

**MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, October 2, 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 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) Miller

*The **MINUTES** of the meeting of September 5, 2023 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for September 2023, check nos. 11153-11170 in the amount of \$100,912.04 (including a transfer of \$80,000 to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

Chief Kerry Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The police department hosted a two-day **NIBRS TRAINING** with multiple police departments of Blair County. The training was very helpful. Three police policy manuals are available in the borough office for review.

**BOROUGH MANAGER** Rich Brantner reported:

SEP 7 – we blacktopped some **UTILITY CUTS**

SEP 13 – T. L. Long Excavating hooked up all the new services to the new water main on **E. CHRISTIANA STREET**

SEP 14 – Liz Cooper a representative from Senator Bob Casey's office came by to talk about a grant possibility for a **NEW TANK** at the airport

SEP 14 – **CURRYVILLE TANK** went on line

SEP 26 – New Enterprise blacktopped the utility cut on **E. CHRISTIANA STREET** for the new

OCT 2 – the contractor started installing new gates and the new **DUAL AUGER** system at the wastewater treatment plant

Durban Metzler reported that the municipal authority made a public release on their involvement in the **PFAS LITIGATION**. The municipal authority board is doing a great job.

James Dell reported that the **SOLAR SPEED SIGNS** Committee met and is recommending the purchase of two or three signs. Manager Rich Brantner received a quote of \$6,814 for two signs and a flyer with a cost of \$9,000 for three signs not including shipping. The signs also count traffic and collect data such as average speed, how many vehicles are over the speed limit, etc. The information can be downloaded from the signs by Bluetooth. The signs are eligible to be paid for from the Liquid Fuels Fund. The signs are portable enough to be moved without too much trouble. *Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Ed Bennett, to purchase three relocatable **SOLAR SPEED SIGNS** for a cost of \$9,000 plus shipping. The motion passed unanimously. Council thanked the committee for all their research.*

An **EXECUTIVE SESSION** on personnel matters was held from 7:21-8:13 p.m.

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*Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, decided to **DISCONTINUE ADVERTISING** for a third full-time police officer for the time being but will continue to accept applications for part-time police officers. The motion passed unanimously.*

Representative Jim Gregory was in contact with Vince Greenland of PennDOT regarding the potholes on the state highway at the **SQUARE**. PennDOT is tentatively planning to have one block paved in each direction at the square this spring. Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. will contact PennDOT again when spring comes.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. prepared an update for the Employee Manual to include the new position of **ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE** that Justin Davis was promoted to on August 7, 2023. The description can come from the Borough Code.

*Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck, approved to advertise the **2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP** for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.*

Notification came from the Blair County Assessment Office that the 2022 Borough/County Real Estate Tax bill for 203 W. Christiana Street was erroneously over billed to William J. and Joyce A. Replogle and is requesting the borough issue a refund. *Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Charles Kensinger, authorized a refund of \$76.53 made to William J. and Joyce A. Replogle for the property of **203 W. CHRISTIANA STREET**-tax map #15.00-01..-065.00-000/control #00023150 that was erroneously over billed. The motion passed unanimously.*

Attorney Nathan Karn recommended adopting the a resolution for the Assistant Chief of Police position. *Council on a motion by Rob Dickson, seconded by Charles Kensinger, adopted Resolution No. 2023-1002-02 to include the position of **ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE** into the Martinsburg Borough Employee Manual. The motion passed unanimously.*

Since August the cost of the street sweeper the borough has been checking on through grants has increased from \$261,497 to \$275,260 and may go up again by the time the grants are awarded if we would get one. *Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, adopted Resolution No. 2023-1002-01 Requesting a DCED State Local Shares Grant for the amount of \$275,260.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the purchase of a **STREET SWEEPER**. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **MONTHLY ORDINANCE REVIEW** was 563 and 638 Defining Nuisances and 452 Burning. Janet Blattenberger would like to further address Ordinance 2006-563 Section 2; Item 12 addressing the motor vehicle nuisance. This item will be put on the agenda for next month. Next month's ordinance review will be 515 Animal Noise and 561 Pets.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:37 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily  
Borough Secretary