

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, July 10, 2023 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: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Charles E. Kensinger, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilwoman Janet E. Blattenberger, Councilman James C. Dell and Councilman Darin B. Meck

In addition to council, present were Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Kerry Hoover, Attorney Nathan Karn, Sandy Weyandt, and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of June 5, 2023 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for June 2023 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for June 2023, check nos. 11070-11104 in the amount of \$73,877.04 (\$10,000 was a transfer to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER (Sr.) presented his report as written.

Janet Blattenberger suggested that **BASIC ORDINANCE INFORMATION** be given to new residents. It was suggested that they refer to our website where most of the frequently used ordinances are posted.

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. Chief Hoover suggested that council review the **FIREWORKS ORDINANCE** again as the way it is currently written is a little confusing. Attorney Nathan Karn advised the ordinance get in compliance with Act 74 of 2022. The State statute overrides anything the borough adopts and spells out dates when they can be used. A committee of Darin Meck (Chairman), Durban Metzler, James Dell and Kerry Hoover was appointed to review the ordinance and come back with recommendations.

Chief Hoover is in the process of reviewing the **POLICE POLICIES** and will have a few copies for council to review. In the past the chief would put the policies together and the mayor would review them but Attorney Karn advised that borough council to make the final approval of the policies.

The police department is gearing up for the **PARK CARNIVAL** this week. He expressed his thanks to the fire company for all that they do. He even mentioned the fire company's recent retrieval of ducklings from the storm sewer.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JUN 6 – attended a **WATER/SEWER CLASS** in Altoona

JUN 8 – we repaired a **WATER LEAK** on a 6-inch main

JUN 13 – we finally received our **PUMP** back for the wastewater treatment plant that was sent out back in November 2022 for warranty work

JUN 15 – we installed the **PUMP** in the wet well at the wastewater treatment plant

JUN 15 – DEP announced a statewide **DROUGHT WATCH** for voluntary water conservation by 5-10%

JUN 28 – **SPRAYED WEEDS** along the curbs throughout the borough

JUN 30 – I received a **NEW COMPUTER** – I have been having issues for a few months – the cost of the new computer was about \$1,400 – the cost will be divided up between the borough, water and sewer which would be about \$466 from each

Janet Blattenberger suggested that the deep **POTHOLE** in the alley behind the old municipal building be patched. Manager Rich Brantner reported that it is already on the list to be done. The borough fixes them as they blacktop and are scheduled to be done this summer.

Janet Blattenberger mentioned that it has been very busy with traffic in and out of the **OLD MORRISONS COVE HERALD BUILDING** with the new business moving in.

Attorney Nathan Karn reported that he will be away on a mission trip and will not be attending the August council meeting. His representative **ATTORNEY JEFF MURICEAK** will be attending.

President Rob Dickson announced that there will be an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** following the adjournment of the meeting this evening to discuss personnel matters.

The police department continue to extend their deadline on **HIRING ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES**. It was suggested that council consider paying to send cadettes to the police academy and paying for it to get additional help. The fulltime academy takes four months to complete and the parttime academy takes about eleven months. MPOETC does reimburse partial costs for the academy. The State Police are also reportedly having difficulty finding officers to hire.

No change in the status of the **STREET SWEEPER** as the grants won't be coming out until August or September.

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized the **EXONERATION** of forty-one individuals for the **2022-23 PER CAPITA TAX**. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** had a good ox roast. They sold out each night. The table arrangement was nicer this year they way they had it set up. The raffle was 100% profit for the fire company as all the prizes were donated. They had a really good community support.

An **executive session** will be held following the adjournment to discuss personnel matters.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary