

Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held October 11, 2022
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA

President Hudson with Council members States, Dalzell, DeBottis, Lauver, Marsh, Mayor Carroll-Baltozer, and solicitor Harter 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 Wills. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lancaster County Commissioner John Trescot – He has been going around to all the Townships and Boroughs to let people know what your local county government does. He filled his position by appointment from Commissioner Lehman leaving. At the end of next year, he will go back into retirement. President Hudson asked Commissioner Trescot what two or three things that the County can do to help Townships and Municipalities. Commissioner Trescot stated that he feels that they can communicate better.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President Hudson asked for a motion to approve the September 13th minutes. Council member States made a motion to accept the September 13th minutes with a second by Council member DeBottis. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – They had for September a total of 17 calls, 32 officers, and 83 duty hours. They are in serious need of volunteers. Halloween will be on Monday, October 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. They will be putting traffic cones down Market Street to slow traffic. They will be outside the Borough office to hand out glow sticks.

Emergency Management Report- he monitored the remains of the hurricane as it moved up the coast towards our area. There were no problems reported. He attended the Hanging with Heroes event in Maytown. Marietta Borough needs to modernize our Emergency Management Plan and then have Council vote on it.

Pioneer Fire Company – Bryon Smith – They ran 10 fire calls and 9 QRS calls for a total of 19 calls. The fire siren goes off whenever they get a call. When the County updated the radios the fire siren goes off for everything now. That is not our control. There pagers do not always go off. Marietta is a dead zone. We have twelve horns on the roof, but they shut off six of the sirens.

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Jeffery Marsh – Council member Marsh reported the balance as of August 31, 2022, was \$12,209.94. Council member Marsh made the motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member States. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Sewer – Freddy States – Council member States gave the report dated September 2022. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$264,613.01 and a checking account balance of

\$9,621.83. Council member States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Marsh. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Recycling – Freddy States – No recycling report submitted.

Treasurer – Sharon Bradnick – The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated October 11, 2022, was presented. The total general fund accounts are \$1,720,249.52. Council member States motioned to approve the report as presented with a second by Council member Miles. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Secretary – Sharon Bradnick – Council received the profit and loss statements for the month of September. At the end of September, we show that our income is \$238,525.45 for the month. January through September we have an income of \$670,964.75.

Liquid Fuels sent out our notice for 2023 stating that we will receive an estimate of \$85,202.43, so if this amount comes in, we will have a total of \$251,505.00 in our liquid fuel account.

Marietta Borough did not receive the Connects 2040 grant for the work from Bank Street to Aaron Ave. Currently we are working on a grant to do the first phase of War Memorial Park once the Master Plan is approved.

Today we received an email for a grant through DCED. We have things on the agenda that we are going to hold off on approving till we see if we get the grant from the county. We will know this by the end of October. If we don't receive this grant to do the last sewer Basin F Phase II, then we can go for the grant through DCED called the PA Small Water and Sewer. We may be able to go through this grant to repair the bridge on Front Street.

Vesta Furnace – Dave Haneman – Haneman stated the board met. They are working on Marietta Art Alive Show called "Songs of Autumn". Lancaster is having the Lancaster Walking Art Show on North Queen Street on October 15th and 16th. The area around the water treatment plant will be leveled off by BN Excavating and this will be very nice. The Pig Iron Fest was held Saturday, September 24th. They are not sure how many came down to the iron furnaces since it was held at the Community Bible Church.

Mayor's Report – Rebecca Carroll-Baltozer – Mayor congratulated Brandon Smith for graduating from paramedic school. The Blues Fest was very nice. She will not be at the next meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President Hudson

President Hudson stated that Donna Hess was at the meeting and had a few questions to clarify on the EMS. Steve Shireman had some things to discuss with the sewer authority and how things were going to be cleaned up around the plant and some issues on some potential raises, but this has since been resolved. The most important thing was how we charge on hooking up to our sewer lines.

Bradnick stated that we discussed with the attorney that when we do an apartment building is when it seems to be the issue. When we do a single-family home, it is one tap, and we charge one tap. When we did the 421 W. Market Street project there was one building and we charged for one tap. The problem is that there were thirty units in that building and we only charged for

one tap, and we should have charged thirty taps.

President Hudson asked if there is a way to rectify this. The attorney stated that we could go back and sue for the difference, but this is after the fact. The documents stated that this is what they owe so you won't be able to go back. Going forward you charge the correct amount.

President Hudson stated that we worked on the personnel policy for hiring. We have okay benefits in some respects and some we lag way behind. The question becomes why we aren't competitive. It's hard to keep good government employees. What came up is that we offer a week's vacation after a year. This is not competitive. This was changed and this was changed after we hired people. This is unethical. They took time away from people that work here now. They would like to update the vacation policy to two weeks after one year, three weeks after five years and four weeks after ten years. This is appendix "B" of the personnel policy. After discussing the vacation policy, Council member States made the motion to change the vacation policy according to appendix "B" and seconded by Council member DeBottis. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

President Hudson stated that what was done was unethical and asked to go back and pay Sharon and Bill for the loss two weeks' vacation from the policy change this would be for one week each for 2015 and 2016. Council member Dalzell made a motion to pay the prior accrued vacation to Sharon and Bill for the two weeks' loss vacation with a second by council member States. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

President Hudson stated that the administrative committee interviewed four people for the job, and we would like to hire Julie Hall, which is from town and has payroll experience and is very pleasant. Council member States made a motion to hire Julie Hall as the new secretary/treasurer with a second by Council member Lauver. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Bill Dalzell

Council member Dalzell was on vacation and did not hold a meeting. Council member Dalzell stated that the Planning Commission has made a recommendation for the Council to move forward to have the Northwest River Trail Committee look into a Forest Plan for the Rivershore.

Council member Dalzell stated the Planning Commission recommends that Borough Council approve the Marietta Trailhead engineer plans per the Borough's engineer review. Mike Huxta with ELA presented the plans of the site that being developed as one lot. The comments have been satisfied except for the waivers one and three. The plan has been updated to meet all the requirements. Council member States recused himself since this pertains to his lot. Council member DeBottis made a motion to accept the Marietta Trailhead engineer plan per the Borough's engineer review with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Outreach – Steven DeBottis

Council member DeBottis stated they had no meeting. Secretary Bradnick stated that we are looking to do a DCNR Grant for the playground area of War Memorial Park. The Master Plan is not complete, but this grant became available, and we would like to move forward to complete a portion of War Memorial Park because we will need to do this in phases.

Council member DeBottis made a motion to approve the Resolution 24-2022 to go for the DCNR Grant for Phase I War Memorial Park Revitalization to the playground, with a second by Council

member States. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Safety – Jeffery Marsh

Council member Marsh stated that there was no attendance at the safety meeting. No report. He attended the police commission meeting, and the School District requested an additional resource officer to be added in January 2023. Currently the MOU between the school and Susquehanna Regional Police Department splits the cost of the resource officer being an 80/20 split. The request is based on the amount of activity that the current resource officer is handling. They are looking for the Borough's consent to move forward with this project. After discussion the Council approved moving forward with a second resource officer for the School District.

Public Works – Freddy States

Council member States stated that they discussed the Evans Run Bridge repair. The men had R&T repair the truck bed on the dump truck for \$60,000 which saved us a lot of money. The grass area by the sewer plant will be taken care in the near future.

Council member States made a motion to assign the \$150,000 fee in lieu of from the 421 E. Market St. project to go towards the match for the DCNR grant for the Tot Lot and to use \$25,000 of the fund balance towards the match with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Jeffery Marsh – He needs approval of the Borough's contribution towards the project around the sewer plant. The sewer plant is paying up to \$4,000 and the rest will be paid by the Borough.

NWRT Committee –Jeffrey Hudson – No meeting until October.

Shade Tree Committee – Bill Dalzell – Dalzell met last month and is working on more education and outreach. They are working on a survey and working on adding more trees to our tree list.

War Memorial Park – Freddy States – We met and are still working on the final plans. The next meeting will be October 19th at 6:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Bradnick stated that we received a call and an email from LIHWAP. The Borough does not belong to this. A residence in the Borough applied for this but the Borough does not belong so she is asking council if we want to look into this and go through the IRS to get the paperwork needed to become a vendor that in the future if anyone in the Borough applies then we would be able to receive payments. Council member States made the motion to move forward to become a vendor if this comes in next year with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rae Ann Schatz – the minutes that Council just approved. How many pages did you approve because her copies are missing some pages. The council agreed that the minutes were missing some pages and will approve the minutes at the next Council meeting.

Gene Hilton – 566 W. Market St. – ask for further explanation on the charging of tapping fees to Marietta Borough's sewer lines.

Steve Shireman – W. Walnut St. – for clarification the tapping fee is not what it sounds like. The tapping fee is for recouping pass maintenance repairs to the system. It's how we maintain the system. We need to all be on the same page. After a lengthy discussion on the way tapping fees are charged, the council will need to move forward with a new resolution on the tapping fees and a formula that the engineer needs to recalculate for the tapping fees.

Steve Shireman stated that he appreciates what the council did for the vacation and everything, but you still have a disgruntled employee who has lost time and he did not hear where you are going to make her right. Council member States stated that we are going to go through the personnel policy and make everything right. What is your auditor going to say when you took it in 2015 and now, you're going to pay it at the current rate. Should this be prorated, this should all be looked at.

Council member Marsh stated that we should continue to look at the rest of the personnel policy.

There being no further business before Council, on a motion by Council member States with a second by Council member Dalzell, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer