

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 2, 2020

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, November 2, 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 Chris Jancula, Mike Snowberger, Alan Gearhart, Wayne Pheasant, Scott Regitz and Heather Regitz

Mike Snowberger, current owner of **SNOWBERGER'S MEAT MARKET**, was present along with four other meat market supporters. The meat market has been in operation since the late 70's/early 80's and the sales room started in July 1992. Scott and Heather Regitz have recently been renting the shop with intention to purchase until recent notification from the municipal authority. The blood discharge from the butcher shop has been upsetting the biological operation at the wastewater treatment plant causing the municipal authority to generate a quarterly surcharge bill of \$9,664.66 to Mike Snowberger to cover costs of the illegal discharge. The issue of blood into the sewage system has been an issue for years. He was notified in a letter December 9, 2014 about the illegal byproduct discharge disrupting the plant and informing him that continuance could result in a quarterly surcharge of \$9,664.66 to cover costs. A petition of residents surrounding the shop has also been received complaining of the smell and animal noises from and during the kills. The butcher shop is used by many and while council was sympathetic to them trying to run it there were obvious concerns regarding blood discharge and local resident complaints.

*[Mike Snowberger, Alan Gearhart, Wayne Pheasant, Scott Regitz and Heather Regitz left at 7:43 p.m.]*

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of October 5, 2020 were approved on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

*The **MINUTES** of the special meeting of October 19, 2020 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for October 2020 check nos. 10141-10173 in the amount of \$82,477.83 was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

**MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER, SR.** presented his report as written. Mayor Brantner commended Chief Hoover, Lt. Davis and Patrolman Tornatore for all their work in preparation and during the rally for **PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** at the Blair County Airport on October 26<sup>th</sup>. They did a great job representing our police department. Chief Kerry Hoover was busy from Thursday to that Monday preparing and working with the secret service and various police departments in preparation for the event. Mayor Brantner presented Chief Hoover with a letter of commendation from the North Woodbury Township police department for all of his help in preparing and during the presidential rally. Reportedly 11,593 people attended the event.

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Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. He reported that it was a special honor to be part of **PRESIDENT TRUMP'S** visit. Chief Hoover spent most of his weekend before the rally planning with the secret service and state police. The event was a great turnout. It was amazing to see what they put together in just a few days. Chief Hoover received an email from the secret service thanking all the local police department for their assistance. The state police were heavily involved. People donated so much to get the rally together. The last time we had such an event in our area was in 1987 when Vice President George Bush was here. Chuck Kensinger remembered when President Eisenhower came through town in the early 1950's. October 24 was **NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY** which was held here at the municipal building since James Drug closed – 49 lbs. of drugs were collected. Chief Hoover has been receiving **LETTERS** from out of state praising, praying and supporting our police department. **TRICK OR TREAT** in the borough was not rescheduled as many other communities were due to there being so many other events already scheduled for that Saturday – ironically the rain that evening stopped at 6:00 p.m. and held off until around 8:00 p.m. when Trick or Treat was over – there were no issues and everything went well. Chief Hoover commended all those who helped with Trick-or-Treat night. **DONALD TRUMP, JR.** was at the Blair County Convention Center and the police department helped with that and everything went well.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

OCT 9 – cleaned out **STORM WATER DITCH** on W. Penn Street Ext. in Stone Manor Trailer Park

OCT 9 – T. L. Long Excavating finished up on the installation of the **WATER MAINS**

OCT 14 – T. L. Long Excavating tested the **WATER LINE LOOP** from Oakdale Road and Hoover Drive bacteria samples were taken

OCT 19 – received bacteria samples back and all was good so the **WATER LOOPS** were put into service

OCT 27 – **CAMERAS** were put up at the recycling and the compost area at the garage

OCT 29 – helped the police department patrol the borough streets during **TRICK OR TREAT**

*Council on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Neil Gartland, to authorize President Rob Dickson to execute the PMRS documents related to the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed pension plans keeping them up to date to be IRS compliant even though no changes were made. The motion passed unanimously.*

Attorney Chris Jancula recommended an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** be held at the end of the meeting this evening for legal matters.

Chief Hoover reported that the best prices for the **IN-CAR CAMERAS** is from Digital Alli. There are two purchase plans:

- 1) pay for all three cameras up front and cloud storage recommended – 90 days unlimited then they are purged – 1 year warranty on all equipment - price for the three in-car cameras and three body cameras ends up being about \$30,000
- 2) cost for all three in-car cameras and three body cameras on a five year plan with a 5 year warranty is \$5,562 the 1<sup>st</sup> year and \$5,472 for of the next four years works out to be \$27,450

We end up owning the equipment after five years with both plans. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Ed Bennett authorized to go with the second plan on a five year plan costing \$27,450 for the **IN-CAR CAMERAS AND BODY CAMERAS** to be paid for from the Equipment Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Linda Smith, approved to advertise the 2021 BUDGET for the 10-day public inspection period to be considered for adoption at the December meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The 2021 Budget increases the real estate tax from 1.8710 to 1.967 mills.*

*Council on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved to advertise the 2021 TAX ORDINANCES as follows. The motion passed unanimously:*

*Ordinance No. 2020-626 Real Estate Tax for 2021 as 1.967 mills (increased from 1.8710)*

*Ordinance No. 2020-627 Per Capita Tax for 2021 as \$5.00*

*Ordinance No. 2020-628 Earned Income Tax for 2021 as ½ of 1%*

*Ordinance No. 2020-629 Local Services Tax for 2021 as \$52*

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith, approved to allocate \$500 to the 2020 COVE CHRISTMAS LOVE PROGRAM. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Charles Kensinger, authorized to execute a letter granting permission for the park to temporarily close the necessary roads for the upcoming CHRISTMAS PARADE to be held on Saturday, December 5, 2020. This year's parade route will be avoiding the State highway so a PennDot permit will not be necessary.*

The crosswalk buttons at the signal light are not working. They are twenty (20) years old. Cost to repair it with the newer touch pad technology will be around \$1,000 and can be paid for from the Highway Liquid Fuels fund bringing the total cost to \$1,700 including the work that Tel Power has already done. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Neil Gartland, authorized to pay the estimated cost of \$1,700 to replace and repair the CROSSWALK BUTTON at the signal light to be paid for from the Highway Liquid Fuels Fund. The motion passed unanimously.*

An EXECUTIVE SESSION was held from 8:49-9:15 p.m. for legal matters.

*The meeting ADJOURNED at 9:15 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary