

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2020

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, June 1, 2020 in the municipal building. Two participated by way of videoconferencing (Zoom) due to the **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Rich Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: President P. Robert Dickson, Pro-tem Edward L. Bennett, Councilman David L. Harker, Councilman Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman Darin B. Meck and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT THROUGH ZOOM: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, Sr., and Vice-President Durban D. Metzler,

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Sergeant Justin Davis, Attorney Matthew Gieg and Executive Director of Hollidaysburg Ambulance Jessica Sorge

JESSICA SORGE, the Executive Director of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance, attended to give council an update on what has been going on. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic the ambulance association has been very proactive. Call volumes have been going down so they have been able to maintain their call volume. The ambulances are disinfected after every shift. They have had to turn down some people on traveling in the ambulance with family members to the hospital. There have been 120 emergencies in the borough so it's been just normal activity for the ambulances. The hospitals are easing up as more information on the virus is known.

Last month when the minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting were approved it was later noted that page 3 of the minutes was missing. *Council on a motion by David Harker, seconded by Ed Bennett, rescinded last month's motion. A new motion was made by David Harker, seconded by Ed Bennet to approve the complete set of MINUTES for the March 2, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.*

The MINUTES of the regular meeting of May 4, 2020 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The LIST OF BILLS for May 2020 check nos. 9988-10003 in the amount of \$170,455.25 (including transfers totaling \$163,000 to the reserve fund) was approved on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. **COVID-19 PANDEMIC:** The Rotary organized 'Light Up the Cove Night' for May 8th at 8 p.m. for residents and businesses in the Morrisons Cove region and surrounding communities to show their appreciation for everyone who has been working tirelessly and unselfishly to provide for and support their families, friends and neighbors during these challenging days during the Covid-19 pandemic - at 8:40 p.m. they drove through both campuses of the homes for the elderly. Memorial Day services were cancelled due to the pandemic – Phil Waite did a short service at the cemetery and a group paraded

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both of the elderly homes. The Covid-19 pandemic has been keeping the police department very busy attending meetings. The Friday web-x meetings have been changed to every other Friday now. Governor Tom Wolf moved our county from red to yellow in May which loosens up some social distancing regulations. Traffic is getting heavier and call volumes are starting to pick up. Employee temperature checks are still mandatory in the police department. The fire company and ambulance association have been outstanding throughout this pandemic. Plans for the 2020 Central High School graduation are in the works to try to make their ceremony special and maintain the social distancing requirements.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

MAY 11 – put **BANNERS** up in town

MAY 13 – sent **SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES** out to all the churches in the borough for when they decide to open their doors

MAY 13 – received some **CLOTH MASKS** for the food bank helpers

MAY 18 – put up **HAND SANITIZER DISPENSERS** at the borough and police entrances

MAY 20 – had a **WATER LEAK** on N. Market Street

MAY 21 – that evening had a **ZOOM AUTHORITY MEETING**

MAY 27 – **SPRAYED WEEDS** along the curbs in the borough

MAY 29 – Governor Tom Wolf announced that Blair County will move into the **GREEN PHASE** of the pandemic on June 5th

-attend weekly Friday **COVID-19 TASK FORCE** web meetings

-Ed Bennet completed his **NIMS 100 AND 700**

-plans are to **REOPEN** the borough building back up to visitors again on June 8th

-the park will be opening up the **SWIMMING POOL** on June 6th

-the **LIBRARY** is now operating with curb side pickup beginning June 6th with guidelines

It is uncertain at this time if the **2020 AGRICULTURAL PARADE** will be cancelled. **BARGAIN DAYS** on Friday, June 26th will not be cancelled.

Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily reported that the **2019 BOROUGH AUDIT** has been completed by Ritchey, Ritchey and Koontz. A copy of the audit was included in each of the council members' agenda packets for this evening.

Ed Bennett reported that Wednesday the borough crew will be **PATCHING POT HOLES**.

Durban Metzler reported that the municipal authority met on May 21. There was a **SEWER LINE BACK UP** on Oakdale road that caused some damage to the home owner. Our insurance will cover the damages as it was only a small claim of \$3,800. The borough crew will repair the line so it doesn't happen again.

The Martinsburg Borough **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND REGULATIONS MANUAL** update has been completed. Copies will be printed and handed out to the employees.

Linda Smith reported that the **REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** planted flowers and put out the planters at the square. The watering committee will check on things. They wanted to thank Brubakers, Cove Landscaping and Spring Farm Gardens for the flowers and Leidy's Furniture and Gene Henry for the water use to keep everything watered.

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Durban Metzler inquired about the **TRAFFIC COUNTERS** that were recently set up at the Spring Cove School District administrative building and Rhodes Meat Market. He would like to know what the count is that goes through our square.

Ed Bennett reported that he completed his **NIMS 100 AND 700**.

The **SPRING CLEANUP** that was postponed has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cleanup is just for Martinsburg Borough residents only.

[Jessica Sorge left at 7:54 p.m.]

There was an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** from 7:54 – 8:20 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters.

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Darin Meck, authorized increasing our insurance package to include the mandatory **HEART/LUNG POLICY** for the police department which will increase our premium \$1,174.00 The motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the council agendas.

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. reported that the borough's firewall was in need of updating as it is ten years old and we have been getting viruses in multiple employee emails. The police department is required to keep the criminal history files secure and they get audited annually by the State Police. *Council on a motion by David Harker, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved to expend \$800 to Cyper Protection to update the borough's **FIREWALL** to be paid for from this year's general fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, authorized President Rob Dickson to execute the variance agreement between **WAYNE COOKE** of 204 Oakdale Road, the adjoining Edgewood Acres developer and Martinsburg Borough to move his pre-existing **SHED** off of the developer's lot. The motion passed unanimously.*

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:27 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by David Harker. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary