

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2025

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, June 2, 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, Pro-Tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland and Councilman Darin B. Meck (*Neil Gartland was absent*)

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn; Matthew Replogle and Nichole Nagle of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance; Sandy Weyandt, Reba Stuller, and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

Nichole Nagle, Office Manager for the HOLLIDAYSBURG AMBULANCE, reported on the number of recent calls they have had. Most of their calls include medical trauma, farming accidents and calls to the Morrisons Cove Home and Homewood.

The MINUTES of the meeting of May 5, 2025 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The LIST OF BILLS for May 2025, check nos. 11746-11773 in the amount of \$107,699.12 (including transfers to the Reserve Fund totaling \$80,000) approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Police Chief Justin Davis presented the POLICE REPORT as written. He wanted to update council of some upcoming expenses he was recently informed of. Blair County's 911 Center has implemented upgrades to their Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems, including a county-wide computer configuration using one solution provider. This includes in-car fixed-mount devices for real-time data access and a dedicated server for Web CAD information for security reasons. UPGRADES TO OUR SECURITY on the police car CAD system are needed. If we don't do the updates we lose access to the program. The county is pushing all of the area police departments to do the updates but are not offering to help pay for any of it. Chief Davis reported that he knows of one other department that has already started the updates and is having issues so he is waiting until they get some of the issues resolved before he starts them. Some of the expected costs will be \$540 for the labor and then \$3.00 per officer per month which will total about \$180.00 per year. The county is also pushing for the police departments to TINT the side windows for security purposes so the car computer screens are not exposed. The police are exempt from the tint law.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

MAY 9 –employees decorated the firehall for KERRY HOOVER'S retirement party

MAY 16 –the borough crew sprayed the curbs for WEEDS

MAY 21 – had a meeting with April Ressler of THE TEETER GROUP on our insurance renewal

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MAY 27 – had a WATER LEAK on a service line on Spring Street

MAY 29 – MULCHED around shrubs at the borough building

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. thanked GARTLAND SUPPLY for spraying the yard again at the borough building.

The Martinsburg Municipal Authority approved at their March meeting to increase the WATER AND SEWER RATE beginning June 1, 2025. The increase will be reflected on the bill that comes out the end of September. The minimum quarterly water and sewer bill will increase from \$104.00 to \$124.00 for 8,000 gallons of water.

A THANK YOU note was received from Kerry Hoover expressing his appreciation to the council and mayor for the retirement clock and open house hosted at the firehall.

Rob Dickson attended the meeting of the MARTINSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY on May 15th in place of Neil Gartland.

The AMBULANCE COMMITTEE will be meeting soon.

The Personnel Committee meant to approve a wage increase for Justin Davis' on his promotion from Assistant Chief to Chief. *Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Darin Meck, approved to increase CHIEF JUSTIN DAVIS' hourly rate from \$31.00 to \$33.50 per hour effective retro back to May 3, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.*

An invoice has been received from Gary Calvert for his part of the work done on redeveloping two wells on 114 W. Penn Street that collapsed on the Zimmerman property. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, approved to pay the invoice to GARY CALVERT for \$3,577.58 with the anticipation that Jonathan Zimmerman will be reimbursing the borough for 50% of the bill per the prior agreement. The motion passed unanimously.*

Lately we've been getting complaints about HOOVED ANIMALS in the borough. Currently we are dealing with the complaints through the nuisance ordinance. Chief Davis would like to see something more specific be adopted to deal with the issue. A committee comprised of Rob Dickson, Charles Kensinger, James Dell, Rich Brantner, Jr. and Chief Davis was appointed to review the issue and report back with their recommendation at the next meeting.

The Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company will be having their ANNUAL OX ROAST on June 20-21, 2025.

BARGAIN DAYS is scheduled for July 11 and 12 this year.

James Dell and his wife attended the recent CENTRAL COVE FFA BANQUET. Two hundred people attended. It was good meal and a fantastic program.

Ed Bennett was contacted by the Central Band about the MEMORIAL DAY PARADE with a complaint that it was unsafe for the band members. Traffic was not being detained at the intersections. With limited law enforcement and twelve intersections for the small parade apparently traffic was not adhering to the parade route possibly because of the large gap from the band lagging way behind the rest of the parade. Chief Davis has already been in contact with the band director to discuss the matter.

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The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:34 p.m. on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary