continue once she moves. She cleans one day every two weeks for \$75.00. If her sister gets the job she is willing to work with her two times in August so we would be paying them both just those two times. ***Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler authorized to hire CHRISTINE MARTIN to replace Leanna Weaver to do the cleaning of the borough building at \$75.00 every two weeks beginning in August 2022. The motion passed unanimously.***

In accordance with Section 411 of the State Library Code of Pennsylvania, the **MARTINSBURG COMMUNITY LIBRARY** needs to have at least one board member be appointed by Martinsburg Borough.

Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved the library's recommendation of FRITZ YARRISON to be appointed to the Martinsburg Community Library board to fill the remainder of a term expiring June 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved the library's recommendation of BROOKE LONG-YARRISON to be reappointed to the Martinsburg Community Library board to fill a second term expiring June 30, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** on June 13, 2022 were included in the agenda. Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. reported that the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company's **OX ROAST** was a success. They sold out of sandwiches on Friday and almost sold out on Saturday. Chief Hoover commended the volunteer firemen for all the hard work they put into the sandwich sale. Also commending the fire company, Charles Kensinger mentioned how it only takes one generation to lose something and that each generation so far continues to make it what it is today.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:04 p.m. on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Ed Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary