



# Mars Borough

## Meeting Minutes

(Visitors/Speakers are asked to limit their presentations to 5 minutes during Public Meetings.)

**Meeting Date:** May 2, 2022

**Call to Order:** 7:00 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTED OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE ("x" indicates present) ("tc" indicates teleconference attendance)		
x	Rob Bost	Council Vice President Administration, HR
x	Chris Clutter	Council Pro Tem Public Safety
	Mike Fleming	Council President
x	Bill Lambert	Water
x	John McWilliams	Streets
x	Brad Price	Budget, Finance
x	Julie Schultheis	Parks & Rec, Celebrations
x	Gregg Hartung	Mayor

EMPLOYEE / PROVIDER ATTENDANCE ("x" indicates present) ("tc" indicates teleconference attendance)		
x	Bonnie Forsythe	Secretary / Treasurer
	Jamie Kochik	Assistant Sec. / Treas.
	Amy Brown	Assistant Sec. / Treas.
	Ed Dorsey	Public Works Foreman
	Allen Russell	Code Enforcement
x	Mark Lint	Officer in Charge
x	Chris Reese	Solicitor
x	Renea Pomeroy	Elected Tax Collector

COUNCIL ORGANIZATION – Mayor Gregg Hartung
<b>Action</b>
Swearing in of John McWilliams to fulfill the remaining term vacated by James Foster.

VISITORS:	
Name(s) / Organization	Topic
Fritz Baehr, FJ Baehr Architects	Baehr stated he was the Chair of the Planning Commission but would be recusing himself due to acting as Mars Bank's architect. Mars Bank is proposing building a new headquarters for executive offices on their property at the intersection of Marshall Way and Clay Avenue. Baehr stated the drawings presented to Council were for conversation only. He also stated a curb cut is being proposed to allow for 12 parallel parking spaces along the street on three sides of the property. Fleming asked about stormwater runoff and sprinklers. Baehr stated the stormwater runoff would be addressed and the building was too small to require sprinklers. Fleming also asked about additional parking needs. Baehr indicated the bank does own property across the street on Clay Avenue, and they are aware the Borough owns the property right next to it. Fleming speculated that if the bank would decide to use that property as parking there may be an opportunity to work together to create a more useful parking situation for everyone.
Richard Rapp	Rapp came before council to give Council an update on cleaning up his father's property at 610 Stanton Avenue. He said he has complied with all requirements to eliminate the firearms and other industrial elements on the property. He is attempting to clean up the property as best as he can and will continue to work to clean up the property and he is working on getting the property transferred into his name. He stated he intends to live in the house as a resident of Mars Borough and to, hopefully, bring his father home from the VA.
Phil Moreno	Representing Tom Lower who owns 324 Garfield Avenue. He received a high water bill. Lower believes the meter was bad. Fleming asked if anyone had contacted the Borough to turn off the water. Moreno and Lower stated that they did not. A discussion on the difference between a meter slowing or speeding up due to age was had, with several council members reiterating that when meters age they typically slow down.

<b>VISITORS (cont.):</b>	
Name(s) / Organization	Topic
Ernie Kuhs	Kuhs lives in Adams Township, owns the building on Grand Avenue where the Grand Avenue Grille and several apartments exist. He stated the sidewalk in front of the building needs replaced, however there was an old bowling alley on the lower floor and the pin return is located under the sidewalk, and there is a pole in front of the building that is leaning. He stated he does not want the pole removed and that there is a build out under the sidewalk that provides support for the pole. His preference is to have the pole cut off. He is requesting the Borough contact the power company to have the pole cut off. Dorsey will look at pole to find a metal tag so the power company can be contacted.
	Kuhs also asked about the lease agreement for the public parking lot behind the businesses on Grand Avenue. He wanted to make sure he would not be prohibited from doing something on his property if he signed the agreement. Bost clarified that the Borough was simply attempting to update the lease agreements. Fleming also stated he wondered if there would also be a potential benefit when it comes to insurance coverage. Kuhs asked for clarification on what the tax reimbursement would be for. Fleming stated that Council had no control over the school taxes, but that they could control the local property taxes and reimburse a portion of those.
Renea Pomeroy	Several trees off of Cherry Street (dead end) are rotted and falling and she is worried they may hit her house if they fall. She stated there are also people who go up and down the hill and she is worried if a branch falls it may hurt someone. Fleming stated the Borough needs to gain clarity on what property the trees are on and that a meeting should occur with someone from St. Killian's to see if they know where the property line is. Fleming stated Dorsey confirmed the trees were showing rot.
Brian Fleeson	In attendance, on behalf of Richmar Rotary, to request approval for Applefest to be held October 1, 2022. Bost asked if there were requirements or a way to get more craft and food vendors. Fleeson recognized last year had an unfortunate amount of both and they are reaching out to more craft and food vendors.

<b>PUBLIC COMMENT TO SPEAK ABOUT STORMWATER MS4 ISSUES:</b>	
Name(s) / Organization	Topic

<b>MOTIONS</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Motion to approve closing Grand Avenue from Pittsburgh Street to School Street and Pittsburgh Street from Crowe Avenue to Grand Avenue on October 1, 2022 for Applefest.	Bost	Schultheis	Carried
Motion to approve Meeting Minutes from 04/04/2022 & 04/18/2022.	Lambert	Price	Carried
Motion to approve Expenses from March & April 2022 in the amount of \$141,950.72.	Schultheis	Price	Carried Fleming Abstained
Motion to approve Payroll Expenses and Tax Payments for March 2022 in the amount of \$33,643.47.	Price	Clutter	Carried
Motion to approve Payroll Expenses and Tax Payments for April 2022 in the amount of \$33,547.87.	Price	Clutter	Carried
Motion to approve the Oxi Fresh carpet cleaning quote for the first floor of the "Education Building" at a quoted rate of \$595.00.	Schultheis	Bost	Carried
Motion to approve removal of trees by Thomas Tree Service at two locations: (1) Lincoln Ave. Parking Lot, for \$5,250.00 and (2) 428 Beaver St. for \$2,700.00, for a total of \$7,950.00.	Tabled		

<b>MOTIONS (cont.)</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Motion to advertise Bid Package for an Asphalt Hotbox to be advertised as soon as possible, with bids to be opened June 6, 2022.	McWilliams	Lambert	Carried
Motion to add the bid package for the replacement of existing curb on Crowe Avenue at the intersection of Crowe Avenue and Pittsburgh Street.	Clutter	Bost	Carried
Motion to advertise Bid Package for Curb at Intersection of Crowe Avenue and Pittsburgh Street, with bids to be opened June 6, 2022.	Lambert	McWilliams	Carried
Motion to approve the Phones Plus PA quote for moving the phone system to the "Education Building," running phones & data lines in new offices, and setting up VOIP system at Spring Avenue building for Police & Public Works, for a quoted price of \$5,556.36 (with the understanding that final costs may be different depending on actual hours to install cabling and equipment, and materials used).	Schultheis	Bost	Carried
Motion to close Pittsburgh Street from Grand Avenue to Crowe Avenue on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the Social Club Barbershop Anniversary Celebration, contingent upon notification of any/all affected businesses on Pittsburgh Street by May 16, 2022.	Clutter	Schultheis	Carried
Motion to open a new account at Mars Bank to hold funds for a new Police Vehicle	Schultheis	Clutter	Carried
Motion to approve Reliant Systems quote for a 4-camera system (that is expandable to 8 cameras) for the Police Department at an estimated cost of \$2,385.00.	McWilliams	Clutter	Carried
Motion to approve up to \$5,275.00 for the purchase and installation of a server and any necessary hardware/accessories for the Police Department.	Clutter	Schultheis	Carried
Motion to open the discussion regarding water plant.	Lambert	Bost	Carried

<b>OLD / ON-GOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:</b>		
Item	Submitted by:	Discussion / Status
Mold Remediation at Church Building	Schultheis	Schultheis previously met with one contractor several weeks ago. She, Fleming and Dorsey met with a second contractor. Schultheis then met with a third contractor. Only a quote from the first contractor has been received.

<b>NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:</b>		
Item	Submitted by:	Discussion / Status
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Event	Forsythe	Forsythe stated letters had gone out to donors and some donations have been received. Schultheis is willing to share information from previous years. Several potential residents are interested in helping.
Asphalt Hotbox	Fleming	Fleming asked if the hotbox bid package allowed for all bids to be declined if none were acceptable.
Leaf Truck	Fleming	Fleming stated the Borough received the DEP grant for a new leaf truck, however the cost of the truck has increased by approximately \$25,000.00. Forsythe confirmed the Borough could apply for additional grant money during the next eligible year (2023).
Curb at Intersection of Crowe Avenue and Pittsburgh Street	Fleming	The bid package for the replacement of the curb near the funeral home at the intersection of Crowe Avenue and Pittsburgh Street arrived at the end of the work day prior to tonight's meeting.

<b>REPORTS:</b>	
Department	Report
Mayor	Hartung met with Slippery Rock Borough and County Chamber to discuss the Mars Chamber of Commerce which exists primarily on paper. Butler Chamber of Commerce is holding an event at The Dented Keg to meet with area businesses. My School Preschool has requested to use Borough Lots for overflow parking from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on May 15, 2022. Price stated the paved lot is reserved for the Narrative Church, but the gravel lot is not reserved.
Police	Hartung discussed the need for a Server and/or new Computer for the Police Department. Lint reported that the one existing desktop computer is already over-burdened. Hartung recommended purchasing a new desktop computer with more RAM than the existing desktop. McWilliams and Price suggested purchasing a server to eliminate the need for trial and error. Security System has been updated in Police Department. Camera System Quotes were received (two from Phones Plus, one from Reliant Systems) to replace the existing system which is, potentially, 11 years old.
Secretary / Treasurer	Budget update provided to Council. Potential Budget revisions. New Bank Account for Police Vehicle Fund donations.
Public Works	Lambert reported that there are items that need to be replaced because they are deteriorating due to Chlorine fumes at Water Plant. The tank should have been in a separate room but now the higher chlorine rates required by the DEP have accelerated the corrosion. Dorsey is looking at adding a fan. Fleming stated that a future discussion would include moving the tank to a separate room/building, but for now having a fan or air handling unit to increase ventilation is necessary.
Code Enforcement	

<b>EXECUTIVE SESSION:</b>					
Requested by:		Topic(s):			
Hartung		Police Personnel			
Motion		First	Second	Action	
To go into Executive Session	Time: 10:22 PM	Schultheis	Clutter	Carried	
To come out of Executive Session	Time: 11:09 PM	Clutter	Schultheis	Carried	

<b>CLOSING ACTIONS:</b>				
Motion		First	Second	Action
To Adjourn	Time: 11:10 PM	Schultheis	Bost	Carried

Submitted by: Bonnie Forsythe, Secretary/Treasurer