

**Marietta Borough Special Council
Minutes of Meeting held May 4, 2016
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA**

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

PUBLIC SESSION

We have two officers on duty this evening: Officer Carl Bergmark introduced himself as being a Susquehanna Regional Police with the force for two (2) years, along with A.J. Hall with the Susquehanna Regional Police and he has been with the force for fourteen (14) years.

Linda Ross – 67 Fairview Avenue – she has some observations on the County level and Lori Yeich and the Conservation District was here for a grant meeting and they stated that Marietta is at a strategic and critical point right now in the district. We have many eyes on us we are being watched by County officials and grant people and a lot has to do with the trail and hopefully that will allow us lots of opportunities with economic development and infrastructure development here but it will be a long process. We need to reach out to the community and see what our priorities are. She heard from many officials that unlike the past that outsiders feel welcome here and that is because of Sharon Renninger's networking and has made important contacts. What she is concerned about is that we present an image that we all work together here and there is not a lot of bickering amongst Council.

Tom Brill – Fire Company – coming before Council to see if Council would give permission to contact our solicitor because they are being sued for over \$30,000 by the prior contractor and they do not have the money to represent themselves. They are struggling to keep their heads above water and they would like to speak with our solicitor to see what our options are.

President Renninger stated that we would reach out to our solicitor and be in touch with them.

Carl Jones – 619 West Market Street – the President was up at his property and looked at the water problem on Essex Street and he was wondering what she found out.

President Renninger stated that it was not a sewer problem and there is a grading and ground problem there. She will follow up with you.

Carl Jones also brought up Lumber Avenue in regards to repairing this and are they going to be putting sidewalks in.

Bruce Gibson – 388 Essex Street – stated that Glenn Orr is going to put a roll curb in on Essex Street and this will take care of the water problem.

Public comment session was closed.

NEW BUSINESS – Bill Laudien, Consultant

Bill stated that the things that the Borough is lacking are policy and procedures and one of the areas is committees. There is a lack of uniformity. You have committees working independently and it shows a lack of efficiencies. Then you find that you have projects that don't get done or partially completed. He has put together some written goals and objectives on how committee meetings are conducted and how information is conveyed back and forth between council. He has supplied to council an organizational

chart and a list of proposed committees. They are committees that he is proposing from his observation. The committees that he is proposing are Administrative Committee, Public Works Committee, Public Safety Committee, Planning-Zoning-Environmental Committee, and a Public Outreach Committee. He went over the purpose of each committee and gave a sample agenda for each committee. Each committee would hold three (3) or four (4) council members. Less committees and more directed effort would be better use of everyone's time. There also does not seem to be a clear understanding of who is responsible for whom. Things need to flow through the Secretary. Council has all the information and they need to decide if this is the direction that council wants to go. He will get all of council's feedback on this and it will be voted on at next week's council meeting. He will work with Sharon B. to put together a resolution for the new organizational structure of committees.

Mayor Vegso stated that our current secretary is very busy and to solve a lot of our issues we should just hire a borough manager to be the direct supervisor of staff and work with the contractor services. The serious work is done by two office staff and two public works people and the rest we contract out. To him where the confusion is he doesn't know where our street men take orders from. To have a borough manager this would take care of all our communication issues.

Council member Hannold handed out a typical borough structure that was recommended to them from the solicitor when they had their training. It states that if you don't have a borough manager you utilize the borough secretary. It was recommended on numerous occasions.

President Renninger stated that the system that we are operating currently has been in place for several years and has never been modified. When it came up to change it, it was met with some resistance. There are many functions of the staff and she has been there when five or six residents walk in to ask questions and then you have council members coming in. The staff has given up their lunch break and they have come in early and stayed late and we ask them to come to meetings and do training. She feels that Bill has brought about some ideas and changes to help council be more functional. There is a lot of work for a government entity to take care of on a given day. So we need to decide if a Borough Manager is justified.

Council member Hannold stated that right now we are to decide on the structure we have today.

After great discussion between Council and Bill, Bill is going to solicit feedback from council and have everything ready to go at the next council meeting to vote on.

Bill stated the last thing he wants to discuss is the document request policy. Sharon B. is the custodian of the documents. He requested the office to put together documents that the Council would want to refer to and they will be placed in Council chambers. Any other documents that need to be requested should go through a process and he will work with Sharon B. to decide what that process will be. You will need to give the office staff a reasonable time to get the information or documents.

President Renninger stated that we need make a recommendation to appoint Chris Dellinger to the Donegal-Elizabethtown Area Appeals Board. This is a board that hears appeals to the Uniform Construction Code. There are currently five (5) people on the board. Our representative is Thomas Tripple that lives on Wasp Street. Council member Foreman made the motion to appoint Chris Dellinger to the Appeals Board with a second by Council member Snow. Motion carries.

Council member Foreman asked if we need to make a motion to have the Fire Company use our solicitor.

Council member Hannold stated that we need to contact our solicitor to see if he is even able to help the

Fire Company because he is the Borough's solicitor. What they need is financial help and the Borough may want to grant them a set amount so they can obtain their own lawyer or we can do nothing at all or we could foot the bill.

President Renninger stated that we should have some guidelines because we can't give them a blank check. We need to set up some perimeters. We will check with our solicitor and get back to the fire company with our findings.

Mayor Vegso stated that he will make some calls to see what he can come up with.

Council member Mazis stated that the Council will not allow the fire department to fail.

Council member Foreman made the motion to reorganize council with a second by Council member Snow. They would like to replace the President.

Mayor Vegso asked why.

Council member Foreman stated that the ability to work with other people is lacking. Things that Council had voted on and then these things keep coming back up because it did not go their way.

Rich Waters – Fairview Avenue – why every time we come to these meetings that someone is arguing.

Nancy Barton – asked if this does not have to be on the agenda before it is discussed. Just out of good will this could have been done a different way.

Council member Snow stated that this is not easy to do and there is no way to bring this up without hurting someone's feelings. We could go on for four (4) hours and I don't think that we want to do that. There are a variety of reasons. He doesn't know how to deal with the personality conflict between Sharon R. and Sharon B. There is a lot of frustration.

Council member Kulman stated that we should move on and do what we need to do. Sharon R. did a good job and was fair, honest and wants the best for the Borough.

Council member Mazis stated that this is a time that we can all get together and discuss this. Is the president a facilitator and helps us all to do our jobs? Sharon R. has great ideas and energetic, but is she the best person for this facilitator role? He needs clarification of what the president's role is.

Council member Nagle stated that she would like more discussion on this.

Louis McKinney – 17 South Clay Street – he would like to know how many of Council got together prior to this meeting and discussed this. It would be a violation of the sunshine law.

President Renninger stated on one level that the president's role is a figure head and one of a representative of council. The comment was said that she is not getting along with some people on council and she has reached out to members on a continued regular basis. How does she get along with someone that refuses to return her calls, or meet, or makes excuses? There are people on this council that say they appreciate her hard work on council, but new leadership is needed. Ms. Bradnick and I don't see eye to eye on things. Everything that has been investigated, discussed have been unfounded. The people that have been stonewalling and won't meet are the ones that are guilty of this division. She has done her best and has put a lot of time into this council and worked hard to get some of these

people elected. So what is your expectation?

Council member Mazis stated that his expectation was the president facilitates discussion and facilitates the people working on their committees which is different than being a supervisor or a boss.

Council member Foreman stated that she is a dictator. If it does not go her way then she goes all over trying to get it her way.

After several discussions between council members going back and forth the call was made to remove Sharon Renninger as president. A roll call vote was taken.

Steve Foreman – aye	Marcus Snow – aye	Leah Nagle – nay
Bridey Hannold – aye	Glen Mazis – aye	Harold Kulman – nay
Sharon Renninger nay		

Motion carries that Sharon Renninger is removed as president.

Vice President Kulman asked for a motion for a nomination for a new President. Council member Foreman nominated Bridey Hannold as president.

Council member Renninger nominated Leah Nagle as president.

A roll call vote was taken for Bridey Hannold as president.

Steve Foreman – aye	Marcus Snow – aye	Leah Nagle – aye
Bridey Hannold – aye	Glen Mazis – aye	Harold Kulman – nay
Sharon Renninger – nay		

Motion carries for Bridey Hannold as president.

President Hannold asked for nomination for Pro-tem.

Council member Nagle nominated Sharon Renninger as Pro-tem and a roll call vote was taken.

Steve Foreman – aye	Marcus Snow – aye	Leah Nagle – aye
Bridey Hannold – aye	Glen Mazis – aye	Harold Kulman – aye
Sharon Renninger – aye		

Motion carries for Sharon Renninger as Pro-tem.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Glenn Orr – 45 Fairview Avenue – unfortunately things go the way they do. He is the road master and he cannot correct a problem unless it is brought to his attention. Just let him know and he will bring it to Sharon B.’s attention. He can’t fix things unless it’s brought to his attention. Hopefully we can all get along.

Lillian Hill – 462 East Front Street – she was heartened. She could not believe the things that she was hearing and it is clear that they got together. Everyone should be ashamed of themselves. Everyone needs to work together and it’s going to affect how she hears us.

Louis McKinney - 17 South Clay Street - wants to remind us that County is watching this town and Harrisburg knows how dysfunctional this town is.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM on a motion by Council member Foreman with a second by Council member Snow.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer