MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2022

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, November 7, 2022 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, 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 Matt Gieg, Sandy Weyandt, and Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald with intern Trevor Finnegan

TREVOR FINNEGAN was introduced as a Junior from Claysburg who in interested in journalism and shadowing Anna Baughman of the Morrisons Cove Herald.

The* MINUTES *of the meeting of October 3, 2022 were approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

The MINUTES of the special budget meeting of October 17, 2022 were approved on a motion by Durban Metzler, seconded by Charles Kensinger. The motion passed unanimously.

The **FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS** for October 2022 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

The* LIST OF BILLS *for October 2022, check nos. 10843-10863 in the amount of $62,075.62 was approved on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chief Hoover presented the **POLICE REPORT** as written. The **NEW POLICE CRUISER** is scheduled to arrive at the dealership then from there it will go to Team Force for equipment installation. The Spring Cove School District did sign the agreement to buy the old police car. Chief Hoover thanked the fire company for their help with **TRICK OR TREAT** patrol. This year's crowd was not as large as most years. Chief Hoover participated in the transport of Duncansville native **DAVID DEFIBAUGH** was laid to rest at Rose Hill Cemetery. **Defibaugh was a Corporal in the Army when he went missing on July 20th, 1950, at age 18, while fighting in South Korea**. Received a letter October 27, 2022 from Central Square who controls the **VISUAL ALERT** police reporting program that they are phasing it out and will not be supporting it after November 2024. Local police departments have been meeting to plan for a new reporting program. This could be an item to be considered for purchase through the American Rescue Plan money.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

OCT 4 – Garman Brothers Construction LLC poured the wall for the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL**

OCT 5 – attended the quarterly LEMC meeting along with Dusty Russell at the Blair County 911 Center - PEMA is making it mandatory to do more **CONTINUING EDUCATION** hours for all Emergency Management Agencies from the county level down to the local level

OCT 6 – went to Schuylkill County along with the municipal authority's engineer to look at a new system to remove **RAGS AND DISINFECTANT WIPES** from the wastewater treatment plant

OCT 7 – the sidewalk was formed up and poured at the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL**

OCT 11 – received notification that the Martinsburg Borough **VOTING PRECINCT NO. 1** is being relocated to the Martinsburg Elementary School

OCT 12 – finished planting the bushes and putting river rock around the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL**

OCT 15 – forty (40) people attended the unveiling of the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL**

OCT 20 – took down the **WELCOME TO MARTINSBURG BANNERS** on the main streets

OCT 24 – finally received our **PUMP** for the wastewater treatment plant that was on order since April 2022 – we also installed it after using a loaner for about six months

NOV 3 – T. L. Long Excavating and the borough crew hauled out about half of the **COMPOST PILE**

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. congratulated **ANNA BAUGHMAN** on receiving a few awards at the Keystone Media Awards Brunch on October 12 held by the Pennsylvania News Media Association held at the Sheraton Hershey Harrisburg Hotel.

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that he can elaborate on the item under new business regarding **ACT 57 ON TAX COLLECTION**. He also reported that there is no need for an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at this time.

Durban Metzler reported that the **CURRYVILLE** water interconnection work is to start on November 14th. Water lines will be placed in the berm about 5-feet deep.

Charles Kensinger wanted to thank everyone involved in the work to get the **W. GENE HENRY MEMORIAL** completed. The family of Mr. Henry was very appreciative. Durban Metzler mentioned that the Benson School headstone was donated to the borough and it is currently being stored at the municipal garage.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the new truck has no set delivery date at this time. He would like to start planning the sale of the old 2006 dump truck. ***Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Durban Metzler, authorized Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. to proceed with the advertisement of the 2006 DUMP TRUCK FOR SALE subject to the confirmation of the new truck delivery date. The motion passed unanimously.***

Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to advertise the 2023-4 BUDGET for the 10-day public inspection period to be considered for adoption at the December meeting. The motion passed unanimously. There is no tax increase in the 2023-4 Budget.

Council on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Durban Metzler, to approve the 2023 EMPLOYEE RAISES as follows. There was some further discussion expressed by Janet Blattenberger that maybe the laborer wage percentage was too high and that the wage was too close to the working foreman's considering the foreman's number of years of service. ***The motion passed with 6 yays and 1 nay from Janet Blattenberger.***

Laborer	8%	[$18.51/hr. to $20.00/hr.]
Working Foreman	7%	[$20.33/hr. to $21.75/hr.]
Manager	3%	[$25.45/hr. to $26.21/hr.]
Wastewater Opr.	3%	[$24.29/hr. to $25.02/hr.]
Boro Sec/Trea	3%	[$23.62/hr. to $24.33/hr.]
Clerk	3%	[$13.76/hr. to $14.17/hr.]
Part-time Laborer	2%	[$18.12/hr. to $18.48/hr.]

[Police wage increases were already approved August 1, 2022]

Council approved to advertise the **2023 TAX ORDINANCES** as follows with ***no*** tax increases for 2023:

Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck approved to advertise Ordinance No. 2022-640 REAL ESTATE TAX FOR 2023 as 1.967 mills. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Chuck Kensinger approved to advertise Ordinance No. 2022-641 PER CAPITA TAX FOR 2023 as $5.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Janet Blattenberger approved to advertise Ordinance No. 2022-642 EARNED INCOME TAX FOR 2023 as ½ of 1%. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler, approved to advertise Ordinance No. 2022-643 LOCAL SERVICES TAX FOR 2023 as $52. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by Janet Blattenberger, approved to advertise the 2023 BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING DATES as follows. The motion passed unanimously.

JAN 3 (Tue)	**APR 3**	**JUL 3**	**OCT 2**
FEB 6	**MAY 1**	**AUG 7**	**NOV 6**
MAR 6	**JUN 5**	**SEP 5 (Tue)**	**DEC 4**

Attorney Matt Gieg reported that Act 57 of 2022 was signed by the Governor on July 11, 2022. This act amends the **LOCAL TAX COLLECTION LAW** further providing for effect of failure to receive tax notice when a property (or mobile home) transfer has taken place within the previous twelve (12) months. Each taxing district is required to authorize such action by ordinance or resolution within ninety (90) days of October 11, 2022, the effective day of the act. The resolution/ordinance allows the tax collector to automatically waiver penalty for taxpayers who have purchased a home within twelve months and have not received their tax bill in the mail. This only allows for waiver of penalty. The tax payers must provide various documentation to qualify for the waiver of penalty. ***Council on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck, authorized to advertise Ordinance No. 2022-644 amending the borough's code of ordinances by adding EFFECT OF FAILURE TO RECEIVE REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE pursuant to Act 57 of 2022. The motion passed unanimously.***

Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Charles Kensinger, approved to allocate $500 to the 2022 COVE CHRISTMAS LOVE PROGRAM. The motion passed unanimously.

Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler, authorized to execute a letter granting permission for the park to temporarily close the necessary roads including portions of Spring Street, S. Market Street, E. Allegheny Street and S. Walnut Street for the upcoming CHRISTMAS PARADE to be held on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that in June the borough's insurance pack was reviewed with The Teeter Group and at that time April Ressler recommended the borough consider increasing the cyber protection. ***Council on a motion by Darin Meck, seconded by Ed Bennet, authorized to increase the CYBER PROTECTION from $50,000 per year to $100,000 per year for an additional premium of $114.00. The motion passed unanimously.***

Charles Kensinger mentioned that for the past number of years we have been retaining the services of Gieg Law Offices, LLC as our legal counsel. ***Because we have learned that there is a change within the firm Charles Kensinger made a motion to advertise for PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL COUNSEL to be advertised in the Morrisons Cove Herald, the Altoona Mirror and on the Martinsburg Borough Face Book page. The motion passed with 6 yays and 1 nay from Janet Blattenberger.***

The borough advertised for bids for the sale of the old 1974 Ford Tractor with minimum bids starting at $3,000. Seven bids were received as follows. ***Council on a motion by Janet Blattenberger, seconded by Durban Metzler, accepted the highest bid in the amount of $5,600 from Gary Baker for the 1974 FORD TRACTOR that was advertised for sale. The motion passed unanimously***

T. L. Long	$5,555
Steplen & Palmer	$4,260
Freedom Green LLC	$4,101
John Miller	$4,025
Catherine Twp.	$5,500
Gary Baker	$5,600 *high bidder*
Jason Nunamaker	$4,650

Minutes of the regular meeting October 10, 2022 of the **MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY** were included in the agenda packet. Manager Richard Brantner, Jr. mentioned that he hoped this will not be a bad year for house fires with people using supplemental heat sources due to the high price of heating oil.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Ed Bennett, seconded by Darin Meck. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary