

Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held December 8, 2015
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA

President Renninger opened the meeting with Council member Foreman, Roberts, Davis, Hannold, Overlander 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 Kramer. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the November 11, 2015 Council meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

PUBLIC SESSION

Glenn Orr – 45 Fairview Avenue/Pioneer Fire Company – This year John Merrell will be the new President and Brandon Smith will be your new Chief. There will be a change of guards at the Fire Company, he is stepping down but will still be involved with the Fire Company.

Northwest EMS – Scott Kingsboro and Lori Shank gave a presentation on the service that NW Regional can offer the borough. They do a lot for the community and are involved in the community. They try to make sure that their truck is involved in community events in the Borough.

President Renninger asked if a resident purchases a membership with Northwest EMS and as a member their insurance provider does not cover the whole bill then Northwest EMS will waive the balance of the bill that the insurance company did not cover.

Mr. Kingsboro confirmed that this is correct.

Susquehanna Valley EMS – Mike – gave a presentation on their service that they can offer the borough. They presently are the Borough's main EMS provider. They do not have an ambulance stationed within the borough. They are setup the same as Northwest EMS that if there is a balance from the insurance companies they will also write off the balance. Their rates for membership are a little higher than Northwest EMS.

Carl Jones – 619 West Market Street – he would like to bring to the borough's attention the street is narrow and there will be snow piled up and since Hiltz Propane have started their business they have their tractor trailer trucks that are going up West Market Street and pass his house and would like this traffic to stop.

President Renninger stated that this is a public road and she needs to check in what we can do. This has been brought to our attention before.

Council member Davis stated that it is a legal problem if we do not allow the drivers to get to their business. This street was used before by Armstrong years ago.

Catherine Tucker – 258 Fairview Avenue – when the curbing on Fairview Avenue was put in from Bridge to Gay. There is no storm water drainage on her portion of Fairview Avenue. There is no way for the borough to put storm drains in now. But she would like to have the snow plowed away from her curb so the water can run to the storm drain.

Council member Hannold stated that she had a discussion with Glenn on the plowing. They will pay attention to the plowing.

Rich Waters – Fairview Avenue – what is the borough going to do in regards to the plowing. Is the borough just going to plow down the middle of the street and throw the snow up against his car and what is the borough going to do about it?

Council member Davis stated that we all get it. The people on Market Street get parked in also. There is no solution, everyone has the same problem.

Council member Roberts stated that he has to shovel his car out and he is no better than anyone else.

President Renninger stated that our men go above and beyond to plow everything, and we have a snow plow plan in place that has been in place for some time. Our guys accommodate the residents of this borough. Not 100% of the time but they do what they can. When you see snow accumulate then you should know that the streets are going to be plowed.

Bev Kreider – Express Laundry – West Market Street– she has sent a letter in regards to the parking permits. She is not opposed to the parking permits but she is opposed to having the permitted parking in front of her establishment.

Charles Shireman – 345 East Market Street – there is a junkyard across the street from his property. There was a gentleman there using a sawzal chopping up a car on Market Street. This confirms that he is running a chop shop. He also brought up that he does not understand what the problem is with the ambulance service. He has used Susquehanna over the years and he does not see why we are changing.

Council member Davis stated that this person was also working at 12 midnight. He works outside and he is supposed to be working in doors. He has seven (7) cars in his personal back yard.

President Renninger stated that the borough is sending out letters. There is a pattern of behavior that is ongoing. He is coming into compliance and then falling back out. Hopefully with the new change in the ordinances we will be able to have this changed.

Louis McKinney – 17 South Clay Street – he is wondering why the plaque that is out in front of the club in the borough has African American people's name on it, but he is unable to go in the club and buy a drink with Colon Powell to honor these members that lived here and died here. He would like the plaque moved from the club to the Square or War Memorial Park. He found out through the scoop of Marietta that the borough paid to have it installed where it is now.

President Renninger stated that we will look into this, she is under the impression that it is in front of the museum.

Council member Roberts stated that this has been there for how long and how far is Mr. McKinney going back.

President Renninger stated that we will look into this. It does honor all vets and we will see if it is feasible to have it moved and who owns it. It was placed there years ago for a purpose and maybe that purpose is changing.

Dennis Traub – 4 West Hazel Avenue – Where do we stand on the flood abatement program. Is there any work being done on the storm water management.

President Renninger stated that Josele Cleary is working on the stand alone Flood Ordinance to bring this into compliance with the national federal flood insurance program. There is a storm water management grant that is being worked on and we should hear some time in March.

Council member Davis asked to say a few words on behalf of Oliver Overlander serving on Council from 73 to 81. He served 32 years as mayor from 81 to 2013 and back on Council the last two years. He served a total of 42 years. Over the years he implemented trash service and sewer. He brought in Susquehanna Regional so that we could have twenty-four hours coverage. Over the years he has brought grants into the borough to have work done. He helped when we had the floods. Along with Nancy Vanderslice, Kay Brown, Clare Lumbar, Harry Hartman and Oliver were all instrumental in starting the Candlelight tour. He presented Oliver with a poinsettia and chocolate cake.

Council member Overlander thanked Mark for everything and his mother Mary and he will be sure that he returns the cake holder. It's been fun. Some of the things that Mark mentioned he did not do it himself; he did these things along with Council members. Marietta is a special place. He started getting involved during the 1972 flood. There were people on Council that couldn't handle it so he took a sit on Council. The people that know know. He thanked everyone and was an honor to serve the Borough.

Council member Hannold thanked, Council member Overlander, Davis and Roberts for serving on Borough Council.

Public comment session was closed.

ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL/FINANCE – President Renninger

President Renninger stated before us is the General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated 12/08/2015 the total general fund accounts are \$743,833.50. A motion by Council member Davis with a second from Council member Roberts, the General Fund Breakdown dated 12/08/2015 was approved as presented.

President Renninger made a motion to move the unused compensated absences to the fund balance, Council member Davis made the motion and a second by Council member Overlander. Motion carries.

President Renninger asks for a motion to un-commit the \$17,000 for the red light project on Route 441. Council member Davis made the motion to un-commit the funds with a second by Council member Hannold. Motion carries.

President Renninger asks to accept a motion on accepting the new budget. Council member Hannold made the motion to accept the budget with a second by Council member Roberts.

Council member Davis stated that he believes we need to keep the \$12,000 in the budget for the fire company. The fire company needs a new truck and we need to budget for it.

President Renninger stated that we didn't normally have \$12,000 in the budget the money that was in the budget before was to step in and help them out on a loan that they couldn't previously handle. We have filled our obligation and this line item was removed.

Council member Hannold stated that it is a priority to support the fire company. She would like to get a steering committee together. There are a lot of questions. Have the fire committee work with the steering committee to see what the Borough can do to help them.

Council member Davis stated that we need to cut the budget at other places to come up with the money.

President Renninger stated that we have a working relationship with the fire company but the fire company has a responsibility of their funds. We could have a better working relation.

Mayor Vegso stated that doing a study and having a steering committee would help. He also knows if the fire company is having a hardship that there are programs through state that they may qualify for. We need more information to develop a long term plan.

Council member Overlander stated that he knows where Mark is coming from and he knows where Council is coming from. At the beginning of doing the budget we were over budget by \$100,000 and this line item helped narrow that budget. He does not ever remember that if something happens to the fire company that Council and the Borough did not step in and help out. There is a state mandate that the Borough must provide fire protection. Possibility in the future the fire company would look for some grants.

Council member Overlander stated that there was three percent put in the budget for raises for the

employees is that correct.

President Renninger stated yes that is correct. There is a first and a second motion to accept the budget. She asked for a roll call vote.

Steven Foreman – aye	Mark Davis – nay	Bill Roberts – aye
Oliver Overlander – aye	Bridey Hannold – aye	Sharon Renninger – aye

Budget is accepted.

President Renninger stated the next thing is the Ordinance for the Tax Rate for 2016 stays the same at 6.5 mil with no increase in taxes. She asked for a roll call vote.

Steven Foreman – aye	Mark Davis – aye	Bill Roberts – aye
Oliver Overlander – aye	Bridey Hannold – aye	Sharon Renninger – aye

Tax Ordinance passes.

President Renninger stated that we need to make modifications to the 2015 Budget. She asked for a motion to accept the Resolution for the modifications. Council member Davis made the motion to accept the Resolution for the adjustments to the 2015 budget with a second by Council member Overlander. Motion carries.

Council Adjourned for an Executive Session at 8:37 PM
Council Re-adjourned at 8:55 PM

President Renninger stated that the executive session was to discuss a personnel issue and no action will be taken at this time. We will leave things the way they are.

President Renninger stated that she has asked that the Borough send a thank you letter to Donegal Insurance for the Flag and beautify the entrance to Marietta Borough. Council member Davis made a motion to send a thank you letter to Donegal Mutual with a second by Council member Roberts. Motion carries.

Council member Davis stated that he would like a note sent to Conoy Township. The gentleman that passed away was the long time Zoning Officer. It was Linwood Walter. Send out a condolence letter. Council member Davis made the motion with a send by Council member Roberts. Motion carries.

STREETS & HIGHWAYS – Council member Hannold

Council member Hannold stated that we advertised the Ordinance and was introduced at the last meeting which removes the meters on East Market Street and promotes a parking permit program and changes the Fire Zone in front of the old movie theater to limited parking. Council member Roberts made the motion to accept the Ordinance with a second by Council member Davis. There is a roll call vote needed.

Steven Foreman – aye	Mark Davis – aye	Bill Roberts – aye
Oliver Overlander – aye	Bridey Hannold – aye	Sharon Renninger – aye

Ordinance is approved.

Council member Hannold stated that now she has a resolution to set up a parking permit program which will do nothing more than what our metered parking allows. It does not introduce anymore time. It will allow people to purchase a parking permit. They will be for use in the parking zone. They will be available on a first come first serve basis and will be for only 21 permits which would be for only one-third

of our meters. They will be available from January through November. She is setting it up by resolution so if changes are needed we can very easily make a change with a new resolution.

President Renninger stated that we need to keep parking open for the businesses and most of the businesses are on the Northside so she would like to see the permit parking on the Southside of Market Street it frees up more space for the businesses and keeps the meters open in front of the laundry mat. If we allow permit parking on both sides then people would not come out and feed the meter and we would have more complaints.

Council member Roberts stated that we start the program and if something is not working then Council makes changes to the program. We can discuss it forever, but until we implement it and see what issues we have, we may never have any issues.

President Renninger stated that this is contentious to the business especially in light that the laundry mat has asked us not to do it. What we are looking at is to allow people on Market Street more convenience to residents so they don't have to come out and feed the meter.

Council member Hannold stated that this is just not for residents that business owners have asked for this.

Council member Davis made a motion to accept the resolution and put the parking permit program in place with a second by Council member Overlander.

Mayor Vegso stated that there is nothing to prevent a courtesy sign put on the meters in front of the businesses to "please keep this spot open for the businesses."

Council member Hannold stated that there has been a suggestion that we put courtesy comments when we hand out the permits to allow the meters in front of businesses to keep open.

President Renninger asked how many people has she spoken to in the business district.

Council member Roberts stated that you can address any concern.

President Renninger stated that she is in agreement to the parking permits but she suggests that the permit parking be on the Southside of the street.

President Renninger made the call for the vote. With a nay vote from President Renninger the motion carries.

Council member Hannold stated that she has another resolution to apply for the Multimodal Transportation Grant for Furnace Road. The Borough would be responsible for thirty percent. She is looking to expand Furnace Road and incorporate an eight foot bike/pedestrian lane. The total cost to reconstruct Furnace Road would be \$400,000.

Council member Roberts stated that you look at who is this going to benefit. With this trail going in this will benefit a lot of people. They are looking at putting another parking lot in on Furnace Road. So he feels she has a chance of getting the money because it is going to benefit the trail. LCSWMA may put money in for this.

Council member Hannold stated that she is looking for a motion to file the application for the Multimodal Transportation Grant for Furnace Road and the application is due by December 18, 2015. She will be looking for additional money for this grant.

Council member Davis stated that he has a problem with this because we are looking at 30% of the grant which would be \$120,000 and we can't find money for the fire company. We don't need a bike lane for a low traffic area. He would like to see a stop sign at Hazel Avenue. He is questioning our spending

habits. He knows that it needs repaved but does not think that we need a bike path.

Council member Roberts stated that he looks at the economic benefit to this town will far out way a little bit of money that we have to put out now.

President Renninger stated that her concern is the \$120,000 eats up our liquid fuel budget.

Council member Hannold stated so that everyone gets an estimate, we spent around \$96,000 for Hazel Avenue. If you go for the grant and if we are fortunate to get the grant, for another \$24,000 we are going to have a major improvement.

Council member Hannold stated that we would not be filing a letter of intent, and we are actually applying for the grant. We would hear in April or May 2016 if we are awarded the grant and at that time we would then sign an agreement.

Mayor Vegso stated that if we go with a four foot bike lane then it would take twenty percent off the cost. This is a recommendation not a requirement to have an eight foot bike path.

Council member Hannold stated that they have guidelines for the bike lanes and it goes by the speed limit that is on that road. The speed limit on Furnace Road requires an eight foot bike lane. You need to allow four feet each way. You can put them together on one side of the road or you can put them on each side of the road. There are a lot of details when you put our plans together.

President Renninger stated that she wants to go on record in saying "This is a lot of our street budget". We don't have a plan in place and a drawing and we are rushing through into something.

Council member Hannold stated that we are not rushing into this. Our engineer stated that we are presenting a concept plan until we are awarded the grant money. She would not rack up \$10,000 in engineering cost that might not come about.

Council member Foreman stated that we hear time and time again that Marietta is going to be the hub of this trail. What improvement that this is going to be to this town. They heard it today from DCNR and various other groups. We need to invest money in the town. So to get a grant to help pay for a road that we need to fix at some point is a good thing.

Council member Hannold again stated that lets make a motion to apply to Penndot for a Multimodal Grant in the amount of \$400,000 for Furnace Road with a second by Council member Roberts. With a nay by Council member Davis and President Renninger the motion carries.

BUILDINGS & SPECIAL PROJECTS – Council member Eric Kramer

Council member Kramer was not with us this evening.

PARKS & RECREATION – Council member Steve Foreman

Council member Foreman stated he has \$4000 from his 2015 budget that he would like to assign \$1000 to upgrade the restrooms at War Memorial Park, also \$1500 to merit raises and \$1500 towards matching funds towards grants.

Council member Davis made the motion to assign \$1000 to upgrading the restrooms and \$1500 for merit raise to Bill Haldeman and \$1500 towards matching funds towards grants for the parks, seconded by council member Hannold.

President Renninger stated that you cannot do this and commit funds for the new council that is coming in.

Council member Hannold stated that this was done last year.

Mayor Vegso stated that it is money that is left over and will go into the General Fund and if we choose in the New Year the council can assign the money. What you're saying is not true. Every year typically we have money left over. Last year we had \$170,000 left over and that goes in the General Fund and the next Council can do what it wants with the General Fund.

Council member Foreman stated this is \$1000 for the restrooms, \$1500 towards merit raises and \$1500 towards matching funds with a second by Council member Davis.

President Renninger asked for a roll call vote.

Steve Foreman – aye	Mark Davis – aye	Bill Roberts – aye
Oliver Overlander – aye	Bridey Hannold – aye	Sharon Renninger – nay

Motion carries.

PLANNING/ZONING/HOUSING – Council member Oliver Overlander

Council member Overlander stated that he would like to un-commit the funds from zoning in the amount of \$11,762 for zoning.

Council member Davis stated that he makes the motion to un-commit the funds with a second by Council member Hannold. Motion carries.

Council member Overlander stated that with the new zoning that is going to be put in place that the new council have another meeting with AJ and have certain people sign off on this, such as Mark Harman, Josele Cleary and our solicitor. Another person would be Phyllis Stellfox who is on our Zoning Hearing Board because this was her lively hood. He wishes everyone luck and getting this passed.

Council member Overlander stated that he received a letter from Barb Wilson with a need for help with Feral Cats in the Borough she works with the LCCR to trap and neuter cats within the borough. She would like to place a donation jar in the Borough office and different establishes around town to raise money.

Council member Davis made the motion to have a jar for donations placed in the Borough office with a second by Foreman. Motion carries.

Council member Overlander stated that with new council coming on board he hopes that the new council takes the test for the Emergency Management Institute, the NIMS. It could cost the borough money if the new council and the mayor do not have this completed. FEMA does not like to give money unless every elected official in the state has there NIMS certificate.

Council member Overlander stated that he was in the office today and it is in the budget that we purchase a copier in January, we need to do this to make the office more efficient. The copier we have we cannot get the parts for any longer and it does not staple without jamming.

Mayor Vegso stated that he cannot commit the next council to this, but he is sure that the next council is aware of this and will do it. This council cannot commit something for the next council.

Council member Overlander stated that he withdraws his motion and would like to redo his motion. He made the motion that we purchase a new copier before the end of the year with a second by Council member Davis. With a nay from President Renninger motion carries.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY – Council member Mark Davis

Council member Davis stated that he brought this up last month and he would like to see a stop sign placed on Hazel Avenue at Furnace Road. It is unsafe.

President Renninger stated that we cannot put up a stop sign to control traffic. When Furnace Road improves are done maybe they can look into this.

Council member Hannold asked if he phoned the police to give a couple of hours of their time a week to keep an eye out on this area. The police did speed checks within town.

Council member Roberts stated that he is going to give his opinion as a previous police officer. The problem with Hazel is that coming off of a 55 mph highway you have to put a reduce speed sign ahead and then you have to give a couple hundred feet to the next sign and then five-hundred feet and by now you are at Clay Street and there is no speed limits signs. So you would need to put up speed limit signs along with warning signs and there is not enough room. He suggests that we put in speed tables.

Council member Davis stated that the Pioneer Fire Company responded to thirty-one (31) Fire Calls for the month of November and nine (9) QRS calls. The Fire Company has asked that we switch to Northwest as our primary carrier and he would like to make a motion that we make Northwest EMS as our primary ambulance carrier with a second by Council member Overlander.

Roll call vote was taken.

Steven Foreman – nay
Oliver Overlander – aye

Mark Davis – aye
Bridey Hannold – nay

Bill Roberts – nay
Sharon Renninger – aye

With a tie, Mayor Vegso voted nay. Susquehanna Valley stays as our ambulance service.

The Fire Police had over one hundred hours this month and everything went well with the Candlelight tour. Seven (7) Fire Police came and helped with Santa Claus and they gave out glow sticks and lollipops. They are also doing David White's auction on Front Street. The emergency management purchased fifty (50) cots and forty (40) disposable blankets.

SEWER & TRASH – Council member Bill Roberts

Council member Roberts stated that the borough is going for the Community Block Grant and we are submitting a letter of intent to fix basin D.

Council member Davis made the motion to submit the letter of intent to the Community Block Grant for Basin D with a second by Council member Hannold. Motion carries.

Mayor Vegso asked if this is the borough money or the sewer authority money. What area are we talking about?

Council member Roberts stated that it is the Sewer Improvement money. Several years ago we went for this grant and did another basin.

President Renninger stated that this is between Mulberry and Bridge, North of Market Street.

Council member Roberts stated the Marietta Sewer Department Savings Account at the end of November has a balance of \$144,967.84 and the Checking account has a balance of \$3,611.15. On a motion by Council member Davis with a second by Council member Foreman, the November Sewer Department Monthly Breakdown was unanimously approved as presented.

The Borough recycled 75,560 pounds of recyclables for November. On a motion by Council member

Davis with a second by Council member Overlander, the November Recycling Report was unanimously approved as presented.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Ray Vegso

Mayor Vegso stated that he has fifteen (15) resolutions and several ordinances to pass. He was kidding. At the police meeting they approved to schedule a couple of evening meetings because people can't make it to the morning meetings. Marietta was very well represented at an important meeting in Columbia today for stakeholders held by the National Park Service. It was phase two of things we started a year ago. Marietta had nine of the forty-five people there. This helps them to recognize us and us to recognize them. This is in regards to the Captain John Cook River Trail*. They are slowly working up stream with the river. They did the Zimmerman House down at the Long Level Area. Captain John Cook River Trail* is going to go all the way up to Cooperstown, New York eventually.

He would also like to thank MRA especially Bonnie Whalen and all the volunteers. He was on the coach and he couldn't believe all the good things that everyone had to say about Marietta and how this Candlelight tour is a good thing in Marietta.

Mayor Vegso stated that because we have people leaving the Council he would like to thank them for serving the public. He knows that deep down that people want to do what's best for Marietta and we'll have civil discussions as we move forward. He would also like to thank Glenn Orr.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 PM on a motion by Council member Roberts with a second by Council member Overlander.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer

*Correction to the comment made by Mayor Vegso
"Captain John Cook River Trail" should read
"Captain John Smith River Trail".