TOWN OF MARLINTON

Marlinton Town Council
May 5, 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.

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

Reading and Approval of Prior Council Meeting Minutes: The Council reviewed the minutes of the April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting and the April 15, 2025 Special Meeting.

- Joe Smith moved to approve the minutes as presented. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Mayor's Report: Mayor Felton reviewed his monthly report with the Council. He recently met with Lauren Bennett and Ethan Burgess to get final details to submit a grant application for an additional $43,000 for the wetlands project. The quarterly Mon Forest Towns meeting at Petersburg was well-attended. On April 30th, he attended a Region 4 Planning and Development Council meeting concerning their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Hear Public Input: None.

Committee and Department Reports: The Mayor said the new cemetery sign will soon be installed.

Unfinished Business:

1. **To hold the public hearing on, and then to discuss, consider and act upon the Third Reading of the 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 Mayor began the public hearing at 7:23 p.m. No members of the public signed in. The Mayor asked if anyone in attendance wished to speak. There were no comments. The mayor concluded the hearing at 7:24 p.m.

- Joe Smith moved to enact the Bond Ordinance on the third reading. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. **Discuss and/or Act upon Cost Share with Pocahontas County Office of Emergency Services for River Gauge at Marlinton Bridge**

   Mike O'Brien, Director of Pocahontas County Emergency Management, was in attendance to explain the need for the new river gauge. He said Marlinton is the most flood-prone municipality in West Virginia. The gauges at Cloverlick and Buckeye are digital and report directly to the U.S Geological Survey's website. Marlinton's river height is only an estimate, because the current gauge here is not digital. Mr. O'Brien asked the Council to consider making a commitment to pay $2,279.68, which is half the cost to purchase a radar gauge that will report automatically. Once he has this commitment, he will request that the Pocahontas County Commission pay the other half.

   - Joe Smith moved that the Town pay up to $2,500 to assist with purchasing this gauge, with matching funds from the County Commission. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

   Mayor Felton said more information concerning the police department is needed by the insurance agent before an accurate quote can be given for this coverage; therefore, there was nothing to discuss at this meeting.

New Business:

1. **Discuss and/or Act upon Proposed Agreement for the Marlinton Sidewalks Transportation Alternatives (TA) Project**

   The Mayor asked the Councilmembers to consider whether the Town should pursue this project after reviewing the requirements of the agreement. Roger Trusler was very instrumental in starting this project. The DOH would require $20,000 matching funds up front for the design. They would then have up to ten years to complete the project. An additional $80,000 in grant funds would possibly be obtained if the Town decides to move forward with the grant. Existing sidewalks in the target area (portions of Second and Third Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Street) would need to be replaced according to the grant agreement, even if they were in good condition. This will be discussed again at a future meeting, after the council has time to review the agreement. Joe Smith recommended the Town see how much work we can get done by local contractors for $20,000 before making this decision.

2. **Discuss and/or Act upon First Reading of Changes to Garbage Ordinance Concerning Monthly Billing**

- Joe Smith moved to approve the first reading of the ordinance, reflecting the former fees which were charged bi-monthly be divided in half and charged each month. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Discuss and/or Act upon First Reading of Changes to Fees in Cemetery Ordinance**

   After reviewing the ordinance, Joe Smith and the Mayor recommended that several other items in the ordinance be updated in addition to the fees. Since the agenda item did not reflect the other changes, the first reading was rescheduled for a special meeting to be held on May 19, 2025.

4. **Discuss and/or Act upon Grant Agreement Time Extension Request for CDBG-MIT Stormwater Project**

   Amanda Smarr, of Region 4 Planning and Development Council, presented this extension request, which extends the performance period to December 31, 2027. This request is needed to allow Region 4 time to search for alternative funding sources, since the EPA grant that we originally thought we might receive for $3.5 million is no longer available.

   - Joe Smith moved to approve this extension request. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Discuss and/or Act on Draw Request #3 Pertaining to the CDBG-MIT Storm Water Project**

   - Joe Smith moved to approve this draw request for $230,535 for Thrasher Engineering. Tina Barkley seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approve Invoices/Payment of Bills:

- Joe Smith moved to approve the bills for payment. Tom Miller seconded the motion. **The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Adjournment: As there was no further business, Mayor Felton adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Sam Felton
Sam Felton, Mayor

Mary K. Clendenen
Mary K. Clendenen, Recorder