

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 3, 2020

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 3, 2020 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Rich Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, Sr., President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Edward L. Bennett, Councilman David L. Harker, Councilman Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman Darin B. Meck and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith

In addition to the council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Mike Gieg, and Brian Hess of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of January 6, 2020 were approved on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for December 21-31, 2019 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 21-31, 2019 check nos. 9848-9862 in the amount of \$42,274.91 (including a transfer of \$30,000 to the reserve fund) was approved on a motion by David Harker, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for January 2020 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for January 2020 check nos. 9863-9879 in the amount of \$12,357.24 was approved on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

Mayor Richard Brantner Sr. suggested that a committee be appointed to recognize the living World War II veterans. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith approved for Mayor Richard A. Brantner, Sr. to establish a committee not necessarily just consisting of council members for the sole purpose of identifying and recognizing the **LOCAL LIVING WORLD WAR II VETERANS** residing in Martinsburg, North Woodbury Township and Huston Township (as long as they have Martinsburg PA 16662 addresses). The motion passed unanimously.* Charles Kensinger volunteered to be on the committee.

Mayor Richard Brantner Sr. also suggested Martinsburg Borough recognize a "**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**". He suggested that maybe a committee be appointed for this. Council suggested that maybe it could just be done as needed, not necessarily every year, in cases where there may not be anything necessarily outstanding to be recognized. No action was taken.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The department is currently doing **UPDATE TRAINING** – a lot of which is done online – he encourages his officers to do their updates in January and February before things get busy. One of the updates is the MPOETC updates (Municipal Police Officers Education and Training). The department received **ARTWORK** from the Martinsburg Elementary School and the Roaring Spring Elementary School for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day – samples of the artwork were displayed. When the municipal building updated the security cameras last year the four old DVR cameras were taken

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out. The total value of all four cameras removed is about \$250-\$300. Chief Hoover suggested making them available to the fire company. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by David Harker, approved to donate the FOUR OLD DVR SECURITY CAMERAS to the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company. The motion passed unanimously.* This donation does not include the installation of the cameras.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

**JAN 15** – met with Atlantic Broadband to go over **PHONE SERVICE** – switching phone service to them to save about \$230 per month – they are coming in on Thursday to switch us over – we have a three year contract with them

**JAN 16** – the **MARTINSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY** had their January meeting and passed their 2020 budget

**JAN 18** – had **SNOW, SLEET AND FREEZING RAIN** to contend with

**JAN 25** – attended an **ICS-300 CLASS** (NIMS) along with Dusty and Justin

Durban Metzler inquired if anyone else besides his street was dealing with the **SHOPPERS GUIDES** littering the streets and properties. Not everyone seemed to be receiving it. Durban will contact the Shoppers Guide to express his concern.

The **MARTINSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY** passed their 2020 budget at their regular January meeting. Their fiscal year runs from Feb 1 – Jan 31. There will not be any increase in the water and sewer rates for 2020. They are also planning to start replacing the older water meters.

The environmental testing at the **114 W. PENN STREET PROPERTY** is going well per Josh Chestney of Stiffler McGraw and Associates. The Zimmermans' are progressing with their building plans.

Attorney Mike Gieg reported that Attorney Matt Gieg has prepared a disclosure form for use with requests for professional services regarding the borough's pension plans. Pennsylvania Act 44 was signed into law in 2009. Chapter 7-A of Act 44 requires the disclosure of certain information about professional advisors receiving compensation for services provided to a municipal pension plan. The Auditor General's office as a finding after our last pension audit is requesting we comply with this act. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler approved to use the disclosure form prepared by Gieg Law Offices to comply with PENSION ACT 44 to be given out when we get requests are received. The motion passed unanimously.*

Attorney Matt Gieg is working on a **STREET ORDINANCE** to be considered for advertisement and adoption once all the details are worked out to take over the small portion of roadway that W. Gene Henry is giving to the borough in the Spring Drive trailer court to connect a portion of Locust Street to S. Market Street. Chief Hoover mentioned that we may have to amend our stop sign ordinance also when we take this over.

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Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. mentioned that the Borough Code has been updated to include the adoption of a resolution for **EMERGENCY PURCHASES** to be done without putting it out for bid. Attorney Mike Gieg clarified that the resolutions for emergency purchases are done on a case by case basis meaning a resolution cannot be adopted prior to the actual emergency. The Borough Code spells out what a true emergency is to qualify for the exempted purchases. No action would be needed this evening.

Minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the council agendas. Doug Smith is the new president of the fire company.

The next **SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES BOROUGH ASSOCIATION MEETING** is on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at the American Legion Social Hall in Hollidaysburg. Reservations must be in no later than February 25<sup>th</sup>.

David Harker mentioned a concern he had about a neighbor that keeps putting **TRASH** out on the sidewalk days before trash collection day. A large amount of trash was recently set out after a tenant moved out. Chief Hoover will be in contact with the owner of the property.

It was mentioned that the **VACATED CAR** on Locust Street is still parked there.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:25 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Rob Dickson. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary