

Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held February 9, 2021
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA

President Mazis with Council members Marsh, Carroll-Baltozer, States, Dalzell, Hudson, 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 7:03 PM. Absent from the meeting was Council member McKinney. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President Mazis asked for a motion to approve the January 12th minutes. Council member States made a motion to accept the January 12th minutes with a second by Council member Dalzell. 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. We are at the worst point of the pandemic and it is more important than ever to not be in an enclosed space with people and do what the CDC recommends. The Walkworks Grant had initial meeting and will endeavor to get public input on active transportation. There will be several opportunities for the public to have input. At the March Planning Commission meeting, the first part will be a public meeting to get public input in regards to the active transportation (active transportation means getting around by physical activity in order to improve health).

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – Bailey was absent and Secretary Bradnick gave the report. They had a total for January of 11 calls, 23 officers, and 69 duty hours. The truck was cleaned and sanitized. They are asking for volunteers to join the Fire Police, as they are down on volunteers. Steve continues to monitor the PA Health Dept. for updates on progression of the COVID-19 virus. He posted on social media that people should follow all guidelines to protect themselves and others from the transmission of the virus. He continues to monitor the health reports and alert the services and elected officials of any severe weather. He also monitors the river ice, as requested by the NWS. To date there has been no ice on the river. He commended the Borough Street Crew for the fine job they did in keeping the streets open in the Borough during the recent snow storm.

Pioneer Fire Company – Brandon Smith – They ran fifteen (15) fire calls and seven (7) QRS calls for a total of twenty-two (22) calls for January. Currently the fire company is doing on-line raffles. On line they are also selling soup and sandwiches. For the year they ran 131 QRS and 140 Fire calls for a total of 271 calls for 2020. They had a total of 971 man hours on calls. They held fewer training's because of the COVID.

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Jeffery Marsh – Council member Marsh stated that

the balance as of December 31, 2020 was \$0. This account needs to be zeroed out by the end of the year and a check was returned to the Borough in the amount of \$17,531.48. 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.

President Mazis asked Chief Smith what the long-range plans are for the Fire Company, especially in regards to a new truck. Chief Smith stated that they appointed an apparatus committee to check into what the best piece of apparatus is needed for the Borough. We need to establish what is best for the Borough and then they are going to get some different quotes on that equipment and in the meantime we are going to continue saving and building up the account. The account is nearing the required amount for a down payment.

Sewer – Freddy States – Council member States report was dated January 2021. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$248,860.36 and a checking account balance of \$1,429.56. Council member States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Marsh. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Recycling – Freddy States – Council member States reported that the recycling report for January was 31,580 pounds recycled totaling 15.79 tons. Council member States made a motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Carroll-Baltozer. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer – Sharon Bradnick - The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated February 9, 2021. The total general fund accounts are \$907,040.59. Council member States motioned to approve the report as presented with a second by Council member Hudson. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary – Sharon Bradnick – Council received the profit and loss statements for the month of January. At the end of January, we show that our income is in the negative of \$1,102.10 for the month. The auditors will be in the week of February 22 to start looking over our records. The office is closing out the files for the year end, setting up new files, and getting ready for the auditors. Glen Mazis and I were in meetings today with DCNR to see what grants that we can move forward with.

Zoning Report – Tom Arnold – We have finished all of the 2020 inspections with just a few to re-inspect. The zoning permits have started off slowly because of COVID with one that had to be denied. We started out issuing eleven quick tickets, and we are now up to eighteen. Most of these tickets were issued for not shoveling their sidewalks. Arnold touched base with the Borough Attorney on how to get better results on getting issues resolved, rather than monetary awards. We are not in this for the money we want to get the problems corrected. Tom reminded people to shovel their snow and to have their address placed on the front of their homes. There are still a few homes in the Borough that do not have their address on the front of the home. These are important for emergency vehicles.

Mayor's Report - Harold Kulman – Mayor Kulman stated that he would like to let everyone know that they have received a lot of applications for the chief's position. We received forty applicants. We are getting to the interview process. This will take four to six months to get through this process. We hope to pick someone around July or August.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President Mazis

President Mazis stated that we have had two people who applied for the Zoning Hearing board and to the Planning Commission. Steven DeBottis put a letter in for the Planning Commission. Steven gave a brief history about himself and his credentials. He applied to serve on the Planning Commission.

Miles Lauver III put a letter in to serve on either the Zoning Hearing Board or the Planning Commission. Miles gave a brief history about himself and his credentials.

President Mazis stated that this is the season when both parties are looking for people to serve on council. This is something to think about. We are fortunate to have two people apply and if you don't get the position that you would like don't get discouraged, but instead know there will be more opportunities to fill future position openings and also to run for Council next year. President Mazis asked for a motion to fill the Planning Commission seat and then the Zoning Hearing Board.

Council member States stated that we have two seats to fill and we can fill both seats. States made the motion to appoint Steven DeBottis to the Planning Commission first with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Dalzell made a motion to appoint Miles Lauver to the Zoning Hearing Board with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis stated that the Mayor had expressed concern with the 421 apartment project. People have been prevented from walking through the project. Mazis explained this is because it is still a construction zone and the builders are liable if something happens. It is not a gated community, and once the project is complete, people can walk through this area. The committee also did the performance review for Sharon Bradnick and appreciates the work that she does on behalf of the Borough. The committee also spoke about the welcome packages for the new residents of the 421 Market Street apartments and townhouses and this was delegated to the Public Outreach Committee. The committee considered the request for software for the code enforcement and it is quite expensive. Given the volume of code enforcement in a Borough of our size compared to a large municipality and the costly expense for both the system and its yearly maintenance, the request was turned down.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Bill Dalzell

Council member Dalzell stated they did not meet last month and deferred the motion for the Parks Commission will be made under the Outreach Committee section.

Public Outreach – Rebecca Carroll-Baltozer

Council member Carroll-Baltozer stated that she has an event application for the Donegal Braves Football and cheerleading. This will not interrupt with the softball/baseball time at the park. Council member Carroll-Baltozer made a motion to accept the event application for the spring and fall Donegal Braves football and cheerleading with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Carroll-Baltozer also stated that they would like to help the Borough out by scheduling a park cleanup day in the near future, and she is discussing this with our public works men.

Council member Carroll-Baltozer introduced Joe Clark to speak in regard to helping put the welcome package together for the new Borough residents, starting with the new residents of the 421 Market Street development. This is an idea that he reached out to Rebecca to discuss and also reached out to President Mazis to have this put together. They formulated the idea to have a welcome that bag businesses placing things into the bags like brochures or business cards. They will continue to work with the committee and once the bags are put together they will bring one to the committee, to bring to council for approval.

Council member Carroll-Baltozer presented an event application for Marietta Day, all the insurance is attached, and it is scheduled for May 8th. Council member Carroll-Baltozer made a motion to accept the event application for Marietta Day with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Carroll-Baltozer made a motion to advertise Ordinance 02-2021 to update the Parks and Recreation Commission ordinance with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Public Safety – Jeffery Marsh

Council member Marsh stated that they did not have a meeting this month. Nothing new was reported and the situation with the buzzards persists. Mazis asked if there was any COVID procedure on how to handle exposures. Marsh stated that he received information from the police department on their procedure,

Public Works – Freddy States

Council member States stated they met earlier, and Glenn filled them in on the recent snow plowing. They had a few complaints, but we always get complaints. They would like to look into having an event to collect fire wood from the trail. They also brought up about selling the old street signs that are in the basement. Secretary Bradnick stated that this was voted on by a previous council to sell the signs but we were waiting till the whole project was completed. It is completed, and she needs to look into what needs to be done to put them out on the municipal bid website to sell them. They would like to set up May 17th and 18th to do street sweeping. We received the traffic study back for East Front Street and the proposed stop signs for Clay and South Perry Streets. The study advised that we do not need stop signs for these areas. The other question was whether to make East Front Street a two way. The only way to make it a two-way is to take parking away on one side of the street. We can not take parking away. When we go to redo that portion of the street we want to look into making the street wider, so we can change it back to two-way and still have parking on both sides. This will be put aside for now, until we work on that section of the street.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Jeffery Marsh – The sewer authority is running smoothly, and we just upgraded the electrical service in the building. The new manager is doing an excellent job.

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

G3 Grant Phase III Committee – Glen Mazis – The engineering firm finally got the permits out and now are waiting for the permits to be approved. We are still waiting for the transfer of the property to be finalized. Bradnick and Mazis had a meeting today with LandStudies and they

are still optimistic that we will have it done this year. They provided a detailed schedule of the stages of the project.

Shade Tree Committee – Bill Dalzell – They met last month and are moving forward with their tree census and hoping to do an arbor day planting.

Walkworks Grant – Glen Mazis – We had our initial kickoff meeting, Sam Meckley is compiling information and doing the research for the project. We are not only looking public works portion, but there is also going to be looking at the health component in looking at better ways to improve community health through more exercise. This is going to be a meeting with the Planning Commission in March that will be an information gathering session from the public. They will also be having a public meeting later in the park.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rivertown Art Show Special Event Permit was discussed in great detail, and it was determined that the Community House did not need an event permit for the River Town Plein Air event.

NEW BUSINESS

President Mazis turned this discussion over to the attorney. Solicitor Harter stated that the right of way is not drawn property. Look at the where the street is and where the lot is, the Borough has more right of way. The Borough would like to do a Quit Claim Deed, which is not a normal deed, but instead states that the Borough does not have any interest or claim to this land. The property owner had it surveyed and the Borough is saying that we have no claim to this parcel. This is the parcel at 574 W. Market Street. There is a parcel that is five-foot wide and then there is a parcel that is a thirty-foot parcel. Ken Gall stated that years ago, Council stated that they would do a quit claim deed on this property, but it was never done. He wants to add an addition to his home and would like to get all of this cleaned up.

President Mazis asked for a motion. Council member Carroll-Baltozer made a motion to approve the quit claim with two parcels and to have President Mazis sign the documents with a second by Council member States. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary Bradnick stated that everyone received the information to allow a pop-up business, which is a Standup Paddle Board classes and lessons. This is a pop up business to be held at the Robert Mower Drive. Currently, the Borough does not own this land, but hopefully by June everything would be transferred to the Borough. Council will need to approve if they will allow the business and to have the business do an agreement between the business and the Borough. Council member States made a motion to approve the business with a second by Council member Carroll-Baltozer. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Kreider stated that she went out on the Plein Air Art Show website and they currently have 30 artists signed up for the event.

There being no further business before Council, on a motion by Council member Dalzell with a second by Council member States, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer