

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

President Mazis with Council members Hudson, States, Marsh, McKinney, Carroll-Baltozer, Dalzell, Mayor Kulman and Solicitor Harter present, 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

No public comment.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President Mazis asked for a motion to approve the October 12th minutes. Council member Hudson made a motion to accept the October 12th minutes with a second by Council member McKinney. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis asked for a motion to approve the October 7th budget meeting minutes. Council member States made a motion to accept the October 7th minutes with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Mazis stated that we are still in the pandemic. He thanked all the essential workers and first responders for their continued work during the covid-19 period. He thanked all the people that are vaccinated and encouraged people to get vaccinated. We have balanced the budget and there will be no tax increase. The Candlelight Tour will be December 5th. The same night will be the lighting of the Christmas tree. There will be carriage rides as part of the tour this year. Halloween night will be discussed by Steve Bailey. We were voted the readers of the Lancaster County Magazine as; "trail of the year". President Mazis introduced Ron Kistler, our new Zoning Officer.

Mr. Kistler introduced himself. He has come out of retirement. He worked for East Hempfield Township for over 20 years as the zoning officer and building official. He is still in the learning process of our ordinances. Any questions, please feel free to call him. Everyone is glad to have him on board. Mazis reported that in calling his references, it was said Kistler "has zoning in his blood."

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – They had a total for October of 17 calls, 36 officers, and 102.5 duty hours. The truck was cleaned, serviced, and stocked. They put traffic cones out on trick or treat night. On Friday, October 29th they had cones on North Waterford for the Haunted House event. On Saturday, October 30th they had double the cones out on North Waterford. It was a nice community event.

The Riverside Foundry Apartments have had issue with people dumping waste in the dumpsters. There will be a \$500 fine if caught dumping. The trail behind the buildings, will be used for walking and is open to everyone. They have new signs to be placed on the trail; "no motorized vehicles on the trail," since this use is forbidden.

For the EMA report on October 29th, Bailey monitored the river levels due to the rain. The river crested at 44.2 feet, which is just above action stage. No damage was reported. Bailey feels that there is a serious problem with bicycles, scooters, and skateboards on the streets at night without lights or any reflective materials. The bikes are not so bad, but the scooters and skateboards are disobeying the traffic signs and rules of the road. Council needs to address this. Mazis asked the Safety Committee to look into this problem.

Pioneer Fire Company – Brandon Smith – For the month of October the fire company ran 14 fire calls, 15 QRS calls for a total of 29 calls. The fire company wants to remind everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors. They received the new raft. The floor is being put in. They are having a new ventilation in the fire company to connect to the truck exhaust. We have three fire fighters that are going for their "fire fighter one" qualifications. This will help the fire companies to get grants and make the fire company look more equipped.

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Jeffery Marsh – Council member Marsh reported the balance as of September 30, 2021, was \$15,169.52. 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 – The report dated October 2021. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$349,831.02 and a checking account balance of \$997.38. Council member States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member McKinney. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Recycling – Freddy States – No recycling report was submitted.

Treasurer – Sharon Bradnick - The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated November 9, 2021, was presented. The total general fund accounts are \$1,121,358.36. 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 – Council received the profit and loss statements for the month of October. At the end of October, we show that our income is negative \$50,352.11 for the month. January through October we have total income of \$620,612,.64. We received grant money from DCNR in the amount of \$300,000 and paid out a little over \$300,000. Once this work is completed, we will receive the difference from DCNR. Bradnick is working on getting the Chesapeake Bay Grant closed out this week. President Mazis is working with her on doing the narratives for the grant and she is putting in all the budget numbers. The liquid fuels portion needs to be closed out by the end of the month. The 2021 street improvements have been closed. Bradnick just needs to close out the Furnace Road/Donegal Place project. She is waiting for the final invoice. President Mazis asked with the \$620,000 left how do we stand for the year. Bradnick stated she is working on the adjustments to the budget. Next month she will be these figures to Council which will allow her to look at where we stand in the budget.

Zoning Report – Ronald Kistler – He started October 27th and does not have a report, but he has processed three zoning permits and made a call the Commonwealth Code Inspection Service in regard to some open building permits.

Vesta Furnace – Dave Haneman – Haneman handed out a historic panel that will be placed on buildings throughout Marietta to the Council. Haneman stated that they are going to look at the board and perhaps add more members. Presently, there are supposed to be four members

from Marietta, four from Wrightsville, and four from Columbia. They have been busy getting ready for the Candlelight Tour. Marietta Art Alive will have a display in town. They have a base in place for Margaret Landis's bench. This will be placed this week at the Musselman/Vesta Building. The audit/compilation has been completed by Sager and Swisher.

Mayor's Report - Harold Kulman – Mayor Kulman stated that he would like to apologize for Halloween night. If there are any questions about Halloween to call the Borough office. We could not change trick or treat night to Thursday because our equipment and supplies were in Columbia at the parade. We looked at other communities to see when they were holding Halloween and we go by that. From 6:00 to 7:00 it did not rain at all. Halloween night turned out to be a success.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President Mazis

President Mazis stated that we did not hold an administrative meeting, so there isn't anything to report. President Mazis asked for motion to advertise the budget and set the tax rate. Council member States made the motion with a second by Council member Hudson. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote. He mentioned that the tax rate will remain the same.

President Mazis stated the proposed fee schedule is for Council's review. This will be voted on next month. Bradnick stated that only two items changed on the fee schedule and that was to show the new rate of the sewer from \$105 to \$109 and the second item is the trash increase from \$57 to \$59. These increases merely pass along the increases already set by the trash hauler and the Sewer authority.

President Mazis stated that the next discussion will be on the Pioneer Fire Company MOU. Solicitor Harter stated that the Pioneer Fire Company has been working with the Borough on the Memorandum of Understanding. There have been some changes that have been made, along with when some financial reports are due back to the Borough. In the prior MOU there was a full audit required by the Fire Company, and they are requesting to have a compilation. There is question on what level of financial review is now to be required. There can be an audit, a review, a compilation, or an internal report of financials, at the last one would be nothing at all, pending on the level of the total budget, there are recommendations concerning the level of review. The higher level of review the higher the cost.

Chief Smith stated that they are looking at doing a compilation. This was recommended to them by the auditor, Sager and Swisher. The end goal is to save money and avoid spending unnecessary funds that can be saved towards new equipment, especially a new truck. Right now, we need to do an audit every other year. If we go to an annual review, then you are paying the same amount in two years, since the cost is half. So, that sort of change would be pointless since the fire company would not be saving any money. They therefore requested that now that we have had a complete audit to move to a compilation that is supplemented by the two-year audits that the PA state does on aspects of their budget.

Council had a lengthy discussion on the audit or review or compilation requirement.

Council member States made a motion to have the Pioneer Fire Company in the MOU amended such that they have a yearly compilation, and they are required to submit the two states audits to the Borough (which are the 990 and the BFC), with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

President Mazis asked for an executive session to go over some litigation that the Borough is undertaking.

Council dismissed for an executive session at 7:55 PM
Council reconvened from an executive session at 8:01 PM

Solicitor Harter informed Council of a pending litigation, with no vote taken.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Bill Dalzell

Council member Dalzell stated the members of the committee were unavailable and also there was no public in attendance, so there was no public comment.

Public Outreach – Rebecca Carroll-Baltozer

Council member Baltozer stated they discussed social media and how that could be implemented to improve communication with citizens. Baltozer stated that we had over 900 people that attended haunted house on Halloween.

Council member Baltozer stated that Lancaster Recumbent Bicycle submitted an event application to have horse drawn carriage rides during the Candlelight tour. Baltozer made the motion to allow the event with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries with Council member States recusing himself.

Council member Baltozer stated that she has an event application to have the Lion Club to install the Christmas lights on November 13 and take the lights down on January 18th. Baltozer made the motion with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Public Safety – Jeffery Marsh

Council member Marsh stated they met on October 28th. They had a discussion on speeding on Market Street and Hazel and Clay. They discussed in the past about a four way stop on Market and Bridge. Marsh was advised by several Council members that this would require a traffic study and an ordinance to put up four way stop signs. Past traffic studies were cited that declared stop signs were not needed on busier street intersections in the Borough, because of the low traffic volume. The Borough would likely spend a considerable sum of money for the study and then probably be denied permission to have the stop sign. The idea was abandoned.

Council member McKinney questioned about vehicles that block the line of sight in pulling out. He was informed that you can call the police if a vehicle is blocking the line of sight.

Solicitor Harter stated that the PennDOT regulations on stop signs have less to do with the line of site and more to do with the number of vehicles that travel the roadway.

Council member Marsh would also like to address the no parking on South Bridge, South Jones, and South Porter. Council decided that no parking signs would be placed on the West side of South Jones, and South Porter between Market and Hazel Avenue. Marsh made a motion to erect no parking signs on South Jones and South Porter on the westside between Market and Hazel with a second from Council member McKinney. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Marsh stated that they also had a discussion on electric vehicle charging cords crossing over sidewalks. Solicitor Harter stated that he checked into this and made suggestions to Council on ordinances that can be implemented. He will get some examples of some ordinances that are currently in place for Council to consider.

Fire Chief Smith stated that the fire company went down to the River Foundry complex, and they found that the location of the fire hydrants is such that they do not have the curbs marked to prevent cars parking in front of the hydrants. Given this situation there is no way that the fire company can hook to a hydrant without damaging a vehicle. He thought that maybe that the Borough could address this with the apartment leasing office.

Public Works – Freddy States

Council member States that he went over with Glenn Orr on the milling work that they are working on. He also went down to Donegal Place and stated there were four parking spaces open and no one parked in the circle. He would still like to look into adding additional parking area. Council member Hudson stated that when he rides his bike in that area that they have a place to park on East Front Street and they only have a short area to walk to their homes. States commented that how amazing that this area looks since the grass has grown in. The speed tables are not speed tables, since they are not elevated. Bradnick stated that these are being looked at and will be redone. The second week of December roadcrew will be doing cracksealing. The skidloader is being serviced. Plow trucks are ready.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Jeffery Marsh – The Sewer Authority met on October 26. They are putting canopies over the entry doors to the plant. There is a drainpipe in the basement that needs to be repaired. The power surge now involves the power company doing a plant grounding study. They are purchasing sewer line markers to indicate where the sewer lines are in certain areas to avoid future problems like those that occurred during the construction of the Marietta Iron Furnace Park.

NWRT Committee – Glen Mazis – There was a meeting on October 27th, but there were no actions taken. The NWRT is asking for a support letter to apply to the state for a “trail of the year” award. Mazis will write a letter tomorrow and send to Hope Byers.

G3 Grant Phase III Committee – Glen Mazis – The construction is coming to an end. The grant will be closed out this week.

Shade Tree Committee – Bill Dalzell – Did not meet.

DCNR Grant (Furnace Road/Donegal Place) – Glen Mazis – Same report, this goes with the G3 Grant. The Borough does have two grant applications pending that were applied for to have the Penncast Tot lot reconstructed and to do a Master Plan for a renovation of War Memorial Park that will also get public input. We should be hearing something soon on both grants.

OLD BUSINESS

No new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Council member Marsh stated that his term is up at the end of the year, but he would like to continue to serve on the Joint Sewer Authority Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Haneman with Rivertownes asked if there is going to be a dedication of the new park on Furnace Road. This will be discussed and looked at doing this in the spring.

Glenn Orr addressed the Council members that are going off Council as their term ends that it was a pleasure working with them.

There being no further business before Council, on a motion by Council member States with a second by Council member McKinney, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer