TOWN OF MARLINTON

Marlinton Town Council
December 4, 2023
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 (via Zoom)	Joe Smith
	Scott Gibb	Roger Trusler
	Tom Miller	
Absent:	None	

Reading and Approval of Prior Council Meeting Minutes: The Council reviewed the minutes of the November 6, 2023 Regular Meeting.

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

Mayor's Report: The Mayor reviewed his monthly report with the Council. He and Jamie Walker attended a meeting the West Virginia American Water. He said there would be more benefit to the Town than there would be to the residents if the water system was operated by West Virginia American Water, and that the average user in Marlinton would be charged $47.05 per month and a discount would be given of $4.78 for those on DHR assistance. The residential fee is now $42.42 per month.

Hear Public Input: Several members of the public were in attendance to speak against the proposed Municipal Service Fee. Some suggestions were that the Town pursue grants, sell property or look for other ways to fund the police program. Zed Weatherholt questioned whether the Town has researched the number of crimes committed in Town, and whether a city Police department is actually a need.

Marsha Hill also commented that her garbage had not been picked up during the week of Thanksgiving.

Roy and Vivian Biggs and Chrystal Dean complained about skunks in the town limits, especially in the area of Second Avenue. The Mayor suggested that neighbors need to be educated about food that is left outside for other animals which could be attracting the skunks.

Committee and Department Reports: The Mayor presented a written report from the Town's Building Inspector and Floodplain Manager, Bruce VanMeter. Mr. VanMeter has recently attended a week of advanced FEMA training. A permit has been issued for restoration of the Peacock Building on Main Street. A new residence has been completed on Tannery Row and another is being constructed. Sweet Scoops will be converting its restaurant building to an air B&B. Several letters were sent to homeowners that are currently renting without town rental agreements or inspections. Mr. VanMeter also reported that he continues flood plain mitigation efforts, and that grant money should be released in January to improve flow into Knapps Creek to reduce repetitive flooding.

Mayor Felton shared Olivia Dean's report that the Christmas Light Contest received many positive comments from the public and 579 people participated in the online voting.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Discuss and/or Act on Second Reading of Municipal Service Fee Ordinance:** The Mayor said the primary focus of the ordinance was to reestablish a police department, and enhance lighting and cameras in town. The Town's attorney, Tom White, has recommended that the language from WV State Code §8-13-13 be left in the ordinance. Since the Mayor and Council had discussed removing several items from the ordinance at the November meeting and the monthly billing system is not ready to be implemented yet, he asked the Council if they would like to start the entire process over for reading of the ordinance.

- Joe Smith moved that, due to controversy and additional editing that needs to be done, the second reading be tabled for one month. Roger Trusler seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, Mr. Smith rescinded his original motion, and Roger Trusler rescinded his second. Joe Smith then moved to void the first reading and begin the process again. Roger Trusler seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business:

1. **Discuss and/or Act on WVMR Donation Request**: The Mayor presented the annual donation request solicited by WVMR radio station.

- Joe Smith moved to donate $300 to WVMR, and that Council consider not making any donations after this year. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

2. **Discuss and/or Act on Anything Concerning Opioid Settlement:** There was nothing new to discuss concerning the settlement.

Approve Invoices/Payment of Bills:

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

Personnel: The Mayor asked if the Council would like to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters under Exception 2A.

- Roger Trusler moved to go into executive session. Joe Smith seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Council returned to regular session at 8:31 p.m.

Joe Smith moved that P. C. Dean be employed full-time with benefits effective immediately. Roger Trusler seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Joe Smith moved to change Scott Gibb's title to Operations Director/Code Enforcement Officer and increase his hourly wage by $1.00 effective on the next pay period. The Operations Director will oversee the maintenance, cemetery, garbage departments. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously, with Scott Gibb abstaining from the vote.**

Adjournment: As there was no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Sam Felton

Sam Felton, Mayor

Mary K. Clendenen

Mary K. Clendenen, Recorder