

Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held October 10, 2023
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA

President States with Council members Wills, Hudson, Marsh, Dalzell, DeBottis and Mayor Carroll Baltozer present, called the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Marietta Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM. Absent were Council member Lauver and Solicitor Harter. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harold Kulman – West Market St. – wanted to bring up a concern at Bridge and Market Street. A lady that works with his daughter was involved in an accident there. She was going South on Market Street, she turned left, someone came up over the hill because they couldn't see there and hit her. Her car was totaled. Harold stated he was there a couple of nights ago and he was almost hit. You can't see at that intersection. You have to go way out into Market Street. President States stated that we have talked about traffic studies for years and just learned that we don't necessarily have to hire an engineering firm to do a traffic study, unless it has to do with height restrictions for trucks, weight restrictions for bridges, and there was one more category that he couldn't remember at the moment. President States stated that you can actually have your local Police, or your Public Works department can do the traffic studies. We are sending our roadmaster and his coworker to a course in November to learn how to do our own traffic studies. President States stated that due to the 421 apartments that were recently built, adding a lot more traffic, plus the fact that it is one of the routes to come down Bridge Street, where you cross the trail, and the trailhead facilities is probably going to be there in the near future. That will draw even more traffic to the intersection. Because of that, Bridge and Market would be a good intersection to add a 4-way stop. New Haven Street and Market is another intersection where we would put a 3-way stop. This intersection is also a dangerous one with people flying through the S-bend, it's where the Post Office is, Molly's Café is, which brings in a lot of traffic and it's also where the Borough Office is. Another intersection is Bank and Market. It's where the senior housing is and it's where you come in and out of town to go to the gas stations. This would merit another 4-way stop. Adding these stop signs along Market Street would be pretty evenly spaced stops coming through town. We will be working toward doing this in the near future.

Harold also stated that the Gulf Cart Ordinance states that gulf carts shall be permitted in all alleys and North South Street. The alleys are not named alleys, like Hazel. It's Hazel Avenue. A while ago the Borough could not get any state monies for alleys, there was no funding. All of a sudden everybody said we were going to change and then the state started handing out money. So, they became streets, in the sense that they were 8-9 feet wide. That made it legal to be named streets. What are the Police going to do if they give a citation in an alley. President States stated that we looked at our old ordinance versus the new one, and it states that alleys, avenues, all fall under side streets. You can ride on all side streets in a golf cart. Harold presented President States with the entire ordinance for Myrtle Beach. Harold thought we could pull some things out of that ordinance, that would be really helpful.

Judith Kennedy – Front Street – wanted to check the status of the maintenance of the flapper valves. She noticed a lot of debris that would obstruct the flapper valves or flood mitigation. President States stated that the roadcrew does have that due to the leaves coming down, on their list to start clearing them on a regular basis.

Bill Newcomer – Donegal Place - last 1 ½ years having a problem getting his sewer and trash bills. Three times in a year and a half. Luckily the first two times he caught it ahead of time and came down to the Borough Office and paid them. This last time he missed it. He received a late notice and came down to the Borough Office and stated it was not his fault that he didn't receive the bill and he was not paying the \$22.85 late fee. Bill stated that its not the money, it's the principle. He stated that the notice was marked on Tuesday, and he received it on Friday. He came back in on Monday, and he paid for it. Ronda marked it paid for \$174.00. He gets a bill for this quarter and \$22.85 is on the bill. The day after he paid the bill, he receives the bill. It's not postmarked or anything, it was just in his mailbox. Mayor Carroll Baltozer stated that his has happened to her and President States stated that it has also happened to him as well. Bill stated that he doesn't feel he is to blame and shouldn't have to pay the late fee. Secretary/Treasurer Hall stated that the Borough isn't to blame either. She stated that once the bills are mailed out, the Borough has no control

when the residents receive them. Bill stated that he even went to the post office, and he received the standard post office speech. Mayor Carroll Baltozer suggested that we could put notices on our social media when we mail out the bills. Bill asked that we rescind the \$22.85. Bill stated that someone generates these bills and should be able to do that. Steve Ulrich, MABA, suggested that maybe we could look into online bill pay. Secretary/Treasurer Hall stated that we would love to do that, the problem is sewer and trash are on one bill but go into two different sides of billing. East Donegal is having a horrible time with their online bill pay. It is something we are looking into. Bill asked who makes the decision to waive the late fee? President States stated that the problem is if we do it for one, we would need to do it for everyone. Bill stated then those people should come to Council like he is. President States stated that then we would a thousand people coming saying the same thing. Bill stated that he is asking to stop this from happening and to rescind the \$22.85. President States stated that we can't guarantee that. What he can promise is that we will look into making it a better system. Bill stated that that doesn't help him one bit. Someone generates the bills, so someone has to say to put the late fee on the bill. Secretary/Treasurer Hall stated that the late fee gets automatically put on the bill the day after the due date. It's built into the system that way. Bill stated that we have until the 4th of November, because he does not want to pay it. It's not the money, it's the principle and this is going to happen two more times. Council member DeBottis stated that this has happened to him as well and what he now does is put a reminder on his calendar, so his phone lets him know that the bill is due. It gives him a heads up a few days ahead of time. Bill said he had put a reminder on his phone but this time he didn't. Bill stated that this is robbing people and it's not right. He asked who generates the bills? Secretary/Treasurer Hall stated that Ronda generates and mails out the bills. She prints them out from a program and mails them. Council member Dalzell stated that this is the reason when they have to send out a citation, they use certified mail so that if it's not received by the legally required date, it can be proven that it wasn't received. In this case, there is no way to prove that. Council member Dalzell stated that he isn't doubting Bill and doesn't want him to think for one second that he is, it's just that it can't be proven and the best we can offer is to try to fix the system, so it doesn't happen again. Bill stated if it happens again, guess where he will be? He won't take no for an answer next time.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President States asked for a motion to approve the September 12th minutes. Council member Dalzell made a motion to accept the September 12th minutes with a second by Council member DeBottis. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – A total of 26 calls, 36 officers, and 93 duty hours. Responded to 13 fire related calls, 7 accidents, 4 meetings & trainings, and 2 public services. We need volunteers as always. We have 2 new applications this month. The applications are at the fire house right now and hopefully they will be taken in. That will give us 3 new officers. We are prepared for Halloween. Will be putting cones down the whole length of Market Street to slow traffic down and will be handing out glow sticks. Steve stated that they were at the open house at the fire house, and it was a nice event. Tomorrow night they will be at the Maytown fire house.

Emergency Management Report – On September 27th, Steve attended a training session out at County. It was held by the Mennonite Disaster Service. Steve said this was something he didn't even know existed. It was supposed to be a two-hour presentation, and they were there over three hours. It was a very interesting presentation. He left with a lot of information that we can use in the event of a disaster in the Borough. He has all their contact information and will go into our file if we should ever need them. They are a church-based group, they are Mennonite, Amish and Brethren combined and some of the information Steve found, is that after a disaster, they will send an investigative group out if we call for them. They are not like the habitat group where they will rebuild a house and give it to someone for low cost. This group will build a house for people with no insurance or underinsured and completely pay for it. They have two major warehouses and over 300 vehicles and trailers all over the United States and Canada that they will send out. They gave a video presentation and Steve stated that his favorite part was that there was a trailer where

they put 8 people in at a time and it gives the sensation of being inside a tornado. It was unbelievable. The link to their website is here and what is really interesting is that their main base is out of Lititz.

Pioneer Fire Company — For the month of September they did 17 Fire Calls and 13 QRS Calls for a total of 30 calls. Thank you to everyone who came out last night for the open house. A very good turnout. We are noticing we are getting more gas leaks lately so please keep an eye on your gas in your house.

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Jeffery Marsh - The reported balance as of July 31, 2023, was \$10,899.90. Total withdrawals were \$1,853.88. Total deposits were \$5,500.00 from the Borough. Balance as of August 31, 2023, is \$14,546.02. Council member DeBottis made the motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Wills. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Sewer –Freddy States – President States gave the report dated September 2023. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$433,021.55. Total receipts \$10,011.81. Interest \$11.75. Total receipts and interest are \$10,023.56. Disbursements \$234,266.68. Ending balance of \$208,778.43. Checking account beginning balance \$1,493.65. Total receipts \$5,000.00, interest \$0.04. Total receipts and interest are \$5,000.04. Disbursements \$281.75. Ending balance \$6,211.94. The monthly ending balance breakdown as of September 30, 2023, checking account is \$6,211.94, money market-savings is \$208,778.43 for a grand total of \$214,990.37.

President States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Schedule B Monthly Municipal Report for the month of August 2023. Single Stream 19560 lbs. LCSWMA, Yard Waste 1240 lbs. Blue Lane – Columbia Borough. 22900 total pounds recycled, 11.45 equivalent tons, 78.67 tons of refuse collected. President States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Schedule B Monthly Municipal Report for the month of September 2023. Single Stream 21660 lbs. LCSWMA, Yard Waste 1920 lbs. Blue Lane – Columbia Borough. 21480 total pounds recycled, 10.74 equivalent tons, 66.73 tons of refuse collected. President States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member DeBottis. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer – Julie Hall – The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated 10/5/23, 2023, was presented to council. The total general fund accounts are \$721,645.19.

Secretary – Julie Hall – Council received the profit and loss statements for the months January–September. At the end of September, we show that our income is \$123,770.10 for the month.

Council member Dalzell motioned to accept the treasurer/secretary report as presented with a second by Council member Hudson. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Zoning – Ron Kistler – no report

Vesta Furnace – Dave Haneman – Canal Panel has not been delivered yet.

River Spirit will be moved to a museum someplace. We are not sure where. It is not coming to Columbia or Marietta.

Pig Iron Fest/Car/Dog Show was held on 9/30 at Community Bible Church. We contacted Chiques Rock Outfitters and they had a driver use one of their shuttles to shuttle folks from the church down to the Vesta. James Landis rode the shuttle giving historical information about the Watts and Musselman homes. There were 3 shuttles. One at 11am, one at noon and one at 1pm. That worked out really well.

We do have some projects for the Rotary Club. There are some dead trees around the area of the Vesta and also need to get some funding for the PA Mile Marker historical panel.

Thank you to Steve Uhrich for heading up the LNP Sunday news ad. Very nice job.

There are two directional signs for the old furnace trail and then Marietta #1, which is right next to the treatment plant. There is a walking trail that goes back through there and folks can see the remains of both those furnaces.

Columbia High School Scholarship Fund form has been submitted.

Delivered posters advertising the showing of two presentations, Medusa and Turquoise Island. Turquoise Island was shot at the Marietta Iron Furnace Park. Presentations are free. Donations will be given to non profit organizations in Lancaster County.

Chief Uncas will be running the boat tours until the end of this month.

462 Bridge has a weight limit of 10 tons due to the condition of the bridge. Repairs are now planned for 2025.

We have two porch brackets from the Musselman Vesta that we would like to sell. They checked with New Jersey Shell to see how much it would cost to cast one or two new ones. They would cost up to \$1000.00 for one.

Marita Hines Gallery "Night Trees" will be starting this coming Friday. It's a show that had 115 artists submit work and they accepted 45. Those pieces of art will be on display until the weekend before Thanksgiving. Plaques that were at the square have been relocated to the Union Meeting House and placed on the original stone markers.

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Sherry and Dave attended the PA Preservation Trust seminar a couple of weeks ago. The keynote speaker from the Skelly Preservation Services listed a number of things that communities should be doing and looking at preservation. He had listed 54 suggestions of what counties can do as far as community, local and state nonprofits, planning and school groups. Dave went through the list and highlighted all the ones that he thinks Marietta has done. Out of 54 listings, we have done 18 of them between all of our organizations in town. He suggests we look through the list and see if there are more things, we can do to bring people into our town.

Mayor's Report – Rebecca Carroll Baltozer – Tot lot looks amazing. It was fantastic to see young children enjoying the new park.

Mayor Carroll Baltozer wants to remind everyone that we have meetings when we are planning a new/revised park to put together a plan for the parks. We do this as a community and ask residents to give feedback and what they want in their communities. The last master plan meeting zero residents attended. We received feedback for National Night Out. We did an Open House at the fire company for the beginning of Fire Prevention Week. It was an amazing night. There was a line of children for at least 1 hour to get fire truck rides. Mayor Carroll Baltozer also received her first fire truck ride.

A lot of events are happening this weekend. We have the yard sales, Haunted Marietta on the 27th & 28th, parade will start at 5:15pm at the square.

Working on a Police budget and should have that finalized within the next month.

Last night at the fire safety meeting, Mayor Carroll Baltozer learned that none of the team have the fire safety texts that goes through David DeVitry for the Marietta alarm. This has been active for approximately six years. You can get a text message for free every time our alarm goes off. David DeVitry runs our Marietta Facebook page, so you can send him your phone number and cell phone carrier and he will add you to the list.

Mayor Carroll Baltozer wanted to let Bill Newcomer know that she has also had the same issue with her sewer/trash bills. Marietta Borough is going to put it on their website and Facebook page when the bills go out as a reminder. She is aware that this isn't for everyone, but maybe it will help some.

Election day is November 7th. Please vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President States

President States stated that he pretty much already went over everything. We discussed how traffic studies are done and who is legally allowed to do them, which intersections we would like to add. We also talked about where you turn from Clay onto East Front Street, there is no stop sign. It's treated as one street. We are looking into the possibility of putting a stop sign there and also on Perry Street. Perry Street is a 2 way where you turn on two different streets and there are no stop signs. Council member Dalzell asked is this is just a way that we can do the traffic studies at a more reasonable rate. President States stated that you have to do a traffic study to change your ordinance no matter what. Every time we hire an engineering firm to do the traffic study. Marietta doesn't have enough traffic to warrant what constitutes, PennDOT wise, a stop sign or light. We don't have to go through an engineering firm, we can go through our local police department and put together a traffic study. We do need to find a template that we can use to do so. East Donegal has all the equipment since they do their own traffic studies. We are waiting on Jeff Butler's agreement on allowing us to use their equipment and to showing our roadcrew how to do it.

President States asked for motion to approve payment #2 for the Tot lot for \$79,481.05 and payment #3 for \$12,856.03. Council member Dalzell asked if these were the final payments and did we do a final walk through? President States stated that yes, these are the final payments, and we did do a walkthrough with the contractors and Ann Yost. Secretary Hall stated that she doesn't think this is the final walkthrough due to a sign that has been delayed and will need installed and two of the shade sails have small holes in them that will also need replaced. Vice President Hudson made a motion to approve the two payments for the tot lot with a second from Council member Dalzell. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

We put out an ad to hire a housing officer. Jody Shaffner has been hired. Jody actually worked as our secretary/treasurer for many years. She knows the borough very well and is already familiar with housing. President States motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Dalzell. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Bill Dalzell – discussed the topic of traffic common. We will continue to educate ourselves and hopefully share more information with Council including possible grant opportunities to implement some of these ideas. Council member Dalzell would like to point out that Steve Bailey will be putting out cones down Market Street for the Halloween parade. That is a traffic common place. So, think about that when we talk about something like this.

Public Outreach – Vice President Hudson

Vice President Hudson stated that they did not have a meeting last month. A brief note is that they are working on a walking tour that people can take through Marietta. Vice President Hudson has tentatively decided on a route. He will meet with Dave Hannaman to see if that route is the best one.

Public Safety – Miles Lauver – no meeting

Public Works – Jeff Marsh – had a short meeting tonight. Council member Marsh stated that we need to make a motion to increase the sewer bill per quarter by \$4.00. \$2.00 goes to Marietta Donegal Joint Authority and \$2.00 to Marietta Borough. President States stated that anytime there is an increase from the Joint Authority, Marietta matches it. Council member Dalzell asked when was the last time it was increased? Vice President Hudson asked when the increase would take place? Council member Marsh stated that it would take place the first of the year. Council member Marsh made a motion to increase the sewer bill by \$4.00 with a second from Council member DeBottis. Motion carried by voice vote.

Council member Marsh made a motion to increase the capacity of one EDU to 278 West Market St., rear, for an in-law quarters. Council member Dalzell seconded the motion. Motion carries by voice vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Jeffery Marsh – plant is running well. The tanks were cleaned out and it has increased the performance of the plant since that was done. We are looking at replacing our sludge press and we received three bids for it. The staff is going over them and we hope to be able to come back with a recommendation in the next month or so.

Shade Tree Committee – Bill Dalzell – they will be receiving 10-15 trees they will be planting for Marietta residents. They will be for spring planting. We will also be resuming our volunteer days along the trail probably in January. Council member Dalzell will get back to us with more details when he has it. They are also working on developing a strategic plan for the Shade Tree Commission. The primary goals that have been identified we are most able to set forth in the ordinance that created the Commission, to increase the street trees in the Borough, , to improve the health of preparing the forest along the river, and to sustain the Commission itself.

MESA – Vice President Hudson – Vice President Hudson stated there was an open public meeting on the 28th. The meeting on how Mesa came to assess the fees that they are going to assess. The whole process was laid out. Afterwards people were able to ask questions about it. The lawyer for MESA answered most of the questions. There wasn't anyone from Marietta who voiced any concerns.

War Memorial Park – President Freddy States – President States stated that we are still waiting on the tennis/pickleball courts to be completed. Hopefully they will have that done in the very near future.

We will continue to be applying for grants over the next year to try to keep War Memorial Park moving in the right direction. President States was approached before the meeting by the football organization that plays there and they would like to make some changes, on their own, that they would finance. We just have to meet with them and Ann Yost to make sure we aren't going outside of our Master Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Ross – Fairview Avenue – Just wanted to add to what Council Member Dalzell said. We may have some trees available as early as November. The problem is we don't know yet. If there is enough, and anyone interested in a free tree, be on the lookout for notification from the Shade Tree Committee.

Judith Kennedy – Front Street – how does the public get notified of meetings like the one for War Memorial Park? Is it on the Borough website? Council member Dalzell stated that it will be posted on the board outside the office, as well as on the Borough website and announced at the Council meetings. President States also stated that all public meetings get posted in the LNP as well.

Stephanie Privette – West Market Street – Stephanie stated that she is a professional licensed traffic engineer who has worked in the field for 28 years and would be more than happy to assist in anyway she can concerning the traffic studies.

President States made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Council member Dalzell. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Hall
Secretary/Treasurer