

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, August 7, 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 Jeff Muriceak, and Sandy Weyandt

The MINUTES of the meeting of July 10, 2023 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The LIST OF BILLS for July 2023, check nos. 11105-11123 in the amount of \$52,956.16 (including a \$35,000 transfer to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the POLICE REPORT as written. The department had a busy week during the PARK CARNIVAL. Chief Hoover apologized for not having the POLICE POLICY BOOK out yet.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

JUL 10 – the contractor started sand blasting the tank in CURRYVILLE

JUL 12 – cleaned up street and sidewalks along the PARADE ROUTE from the night before

JUL 12 – had a PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING for the E. Christiana Street water line job – the plan is to start the week of August 21

JUL 27 – did WATER AND SEWER HOOKUPS at 324 N. Railroad Street

JUL 28 – mailed out a QUESTIONNAIRE to some water customers inquiring what type of water service line they have that runs into their residence

JUL 31 – mailed out letters to the 100 block residents of E. CHRISTIANA STREET regarding the upcoming water line project to start the week of August 21

AUG 1 – BLACKTOPPED around the intersection of S. Nicodemus Street and W. Allegheny Street and did some potholes around town

Janet Blattenberger inquired about using the RAVE notification system for informing town residents, especially new residents, of the most pertinent ORDINANCES. The RAVE system is purchased through the municipal authority as a DEP requirement and is only for emergency, critical or urgent use messages. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. has been thinking of putting together a borough newsletter for such information.

Darin Meck reviewed the FIREWORKS ORDINANCE and it already spells out that you can't use them in most of the borough as there are very few areas big enough to set them off. This ordinance should be one to be added to the newsletter that will go out to the public just to make them aware of the rules of setting them off.

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2023 – PAGE 2

Chief Hoover received one **EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION** for the police department last week and is expecting to receive another by the end of the week. One other sent in a resume. Council will address the issue of extending the application deadline next month.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. explained that a resolution is needed to apply for the grant for the street sweeper. The grants open up September 1. Sherry of Blair County helping with the grant writing says a \$100 fee is needed to apply for the grant. *Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell, adopted Resolution No. 2023-0807-01 to request a DCED State Local Shares Grant for the amount of \$261,497.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the purchase of a **STREET SWEEPER** and to send the \$100 fee along with the application. The motion passed unanimously.*

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** was held from 7:27-7:35 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

With the ongoing police crises in this country its currently hard to find police officers and Martinsburg Borough does not want to lose the good ones we already have.

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved to create the position of **ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE**. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Ed Bennett, approved the **FOLLOWING WAGES** for the Chief of Police as \$31.50 per hour and the Assistant Chief of Police as \$30.00 per hour effective immediately. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, authorized to appoint **JUSTIN DAVIS AS OUR ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE**. The motion passed unanimously.*

Durban Metzler reported that his sister Gloria Hartman really appreciates the **STOP SIGNS** erected in on First Alley and has not seen any incidents since they were installed.

Chief Kerry Hoover thanked council for their **SUPPORT** as not all police are fortunate to have community support.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:42 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary