

**Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held September 8, 2020
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA**

President Mazis with Council members Marsh, Carroll-Baltozer, States, Dalzell, Hudson, McKinney and Mayor Kulman and Solicitor Harter present by zoom meeting under Covid-19 limitations, called the regularly scheduled monthly 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 COMMENT

Charles Shireman – 345 E. Market Street – Charles would like to let council know that the American Legion is not going to be able to contribute to the summer recreation program like they have in the past. President Mazis thanked him for letting council know.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President Mazis asked for a motion to approve the August 11th minutes. Council member Dalzell made a motion to accept the August 11th minutes with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis stated that he had issues with his computer and was not able to get in for twenty minutes for the first budget meeting. The first meeting was just to hand out the budget sheets. The first real meeting will be in October, where there will be the initial deliberations about the budget. There was not a quorum for the September meeting. Mazis asked for a motion to approve the Budget meeting minutes September 3rd. Council member Dalzell made a motion to accept the September 3rd minutes with a second by Council member Carroll-Baltozer. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Mazis thanked all the borough essential workers for their efforts during COVID-19, and to remind everyone that we still need to social distance and wear face masks. He would like to let everyone know and to get the word out that next Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM we will have an outdoor meeting; a drop-in meeting in War Memorial Park to look over the Master Plan for the Tot Lot, Front Street Park and Chestnut Street Park that has been proposed as a result of the grant for a Comprehensive Park Plan. In addition, he announced that we are still under the emergency virus declaration. The governor extended it for another 90 days. There was an issue that came up with crowd control at War Memorial Park in regard to following the COVID safety guidelines and this will be looked into. The flapper valves are all installed.

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – They had a total for July of 13 calls, 25 officers, and 60 duty hours. The truck was cleaned and sanitized. All officers have been instructed in protocols for the virus. Gloves, masks and a thermometer are on the front seat of the vehicle and all officers have been instructed to use them. Their truck was taken to Marietta Motors for an issue with the brakes, which was repaired and the vehicle is back in service. They are restocking their supply of glow sticks for Trick or Treat night and will be stationed in front of the Borough office and in the four hundred block of West Market Street. Bailey asked that the Borough continue the state of emergency in Marietta Borough. If we stay at a state of emergency then we are not required to put out for bid any items that we need to get through the emergency. He would like to urge the

Borough to leave the state of emergency in effect as long as the governor and the county has it in effect.

Pioneer Fire Company – Brandon Smith – They ran seven (7) fire calls and six (6) QRS calls for a total of thirteen (13) calls for August. The auditing should be finishing up this month and will be forwarded.

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Jeffery Marsh – Council member Marsh stated that the balance as of July 31, 2020 was \$15,338.56. Council member Marsh made the motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Sewer – Freddy States – Council member States report was dated August 2020. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$237,533.18 and a checking account balance of \$1,872.42. Council member McKinney motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Hudson. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Recycling – Freddy States – Council member States reported that the recycling report for July was 26,960 pounds recycled totaling 13.48 tons. Council member States made a motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer – Sharon Bradnick - The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated September 8, 2020. The total general fund accounts are \$1,228,530.66. Council member Dalzell motioned to approve the report as presented with a second by Council member Carroll-Baltozer. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary – Sharon Bradnick – Everyone received their profit and loss statements for the month of August. At the end of August, we show that our income is negative \$55,157.12 for the month. January through August we have an income of \$278,394.87. Bradnick stated that we are currently down with revenue on taxes. We have approximately \$36,000 to come in for the year. We are down in the budget around \$118,000. The County extended the payment of taxes until November 30th, so hopefully payments will be coming in around the first of December. President Mazis asked how Bradnick feels we are doing with our budget for the year. Bradnick stated that we should be right on schedule. We received other revenue from permits on the 421 project which helps for this year's revenue (\$10,000 per permit for each new building). Bradnick reminded people that we have our meeting next week at War Memorial Park to go over the Master Park Plan for the Tot Lot, Front Street Park and Chestnut Street Park. We also filed an extension on the G3 Phase II grant for the end of the year. Bradnick stated that she will be on vacation the last week of the month and everyone should get their budget number into her before the 25th. President Mazis stated that this needs to be done within the next two weeks, so Sharon has time to get the number in the report and sent out to everyone.

Zoning Report – Tom Arnold – Arnold stated that he has returned to normal hours and has been doing about 15 inspections per week. He wears a mask and, of course, practices social distancing. He has issued 51 zoning permits this year and that is 10 more than last year. The Quick ticket is scheduled to start October 1st. That does not mean that we are running out and fining people. We are still going to give warnings. We still have the option of the quick ticket. He met with the Susquehanna Regional Police to learn how to file a search warrant. We do not have any plans of doing it, however, if we need to use it, he now knows how to do it with the backing of the police. We are working hard to eliminate blighted property. He reminded citizens to mow their yards and it is the homeowner's responsibility to keep their curbs and

sidewalks clear of weed's debris.

Mayor's Report - Harold Kulman – Mayor Kulman stated that he gets a lot of complaints on the one-way section of E. Front Street. You would like to know where we are with it. President Mazis asked Council member States to start thinking about doing the safety study for Front Street to make possible consideration of whether it should be one-way or two. Council member States stated that we talked about this and he will bring it up during his public works time. Mayor Kulman stated that he agrees 100% with Steve Bailey that we should continue to have the state of emergency in place and go with the county. He is going to continue with the state of emergency that is in place. Mayor Kulman was approached about the number of people in the park and did not know anything about it. Apparently, it was football's game in the park with parents watching. President Mazis stated that maybe Council member Carroll-Baltozer's committee can look into the situation. Mayor Kulman stated that we are looking for a new Police Chief and he received and reviewed forty-one resumes. The police are looking into leasing the police vehicles through Ford which would be cheaper. The President was at the meeting and took care of the police answering to noise calls. They will not be responding to the criteria or permits for variances, but to the call itself. The next meeting will be September 15th. They will be discussing the budget at the next meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President Mazis

President Mazis stated the Administrative Committee discussed the East Market Street sidewalk repair. Also, discussed were the speed signs, but we still don't have a final proposal. We have not received anything saying that we are going with one or two. The planning committee is looking into having a checklist of all the items that they would need to have a permit and what the procedures are to get that permit, and have a simple bulleted list placed out on our website. The normal schedule was restored for the zoning officer. It was a brief meeting.

We have had an on-going commitment with Resolution 2020-19 allowing restaurants to serve liquor on their property outside with food. There were people that were worried that this would be abused and to meet their concerns, the Council we said it would check in every month to see if there are any reported abuses. Secretary Bradnick and Council member States stated that they have not had any complaints reported to them. President Mazis stated that we are fine with this and we will continue with the resolution.

President Mazis stated that he went to the police meeting and they are willing to enforce our noise ordinance. Once in a blue moon someone requests a variance from the noise ordinance. The police do not want to be responsible for determining who can have a variance and who cannot. This will be discussed at the next administrative meeting and it will come up with a recommendation as to whom will be designated by Council to make this decision.

President Mazis stated that we have the yearly Borough state aid pension plan 2021 minimum obligation. Secretary Bradnick explained that every year in September the council needs to pass the minimum municipal obligation for the budget. The Borough's obligation is to contribute 18%. The Borough does not contribute that because the Borough receives a check from the state and the approximate amount that the Borough then contributes is closer to 6%. Our sheet must show the whole 18% that the Borough is responsible for.

President Mazis asked for a motion to accept our MMO Obligation for 2021. Council member Dalzell made the motion with a second by Council member McKinney. Motion carries

unanimously by voice vote.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Bill Dalzell

Council member Dalzell stated that the committee did not meet. It was too late to cancel it so he stayed on line in case someone wanted to attend. The next meeting is next week at 6:00 pm. It was brought up a couple of months ago in the committee to eliminate the holiday period moratorium on the meters. The meters are not there to raise money for the town. The meters are there to regulate parking. The way it is now no one is required to feed the meters on holidays, Sundays or between Thanksgiving and the New Year. This was done in the past to encourage people to come into the downtown area and do their holiday shopping. The way it is being used now is that the people that live on Market Street park there the whole time. The parking is not being regulated and is not benefiting the businesses and is not serving its intended function. We would like to discuss eliminating the holiday season moratorium.

Solicitor Harter stated that the draft ordinance allows for Sunday, but pulls out all the holidays.

Council member Marsh stated that we should look at alternative parking for the residents in the Borough. It is difficult to park in the circle and up and down Market Street.

Council member Dalzell stated that in most places in America there is a shortage of parking. There are enough places to park, but it may not be immediately where you want it to be. The problem is that people want to park in front of where they want to be at any time that they want to go there. In a Borough like Marietta we are not able to supply that much parking. Most of the people have access to the alley behind their homes.

Council member Dalzell made a motion to amend Chapter 326-29 to remove the phrase Thanksgiving through and including January 1 and add the holidays along with Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, Christmas Eve, New Years' Eve, and New Years' Day, with a second by Council member McKinney. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Dalzell made a motion to advertise the motion just accepted, with a second by Council member McKinney. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Public Outreach – Rebecca Carroll-Baltozer

Council member Carroll-Baltozer stated that they met at the Borough Hall and will do that again this month. The committee is really struggling to do things with the COVID and the subsequent prohibition against being around people. The Traveler was distributed. This seems to be the only way to communicate with people in town. Carroll-Baltozer asked if we are doing "trick or treat" night or has this been cancelled. Secretary Bradnick stated that other municipalities called to ask when our "trick or treat" night is, and Secretary Bradnick let them know that it will be Friday, October 30th. This event has not been cancelled. This decision is let up to the families and it is considered preferable to have small groups.

Council member Carroll-Baltozer stated that she will meet with Bradnick tomorrow and will look into the activity at War Memorial Park. The Council agreed to allow midget football to use the park.

Public Safety – Jeffery Marsh

Council member Marsh stated they met on August 27th. They tabled the recommendation to

purchase speed signs. They are debating if they want to use the insurance money to purchase one or two. Another issue they spoke about is stop signs in the Borough. They have been asked to have a four way stop sign at Bank Street and E. Market Street. A traffic study would need to be done before this could be implemented. Steve Bailey will be out with cones and glow sticks on Halloween. Council member McKinney would like to see a traffic study completed for Market Street and Bank Street.

Public Works – Freddy States

Council member States stated the Flap Valve project is completed. Our men will be looking at cleaning the stormdrains out to the river. We will need to get someone in to clean them out for us. SA Way gave us a price of \$75.00 an hour to get these cleaned out. Our men will need to clear some of the stone at the base where the flapper valves are and put concrete so they can be easily cleaned. We are going to start on that this fall. The committee spoke about the tennis courts and that they can be used as a multi-use court. People would like to see pickle ball added, and possibly add a raised net for volleyball. We are going to look into this. Secretary Bradnick stated that she has had a company in to give us a price on resurfacing the court. The court is bad and will need to have the surface completely redone.

Council member States stated that we talked about this months ago about doing a traffic study on East Front Street for the one-way section to make this a two-way and the cost is \$9900. Council member Marsh asked why do we need to do a traffic study to put up a stop sign? If it was a two way before then why can't we just rescind that ordinance and turn it back. Solistor Harter stated that there are requirements by law that if you want to change the flow of traffic or add stop signs you need to do a traffic study and the engineer needs to sign off. It's not only what the change does to this road, but what does that change do to the traffic flow on surrounding roads.

Secretary Bradnick stated that the money for the study can be taken from the fund balance.

Ray Vegso stated that you are talking about safety and you are nickel and diming yourself. You have money in the fund balance to do the work. President Mazis agreed that this is a good use of the fund balance.

Council member States made a motion to hire ARRO to do the traffic study completed for Front Street and to add Bank & Market Street to the study with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member States stated that Brian Stauffer will be giving us estimates for the sidewalks for 4 properties on East Market Street.

Council member States stated that we did not get the 2020 PA Small Water & Sewer Grant for Basin F – Phase II. The grant runs from September to December. We have two basins that need to be completed. Secretary Bradnick explained the two phases that need to be completed and Council agreed to move forward with a new grant, once the Grants are released.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Jeffery Marsh – Asked if the authority is taking care of the grass on Front Street. Secretary Bradnick stated that they are. He thanked Sharon and Ronda for helping the new manager.

NWRT Committee – Glen Mazis – The meeting in July was cancelled.

C2P2 Committee – Glen Mazis – We had our planning meeting, and we are getting ready for a public meeting in September to solicit citizen feedback on the ideas suggested.

G3 Grant Phase II Committee – Glen Mazis – The grant was extended until the end of the year.

G3 Grant Phase III Committee – Glen Mazis – We are waiting to hear from DCNR if we received the \$874,000 grant. We need to close out Phase II before we can start the third phase.

Shade Tree Committee – Bill Dalzell – They did not have a meeting last month.

OLD BUSINESS

No new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Council member McKinney stated that we need to larger stop signs on Hazel Avenue and Clay Street, because the bicyclists are running the stop signs.

President Mazis stated that we do have signs that we may be able to possibly put up that states “all bicyclist must obey traffic signs.” He asked that the safety committee or public works committee to look into it.

No other new business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glenn Orr – Asked if Fairview Avenue had a traffic study done on it. Solicitor Harter stated that he is sure that a traffic study was done for Fairview Avenue because the whole road was reconstructed.

Linda Ross – Fairview Avenue – This pertains to signage. People are very confused on Clay Street and Hazel on where to go. We need better signage to let people know where to go.

There being no further business to come before Council, on a motion by Council member Dalzell with a second by Council member States, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer