



Mars Borough

Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Date: September 19, 2022

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS / EMPLOYEE / PROVIDER ATTENDANCE						
("x" indicates present) ("tc" indicates teleconference attendance)						
x	Rob Bost	Council Vice President Administration, HR		x	Bonnie Forsythe	Secretary / Treasurer
					Amy Brown	Assistant Sec. / Treas.
x	Chris Clutter	Council Pro Tem Public Safety		x	Ed Dorsey	Public Works Foreman
					Allen Russell	Code Enforcement
x	Mike Fleming	Council President			Mark Lint	Police Officer in Charge
x	Bill Lambert	Water			Brian Novosel	Police Sergeant
x	John McWilliams	Streets				
x	Brad Price	Budget, Finance			Chris Reese	Solicitor
	Julie Schultheis	Parks & Rec, Celebrations				
x	Gregg Hartung	Mayor			Renea Pomeroy	Elected Tax Collector

VISITORS:	
Name(s) / Organization	Topic
Connor Dodd	Dodd expressed concern over the state of the curb and sidewalk outside of the funeral home. He stated there was rebar sticking out that could damage a passing vehicle. Fleming reviewed bids previously obtained in June 2022 that Council previously rejected. Lambert suggested putting up something to block use of the sidewalk until something can be done. Dorsey stated he could take a look at it the following day to see if Public Works can do something to manage the state of the rebar. Dorsey will also contact Aiken to see if he can get a cost to do repairs.
Julia Maruca, Cranberry Eagle	In Attendance to Observe.
Kyle Ostermann	Ostermann stated he had come before Council a year ago to discuss his high water bill. He stated he was told to come back after six months, which he did not do due to an illness in the family. Bost suggested to have Administration pull the records and Public Works see if they still have the old meter, then to sit down and discuss things in a separate meeting with Ostermann.
Eunice Weber	Weber stated starting in about 2013 her property at 408 Beaver Street began filling up with water. She stated she thought her yard was sinking. On February 12, 2017 she said she had water in her basement. She had someone pump out the water. Later she had drains put in her yard, then French drains put in to the street. Weber stated she was at Lowes and an associate told her that it was illegal to up water onto a neighbor's property, so she called the Borough. Former Code Enforcement Officer Sandra Cox contacted the neighbor. At that point, it was winter, and the ground was frozen, so she gave them the option to use a flexible drainpipe to reroute the water until the ground unfroze and they could put a more permanent pipe in. Weber stated there were several other issues she felt the neighbor may be contributing to. Bost stated the current Code Enforcement Officer, Allen Russell, will follow up, and determine what, if anything, the Borough can do to address the surface water issue. The other issues are a civil and/or police matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT TO SPEAK ABOUT STORMWATER MS4 ISSUES:

Name(s) / Organization	Topic

MOTIONS	FIRST	SECOND	ACTION
Motion to approve Trick-or-Treat on October 31, 2022 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.	Bost	McWilliams	Carried
Motion to approve Mars School District Homecoming Parade on October 7, 2022 with street closings of Grand Avenue, Marshall Way, E. Railroad Street, and Clark Street from 4:00 PM until the parade is over (approximately 5:30 PM).	Lambert	Clutter	Carried
Motion to make a recommendation for Gloria Utz to fill the Library Board seat.	Bost	Lambert	Carried
Motion to make a recommendation for Anastasia Nelson to fill the empty Library Board seat.	Price	Clutter	Carried
Motion to approve the letter to approve changing the broker of record for UPMC Health Insurance to Providence Health Benefits.	Bost	McWilliams	Carried

OLD / ON-GOING ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Item	Submitted by:	Discussion / Status
Wireless Facilities Ordinance, Design Manual, and Fee Schedule	Clutter, Price, Schultheis	Tabled until further notice.
Paving Ordinance	Dorsey	Tabled until further notice.
Parking Ordinance	McWilliams	Tabled until further notice.
Parking Agreements	McWilliams	McWilliams stated he was still attempting to get agreements signed.

NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Item	Submitted by:	Discussion / Status
Library Board Applications	Forsythe	Two applications for potential Library Board members were presented to Council for their review. Bost stated he had no problem recommending Gloria Utz.

REPORTS:

Department	Report
Mayor	Verbal report provided to Council. Hartung reported that Mars New Year will have _____ from Blue Origin speak at the event next year.
Police	Hartung stated a police SUV has been ordered, however there is no way to know when it will be available because there are 7,000 orders ahead of the Borough's. Hartung stated the marked car has been taken out of service except for use during events. Officer Forsythe has helped get officers trained on various software. Police laptop needs replaced. IT recommended a mini desktop computer rather than a laptop. There are several officers from two other local municipalities that may be interested in part time work, which will help fill in the gaps in the schedule. Hartung gave several other day-to-day police related updates.
Secretary / Treasurer	Budget update provided to Council. Health Insurance Renewal

REPORTS (cont.):	
Department	Report
Public Works	<p>Dorsey stated progress has been made putting in water pipe.</p> <p>Dorsey stated the repairs and equipment after the lightning strike is up to \$10,000, and there is still more to go.</p> <p>Dorsey is still waiting for Peoples Gas to come back and put the correct regulator on the generator at the Water Plant.</p> <p>New mulch was put in at Clay Avenue Park and Garfield Park.</p> <p>All Public Works employees have taken CDL class and have passed the necessary tests. Next, they will get their permits, then they have to wait fifteen days before taking the next test.</p> <p>Dorsey stated he would like to put in a valve at the end of West Arch so that if the large property above Norton Drive would ever get developed, they could go from that valve rather than shutting all the neighboring properties off. The valve will be \$1,000.</p> <p>Dorsey stated fire hydrants are now \$3,467 per hydrant and orders are taking about a year. He stated that the next phase of the water line will take two hydrants, and that the Borough should also probably have one or two in stock in case a hydrant is damaged. Fleming stated that the Borough should probably order four.</p> <p>Dorsey stated one of the low service pumps has been in service for six or seven years. He stated a bowl assembly could be purchased and kept in case of emergency for approximately \$3,000. The alternative is to have to repair/replace the entire pump at a cost of \$7,000+ if the Borough does not have the bowl assembly waiting to be installed and has to wait on parts. Fleming agreed that it would be good to have a spare bowl assembly.</p> <p>Several trees need to be taken down in several places in town. In one instance a survey might need to be done. Dorsey will see if he can find any property pins to indicate the lot lines. Fleming and Dorsey discussed groups of trees to get quotes on the cost of removal.</p> <p>Dorsey talked with Ed Peifer Jr. and he wants to have Japanese knotweed on property the Borough owns off of Clay Avenue. He removed the invasive plants on his property, and he wants the Borough to remove what is on the Borough property, so it won't come back on his property.</p> <p>Fleming asked Dorsey about snowplows and equipment for winter. Dorsey stated they have not pulled anything out yet. Fleming stated due to shortages on parts, it might be good to look into. Dorsey also confirmed that 300 tons was ordered last January for this winter.</p> <p>Dorsey mentioned there were some emails sent by KLH regarding Stormwater Ordinances. Fleming stated they would have to look into it.</p> <p>McWilliams asked about the status of a lid/cap for the recycling tank at the water plant. Dorsey said he is looking at several options because a lid may not be the right fix for the problem.</p>
Code Enforcement	

EXECUTIVE SESSION:				
Requested by:		Topic(s):		
Motion		First	Second	Action
To go into Executive Session	Time:			
To come out of Executive Session	Time:			

CLOSING ACTIONS:				
Motion		First	Second	Action
To Adjourn	Time: 8:42 PM	Lambert	Clutter	Carried

Submitted by: Bonnie Forsythe, Secretary/Treasurer