

Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held May 14, 2024
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Clark – East Market Street – Joe stated that the property on the corner of Front Street and Gay Street, really needs to be taken care of. The weeds are extremely high and there is a truck with flat tires and out of inspection that has been there for months without being moved. He stated that it really looks bad, and we need to do something about it. President States stated that we would talk to our zoning officer about the property and see that it gets taken care of.

Glen Mazis – East Market Street – Glen wanted to second what Joe stated about the property on the corner of Front and Gay Street. Glen stated that it has been months since anything has been done to the yard and it is just a mess. President States stated again that we would forward this to our zoning officer, and he would take care of it.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

President States asked for a motion to approve the April 9th minutes. Council member Robbins made a motion to accept the April 9th minutes, with a second by Council member Wills. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President States stated that at last month's meeting he incorrectly stated that residents could take their debris to Blue Lane in Columbia. Columbia Borough reached out to let us know that this site is only for Columbia residents. President States informed everyone that they could take their debris to Zeager Brothers in Elizabethtown, but there is a charge. The best way to dispose of debris is to get the yard waste bags and tags from the Borough office.

REPORTS

Fire Police/EMA – Steve Bailey – A total of 19 calls, 50 officers, and 112.5 duty hours. Responded to 7 fire related calls, 3 accidents, 3 meetings & trainings and 6 public service calls. We need volunteers as always. The 4 new officers are signed up for the basic class in June and are getting plenty of experience out on calls. Anyone who wants to borrow traffic control items must ask early or you may not get it. The fire police truck has been inspected and is ready for service. We will be doing 4 parades and the following weekend covering a motorcycle run to benefit first responders. Steve stated that Ernie Lehman has turned in his gear. Ernie has been a member of the Fire Police for many, many years. We appreciate all he has done.

Emergency Management Report – Steve stated that after heavy rain for several days, we were under a flood warning. Steve monitored the NWS forecast on the river and kept all the services aware of the situation. On April 5th, the river crested at 48.86 feet, which is just below flood stage. The trail was flooded and there were trees down so we kept the trail closed until the road crew could clear it. Despite our warnings and barricades, citizens and people on bikes still went on the trail. Steve stated that while on his river tours, he met a gentleman from NOAA who was here unofficially, but wanted to see some high water for some personal research he was doing. They talked for a while and Steve had a lot of questions for him. Steve stated that the gentleman was nice enough to send him some info that Steve enclosed in his file.

Steve also presented his certificate for a training class that he took on Hazard Mitigation Planning Overview. This will go into his file.

Pioneer Fire Company — For the month of April there were 25 fire calls, 19 QRS calls for a total of 44 calls.

Pioneer Fire Company Financial Statement – Dan Robbins – The reported balance as of February 29, 2024, was \$3,126.33. Total withdrawals were \$4,788.47. Total deposits were \$5,500.00 from the Borough. Balance as of March 31, 2024, is \$3,837.86. Council member Wills made the motion to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Lauver. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Sewer – Freddy States – President States gave the report dated April 2024. The sewer fund has a savings account balance of \$308,944.40. Total receipts \$93,175.86. Interest \$12.46. Total receipts and interest are \$93,188.32. Disbursements \$231,000.00. Ending balance of \$171,132.72. Checking account beginning balance \$2,207.24. Total receipts \$131,000.35, interest \$0.25. Total receipts and interest are \$131,000.25. Disbursements \$127,851.47. Ending balance \$5,356.02. The monthly ending balance breakdown as of April 30, 2024, checking account is \$5,356.02, money market-savings is \$171,132.72 for a grand total of \$176,488.74. Vice President Hudson motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Council member Robbins. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Schedule B Monthly Municipal Report for the month of April. Single Stream 19740 lbs. LCSWMA, 1620 lbs Blue Lane. 21360 total pounds recycled, 10.68 equivalent tons. 71.37 tons of refuse collected. Council member Wills motioned to accept the report as presented with a second by Vice President Hudson. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer – Julie Hall – The General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated May 7, 2024, was presented to council. The total general fund accounts are \$1,044,337.20.

Secretary – Julie Hall – Council received the profit and loss statements for the months January–April. At the end of April, we show that total our income is \$131,667.60 for the month. Council member Robbins motioned to accept the treasurer/secretary report as presented with a second by Council member Kennedy. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Zoning – Ron Kistler – no report

Vesta Furnace – Dave Haneman – Checks are being presented for Donegal, Columbia, and Eastern for the High School Scholarship. 50 artists from Boston, Kansas City Maryland, New York, Delaware, Virginia, and Pennsylvania attended the Plein Air. There were 15 artists that local residents hosted during the event. Marietta Artists Alive purchased new covers for the display frames. All the colors were the same and additional lighting was also purchased. The meet and greet and show reception went well. Thanks to MAA and the Marietta Community House for their participation in the event. Quick Draw was Saturday under quite windy conditions. 65 pieces of art were displayed with awards given at Marita's Gallery. A total of 394 pieces hung for the show from 50 artists and close to 100 pieces were sold. Cherry Blossom event was a great success. RiverFest is the last weekend in June. Everything is pretty much buttoned up. More people are stepping up to do lectures. They will be running the trolley to Marietta this year so there will be trolley rides talking about the iron furnaces, etc. James Landis will also do one on the brief history of Marietta. The rides are about an hour each. The Maryland State Iron Festival is this weekend. Dave had a presentation on Marietta to the Safe Harbor Citizens Information Committee. There were about 20-25 people in attendance. It went very well. There was a good discussion with Brookfield, who is the new owner of Safe Harbor and Holtwood Dams. James Landis did an excellent presentation on Vinegar Ferry at the East Donegal Township Building. Last month a couple walked in the Vesta, and it was one of the teachers from the 7th and 8th grade class from the Sonlight, a River Brethren school below Farmdale. 17 students and teachers came to the Vesta the next day as a field trip. Groups of up to 25 visited the Vesta as part of a scavenger hunt for Discover Lancaster.

Mayor's Report – Rebecca Carroll Baltozer – no report

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative – President States

President States stated the committee discussed all the grants they are working on right now. We are currently applying for a DCED grant for War Memorial Park. This grant is a max grant of \$250,000.00. Hopefully we get this grant and then we will piggyback the grant with a grant from DCNR in the spring next year, which could get us another \$250,000.00. The Borough would put forth about \$45,000.00.

Ronda is working on a grant with DCED for the sewer lines with ARRO Engineering. Gavin, our engineer, is also working on a 20/40 grant for Front Street so we can continue with that project.

We are also looking at stop signs in multiple committees in areas we would like to place them in town to control a number of issues we have had in different areas. Bridge and Market could be a 4-way stop where the new apartments are. There is a lot of traffic going through there. New Haven and Market could be a 3-way stop. A lot of traffic with the Borough Office, Molly's Café and the Post Office. And the last being Bank and Market. This also could be a 4-way stop where it's a major route coming in from the gas stations and off of 441. We just had an accident there a couple of weeks ago.

President States stated that a memorial tree was planted for Lillian Hill on Market Street at the bottom of the S bend. They received permission from the property owners that live in that house to plant a street tree. We went through all the protocols except for applying for the permit. Typically, we wouldn't need a permit if it went into one of the existing wells, however, those did not work for the tree they were putting in. They had to cut another section of concrete out. This memorial is a wonderful thing for Lillian Hill. There's a plaque there honoring Lillian and they had a great service for her a couple of weeks ago. President States stated that Council has to give them permission, or not, to keep the tree there. President States stated that he is in favor of keeping the tree, but Council needs to vote. Vice President Hudson stated that he spoke to our zoning officer, and he stated that he had some concerns about the tree being in our right of way. Vice President Hudson stated that our zoning officer is very thorough, and he gave him a lot of information about the tree that was planted. Vice President Hudson stated that he then did some research on the type of tree that was planted, and he does have some concerns. There is an electric line right about the tree. It comes right across the street. If the tree gets to the 20-25ft that he read it could grow to, it will go up and get into the electric line. Vice President Hudson stated that anything that anyone does to improve the Borough, there is going to be some problem you can identify with it. There's never been the perfect project. He feels that when someone is trying to beautify the town and also memorialize a citizen, he is never going to vote to take the tree down. His vote is to vote to keep the tree. President States asked for a motion to approve the Shade Tree Application. Council member Kennedy motioned to approve the Shade Tree Application for the memorial tree for Lillian Hill with a second from Council member Robbins. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

President States stated that there is a grant that he would like to apply for through the Lancaster Conservancy. President States stated that he is going to recuse himself from the vote because it is a building he owns. Suzanne Rende, who owns the Artful Nest in town, does wall murals in Harrisburg, the York area, all over the place. President States asked her if she would do one on the property located at 44 West Market St. She would like to do a mural on the whole side of the building. She has done similar things with municipalities, and she suggested we apply for this grant. It is a 50/50 grant on what the project costs. We would have to run it through the Borough, but President States and his business partner would be paying the 50%. It wouldn't cost the Borough anything. It would be a \$22,150.00 project. President States is asking for Council to vote on giving permission to apply for this grant. Vice President Hudson made a motion to apply for the grant, with a second from Council member Lauver. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Planning/Zoning/Environmental – Judith Kennedy

Judith stated that the committee met last month. Council member Kennedy reported on her initial phone conversation with Jim Sargen of the Flood Control Project Committee and former Council member Glen Mazis, regarding 3 phases of flood control and this also fits in with Steve Bailey's Hazard Mitigation program. The first of those 3 phases has been accomplished by installing the 26 flapper vales and ensuring the maintenance of them. Discussion included inviting the Flood Control Committee or meeting with them. They addressed the multi-pronged flood control initiative to include riparian buffer along the streams, Evan's Run along with residential interventions initiated by informed and interested residents about homeowner stormwater interventions. Part of the conversation with Jim Sargen was about the possibility of exploring and researching a pumping station, which would be the 3rd stage.

Council member Kennedy stated that they also wanted to raise again the concern about traffic safety in the

Borough and in the context of the recent accident on Bank and E. Market St. and W. Market and Bridge St. The committee would like to further advocate for 4 way stop signs in those intersections. The issue of blighted properties was raised as a concern and the zoning officer is aware. The committee would like to get information from the zoning officer regarding the next planned assessment of blighted properties. Lastly, they addressed increasing our awareness the report given last Council meeting by Steve Shireman and the Sewer Authority regarding increasing levels of pollutants and potential impact on the future planning in the Borough.

Recreation & Public Outreach – Vice President Hudson – Vice President Hudson stated that committee met. Stephen Scanlon approached the committee with a proposal to help maintain and potentially improve Iron Furnace Park on a volunteer basis. One of the key elements of this proposal would be planting some copses of wildflower bushes which could then serve as cover for birds. Bird habitat was mentioned both by Mr. Scanlon in his presentation and the report. After listening to his presentation and reading through his notes, the committee decided the proposal might have merit. Because it concerns proposed changes to Borough property, it was decided that the proposal in general, and any part of it must be approved by Council and because it specifically concerns the environment, it was decided that PZE would be the appropriate committee for this. Vice President Hudson stated that what they plan on doing is after PZE meets, they could go over this proposal and then put it on next month's agenda as an action item. Since it is Borough property, the Borough has to decide, as a unit, what to do with it.

Vice President Hudson stated that one thing we need to do is to have a very solid system for anytime anyone plans something that would involve work from the road crew. There has to be just one way to get their approval and bring it to their attention. This was discussed and everyone should go through Council member Robbins anytime they want the roadcrew to do work. There needs to be a chain of command and sometimes there can be conflicting demands on the road crew's time. Council member Robbins is in charge of the roadcrew, and he can then direct them as to what is requested and what needs to be done.

Vice President Hudson stated that the committee also talked about improving the Borough's website. Vice President Hudson updated the committee on the efforts of the Administrative Committee to identify a new provider. At the last Administrative meeting, each committee member agreed to visit one borough or township website currently serviced by one of three different providers. We pretty much decided that we need a new website. We looked at the cost and decided to move ahead. After taking a look at the websites, the Administrative Committee will discuss their findings, but the ultimate choice of the website must be heavily influenced by the office staff who will use it.

Vice President Hudson stated that we will be having a Marietta Clean-up Day, and the committee discussed the preparation for the planned June 15th clean-up. Hopefully enough volunteers show up to divide into two groups. One smaller group to work down at Evan's Run and a larger group to work along the banks of the Susquehanna. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will provide gloves and trash bags and fee waivers to dispose of the trash. Vice President Hudson presented a special event application for the Children's Festival on June 1st at the Marietta Community House from 11am-2pm. They do have their insurance. Council member Robbins made the motion to approve with a second by Council member Wills. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Vice President Hudson presented a special event application for Haunted Marietta/Parade. It will take place on October 25th and 26th. Friday it will be from 5:30-9:00pm and Saturday from 5:00-9:00pm. They do have their insurance. Council member Robbins made the motion to approve with a second by Council member Wills. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Vice President Hudson presented a special event application for the 46th Annual Ride for Runaways to be held at Marietta Borough Furnace Parking lot. The group that is running the event is the Anchor House Foundation. They do have their insurance, but they don't specifically list Marietta Borough. Vice President Hudson stated that he would like to approve this special event application on the condition that this insurance is the proper insurance. Council member Wills made the motion to approve with a second by Council member Robbins. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Vice President Hudson presented a special event application for the Marietta Garden Tour & BBQ to be held on June 16th from 11am-4:00pm sponsored by the Marietta Community House. They need the waiver signed and a copy of insurance. Council member Kennedy made the motion to approve pending waiver and insurance with a second by Council member Lauver. Motion is carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Safety – Miles Lauver – Council member Lauver stated that they had a meeting on the 25th and discussed

everything that PZE and Public Works concerning the 4 way stop signs in Marietta. We really need to do something about it and it looks like we are finally moving that way.

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, Council member Lauver and himself. Street sweeping was done last week. Several were swept more than once and there were a couple where the trees were hanging too low where the truck couldn't get under so Bill and Harold manually swept those. All the parking Ts were repainted on Market Street. Really looks nice and makes the street pop. This was asked to be completed by Marietta Day and it was. Good job to the road crew. Council member Robbins asked the roadmaster if he felt like we were ready for Marietta Day, and he stated we were. There are no other projects that need to be done. There are other projects to do, just none that needed to be done by that date. Yellow, blue, and red paint has been ordered for the curbs. Yellow is for the curbing, 25ft from the intersections, red is for fire hydrants and blue for sewer drains. If the weather breaks in the next couple of days, the red is here, so they will start painting the fire hydrants, which is the priority. There is a list of potholes that Harold and Bill have developed from residents bringing them to our attention. They made a list while they were street sweeping so they will be starting on those. Yesterday at Bank and Market Streets, they painted 2 white stop bars on the street. Hopefully, this will make people more aware of the stop signs. Our roadmaster stated that there is a gentleman from county or state level that offers a class on traffic control, and he offered to come talk to us at no charge, to see what we need to do to get approval for the stop signs.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY – Dan Robbins - Council member Robbins stated that he had to miss last months meeting due to staffing the poles for primary day. Council member Robbins referred to Steve Shireman to give an update. Steve stated that the plant is running well. Still moving forward in replacing the solids press. They just received the final plans, and they will go through engineering and then go out for final bids. President States stated that Steve brought it to his attention that they would like to put a car port over a piece of equipment to cover it from the weather. President States will talk to our zoning officer tomorrow.

Shade Tree Commission – Judith Kennedy – Council member Kennedy stated that the Commission had another successful tree planting forest restoration day, with about 20 volunteers planting 175 riparian, flood plain trees on April 20th. Council member Kennedy read a report that Brandon Tennis forwarded to her stating: "This effort is to never leave forest areas with canopy gaps and poor natural regeneration in the flood plain forest. This effort will result in the establishment of the next generation of trees in Marietta's flood plain forest. All these species are ideal for flood plain habitat, but, unfortunately, will have to contend with aggressively spreading nonnative species such as Japanese knotweed by planting densely we increase the chance of desired trees and shrubs out competing the nonnative species and reestablishing species diversity that supports wildlife. This spring, 2024, volunteer planting in the flood plain forest, builds from the Shade Tree Commission's first volunteer planting last fall 2023 and combined counts for 357 trees and shrubs newly planted along Marietta's section of the Northwest River Trail."

Trees will be distributed on Marietta Day. Ones that are ideal for sidewalk planting or residential planting. Trees were received from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as part of the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Program at no cost to the Borough.

Council member Kennedy, Linda Ross, Ron Kistler, zoning officer, and Council President States met to discuss tree planting permits. The meeting resulted in some clarification of the procedure for the planting of street trees. An appendix to the STC Ordinance will be helpful in informing the public, including community groups, that regarding street tree planting, zoning permits may be warranted in instances of sidewalk cutting within the Borough's right of way and in consideration of adjacent property owners. Council member Kennedy stated that she just wanted to affirm our wonderful zoning officer that spent an hour and a half, in an educational way, talking to us about zoning permits. In the STC ordinance, there is not a reference to zoning permits or cutting of sidewalks, however, getting the word out about what is the protocol is really important. It is on the Borough website if you go to general legislation ecode 360, chapter 300, article 2. Council member Kennedy feels it's important to prevent the inconveniences and problems by clarifying the protocol for planting especially if there is going to be sidewalk cutting, and checking with our zoning officer about the Borough right of way because they differ from street to street.

War Memorial Park – President Freddy States – President States stated that he talked about the grants we are going for this year. One that we are ready to apply for right now, we need a resolution for. This is for a GTRP. Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant. Vice President Hudson made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for the GTRP grant, with a second from Council member Robbins. Motion is carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Council member Robbins stated that he had a call concerning the improvements to the trail at Bank Street. He reached out Kingsly and talked to a gentleman about a solution for the loose gravel. They agreed to come out and look at it. Our thinking was that we would through down that emulsion and then recover it with millings or something finer and compact it. Paving would be very expensive for that area, and this should be a third of the cost. President States stated he did reach back out to the railroad and haven't gotten a response back yet.

Council member Kennedy stated that there are some residents that expressed concern about the Tot Lot. Apparently, there is a groove there that they are concerned could be a tripping hazard. Council member Kennedy went down and looked at it. There is a groove about 3 inches deep, 3 inches wide and about 14 feet long. It is located right between where the sidewalk circles around and the curb on Front Street. Vice President Hudson stated that he brought this up to the road crew to look at it.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Ross – Fairview Avenue – Linda thanked Council member Robbins for looking into Bank Street situation. Linda stated that she doesn't want anyone to think that the group that is helping to get Lillians tree planted did not do their due diligence. Yes, they missed the permit, but Cheryl Corson, who is a nationally recognized landscape architect who has done a lot of tree plantings, came along with Linda and Council member Kennedy and other people who were looking into this. Linda really respects what Cheryl has to say and she was adamant about not putting anything under wires. We were not even looking at anything on the south side of the street because the wires are really low there. It is really hard in this Borough to find any place where you can just go in easily and put a memorial tree. We ran into all kinds of obstacles. The people who live on that corner were very cooperative and really wanted it there. Linda stated they were looking at the wells that existed and the one that is at the corner there, would not be legal anymore according to the national laws and Cheryl is up on all of those laws. Linda stated that she honestly did not see an electrical line there. Linda feels that Cheryl's expertise on trees is not to be downplayed at all. She really knows her stuff. This particular tree is large but is used for a lot of street trees in a lot of places, especially a bit further south. Linda would love to see more people memorialize maybe veterans or people they love by planting more trees in this town.

Linda also stated that the wells that are there now, most of them are not big enough for trees now, which means you would have to do some cutting. President States stated that there are a number of trees that you would not have to make the wells bigger. Linda stated that if someone wanted to put a tree in a well that was already there and needed to make it bigger, they would need a permit. President States stated that he is not sure if that is what the zoning officer meant. As long as ADA compliance isn't being changed and there was already a well there, it could be cut out to make it larger.

Raeann Schatz – Fairview Avenue Raeann stated that last month she asked Vice President Hudson to look into the MESA information for her as to how many people have paid, how many people have not paid. She was hoping there would be a report on that. Vice President Hudson stated that MESA did not have their last public meeting so he can't give her that information. He stated the reason we took it off our agenda is that MESA is up and running. President States stated that Raeann was at the same meeting he was at and at that point it was 83%. President States stated that the one issue they were running into is rental. He stated that he checked all his to make sure that the letters that were sent out were going to the owners and not the tenants. Vice President Hudson stated that he will get the latest figures and let Raeann know what they are.

Abby Ulrich – Marietta Day Committee – Abby stated that having a rain date for Marietta Day is a relatively new thing, so the final decision to hold Marietta Day on Saturday will be made on Friday at 11am. It's called a wash out date so if it sprinkles, Marietta Day will still be held on Saturday.

Harold Kulman – East Market Street – Harold wanted to thank Council, especially Council member Robbins for looking into the cross-street situation because of the traffic. We really need our safety on these crossings.

Presidents States made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Council member Robbins. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Hall
Secretary/Treasurer