

**Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held November 10, 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 7:02 PM. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Vegso – 50 N. Pine Street - Ray let council know that Margaret Landis died yesterday. She devoted her life to Marietta. She loved Marietta. Not sure how you want to deal with this. President Mazis asked the Mayor if he would like to do a special commendation or plaque for her contributions to the Borough. Mayor Kulman stated that the Marietta Community House is going to arrange a service for her.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President Mazis asked for a motion to approve the October 13th minutes. Council member Marsh made a motion to accept the October 13th minutes with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis asked for a motion to approve the November 5th budget minutes. Council member Marsh made a motion to accept the November 5th minutes with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Mazis thanked all the essential workers and first responders for their efforts during COVID-19, and to remind everyone that we still need to social distance, wear face masks and avoid crowded indoor spaces. He stated that we are entering the period of the most cases and we will be in this period for the next months. He also stated that there was good news this week about a vaccine coming out from Pfizer that has a 90% protection rate.

President Mazis stated that we received the audit from the Pioneer Fire Company. They had a very good audit and we will consider following the recommendation of Sager and Swisher that an internal audit may suffice in the near future. The biggest news that he has after all these months of waiting; we have received the \$874,000 grant from DCNR for making a park space from the parking lot near Chickies to Front street, repaving Furnace Road and Donegal Place, paving the trail and moving it south of Donegal Place, planting trees and rain gardens and using green infrastructure. We will be moving forward and hopefully get the bids out to start the project in the spring. We owe a great gratitude to Lori Yeich with DCNR that gave us so much help. Given the COVID crisis it is pretty special that we received the grant.

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – They had a total for October of 18 calls, 40 officers, and 105 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. Trick or treat night went well. They assisted Bainbridge with their Halloween Parade. They loaned the scouts some cones and other traffic control items for a

fund-raising event they had. Last Saturday they covered the Lions Club while they installed the Christmas lights in town. Steve made up packs of safety items which include masks, gloves, cleaning wipes, hand warmers for each officer to carry in their pockets when on a call. Steve has training with the 421 W. Market Street project on their fire suppression system and then will get with the Pioneer Fire Company and train them on the fire suppression system.

Pioneer Fire Company – Brandon Smith – No one was present. President Mazis stated that the Pioneer Fire Company did give us the audit and it was a clean audit. Sager and Swisher suggested that they do an internal audit for the future. We are going to look at renegotiating the MOU in the new year.

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Jeffery Marsh – Council member Marsh stated that the balance as of September 30, 2020 was \$16,167.71. Council member Marsh made the motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member McKinney. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Sewer – Freddy States – Council member States report was dated October 2020. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$301,294.17 and a checking account balance of \$757.44. Council member States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Recycling – Freddy States – Council member States reported that the recycling report for October was 23,920 pounds recycled totaling 11.96 tons. Council member States made a motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Hudson. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member stated the LCSWMA issued a rebate payment in the amount of \$2,576.21 for ton of refuse and for each ton of construction/demolition waste delivered during the third quarter.

Treasurer – Sharon Bradnick - The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated October 10, 2020. The total general fund accounts are \$1,032,963.05. Council member States motioned to approve the report as presented with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary – Sharon Bradnick – Everyone received their profit and loss statements for the month of October. At the end of October, we show that our income is negative \$194,191.05 for the month. January through October we have an income of \$36,860.02. We made adjustments to the budget for the loan payment and currently we are 92% of budget. Next month we will need to do a resolution for money that we received and money we spent. We should be tight with the budget.

Zoning Report – Tom Arnold – Was not present and Secretary Bradnick stated that he has pretty much completed the rental inspections and he has a few to re-inspect. He wears his mask and tries to do social distancing while he is out. To date he has issued 66 zoning permits and that is 25 more than 2019. We are working on the quick ticket program. We finally got in touch with the people that print Columbia's tickets and they are going to make us up some tickets. The cost is around \$600. Tom and Secretary Bradnick have been speaking with Mount Joy and their quick ticket program. They have a program and the company is coming in to do a presentation next week. He is working on blighted properties in the borough and asks citizens to rake their leaves on not park their vehicle on top of the leaves. They will start a fire. His workload is going fine.

Mayor's Report - Harold Kulman – Mayor Kulman stated that the white line ordinance was discussed with the police and they stated we should enforce this on a complaint bases. After their meeting November 5th it is enforceable. It's always been enforceable because it is an ordinance, but we are starting with the 6th of November. Kulman stated that he gave a welcome presentation to the Veterans Memorial Ceremony at the Marietta Community House. It was a good ceremony but it was depressing because there were not many veterans there. He also received a letter from the Pennsylvania State Mayor's Association. Last year we had the bells across Pennsylvania and they were excited about that and it made a big impression upon them. Now they are in the Golden Anniversary and are looking for things to do to commemorate this. Kulman stated he attended a fire/police meeting that was very interesting. He speaks to a lot of business people in town and we need to encourage people to frequent our businesses in town.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President Mazis

President Mazis stated the Administrative Committee was cancelled. The remaining balance of the loan for Fairview Avenue was paid off. Next, the pledge to check in every month to see if 2020-19 resolution was followed, in regard to the bars serving alcohol outside on their property, (which pertains to our open container ordinance). Council member Dalzell asked that this be taken off the agenda in the future, since the weather is changing and will be tapering off. It will be addressed only if there are any complaints.

President Mazis asked for a motion to advertise the budget and set the tax rate for 2021 at 6.90% with 6.15% for the Borough and .75% for the Fire Tax, which is the same as last year. Council member Hudson made the motion with a second by council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis stated he would like a motion to reduce the bond for the 421 W. Market Street project. The original bond was for \$740,392.42 which was to cover construction on the site. Since they completed some of the work that was covered under the bond, and our engineer went out to confirm that the work was completed in the amount of \$272,035.00 which would have a remainder of \$468,357.40. Council member States made the motion to reduce the bond with a second by Council member Hudson. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis stated that in your packet is the fee schedule for everyone to look over for the next month, and see if there are any potential changes to the fee schedule. Secretary Bradnick stated that we would like to make changes to the sewer tapping fees and the sewer repair fees. Currently when the engineer goes out to make sure things are hooked up correctly the invoice is higher than what we are currently charging. We need to make sure we are covering our costs.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Bill Dalzell

Council member Dalzell stated that they met last month and concluded their discussions for the five-year plan for the borough. The idea behind this is that it is an aspirational document that is something that the council members can look at and see what our committees can work on next. It's a list of goals that are reachable. He tried to divide it down by committees by using themes. They are Parks and Recreation, Flood Mitigation, Transportation, Redevelopment & Improvement, Public Outreach, and Cultural & Environmental. One thing you won't see in any detail is street paving, since this is more of a maintenance issue. The plan was forwarded to the Planning Commission, and they added some things and made some corrections.

Ray Vegso interjected and thanked Bill for taking this initiative and is a good start. He would suggest that we should add a couple of things. We should include something of a larger event amphitheater in addition to the small pavilions that are going to be placed in the parks. With having this on the list, then we can work through on how to get grants to implement the plan. Specifically, under "parks and recreation," he would like to see mentioned that we replace the tennis court with a multi-use court with tennis, pickle ball and basketball. Part of this is to implement facilities for our youth. He would also like to see money assigned or committed of about \$100,000 to be put in a park and recreation fund. This would be separate from the budget as an assigned fund. You're going to need this to hire engineers and consultants with grant projects. Vegso hopes the Council will take all of this into consideration.

President Mazis stated that in line with what Ray said, not just the multi-use of the tennis courts, but one of the recommendations of the park grant that we are finishing now, the C2P2, is the recommendation to address the complexities with War Memorial Park. It was suggested that we should go for a grant for a master plan for War Memorial Park. Mazis also stated that if you're going to add the large recreational venue to the list then you need to add the small venues also to the plan.

Bradnick stated that this needs to go back to the committee to be worked out and then bring it back to Council to be voted on.

Public Outreach – Rebecca Carroll-Baltozer

Council member Carroll-Baltozer made a motion to un-commit the \$12,275.90 to pay for the lawn mower, with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Carroll-Baltozer met with her committee and with Brandon Tennis. He spoke about the trail and how the trail and trees should be part of our infrastructure of Marietta. There should be a plan for addressing diseased trees and planting appropriate healthy ones. She is going to meet with him and look at the river shore trees and foliage to make sure this is a resource for our community.

MRA is going to be putting a letter in everyone's mailbox to invite them to decorate for the Outdoor walk and drive through Christmas event for Sunday, December 6th. They're going to have some pop-up locations around town, and this was added to their event application.

Swedish Motors was not able to have a bike race this summer, but they still donated \$1,600 to use to help pay for the bathrooms on Decatur Street.

Public Safety – Jeffery Marsh

Council member Marsh stated they met on October 22nd. The Christmas event will be handled the same as Halloween night, with the handing out glow sticks. Steve Bailey brought up that the stop sign at the bottom of Bridge Street. He would like to see Bridge and Porter Street parking on one side of the street. This will be discussed with public works.

Public Works – Freddy States

Council member States stated that they met earlier this evening. The stormdrains on the river: the men poured ten drain boxes last month and twelve this month. They are down to the last

two to be done. They will have them all done this year. States contacted Chris Capello in regards to a price for doing the tennis courts. The traffic study is in place and being done. Tyler with the water company checked in with Bradnick and the new line that they want to put in on Furnace Road should not be an issue. The water line will be mainly along the side of the road and should not be an issue with the work that we want to do on Furnace Road and Donegal Place. The water company will be starting their work next week between Clay Street and Bank Street on Front. The past month we have finished the sidewalks on East Market Street, and the cost of the three properties that we had installed came in at \$11,556. The Waldorf School would like to have "slow children at play" placed in Apple Avenue. Everyone agreed to have these placed.

States made a motion to pay for the sink hole on West Market Street in the amount of \$32,766.42 from the fund balance, and make the adjustments to the budget with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

States presented the Sisemore lot add on plan. This was approved by planning last month and they made some changes. They are completely within their zoning requirements. ARRO looked over the plans and everything has been addressed. States made the motion to accept the Sisemore lot add-on plan with a second by Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis stated that last month there was a suggestion that we put speed signs off of Rt. 441 on Hazel, and then it was discovered that there is already a speed sign on Hazel along with a children at play sign. We can not add more signs.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Jeffery Marsh – There is a letter in Council packets informing you in regards to a rate increase of \$2.00 per quarter. Because of the economic conditions they are going to delay it till after the first quarter and then review it again at that point. Secretary Bradnick stated that if the authority goes up in their cost then council needs to decide if Marietta is going to increase their cost from \$102 to \$104 or is the Borough going to eat that \$2 which will then lower the amount the Borough receives. States, Dalzell, and Mazis stated that we should not increase it at this time and instead wait to increase it when it goes up again in the future.

NWRT Committee – Glen Mazis – The meeting in October was cancelled. The next meeting is in April 2021.

C2P2 Committee – Glen Mazis – We had our sign off meeting with the steering group and there were a few changes. Ann will be presenting the plan for the parks at the December Council meeting.

G3 Grant Phase II Committee – Glen Mazis – The grant will be closed out the end of the year.

G3 Grant Phase III Committee – Glen Mazis – We have not started this grant yet.

Walkworks Grant – Glen Mazis – We are just starting to get underway and had our initial meeting.

Shade Tree Committee – Bill Dalzell – They met and they are going to start a tree census in Marietta as well as recording any empty wells. There will also be a census of historic trees. They are going to look at grants for some free trees. They also would like to have a spring planting or a Harbor Day event. They are discussing different ways to incentivize people in planting trees.

They will meet again in December.

OLD BUSINESS

President Mazis stated that the noise variance will stay on the back burner until we have other ordinance changes to make in order to minimize the cost of advertising. This change entails having the zoning officer sign off on the noise variance instead of the police.

NEW BUSINESS

President Mazis stated that the Marietta Borough Five Year Plan was already discussed by Bill earlier.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Ross – Fairview Avenue – She was asking for clarification on what Rebecca said on the trees on the trail with Brandon Tennis. Council member Dalzell explained that Brandon Tennis would like to look at the river shore more from a Forestry perspective.

There being no further business to come before Council, on a motion by Council member States with a second by Council member Hudson, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer