TOWN OF MARLINTON

Marlinton Town Council
January 8, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Municipal Building Auditorium with Zoom and call-in options.

Mayor Sam Felton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Recorder called the roll.

Present:	Sam Felton, Mayor	Mary K. Clendenen, Recorder
	Scott Gibb	Joe Smith
	Tom Miller	Roger Trusler
Absent:	Olivia Dean	

Reading and Approval of Prior Council Meeting Minutes: The Council reviewed the minutes of the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting.

- Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as presented. Scott Gibb seconded the motion. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Mayor's Report: The Mayor reviewed his monthly report with the Council and noted that the street lights near Rivertown and the River Trail are now working again. Another topic he covered was the shortage of adequate housing to increase the labor force in the county, and the need to get tenants in the Edray Industrial Park building.

Hear Public Input: No members of the public had any comment.

Committee and Department Reports: The Mayor said the Town has sent letters to twelve property owners to see if they would agree to have their dilapidated structures removed if the Town can get a grant from the DEP for this purpose.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

1. **Discuss and/or Act on Donation Request from Pocahontas County Free Libraries**: The Mayor presented a request from Pocahontas County Free Libraries for $500.

   - Mary Clendenen moved to donate $300 to Pocahontas County Free Libraries. Scott Gibb seconded the motion. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

2. **Discuss and/or Act on Opioid Settlement:** The Town has received its first opioid settlement payment of only $604.55. The Mayor expressed his disappointment at the small amount received after so many months of filing paperwork for the settlement.

   - Scott Gibb moved to approve a Resolution to open a special account at Pendleton Community Bank for the settlement funds. Joe Smith seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Discuss and/or Act on Trailhead Streetscapes & Sidewalks Grant:** Sara Cottingham, of Downstream Strategies, updated the Council via Zoom on a $30,000 grant that has been received from Partner Community Capital for the Town to develop a streetscape plan for sidewalks, lighting, and aesthetics for downtown Marlinton. The Town is not required to provide any matching funds for this grant. Ms. Cottingham is working in coordination with Destination by Design on this project. She and Kristen Beverage are also working to get technical assistance in obtaining a separate Department of Highways grant for sidewalks. She expects to know more about that grant in April. The Mayor and Councilmembers thanked Ms. Cottingham for the work she has done.

4. **Discuss and/or Act on Street Lighting Upgrades:** The Mayor presented information on new Cobra-head LED streetlights that are available from Mon Power, that would provide the Town a savings in electricity costs each month. These would replace the high-pressure sodium lights and would be mounted on the existing poles at no cost to the Town. Because these lights are designed to direct light toward the ground, they would not interfere with the "Dark Skies" initiative. Currently, the electricity cost for each high-pressure sodium light is $8.80 per month. The LED lights would cost $6.91 per 50 watt lamp, and $8.51 per month per 90 watt lamp. He and Scott Gibb suggested that the majority of the lights be replaced with 50 watt LEDs, and that 90 watt LEDs be placed in areas needing brighter lighting for security coverage. They will bring more details to a future meeting for Council's consideration.

5. **Discuss and/or Act on Advertisement Requesting Bids for 87 Octane Gasoline, and Diesel Fuel:**
6. **Discuss and/or Act on Advertisement Requesting Bids for Propane Gas and Heating Oil.** Concerning agenda items #5 and #6, the Mayor presented proposed Class II legal advertisements requesting bids on these fuels to be due for the February 5, 2024 meeting. The prices would be effective for the period of March 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024.

    - Joe Smith moved to advertise for bids on all fuel needed for the town. Roger Trusler seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approve Invoices/Payment of Bills:

- Scott Gibb moved to approve the bills for payment. Joe Smith seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment: As there was no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Sam Felton, Mayor

Mary K. Clendenen, Recorder