# TOWN OF MARLINTON

**Marlinton Town Council**
April 7, 2025
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Mayor Sam Felton called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

The Recorder called the roll.

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

**Reading and Approval of Prior Council Meeting Minutes:** The Council reviewed the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Regular Meeting and the Special Meetings held on March 10, 2025, March 21, 2025 and March 24, 2025.

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

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Felton reviewed his monthly report with the Council. The flower baskets will soon be back from the nursery. On the 6th and 20th, meetings were held to plan for the grand opening events of the Monday Lick Trail to be held on May 16th and 17th. Water installation to Olivia Dean's property should be completed in a few days. He noted that Sam Mitchell volunteered his time and equipment to sweep several of the streets in town. Additional water, sewer and stormwater zoom meetings were held this month. The Municipal League has been providing updates on the activity at the West Virginia Legislature.

**Hear Public Input:** The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak, since no one had signed in. No members of the public asked to speak.

**Committee and Department Reports**: None.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **To consider and act upon the second reading of a proposed Bond Ordinance authorizing the issuance of not more than $800,000 in aggregate principal amount of combined waterworks and sewerage system Design Revenue Bonds, Series 2025 A (West Virginia CWSRF Program); not more than $3,750,000 in aggregate principal amount of combined waterworks and sewerage system Revenue Bonds, Series 2025 B (West Virginia CWSRF Program/Principal Forgiveness); and not more than $6,325,000 in aggregate principal amount of combined waterworks and sewerage system Revenue Bonds, Series 2025 C (West Virginia CWSRF Program), collectively the "Series 2025 Bonds". The**

**Series 2025 Bonds will be issued in three series, the first of which Series 2025 A Bonds will be used to (i) to pay a portion of the costs of design, and other pre-construction activities of certain additions, betterments and improvements to the existing public sewerage system of the issuer; and (ii) to pay costs of issuance and related costs. The Series 2025 Bonds are payable solely from revenues to be derived from the ownership and operation of the combined waterworks and sewerage system of the Town.** The Recorder read the ordinance by title. The Town's bond counsel, Susan Riggs, attended the meeting and explained that the Town Council will adopt the ordinance upon the second reading at this meeting, and then enact the ordinance upon the third reading in May.

- Joe Smith moved to adopt the ordinance on the second reading. Scott Gibb seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. **To hold a public hearing and thereafter consider and act upon the third reading of a proposed Ordinance providing for monthly billing of rates, charges and fees for sewer services, and providing for increased rates, charges and fees for sewer services for all customers of the municipally owned and operated sewer utility of the Town of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. The increase is necessary for the payment of system operations and debt service in order to ensure that continuous, safe and adequate sewer service is provided to all sewer customers.** The Mayor read the ordinance by title.

   - Joe Smith moved to begin the Public Hearing concerning items #2 and #3 on the agenda. Mary Clendenen seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

   The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.. No members of the public signed in to request to speak; however, Caroline Sharp, a town resident, asked how much the bills will increase. Cassandra Lawson, of Region IV Planning and Development Council, was in attendance and explained the increases in fees to the audience. Sandy Alderman, a resident of Marlinton, asked why the Town was changing to monthly billing. The Mayor replied that several members of the public had requested monthly billing so they would not have a larger bill to pay every two months. Ms. Lawson explained to Ms. Alderman that monthly billing is the standard for municipalities and that it also helps to detect water leaks much more quickly when the meters are read monthly. Ms. Alderman expressed concern that residents would not be able to afford the increase. The Mayor responded that he understood her concern, but the Town really has no choice other than to pursue this opportunity to get the needed repairs to the water and sewer systems while grant funds are approved to pay 70% of the $27 million project cost. Fred Hypes, of Thrasher Engineering, was present at the meeting and he explained the need for system upgrades due to the age and condition of the water lines and problems with stormwater entering the sewage system. He said Marlinton also has problems meeting DEP requirements for the sewer system. Caroline Sharp also asked about the schedule for testing water hydrants. Mr. Hypes responded that Thrasher is testing as many as possible within the next several weeks, but they must be cautious due to the inability to isolate areas of the water system if a hydrant valve breaks. He said hydrants will be replaced as the water lines are replaced. A gentleman asked if the Town had calculated the cost to do monthly billing. The Mayor responded that the CPA, Rod Lowe, had included all those calculations in the PSC rate case for these upgrades. As there were no further public comments, the Mayor called for a motion to conclude the public hearing.

   - Joe Smith moved to conclude the public hearing and return to regular session. Scott Gibb seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.** The Council returned to regular session at 7:44 p.m.

- Joe Smith moved to enact the ordinance on the third reading. Scott Gibb seconded the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

3. **To hold a public hearing and thereafter consider and act upon the third reading of a proposed Ordinance providing for monthly billing of rates, charges and fees for water services, and providing for increased rates, charges and fees for water services for all customers of the municipally owned and operated water utility of the Town of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. The increase is necessary for the payment of system operations and debt service in order to ensure that continuous, safe and adequate water service is provided to all water customers.** The Recorder read the ordinance by title.

    - Scott Gibb moved to enact the ordinance on the third reading. Joe Smith seconded the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

**New Business:**

1. **Discuss and/or Act on Assured Partners of WV LLC Insurance Proposal (as an alternative to West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management Policy):**

   Mayor Felton said the Town's insurance agent is still gathering information about this proposal, so this agenda item will be carried over to the next meeting.

2. **Discuss and/or Act on Donation Request from Allegheny Mountain Radio:**

   The Council reviewed a request from Allegheny Mountain Radio for an annual donation. Joe Smith reminded the Council that it was decided last year that no further donations would be made.

    - Scott Gibb moved to donate $300.00 to Allegheny Mountain Radio due to the public announcements the radio station makes for the Town. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Joe Smith voting against.**

3. **Discuss and/or Act on Pioneer Days Issues:** Joe Smith informed the Councilmembers that Pioneer Days, Inc. no longer wishes to lease ten acres of property between the lagoon and Stillwell Park that was used for mud bogs and truck pulls in the past due to the cost of their liability insurance. The property was leased by the Town in 1989 for a 50-year term. He said Pocahontas County Parks and Recreation had sublet a portion of this land from Pioneer Days, and might need to establish their own lease agreement from the Town if they still need to use that property. The Mayor said that when there are tractor pulls or other events on town property, those entities having the event must provide their own liability insurance.

    - Scott Gibb moved to void the lease to Pioneer Days. Tina Barkley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Discuss and/or Act on Cost Share with Pocahontas County Office of Emergency Services for River Gauge at Marlinton Bridge:** Pocahontas County 911 Director, Mike O'Brien, has asked the Town to pay half the cost of a new automatic river gauge at the Marlinton bridge. The total cost is $4,559.34, Mayor Felton said this gauge would be connected to the Emergency Management Division in Charleston. He said the County had already installed a camera to monitor the Town's water intake, and Mr. O'Brien is now asking the Town and the County Commission to pay the cost for this river gauge. Mayor Felton said there is an automated system at Buckeye. Joe Smith questioned why the manual gauge that is already located at the bridge needs to be replaced with an automated one. This

agenda item was carried over to the next meeting so more information can be obtained from Mr. O'Brien.

**Approve Invoices/Payment of Bills:**

- Joe Smith moved to approve the bills for payment. Scott Gibb seconded the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous vote, with Mary Clendenen abstaining from SecuriTech's invoice.**

**Adjournment:** As there was no further business, Mayor Felton adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Sam Felton
**Sam Felton, Mayor**

Mary K. Clendenen
**Mary K. Clendenen, Recorder**