

**Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held March 8, 2016
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA**

President Renninger with Council members Foreman, Kulman, Nagle, Hannold, Mazis, and Mayor Vegso present called the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Marietta Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM. Absent from the meeting was Council member Snow. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Vegso asked if there was a police officer in the house. They started the process of introducing the officers so everyone can get to know them.

Officer Jeremy Kauffman introduced himself and said that he has been with the department for eight (8) years.

President Renninger stated that we have no one on our agenda for Public Comment and we will have a Public Comment Session at the end. The agenda format is new. It is to make us more efficient and orderly.

Council member Hannold asked for a point of order. She has a concern. The proper procedure of the order of business is not being followed, and because of that every member is not being represented. Everyone was not advised of the changes to the agenda.

President Renninger stated that everyone is represented. The Secretary and the President have the ability to set the agenda. She asked if we wanted to redo it.

Council member Hannold stated that she wanted to bring to everyone's attention is Marietta Borough's rules of order and some of the changes that we see are addition to concession. Everyone here wants to have a say on and to contribute to any changes.

President Renninger stated that she had every opportunity to bring this up and she didn't have to wait for the public meeting. If she has concerns she should bring it to the personnel/administrative committee. The rules of order have never been approved or adopted.

Council member Hannold stated that all she is asking is when there are changes made that every member here has the change and they get to sit down and discuss the change before it happens. Council member Mazis stated that the policy is that people who have called or written ahead of time go first, but that anyone who wishes to speak can do so during the first public comment session, but people who want to respond to discussions or actions taken during the meeting can speak at the comment session at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION

Sandra Leonard – 545 West Market Street – she wanted to let everyone know that there was a nice article in the paper in regards to the free little libraries that Joyce Lehman has started and she thought this was great and we should be proud of them.

Public comment session was closed.

The minutes of the February 9, 2016 Council meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

REPORTS

Sharon Bradnick – Treasurer Reports - before us is the General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated 3/8/2016. The total general fund accounts are \$657,845.69. Marietta Sewer Department Savings Account at the end of February has a balance of \$157,691.91 and the Checking account has a balance of \$1,336.11.

The Borough recycled 26,600 pounds of recyclables for February. On a motion by Council member Hannold with a second by Council member Foreman, the reports were unanimously approved.

Steve Bailey – He gave the fire police report. In February the fire police responded to eight (8) fire calls, six (6) vehicle accidents and three (3) training sessions and meetings. It gave them a total of forty-three (43) officers with a total of eighty-three and a half (83.5) duty hours. Three (3) of their duty officers have been recertified in hazmat awareness and five (5) more officers are signed up for the next class in June. Fire police has a promotion going on. They have their license plates on sale for \$15.00 each. He was contacted by the TNT organization and they had concerns on traffic control for the kids when they leave at night. They loaned them some traffic cones and some strobe lights to put on the top of them.

The emergency management report from February 8th to March 8th, Angie Shearer and himself monitored the river levels and notified the officials of any changes. Steve completed over twenty-five (25) years as a state certified river watcher for the national weather service. He received a call from Chestnut Street in regards to things coming out of a pipe. He went and investigated, and it was a clogged sewer line and advised him to call a plumber. The situation was resolved.

Brandon Smith – Pioneer Fire Company – For the month of February they ran fifteen (15) fire calls and eighteen (18) QRS calls. They had two-hundred ten hours (210) of fire calls and one-hundred fifty (150) hours of training. He also let the public know that they need to keep the public away from the accidents or fires and that also includes Council. If the police are at the scene and telling you to stay back please stay back. He also would like Council to let people know about the burning ordinance in the Borough.

MAYOR’S REPORT - Mayor Ray Vegso

Mayor Vegso stated that we are all trying to be civil, courteous, and professional, and we are slowly making progress. We have a lot going on and we have a lot to try and do. He asked how many knew that it is International Women’s Day? A lot of women and girls are treated horribly in some countries and women are still paid less than men. It tells you that we have a long way to go. You get a sense of this especially if you have daughters. Some of the things I see that happens with them are shocking.

The police minutes are in the box and he would like to point out that the Chief of Police is retiring and they have prepared an ad to go out very quickly.

At the last meeting his wife had brought up about the osprey platform and everything was set to go and it was a great idea. They needed to bring in an avian expert and they needed to check out other locations, so the decision was made to put the osprey platform up above Riverfront Park and it is good for the area, but sorry that it would not be here in the Borough.

He has been in touch with the Columbia Water Company and when Gravity Water Company was sold to Columbia Water Company there was a large debt from the nineties and this debt will be paid off in March and we will be saving over \$12,040 a year.

Council member Renninger stated her gratitude for investigating this and keeping an eye on this.

ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL/FINANCE – President Renninger

President Renninger stated that she received a letter from the attorney in regards to an ethics investigation that was brought up in November. She read the letter and announced this item was investigated and the matter was closed. The investigation found there was no violation of applicable law.

We have on the agenda in regards to hiring a consultant, someone with government experience to provide advice and help to council. We have a new group of people and there have been many occasions that Mr. Laudien has provided his assistance. His services are professional and he comes highly recommended. The solicitor drew up the contract. Question came up on how we are going to afford this. Someone with his experience will save us a tremendous amount of money. In 2013 we had a profit of \$47,770.00 in 2014 we had \$174,255.00 and in 2015 we have \$55,304.00.

Council member Hannold asked if we have a list of items in the budget that were not paid showing why we had extra money left over in the budget. For instance, we didn't pay the extra payment on the loan so that would show that money was left over.

Mayor Vegso stated that it is normal to end up with a surplus in the budget and that we have never paid the amount of the debt that was shown on the sheet. We are very easily able to afford Mr. Laudien and will need to look at hiring a borough manager down the road.

Council member Mazis stated that this has been debated over and over in regards to having a Borough Manager in the Borough or not. Having Mr. Laudien as a consultant allows the Borough to look to see if we need a Borough Manager, and if this is worthwhile and if it will save the Borough money, this will test the waters. The rate of \$165 to \$180 per hour is the going rate for a consultant, so the price that Mr. Laudien is charging the Borough is a bargain.

Council member Foreman stated that he thinks Mr. Laudien is a great choice but does not feel that we need to hire him, that a change in leadership is all that is needed. He appreciates the work that Sharon has been doing but does not feel that the community should pay for this until all other resources have been exhausted.

President Renninger stated that we need to make a change in our NWRT Grant. We had some funding from the state that was Federal money. It was an 80/20 grant. There were questions on the bid process in regards that we had no disadvantaged businesses bid for the installation of the bridge across Evans Run. They want us to change the grant from Federal funding to State funding which would change the match from 80/20 to 50/50. We will be making a motion later to change the grant from a 80/20 to a 50/50 match.

BUILDINGS & SPECIAL PROJECTS – Council member Leah Nagle

Council member Nagle asked the procedures for the newsletter that she is doing. Does she need Council approval before sending out the newsletter? Her goal is to set up a template to pass along later that can be transferable for the staff or someone else to do the newsletter later.

President Renninger stated that she feels that a committee can carry this on later and work with the staff.

Council discussed/decided that the Borough Newsletter will be approved via email not by a vote.

Council member Nagle stated that she has been working on the website, and she has been working on a policy and procedure in regards to the website.

Council member Nagle stated that she had a quote from UGI to line the chimney. To extend the life of the boiler is to put an exhibitor in the chimney and it keeps rust from building up.

Also from Eric Kramer's investigation into the street lighting project she contacted Wilco electric in regards to the street lights in the Borough. Our street lights are over ten (10) years old and we qualify for new lights and all we have to do is put a request in for them and it will not cost the Borough. She will be getting more information.

PARKS & RECREATION – Council member Marcus Snow

Council member Snow was absent from the meeting.

President Renninger stated that on February 17th the Lancaster County Conservancy contacted us to have a meeting with Steve Foreman, Sharon Renninger, and Raymond Vegso and wanted to meet the new Parks and Recreation chair. Lori Yeich has been taking a close look and wants to develop a relationship with Marietta because they see a lot of potential in developing parks and recreation. We also have the ability to plan storm water management and green infrastructure. The NWRT (Northwest River Trail) is an unfinished trail at this point and the people coming into the Borough, passing through, staying, visiting and looking for amenities can be astronomical. There is funding available for how to plan for these amenities. One of the recommendations that came out of that meeting was that the Borough hire a grant coordinator. She had a brief meeting with Rebecca Denlinger.

Rebecca Denlinger introduced herself; she used to work for Lancaster County Planning Commission several years ago. Lori Yeich phoned her and told her there is a lot of potential in Marietta Borough. She is a grant writer and most of her work is in Lancaster County. There are two grants available to us right now. She put together a simple proposal and gave that to President Renninger.

Mayor Vegso stated that we are in this unusual situation. Lori Yeich and Fritz Schroeder were begging us to get our butts moving. They handled all the things in Columbia and they know how to handle grants and they have over eight (8) pages of suggestions and guidance to us. This is a great opportunity for us to move forward. He has been asking around at other meetings and Rebecca's name always comes up as an excellent grant writer.

Council member Hannold asked "what are the projects that Marietta Borough is seeking funding for".

Rebecca Denlinger stated that the funds that are available now are to do planning for our open space and our existing parks. Look at our parks now and see what updates or renovations that need to be done. The grant is to define a plan. The state wants to know that we are committed. To hire her to write both the grants will cost a lump sum fee of \$2,150.00. The grant money will help pay for the plan. There are matches for these grants. The project needs to be defined.

President Renninger stated that Rebecca has the templates needed to write the grants that are rapidly approaching and hit the deadlines. Her contract ends when she submits the grants.

Mayor Vegso stated that we are going to establish a steering committee to reach out to the public so that we are moving in the direction that the community wants.

PLANNING/ZONING/HOUSING – Council member Glen Mazis

Council member Mazis stated that the SALDO was approved and there are some things that Chuck Hess our engineer needs guidance on from Council. There were some small corrections, but the Planning Commission wants the sidewalks to be four (4) feet and not five (5) feet. The four (4) feet preserves the feel of Marietta more than the five (5) feet sidewalks. This will still meet ADA requirements.

Chuck Hess, ARRO, the change was made in the SALDO to reflect the four (4) feet sidewalks and the way the language was written will cover the Borough in the future.

Council member Mazis stated that the SALDO is supportive of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. The complete streets plan that Lancaster County has adopted, they would like the Boroughs to comply with, and there are things in the SALDO to take in account for some of these things, but the Borough should adopt a complete streets plan in the future. The SALDO has many components of the Complete Streets.

Council member Mazis stated that we had a four (4) hour workshop on the Zoning Ordinance. One of the things that came up was in reference to preserving the historic characters of Marietta particularly in terms of demolition. We don't want a very restrictive HARB review board, and we didn't want to do nothing to prevent demolition of historic buildings to be replaced with building not in character with the Marietta, but we wanted to reference the SALDO in regards to the demolition of buildings that has some parameters. This would be for any new development coming into the Borough, but the zoning ordinance would cover changes to existing structures..

Council member Mazis stated that we need to have a discussion on adult establishment permits and we need to give Chuck some guidance. To have a permit process on this would allow us to restrict it more and have more control over it. Do we want to have a permit process for adult establishments? Council member Mazis made a motion to direct AJ with EPD, Inc. to establish a reference in the zoning ordinance for adult establishment permits, and the council agreed.

Council member Mazis stated that there is a section in the zoning ordinance for restrictions on animal permits. We debated this at length. What is stated is the chickens and rabbits can be kept on lots of .5 acres or greater provided that pens have a setback of thirty (30) feet of all property, streets and right-of-ways lines. Roosters are prohibited.

President Renninger stated that this is not a done deal and there is a process to still go through.

Council member Nagel stated that Mr. Clements came to the council with a petition with over seventy (70) names on it asking to allow chickens in the Borough.

Council member Mazis asked do we want to go with the ordinance or do we want to go with a permit? A permit would allow certain properties to have chickens. The zoning officer stated that having a permit in this nature would be very hard to enforce. His recommendation would be to have this in the ordinance and not have a permit.

Chuck Hess, ARRO stated that with other municipalities any pet related issues are in the zoning ordinance. That is where the problem belongs; it allows the zoning officer to enforce the issue. On the permit side, having a permit would then put enforcement issues on the staff and to do the property evaluation. The cost would be more. The council agreed that the Borough should not pursue permits for chickens. No proposals were made to amend the draft ordinance.

President Renninger stated that this would be incorporated into the zoning ordinance as it stands.

Motion from Council member Nagle with a second by Council member Mazis for a break.
Break at 9:03 PM to 9:17 PM

President Renninger opened the meeting back up.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY – Council member Harold Kulman

Council member Kulman stated that they had their fire and safety meeting on Thursday March 4th at 7:00 PM and they had fifteen (15) people attended. They worked on developing procedures for the ROBO system and have more work to do on it. They also talked about the annual fireworks display and they need someone to get involved with this. It would take about \$10,000 to put on twenty-six (26) minutes of fireworks display. The fire company will be coming to talk about their preliminary budget and they will be all working on this. The fire company sends out donation letters within the community and only one (1) person out of four (4) gives to this. He hopes the community would give more. There are also other ways to get money and they are going to look into these other ways. He is getting more information to send out a letter to the Waldorf School for false alarms or for any false alarms in the community.

SEWER & TRASH – Council member Steve Foreman

Council member Foreman stated that ARRO and Sharon Bradnick are presenting for the CDBG Grant tomorrow evening.

Council member Foreman stated that the Marietta-Donnegal Joint Sewer Authority unanimously approved to increase the treatment charges \$3.00 a quarter and \$5.00 a quarter to Marietta Borough effective January 1st. The last increase was in 2014. The Borough Council needs to decide the collection fees for the Borough's end. The last time we had the increase the Borough did not raise their fees and we now have to play catch-up. We have about \$2 million dollars of repairs that need to be done and upgrades and we need to start preparing for that now. The water company wants to come down Front Street and the Sewer Authority will need to replace the forced main on Front Street so the Borough needs to work with them and then get our work done on Front Street around the same time.

Mayor Vegso asked in regards to the \$2 million dollars what time period are you talking. These are historic low interest rates and he suggests that we have a discussion about taking advantage of the low interest rates. It's a crime not to take advantage of the low interest rates.

Council member Foreman stated that this is not over a time period that these are repairs that need to be done. We have Basin's D, E and F repairs to do yet. The maximum grant that we are looking for to do Basin D is \$200,000.

Steve Shireman stated that Bridey doesn't need to come to the Authority's next meeting. The Authority is looking at replacing the sewer main on Front Street. When they do this they are looking at doing this in one shot and will need to work out with the Borough the storm drains.

Council member Foreman stated that he is looking at an \$8.00 increase for the sewer per quarter with a \$3.00 increase to go to the Authority and a \$5.00 increase for the borough.

Steve Shireman stated that since he has been on the Authority Board Marietta Borough has not increased their sewer bill for the Borough portion and we have six times the infrastructure then East

Donegal have. Marietta Borough is falling behind the eight ball.

STREETS & HIGHWAYS – Council member Hannold

Council member Hannold stated that we advertise the bid for Lumber Avenue. With discussion with Darrell Becker the advertising is very expensive for the bidding process. There is an electronic bidding process called Penn Bid. Also in the Penn Bid is the bid package. There would be a savings of around \$1100. Council member Hannold made the motion to advertise the bid package for Lumber Avenue through Penn Bid. Council member Nagle seconded the motion. Motion carries.

LEGISLATIVE SECTION/ACTION ITEMS

Council member Foreman made a motion to hire Rebecca Denlinger to be our grant writer for the letter of intent for the parks with a second by Council member Kulman. Motion carries.

Council member Foreman made a motion to adopt a resolution to increase the sewer rate by an \$8.00 increase with a second by Council member Hannold. Motion carries.

Council member Mazis made a motion to adopt the Flood Plan Ordinance with a second by Council member Nagle. Roll call vote was taken.

Steve Foreman – aye
Glenn Mazis – aye

Leah Nagle – aye
Harold Kulman – aye

Bridey Hannold – aye
Sharon Renninger – aye

Motion carries.

Council member Mazis made a motion to adopt the SALDO with the tweaking that they discussed this evening and to also establish a SALDO fee schedule. Pending adjustments to the fee schedule of \$500.00 application and \$2,000.00 escrow to cover the gap from doing away with the old one and getting the new fee schedule on the book in case someone needs to apply for a SALDO permit. A roll call vote was taken.

Steve Foreman – aye
Glenn Mazis – aye

Leah Nagle – aye
Harold Kulman – aye

Bridey Hannold – aye
Sharon Renninger – aye

Motion carries.

Council member Mazis made the motion to move the Northwest River Trail grant from an 80/20 match to a 50/50 match with a second by Council member Foreman. Motion carries.

Council member Mazis made the motion to hire Bill Laudien as our consultant with a second by Council member Nagle. Council member Foreman and Council member Hannold voted nay. Motion carries four to two.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Mary Lou Ellsworth – 50 N. Pine Street – she finds herself going back a couple of years ago when the gentleman came down from Harrisburg to speak about the flood plan and the \$30 million dollars that was available for flood control and talking about taking on the storm drains and consolidating them from thirty down to seven with seven flapper valves. There would be a lot of tearing up and the state would be maintaining those storm drains.

President Renninger stated that the flood levy situation would be in three (3) phases and one of the concerns was that there are thirty-two outlets that take storm water from the Borough into the river. Some of those are in bad repair and some can be reconfigured so we don't have as many. If and when we do any more flood mitigation projects this would be in place or incorporated. The state agreed if the levy was put in it would be inspected by DEP on an annual basis. This is why she feels we need complete streets and one of the things that the Borough lacks is a long term capital improvement plan. This is one of the reasons on why she is in favor of hiring Bill Laudien and he can guide us on developing a long term plan.

Mayor Vegso stated that the state had earmarked \$20 million dollars, but it could be \$30 million down the road. If we were wise enough to do work on Front Street that would be compatible with that plan it would be great but we are not wise enough because we don't know enough. The state is going to protect us from river floods they will not protect us from interior floods. As far as he knows we never had an interior flood. The flapper valves on Evans Run, after Evans Run has been run through a concrete enclosure that is all part of the deal. The state has made it clear that you have to go for all three (3) phases or nothing; they will not help us with a smaller project. Down the road we need to decide if we want to sign the sponsorship letter and that will happen within our term towards the end of the year. This is a wonderful deal the state is offering and if there are any significant problems the state will take care of it.

Glenn Mazis -264 E. Front Street – they have been putting up with the vulture colony. Is there anything the Borough can do?

President Renninger stated that Ronda called the fish and game commission and they have a project they can do. It is illegal to shoot the turkey vultures. One thing that deters them is if you put up a dead vulture and put them where the live vulture's roosts. They will move on and she believes the cost of the program is \$700 dollars and there is no guarantee. It may take more than one visit.

Jay Sensing – 566 E. Front Street – Front Street has cracks on it and dirt is seeping out of the street and getting on the cars and it is at this time of the year. Are we resigned to put up with this.

Glenn Orr – stated that they will monitor the situation.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM on a motion by Council member Kulman with a second by Council member Hannold.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer