

Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held April 9, 2024
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Shireman – West Walnut Street – Steve wanted to extend an apology to Council if he said anything out of line at last month's meeting. Steve stated that he served in the military and is all about free speech, however, he felt the meeting got a little ridiculous at the end and he lost his cool, so he does apologize. Steve also wanted to thank the road crew for patching the potholes on Bridge Street. This is a big thing for the Memorial Day Parade. Steve asked if he could speak after Council Robbins gives his Joint Sewer Authority report. He has some updates he would like to provide.

Linda Ross –Fairview Avenue – Linda wanted to remind everyone that there will be a memorial tree planting for Lillian Hill on Arbor Day, which is April 26th at 7pm. Linda stated that they are grateful for all the donations, and they will go to not just the tree, but a very nice bronze plaque. She stated that she was advised that they should request some cones to be set up because of a possible crowd at the S-bend. President States asked Steve Bailey if he would be available and if not, he could ask the road crew to set up some cones. The event will be right at the bottom of the S-bend. Steve Bailey stated we probably should have something at the top of the S-bend as well. Steve stated that he would take care of it.

Mike Aument – Gay Street – Mike stated that it would be nice if the Borough could do something at Prospect Alley where it comes off at Gay Street. About 3 years ago we graded and put blacktop grindings in it and really fixed the problem. It is really getting bad again. President States stated that he would talk to the road crew.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President States asked for a motion to approve the March 12th minutes. Council member Kennedy pointed out some spelling corrections that needed to be made to the minutes. Council member Robbins made a motion to accept the March 12th minutes with the mentioned corrections made, with a second by Council member Kennedy. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Ross stated that the Quick Draw event scheduled for this weekend, may not happen. We are to get 30 mph winds. They are going to wait until tomorrow to make that decision. President States asked if it would be moved inside. Linda stated that they don't have anywhere to move it to. President States stated that the Cherry Blossom Festival on Front Street between McCleary's and the River Trail, the streets are shut down. There are about 50-60 vendors at this point, 8 food trucks, there will be stages at both ends and in the middle with bands playing from 1-6pm. There will be games for kids and a lot of artists and vendors. It should be a really good time for families.

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – A total of 12 calls, 42 officers, and 91.5 duty hours. Responded to 6 fire related calls, 4 accidents, 2 meetings & trainings. We need volunteers as always. Anyone who wants to borrow traffic control items must ask early or they may not be available.

The fire police truck has been inspected and is ready for service. We are already scheduled for quite a few public service events and are booked up for Memorial Day.

Emergency Management Report – Steve took a class on terrorism and cyber terrorism at County with the two

officers from the PA Criminal Investigative Center. They gather, analyze, and share information. They say if you see something, say something. They stress to be careful of what you post on social media. They warn not to put on social media that you are going away on vacation. This is an open invitation for thieves to break into your house. Another is the little stickers that you put on the back of your car with little stick figures. That tells criminals who lives in your house and could lead to a kidnapping. The crooks are out there always watching. In cyber terrorism, they showed all sorts of gizmos that are out there. When you are on vacation, be careful with ATMS and where you use your credit cards. Make sure you check your bank accounts when you get back from vacation. They showed something called Flipper Zero that can take your information and you don't even know it. They also showed something called a Raspberry Pi. You can pick one up for \$60. They showed a video where they hooked it up to an ATM and it bypasses your bank and also tapped into more ATMs.

Steve took our 5-year plan to County and they looked it over and were very happy with it. Steve and some of the Council members went over the 5-year plan for emergencies in town and the County Director was very happy with the plan and some of the recommendations we made. Steve submitted the plan and presented Council with a copy to go into our file. In September, County has an outside company that is going to put together all the plans in Lancaster County and then they will be put out for public view. In October, the draft will go to PA Emergency Management, and they will look it over. From there, it will go to FEMA and then finally, it will come back to Lancaster County. In January of 2025, is when it will go out for adoption.

Pioneer Fire Company — No report

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Dan Robbins – The reported balance as of January 31, 2024, was \$1,829.09. Total withdrawals were \$4,202.79. Total deposits were \$5,500.00 from the Borough. Balance as of February 29, 2024, is \$3,126.30. Council member Wills made the motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Vice President Hudson. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Sewer – Freddy States – President States gave the report dated March 2024. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$306,971.53. Total receipts \$10,035.67. Interest \$13.15. Total receipts and interest are \$10,048.82. Disbursements \$8,075.95. Ending balance of \$308,944.40. Checking account beginning balance \$4,543.02. Total receipts \$2,000.00, interest \$0.01. Total receipts and interest are \$2,000.01. Disbursements \$4,335.79. Ending balance \$2,207.24. The monthly ending balance breakdown as of March 31, 2024, checking account is \$2,207.24, money market-savings is \$308,944.40 for a grand total of \$311,151.64. Council member Robbins motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Vice President Hudson. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Schedule B Monthly Municipal Report for the month of March. Single Stream 20540 lbs. LCSWMA. 20540 total pounds recycled, 10.27 equivalent tons. 64.98 tons of refuse collected. Vice President Hudson motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Robbins. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer – Julie Hall – The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated April 3, 2024, was presented to council. The total general fund accounts are \$302,710.04.

Secretary – Julie Hall – Council received the profit and loss statements for the months January–March. At the end of March, we show that total our income is 34,675.22 for the month. Council member Wills motioned to accept the treasurer/secretary report as presented with a second by Council member Robbins. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Zoning – Ron Kistler – no report

Vesta Furnace – Dave Haneman – Dave presented Council with copies of some of the projects they will be working on. One is the Mile Marker panel that was located out in the meadow. They would like to place it out in the meadow but need to make sure that we have a panel that would explain it. Another project was the grating that was placed over the openings down at the Furnace complex. They had been open since Dave has been involved. They now have steel plates over them. They were cleaned out and mulch placed around them. The 3rd project is the new panels they would like to place in the Vesta that are more self-explanatory.

They have presented all this to the Eater Foundation for some funding.

Quick Draw starts tomorrow. Riverfest is the end of June. Musselman Vesta is now open on Sunday. Linda Ross did a really great project at the Gallery on March 17th. Eastern High School is going to offer a scholarship for Rivertownes this year.

James Landis will give a lecture on April 18th on the Vinegar Ferry. The dedication of the Ray McKeby, Old Town Museum will take place on Marietta Day.

Mayor's Report – Rebecca Carroll Baltozer – wanted to take a moment to thank Bill Roberts for his service to the community, to Council over the years and as being our Chief of Police. He has passed and there will be a service for him at the Community House on April 13th.

Mayor Carroll Baltozer thanked Council member Kennedy for the bike grant we received and Steve Bailey, the community, and the road crew for all the flood watch, closing down the trail and keeping everyone safe while we had high water.

Officer Rudy was named Officer of the Year.

Mayor Carroll Baltozer stated that the SRPD moved their investments. They moved their bank accounts to get more interest. She recommends the Administrative Committee look at Positive Pay that the bank offers for accounts with more than \$250,000.00. We have the best detectives in our police force and they feel that we should get this.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President States

President States stated they did not meet this past month. President States stated that we were contacted by a member of the board at the Silk Mill about a tree we have at War Memorial Park. The tree is leaning out and is against the Silk Mill. They asked that we have that trimmed. We received a quote from Love's Tree Service for \$650.00 to have the tree cut back and remove all the dead from it. President States asked for a motion to approve that work be done. Council member Robbins motioned to accept the bid from Love's Tree Service with a second by Vice President Hudson. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Judith Kennedy – Judith stated that the committee met last month. They addressed the \$1,300.00 bike grant they received for a bike rack and repair station. The Zoning Officer was informed and considered the location around the Borough building for the bike rack in compliance with the sidewalk regulations and the ADA requirements. The repair station will be located at the east end of Furnace Road. The equipment has been ordered and will be installed by the Borough.

The Committee continued their review of Resolution 02-2021 to identify already completed projects since the initiation of the plan. There was some address of flood mitigation and completed projects, such as the flapper valves, and the potential goal of a pumping station at Evans Run. This would require contact with Jim Sargen and Freddy States of the Flood Control Project Committee. More research is needed for the feasibility of such a project for a possibility of 2025, given available grants. An agreement on whether to move forward on this plan has yet to be determined.

They briefly reviewed the Pennsylvania Municipal Leaders Funding and Resource Guide and Resource Guide for First Responders. Council member Wills volunteered to digitize the guide. Since then, a digitized guide was found online. They discussed the value of contacting County and State officials' staff very early in any grant request even in the contemplation state of planning.

Public Comment – a concern was raised about the need for continued identification of blighted properties in the Borough and communication with the zoning officer.

Recreation & Public Outreach – Vice President Hudson – Vice President Hudson stated that committee met. Vice President Hudson gave a brief update on the Marietta History Hike. They planned a little for the June 15th Clean-up Day which will be from 9am-12pm. This is part of Lancaster County Conservancy's Water Week sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay who will provide bags and gloves. This will be concentrated on cleaning up along the Susquehanna and Evans Run. They will meet at the Chestnut Street overpass. There might be some overlap in participants with the Shade Tree Commission.

They discussed the need to improve/revise/replace the Borough website. They also discussed the use and purchase of vests for the use of volunteers in Borough activities. Bright vests might help with safety. Things that came up were cost, storage, who would get them and would everyone who volunteers for any Borough activity

wear one? The Shade Tree Commission could pioneer the use of the vests by purchasing some vests this year for use in their activities. We need to know if people are going to wear them before we make a purchase. We had some picnic tables that needed to be replaced at War Memorial Park. The American Legion generously donated \$700.00 to help with this. We greatly appreciate their donation. Mayor Carroll Baltozer stated that Donegal Softball reached out to her asking if they could paint the dugouts green and white. They would do it with their own money.

Vice President Hudson presented the Mid-Summer Band Jam special event application that was already approved. They need to change the date to Saturday, August 24th. The time is the same. Council member Robbins made the motion to approve the date change with a second by Council member Kennedy. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Vice President Hudson presented a special event application Trailside Market from May 18th to September 28th. There was an issue of people wandering onto the road. President States addressed the issue with the organizer of the event. The conditions Vice President Hudson put on the application is that the vendor stands will be pushed back further from the road for safety purpose. They need to provide a certificate of their liability insurance. Council member Wills made the motion to approve pending they provide their liability insurance, with a second by Council member Kennedy. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Vice President Hudson presented a special event application Marietta Fireworks to be held on July 4th. They do have their insurance. Council member Kennedy made the motion to approve with a second by Council member Robbins. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Safety – Miles Lauver – no meeting

Public Works – Dan Robbins – Council member Robbins stated they had their meeting at 6pm tonight with our roadmaster, Bill Haldeman present along with Council President States and himself. They reviewed and discussed the bids for trimming the tree at the Silk Mill.

We hired Jeff Lighty for our part-time seasonal mowing position. This position is approximately 10-12 hours a week. Bill reported that all the machines for mowing have been maintained and had their spring tune-ups. Council member Robbins mentioned that there is a large pile of mulch on Front Street that the road crew will look into getting taken care of. They also were cold patching some potholes that needed to be taken care of.

Council member Robbins presented an application for 3 additional EDUs at 111 West Market Street for Brian and Rebecca Flattery.

Council member Robbins asked for a motion to approve the additional EDU's. Council member Wills made a motion to approve the 3 additional EDUs with a second from Vice President Hudson. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Robbins presented a proposal from SA Way to clean the flapper valves. The quote is approximately \$1,800.00 for 2 days. Council member Wills made a motion to approve SA Way to clean the flapper valves with a second from Vice President Hudson. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Dan Robbins - Council member Robbins stated that the plant is running well. Council member Robbins stated that they talked about a four-gas meter, which is a device that goes off if there is unsafe gasses that you can't smell or detect or see. If the meter goes off, it could save your life. They did not have any of those. They went 50/50 with East Donegal Sewer Authority and bought one.

Steve Shireman, chairman of the MDJA, stated that what Council member Robbins stated was correct. The plant is running fine, we are meeting all our permits on the out fluent side. However, we are getting reports from DEP that the stuff coming into the plant is unacceptable. We get graded on this. Steve stated that they have been watching this for the last several years. They do a chapter 94 report every year and the numbers have been growing. They try to find out what has been contributing to this number. They have come up with

2 options they are trying to investigate. Number one is grease traps in Marietta residences and restaurants. The other thing could be that we are 98% complete with lining our pipes, East Donegal is about 50%. They can see the numbers growing as we are lining these pipes. The stuff coming down is more condensed, it's not watered down like it used to be. Keep in mind that what we send in the river is well below the limits.

The effect of this number is that if it gets too high, they will shut us down. They will not let us build another house in East Donegal or Marietta Borough. Steve just wanted to let us know the situation. The plant is 100% safe, but we are exceeding the limits coming into the plant.

Shade Tree Commission – Judith Kennedy – Council member Kennedy stated that the meeting was canceled and rescheduled for April 17th. Vine cutting volunteer day occurred in the floodplain forest on Saturday, March 16th. There was a very good representation of the Borough. Approximately 15 volunteers participated. Since the last meeting, the Shade Tree Commission responded to a few residents regarding street tree care and selection. The Commission's retired landscape architect was able to meet with them and answer their questions. The April 17th agenda items will include organizational structure and since the Commission is now much more active than it was 2 years ago, that means membership and terms of service according to the Ordinance and public announcement of the openings as they occur. Ongoing planning and preparation for the following: Marietta Day as per last month's report; April 20th Volunteer Day Tree Planting; volunteer communication and collaboration with the Beautification Committee; debris management as needed in communication and collaboration with road crew; editing the Marietta suggested street tree list for availability on Borough website. They located a couple good examples of that on Columbia Shade Tree Commission and also Harrisburg City breaking it down into large, medium, and small trees. They have a very thorough description of what kind of trees would be appropriate for streets and what kind would be appropriate for the floodplain. This would be available on the Borough website once completed.

War Memorial Park – President Freddy States – President States stated that hopefully in the next month or so, we will be applying for at least one grant for War Memorial Park this year. The tennis courts and pickleball courts are fully open. Keys are available for \$5.00.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Ross – Fairview Avenue – Linda stated that when Council member Kennedy talked about the road crew and collecting debris, what we are talking about is to get as soon as possible, volunteers to not just work in the forest, but also along the streets. There are vines on a lot of trees, and they are going to kill the trees. Linda stated that they would like to offer some volunteers to help with that. Their question is then what would happen to all the vines that are taken off? Would the landowner be responsible? Solicitor Harter asked if Linda was talking about going onto a resident's property to remove the vines? Linda stated that it would be with their permission. Solicitor Harter wanted to clarify that it would be trespassing if the owner of the property didn't give their permission. Council member Kennedy stated that it would only be with the owner's consent.

Raeann Schatz – Fairview Avenue Raeann stated that she noticed there was nothing on the agenda for this month. She asked Viced President Hudson if he could give a report on the percentage of people that paid timely and where we stand. Vice President Hudson stated that they meet every 2 weeks, all the percentages are different for the 6 boroughs and townships involved. Offhand, Vice President Hudson stated that he thought it was in the 70-79th percentile. Vice President Hudson stated that he would get back to Raeann. He also stated that Mark Hershey and Scott Kingsboro were very happy with the large increase in the number of people that were paying. At that time, 421 had not paid yet. Once they do, that will make a huge difference.

Presidents States made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Vice President Hudson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Hall
Secretary/Treasurer