

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, February 1, 2021 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: President P. Robert Dickson, Vice President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Ed Bennett

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT THROUGH ZOOM: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, Sr., 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

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of January 4, 2021 were approved with a correction to a last name on page 2 on a motion by Linda Smith, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for December 21-31, 2020 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for December 21-31, 2020 check nos. 10219-10237 in the amount of \$15,699.92 was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for January 1-20, 2021 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for January 1-20, 2021 check nos. 10238-10249 in the amount of \$14,130.13 was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER, SR. presented his report as written. Chuck Kensinger inquired if the public commented on the real estate millage increase for 2021. As it was so minimal no one has said anything about it.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The police department just spent two all day training session to update their **MPOETC TRAINING**. One **IN-CAR CAMERA** has been installed. All three **BODY CAMERAS** are up and running. The officers have been testing them out which has been a real learning experience. Chief Hoover will be incorporating the body cameras into the police policy and procedures manual.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JAN 7 – took down the **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

JAN 12 – had a **COVID** vaccine seminar

JAN 12 – T. L. Long Excavating started the forced sewer main for **OAKVIEW ESTATES**

JAN 21 – the municipal authority adopted their **BUDGET FOR 2021** with no rate increases

JAN 25 – we had a **WATER LEAK** on Henry Court Circle

JAN 26 – **PLOWED** some snow and ice

JAN 26 – learned that PaDEP cancelled the statewide **RECYCLING GRANTS** due to lack of funding – Martinsburg had been receiving about \$2,000 each year

JAN 31 – the borough crew **PLOWED** streets

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February 5, 2021 will mark the **TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY DATE** of moving into the new municipal building. An open house was to be planned but was postponed due to the covid pandemic. Sidewalks will be poured this spring at the demo house at 310 E. Allegheny Street. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. would like to see that portion of S. Walnut Street beside the demo house be made no parking to keep that busy intersection opened up. One school bus driver has already contacted the borough expressing their gratitude on the ease of getting in and out of the intersection now with the house gone and no cars parked at the intersection. Councilman Charles Kensinger suggested coming up with a way to recognize **W. GENE HENRY** for his generous contributions to the community over the years. It was suggested that maybe something could be done during the July Fourth parade this summer.

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that he is still trying to figure what is going on at the **SNOWBERGER MEAT MARKET** property. Butchering has been shut down since December 2020. The municipal authority has a large sewer surcharge bill out and he recently liened the property for it.

Councilman Ed Bennett inquired if there was anything as they can do as local politicians to hold our state and federal elected politicians accountable for their actions during this past **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**. Attorney Matt Gieg responded that it was a great question and he wished he had an answer as he was frustrated too with all the recent election atrocities.

Councilman Charles Kensinger reported that he was approached about some recent **PARKING SAFETY ISSUES**. A large vehicle was parked on the street in a public parking spot near the post office obstructing the view from people pulling out of the mail drop box in the alley behind the post office. Ordaining the spot as one hour parking may alleviate lengthy tenant parking on the limited town center spots available. The other parking issue reported to him was at Cove Flooring which is private parking. Those spaces were painted perpendicular rather than parallel which causes obstruction to the view at that corner when pulling out from W. Penn Street onto S. Market Street. Both parking issues are being looked into. Attorney Matt Gieg recommended writing a letter to PennDOT on the private parking issue since it is located along a state highway and not a borough street.

Linda Smith reported that she checked into the cost of new bows for the town center Christmas wreaths for next year. Roots in the Cove will make them for \$7.99 each out of red velvet wired ribbon with gold edging. The current bows are five years old and very shabby. *Council on a motion by Neil Gartland, seconded by Linda Smith, authorized to purchase thirty **NEW CHRISTMAS BOWS** for \$7.99 each from Roots in the Cove to be paid from the Town Center Revitalization Committee account. The motion passed unanimously.*

It was reported that the **2021 MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION** will be held on May 18th (not May 11th as the county inadvertently misreported on their web site).

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:11 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary

