

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 5, 2020

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, October 5, 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 Neil E. Gartland, Councilman Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman Darin B. Meck and Councilwoman Linda K. Smith

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Lt. Justin Davis, Attorney Matt Gieg, Lisa Smith and Kevin Smith

Newly appointed councilman **NEIL GARTLAND** took his Oath of Office from Mayor Richard Brantner, Sr.

**KEVIN SMITH** was presented with a Proclamation by Mayor Richard Brantner, Sr. in appreciation for all his work in making over 8,270 face masks and 1,305 face shields which may have prevented an unknown number of victims from receiving the Covid-19 virus.

*[Kevin Smith and Lisa Smith left at 7:05 p.m.]*

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of September 8, 2020 were approved on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

*The **MINUTES** of the special meeting of September 15, 2020 were approved on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for September 2020 check nos. 10109-10140 in the amount of \$59,554.70 was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

**MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER, SR.** presented his report as written.

Donations are being received to pay for four benches for the Trooper Landen Weaver Memorial at the town center parking lot. The benches will not be ordered until 100% of the contributions are received to pay for them. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, authorized Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily to pay the bill for the benches from the **TROOPER LANDON WEAVER MEMORIAL FUND** once all of the donations are received as long as the cost does not exceed the fund balance. The motion passed unanimously.*

Complaints are being heard by several councilmen about the **ATLANTIC BROADBAND** service. Apparently the Altoona office is temporarily closed until January 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic.

As this week is **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**, council commended the fire department for their dedicated service and fund raising.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. Saturday, October 24 is **NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY**. Since James Drug Store at the C & S Market has closed the take back will take place here at the municipal building. Chief Hoover is gathering

prices for the **IN-CAR AND BODY CAMERAS**. Our ten-year-old in-car cameras are getting old and they no longer make parts for them anymore. He hopes to have prices by the budget meeting. The department does not currently have body cameras but they at least need to replace the old in-car cameras. The Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company is buying about 30 new radios for their department through the \$1.7 million Federal County Grant Program for fire companies and the police department may be able to get in under their discount. The **RADIOS** were about \$3,400 each and they have seven now. The fire company may be ordering their radios before council's budget meeting. The **NEW POLICE CAR** has arrived at Chrysler Motor at Team Force in Windber with no projected date of delivery yet do to the covid-19 pandemic. Chief Hoover usually signs the car paper work except for the lease. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, authorized Council President Rob Dickson to sign the lease for the **NEW POLICE CAR** and authorized Chief Kerry Hoover to execute all the other documents required for the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.*

A **NEW TRAINING PROGRAM** for Blair County police officers is being put together. The county will be divided into three sections: North, Central and South. We are the southern section. The first class will be held in Hollidaysburg. The training is a great idea. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Neil Gartland, authorized to allow the **POLICE TRAINING** to be held in our conference room. The motion passed unanimously.*

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** will be held at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Chief Hoover congratulated **NEIL GARTLAND** on his appointment to borough council.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

SEP 12 – had the **BOROUGH CLEANUP DAY** for borough residents – 162 invitation flyers were turned in – appreciation was expressed to all those who helped

SEP 15 – the borough crew took **13 SKIDS** of televisions, computers and electronics to the county site at the Buckhorn

SEP 17 – toured the borough streets with Ed Bennett to see which streets needed **PAVING FOR NEXT YEAR**

SEP 22 – the borough received a check for \$917.40 from Clarks Auto Salvage for all the **SCRAP METAL** collected from the Borough Cleanup Day – there was 16,680 lbs/8.34 tons of scrap metal collected

SEP 28 – T. L. Long Excavating started the Oakdale Road **WATER LINE LOOP PROJECT**

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily presented the first draft of the **2021-1 BUDGET** showing it unbalanced by \$18,435. A budget workshop will be scheduled to try to balance it.

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Charles Kensinger, adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2020-624 FOR THE POLICE PENSION PLAN** with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Plan. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler, adopted **ORDINANCE NO. 2020-625 FOR THE NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN** with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Plan. The motion passed unanimously.*

Durban Metzler will be talking to Tim of C & S Markets about getting a **NEW DRUG STORE** in since James Drug closed.

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Chief Hoover recommended that Martinsburg hold **TRICK-OR-TREAT** on the same night as the rest of the county. *Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Neil Gartland, approved to have the 2020 Trick-or-Treat Night on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Charles Kensinger, approved to advertise to hold a **SPECIAL MEETING** to work on the **2021 BUDGET AND FOR GENERAL PURPOSES** to be held on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

It was reported that a **NEW COMPUTER SERVER** is needed at the municipal building. The current one is the original one from 2011 when we moved into the new building. The police department is having numerous issues logging into their programs to do their reports. They frequently call the IT guy and it will work for a while then break down again. We also have issues with the building security cameras and the door locks program since the service is old. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Charles Kensinger, authorized the purchase of a **NEW SERVER** to be purchase through Chris Brooks at a price of \$4,335.45 to be paid for from the Equipment Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

A thank you card was received from borough employee **RENEE GUNNETT** for the flowers and gift card sent to her during her knee surgery.

Minutes of the September 14, 2020 meeting of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the council agendas.

There was an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** on police personnel matters from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:31 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary