



Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2020

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at the Donald Myers Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Council President Kristine Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by those present in chamber, followed by a prayer by the Clerk.

Answering Roll Call were Bob Hunker, First Ward Council Member, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward Council Member; Suzanne Armstrong, Third Ward Council Member; Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward Council Member; Thomas Burns, and Jack Regis, Council at Large Members.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Meeting were approved as written.

Change Order of Meeting: Mr. Regis made a motion to change the order of the meeting. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, and Burns voting yes. The motion carried.

President Davis introduced Mr. Norman Moore, President of the Belmont County Oratorical Association which sponsors the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. Mr. Moore presented Chase Ake, who won the Belmont County Constitutional Speech Contest. Chase then recited his 10 minute speech from memory on the U.S. Constitution to Council that he used to win the contest. He will compete in April for the American Legion High School Oratorical.

Council then heard remarks by Richard Olivito, Democratic Candidate running for State Representative in Ohio's 96th District, which covers Jefferson, Belmont and Monroe Counties.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor: Mayor Davies informed Council that the 1,100 new water meters will cost the city \$262,225 through Ferguson Enterprise. If Council approves the water meter ordinance tonight, installation can be done in less than 90 days.

The cylinder for the Transfer Station cannot be repaired. A replacement will cost \$15,000. Money for the cylinder can be taken from the Sanitation Department. The Mayor checked with IdeaLease and they believe they can lease the city a truck and trailer. Two nearby Villages have expressed interest in utilizing the Transfer Station.

The Mayor announced that there will be a Free Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 4, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Residents must bring items to the lot next to the former City Garage on First Street. There will be no curbside pick-up. No tires, paint, monitors, batteries or TVs will be accepted. Furniture, building materials and mattresses will be accepted. Estimated cost is around \$2,000. The Mayor hopes that a Fall Clean-Up Day can be done curbside.

Service Director: Mr. Sutak reminded Council that the resolution for the S.R. 647 Slip Project needs to be passed and signed tonight so he can get it to the Ohio Department of Transportation. Originally the price for the Slip Project was \$35,500 but has dropped to \$28,952. This money will come

from the Permanent Improvement Fund. To cover the cost of the paving and curbing portion of this project, \$32,000 will be allocated from the County Permissive Tax Money with the remainder coming from the General Fund.

FEMA has approved everything for the Cemetery Road Slip. Mr. Sutak is working on the funding for this project and expects to receive at least 75% or \$35,400 for this project.

The Mayor commended Mr. Sutak for his diligent work on the S.R. 647 and the Cemetery Road Projects.

Mr. Rodgers reported there was a problem with a storm sewer near 611 Delaware Street and asked Mr. Sutak to check into this situation.

Safety Director: Director Regis reported he is working on a grant through the Ohio Division of EMS to replace and update several Automatic Defibrillators that were in storage at the EMS building. It is hoped to put these devices on the Fire Engines.

Auditor: Auditor Randall distributed copies of the February Financial Reports and the 2020 Budget to Council. The budget will need to be passed at the next meeting. Ms. Randall reminded Council that they can approve resolutions but until the money is appropriated and the fund identified from where it should come from, she doesn't have the authority to spend the money. She advised that the motion for the S.R. 647 project stipulate the amounts to be appropriated from each fund.

Law Director: No report.

Police Department: No report.

Water Department: Mr. Suto stated the price for the water meters also includes the software and training for his staff and the utility office staff.

Fire Department: No report.

Code Administrator: No report.

Park District: No report.

Project Forward: Rev. William Webster, President of Project Forward, reported that the first meeting with Heritage Ohio went well. More meetings will be scheduled.

Reports of Committees of Council:

Finance and Audit: The Finance Committee met on February 27, 2020. Discussion centered on funding for the S.R. 647 Project and the new water meters. Also discussed as the impact on the city finances due to the hospital closure. Minutes of this meeting have been received and will be filed with Council Minutes.

Street: No report.

Ordinance: No report.

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report.

Code Administration: Councilman Regis will contact Betty Suto, Code Administrator, and set up a meeting to review codes. Council will be notified of this meeting.

Safety: No report.

Service: No report.

Cemetery: Mr. Burns received a call that a recent grave, prepared for Ernie Moreno, has sunken.

Public Relations: No report.

Real Estate/Utility Committee: No report.

Income Tax: No report.

Citizens To Be Heard: President Davis reminded citizens to limit their speaking to 5 minutes.

Terry Wildman, 24 South 3rd. Street, reported that the old monument in the cemetery has been dismantled and the ground cleared. A fund has been set up through Project Forward to receive donations for the new monument. A new bid for \$24,000 has been received for the monument. There will be 333 bricks available for sale to memorialize or honor a Martins Ferry Veteran or Citizen. A time capsule box was discovered when dismantling the stone. Mr. Wildman estimates this box has been in the ground for 65 years. A public date will be set to open the box. A new box will be assembled to place with the new monument. Mr. Burns thanked Mr. Wildman for his time on the project.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street, reported he was at the Belmont County Commissioners Meeting and they approved \$32,000 for the repair of S.R. 647. Mr. Hord asked what was being done with the building that formerly held the *Mama C's Bakery*. The Mayor said the second floor is being renovated for an apartment. No date has been set for the opening of Belmont Brewwerks. Mr. Hord asked if banners could be displayed for National Honor Society Student similar to those for Football Players and Cheerleaders. The Mayor said different banners will be displayed in different seasons throughout the year and the city will work with the school and different groups on this project. There is no word on a possible sale of the hospital but the Mayor said he is still optimistic.

Anthony Orsini, Director of the Martins Ferry Library, 410 South 4th Street, informed Council that Ohio's First Lady Fran DeWine will be at the Library to kick off the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program for Belmont County. The date is Thursday, March 19, at 11 a.m. Mr. Orsini encouraged everyone to attend. The Imagination Library is a free book program. Children receive a free, high-quality book from birth until age five every single month.

Proclamations:

Council again agreed to change the order of the meeting so Mayor Davies could present a Proclamation to Tom Kelly, a former Martins Ferry Fire Chief. Mr. Kelly's heroic efforts saved a man from a burning house in January. Another Proclamation, presented by Rev. William Webster, was given to the family John "Sweet Chuck" Schorr, for his involvement and dedication to the City and Project Forward. Mr. Schorr passed away in January.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

An Ordinance Authorizing The Water Superintendent To Purchase New Water Meters, And Declaring An Emergency.

This ordinance was given a first reading. Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Rodgers, Burns, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes and Armstrong voting yes. The motion carried. Mr. Burns made a motion to pass the ordinance as read. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Burns, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong and Rodgers voting yes. The motion passed. Note: Approval for this action was previously given by voice vote at the February 19, 2020 regular meeting.

An Ordinance Directing The Allocation Of Funds Received Through Off-Street Parking And Parking Meters To The Parking Meter Fund And Off-Street Parking Fund Respectively.

This ordinance was given a first reading. Mr. Rodgers announced he did not receive this ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Hunker to suspend the 72-Hour Rule. Motion was seconded by Mr. Shrodes. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Burns, and Regis voting yes. Mr. Rodgers abstained. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Shrodes to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. A roll call vote was heard with Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Regis and Hunker voting yes. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Hunker to pass the ordinance as read. Motion was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Burns, and Regis voting yes. Mr. Rodgers abstained. The ordinance was declared passed.

A Resolution To Accept The One Ohio Memorandum Of Understanding And Declaring An Emergency.

This Resolution was given a first reading. Motion was made by Mr. Regis to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, and Burns voting yes. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Hunker to pass the resolution as read. Mr. Shrodes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, and Regis voting yes. The motion passed.

A Final Resolution For The Project That Consists Of Repairing A Slide Along Colerain Pike (S.R. 647) Located Approximately 250 Feet North Of Crescent Road By Drilled Shaft Retaining Wall, Including Pavement Repairs, Lying Within The City Of Martins Ferry

This Resolution was given a first reading. Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. A roll call vote was heard with Rodgers, Burns, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes and Armstrong voting yes. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Burns to pass the resolution as read. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Burns, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong and Rodgers voting yes. The motion carried.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Burns said he is going to reschedule the Hometown Heros Committee Meeting for Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Elks Club. He has people already inquiring about purchasing the banners.

Mr. Regis made a motion to give approval to Auditor Randall to release \$32,000 from County Permissive Tax Money towards the cost of the S.R. 647 paving with the remaining portion of this cost from the General Fund and then release \$28,952 from the Permanent Improvement Fund for the Slip Project of S.R. 647. Council also gives permission to Auditor Randall to release the checks for these monies. Mrs. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, and Burns voting yes. This motion was declared passed. Mr. Sutak will see that these checks are delivered to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Mr. Shrodes made a motion to approve spending up to \$16,000 from the Sanitation Fund for repairs to the Transfer Station. Motion was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Regis and Hunker voting yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Davies received a surprise call saying that a Police Interceptor was ready for pick-up. Enterprise said it was ordered for the EMS but no purchase order was issued. In order to solve this problem, Chief McFarland is going to take possession of this vehicle and trade-in Unit 7, an older police vehicle with high mileage.

The Mayor would like Council to consider allowing the Water Superintendent to put 10% of net income (instead of 10% of gross income) into Capital Projects for Water. Mr. Stecker said an ordinance would be needed for this change.

Mr. Regis made a motion to reflect Council has received reports from the Officers and Management, and to incorporate these reports into the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. After an affirmative voice vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Regis asked that an ordinance be prepared to vacate Madison Street from the back of the Christian Church to Zane Highway. Mr. Stecker said he would need a legal description of the property. The Christian Church would need to hire an engineer to obtain this legal description. Mrs. Armstrong asked that a stipulation be included in the ordinance stating if all conditions set forth in the agreement aren't met, then the property reverts back to the city.

Mr. Rodger made a motion to excuse Councilman Schramm. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. After an affirmative voice vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Hunker moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Regis. After an affirmative voice vote, the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.



Kay H. McFarlan, Clerk of Council



Kristine Davis, Council President