

MARTINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2026

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Borough Council was held on Monday, June 1, 2026 in the municipal building. The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. prayer by Richard Brantner, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Richard Brantner, President P. Robert Dickson, Vice-President Darin B. Meck, Councilman Edward L. Bennett, Councilman James C. Dell, Councilman Mark K. Gartland and Councilman Charles E. Kensinger [*Pro-tem Neil Gartland was absent*]

In addition to council, present were Borough Manager Richard Brantner, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily, Chief Justin Davis, Attorney Nathan Karn and Attorney Kaitlyn Edmiston of Evy Black Attorneys, Amy Hockenberry, Dustin Russell, Beth Hoover, Reba Stuller, Cindy Krishak, Sandy Weyandt, Sarah Detwiler, Gary Watters of AMED; Allan Bassler and Cati Keith of the Morrisons Cove Herald

President Rob Dickson asked if anyone wished to speak.

Sarah Detwiler of Locust Street expressed a safety concern about the **PARKING** in front of Cove Flooring. The vehicles park vertical instead of horizontal. Chief Davis responded that this has not been the first time it was brought up but the parking is along a State Highway there on S. Market Street. While we could ask them to park parallel they do not have to abide by borough parking rules since it is on a State highway and not a borough street.

Sarah Detwiler and Beth Hoover expressed concerns about the **ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES**. There are a lot of them on the streets since school is out for the summer. Chief Justin Davis has already contacted some of the parents of the children being reported as safety concerns. He will have more to address the issue in his report later this evening.

Cindy Krishak of S. Mulberry Street had a few safety concerns. One was a **MOTORCYCLE** that keeps speeding by. The other concern was people parking on the wrong side of the road **PARKING** against traffic. The police are aware of the motorcycle but since we only have two officers its hard to be there when it happens. As far as the parking, that may be a state highway law to have to park on the side of the road with the traffic flow but here in town we haven't enforced it.

Alan Bassler of the **MORRISONS COVE HERALD** announced that the newspaper is planning to convert to a non-profit organization. As newspapers are struggling this will be a positive change. There is no guarantee that it will happen but they do not think it will be a problem. If they go non-profit election coverage can be an issue but mostly the community will not see a difference. As a non-profit they will need to set up a board of 5-9 people from the community. If anyone is interested in being on it they should contact Alan Bassler. He also mentioned how much he appreciates the street sweeper.

Gary Waters of **AMED** reported that in the month of May 2026 they had 38 calls with response times of 4.09 minutes for borough emergency response and 6.02 minutes for borough non-emergency response.

[*Gary Waters left at 7:17 p.m.*]

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The MINUTES of the meeting of May 4, 2026 were approved on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

The FINANCIAL AND TREASURER'S REPORTS for May 2026 were prepared and presented by Secretary/Treasurer Jane Staily.

The LIST OF BILLS for May 2026, check nos. 12165-12203 in the amount of \$163,899.35 (including \$95,000 of transfers to the Reserve Fund) approved on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR RICHARD BRANTNER presented his report as written.

Chief Justin Davis presented the POLICE REPORT as written. The department handled 147 complaints in May 2026. Martinsburg is not the only municipality dealing with kids riding electric scooters on the road. The way our police department is currently handling them is anyone operating them in a careless manner is warned first then the parents are contacted. PennDOT deems electric scooters as prohibited but there is nothing in the vehicle code to enforce it. Scooters are not even in the database. For now it's up to the parents to help out with the circumstances.

BOROUGH MANAGER Rich Brantner reported:

MAY 5 – replaced about 40 feet of 8 inch SEWER MAIN line coming out of the water plant

MAY 8 – attended the KEVIN SMITH hearing at the Blair County Courthouse along with Rob Dickson and Charles Kensinger

MAY 14 – put up BANNERS in town along with the bunting on the borough building for the 250th Anniversary of our country

MAY 18 – fixed a WATER LEAK on Bassler Street

MAY 19 – had a MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MEETING at 1:00 p.m.

MAY 19 – picked up some FLOWER POTS for the borough building – the pots were made up to be red, white and blue and were donated by Brubaker Nursery

MAY 21 – the borough crew helped Chief Davis put up FLAGS for Memorial Day

MAY 21 – met with April Ressler of the Teeter Group along with Jane Staily to review the borough's upcoming INSURANCE PACKAGE RENEWAL

Safety Commissioner Charles Kensinger mentioned that since MOTORIZED TOYS like electric scooters and e-bikes seem to be the problem we need to work with our legislators to do anything about them. We are aware of the problems and will be looking into it further.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. reported that the municipal authority should know more by July on the PENNVEST MONEY for our upcoming projects.

Manager Rich Brantner, Jr. tried to get a count for council participation in the 2026 AGRICULTURAL PARADE. Most will either already be in it in some other capacity or already planning to watch it but no volunteers to actually ride in the parade in representation of council members.

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A SPRING CLEANUP COMMITTEE will need to be appointed to come up with changes and ideas including how to keep non-residents from participating in the next cleanup day in 2028. A committee will be appointed next month. So far those interested are: Mark Gartland, Manager Rich Brantner, Jr., and Dusty Russell.

Council on a motion by Charles Kensinger, seconded by James Dell, adopted Resolution No. 2026-0601-01 for the Blair County 2026 HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT and Mitigation Plan Update. The motion passed unanimously. Martinsburg Borough will not have to come up with our own plan since we are now a part of the county plan.

Correspondence was received from the Law Offices of Mears Adams & Donovan representing Debra and Matthew Teeter of 503 S. Market Street who wish to purchase the PAPER ALLEY behind their property. A portion of the alley has been opened and is maintained by the Borough, which is located behind the neighbor's property, and the Borough has no interest in vacating that the portion of the alley. A portion of the alley is unopened, which is located behind the Teeter's property. However, because the Borough did not open the alley within 21 years, the Commonwealth's Borough Code prohibits the Borough from ever opening. Therefore, the unopened alley is not an issue for the Borough to address.

During the spring cleanup we had collected about ten (10) boxes of electronic that were taken to the county recycling at the Buckhorn. The county charges private individuals to drop off and they expect a donation from municipalities. *Council on a motion by Mark Gartland, seconded by James Dell to DONATE \$500 TO BLAIR COUNTY RECYCLING for taking the ten (10) boxes of electronics that we collection at our 2026 Spring Cleanup. The motion passed unanimously.* A thank you letter will be prepared to send along with the donation.

There will be an EXECUTIVE SESSION following the adjournment of the meeting to discuss the ongoing law suit by Kevin Smith.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:48 p.m. on a motion by James Dell, seconded by Mark Gartland. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jane Staily
Borough Secretary