TOWN OF MARLINTON

Marlinton Town Council
May 6, 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
	Olivia Dean	Joe Smith
	Scott Gibb (via Zoom)	Roger Trusler
	Tom Miller	
Absent:	None	

Reading and Approval of Prior Council Meeting Minutes: The Council reviewed the minutes of the April 1, 2024 Regular Meeting and the April 16, 2024 Special Meeting.

- Joe Smith moved to approve the April minutes as presented. Olivia Dean seconded the motion. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Mayor's Report: The Mayor reviewed his monthly report with the Councilmembers. He said the Town will be receiving a DOT grant for design of sidewalks which will be discussed later in the meeting, and also will be receiving a $1.5 million grant from the Corp of Engineers to help with the sewer project.

Hear Public Input: Caroline Sharp informed the Council that someone had left garbage scattered at the mini park over the past weekend, and asked if the Town could check their camera footage to see who made the mess.

Committee and Department Reports: Joe Smith reported that the July 4th Celebration is planned again this year from 7-9 p.m. The cost should be $1,000-$1,500 including the band. The Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce will provide watermelon, the Methodist Church will serve ice cream and the Baptist Church will provide hot dogs for the public. Mayor Felton said fireworks have unfortunately become too expensive for the Town to pay for. The Council agreed that this celebration should be held again this year, and Olivia Dean offered her assistance.

Olivia Dean also reported that final information is being entered into the cemetery software for the records of veterans' graves.

Unfinished Business:

to plan their work. Many of the existing water and sewer lines are 70-100 years old, and some water lines are not of sufficient size. Fred Hypes said Thrasher has worked with Cassie Lawson at Region 4 Planning and Development Council to coordinate grant funding so the water, sewer and stormwater projects can all be performed simultaneously. This will limit disruption to town residents and businesses and reduce costs because the streets will only need to be repaved once. Clay Riley summarized the critical needs for fire protection. The Infrastructure Council did not officially reject the Town's application for assistance, but they indicated that they probably could not provide that funding due to the limited amount of money available. The Town will have a period of time to comply with the new rules for fire hydrants, but Marlinton's project will be completed within that timeframe. The water, sewer, and stormwater project designs should all be completed and submitted to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection this fall for approval. Hopefully, funding commitments for construction funds will be in place to start work in the spring of 2025.

Mr. Hypes said the sewer treatment will be improved by reducing infiltration of stormwater, improving the performance of the lagoon by installing a screen to catch trash, baffles to help direct flow of the water through the pond and retain it for a longer treatment period, and installation of a larger Chlorine tank. The aeration basin will be cleaned out. Pump station equipment will also be improved. Stormwater will be diverted to the river instead of infiltrating into the sewage treatment plant.

The water system improvements will include better fire protection with the replacement of 20 hydrants and 26 valves, and possibly the refurbishment of the Fourth Avenue water tank. The water system will also be divided into zones that can be isolated in the event of a leak.

Ms. Lawson also said she is looking into an EPA grant to possibly pay for solar panels to provide power to the sewer treatment plant in the future.

2. **Update on Status of Municipal Home Rule Application:** Mary Clendenen informed the Council that, in spite of their office staff's assurance that the application would be considered in April, the Home Rule Board's attorney has delayed the review of the Town's application until July 17, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. If the application is approved by the Board, there are still several steps that need to be performed before implementation of the 1% sales tax.

3. **Discuss and/or Act on West Virginia Division of Highways 2024 Grant Application for Non-Traditional Projects:** Rhonda Brisendine, the Project Manager with the DOH, has confirmed that the town has been awarded the money for designing the sidewalks. The grant will require a 20% match. The deadline for submission of the full application is June 26, 2024.

    - Joe Smith moved that the Town submit the intent to apply for this grant. Roger Trusler seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approve Invoices/Payment of Bills:

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

Adjournment: As there was no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Sam Felton _____ Mary K. Clendenen