

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, March 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: Mayor Richard A. Brantner, Sr., President P. Robert Dickson, Vice President Durban D. Metzler, Pro-tem Ed 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 Matt Gieg, Jessica Sorge and Jon Keim

JESSICA SORGE of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance was in attendance to update the council on what they have done for the community. The ambulance association took 317 emergency calls in 2020. They serve Martinsburg, Saxton area, and Broadtop City. The ambulance employees went as a group to Pittsburgh to be vaccinated for the covid virus. They participated in two major security details in 2020: July 4th parade and the Trump Rally. The covid numbers are currently way down. They had five employees out with covid in 2020.

JON KEIM was present to give a little history on the new ambulance building. Gene Henry was not in favor of the Roaring Spring Ambulance location so he built Martinsburg Borough their very own ambulance building on W. Allegheny Street. Some of the people involved in the project were Gene Henry who paid for the building of it, Harold Metzler designed the plans, Jon Keim revised the plans to make it more workable, Randy Stoltz did the plumbing, and Roy Stern did a lot of the work. Jon was also Fire Chief for twelve of the sixty-seven years he was in the fire company. Jon Keim and his dad use to own the hotel sold to Mamie Teeter on E. Allegheny Street. In 1938 the 114 E. Allegheny Street house was moved off of Allegheny Street and Jon still owns it today. Councilman Charles Kensinger thanked Jon Keim for all he has done to serve the community over the years.

*The **MINUTES** of the regular meeting of February 1, 2021 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Linda Smith. The motion passed unanimously.*

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for February 2021 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

*The **LIST OF BILLS** for February 2021, check nos. 10250-10280 in the amount of \$43,552.55 (including a \$25,000 transfer to the Reserve Fund) was approved on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER, SR. presented his report as written. The C & S Market is trying to get another pharmacy in. The insurance company is a problem for getting another one in so not sure it will happen.

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. On February 4th the department teamed up with other departments and did some training here in demo buildings in conjunction with the fire company. Attended Gene Henry's funeral last week. Received an anonymous donation last week to be used for equipment that the police department may need.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

FEB 2 – borough crew plowed **SNOW**

FEB 3 – plowed snow and drifting **SNOW**

FEB 5 – had an 8” **WATER MAIN BREAK** on Highland Street in front of Cove Shoe Factory

FEB 7 – borough crews plowed SNOW

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FEB 9 – Manager Brantner, Brian Miller and Dusty Russell attended a WATER/SEWER CLASS up at the park for continuing education hours

FEB 11 – borough crew plowed SNOW

FEB 15 – did an UPGRADE at the water plant on the chlorine system

Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. reported that February 17th was a sad day for the Martinsburg community and for the borough council and employees when we found out that GENE HENRY PASSED AWAY. He will be greatly missed. Gene definitely was a community dedicated person. He was always thinking of the borough on how he could make it better and safer. He proved that even up to his last day on earth he wanted to make sure that the fire company had enough funds for their building addition that was going to be built. Before he left in the ambulance that morning to go to the hospital he wrote a check out to the fire company for \$250,000 to be put toward the addition. It is really unfortunate that he won't be here to see and experience the fire company addition. Rest in peace Gene.

FEB 18 – the borough crew plowed more SNOW

FEB 19 – the borough crew plowed more SNOW

FEB 19 – we had a WATER LEAK in Henry Court Drive

FEB 19 – we removed the snow from in front of the Lutheran Church to make it easier to get in and out of the church in preparation for GENE HENRY'S VIEWING AND FUNERAL

Durban Metzler commented how nice the E. ALLEGHENY STREET LOT looks now that the house has been torn down. He thought that benches would be nice to maybe put some benches on the corner lot IN MEMORY OF GENE HENRY who donated the money to buy the house and tear it down.

Chief Kerry Hoover reported that the individual that was parking in one of the few town center parking spots by the post office is still continually parking there. He lives in an apartment nearby. *Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Charles Kensinger, authorized to advertise an amendment to our PARKING ORDINANCES to change the three town center parking spaces near the post office to one hour parking only. The motion passed unanimously.* Due to the safety issue of offenders to the one hour parking Attorney Matt Gieg recommended council consider increasing the fine from \$15 to a larger amount as a deterrent.

Neil Gartland expressed concern about the SMOKEY PIG moving into the old Snowberger Meat Market after all the recent issues we have had there lately. As long as the new vendor does not butcher there should not be a problem. It was the blood from the butchering that was a municipal authority problem and the sounds and smells of the butchering were what area residents were complaining about. Attorney Matt Gieg reported that the municipal authority did lien the property still owned by Michael Snowberger for the blood issue.

Chief Hoover reported that the STOP SIGN ORDINANCE will need amended to include the one on Henry Pond Lane. The street needs named also. Attorney Matt Gieg will check into the specifics needed to name the street.

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Darin Meck, authorized Attorney Matt Gieg to check into and proceed with the process of naming the street at Spring Drive to HENRYS POND LANE if it hasn't already been done. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Durban Metzler, authorized to advertise an amendment to the STOP SIGN ORDINANCE to included two stops signs already in place located at Locust Street and Henry Pond Lane and Henry Pond Lane and S. Market Street. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** on February 8, 2021 were included in the agenda.

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Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. reported that the old apartment buildings beside the **FIRE DEPARTMENT** were being demolished and were coming down to make room for the new addition to include three more bays, and office, a lounge and bathrooms.. They are currently dealing with PennDOT now about the entrance onto the state highway. Contractor T. L. Long Excavating is fixing up the lot as they tear down to make it look nice.

Chief Hoover wanted to commend **JD'S DETAILING** for ceramic coating all three of the police cars at no cost.

*The meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:12 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Neil Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary