

Minutes of January 7, 2015 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday January 7, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Donald Myers Memorial Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Council President, Kristine Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance and was followed by a prayer by the Clerk.

Answering roll call were Robert Krajnyak, First Ward, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, Russell Armstrong, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Chris Cleary, and Rob Duncan, Council at Large.

President Davis welcomed everyone back for the new year.

Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Mayor:

A copy of the Mayor's report was distributed which will be made a part of the minutes. A copy of the Safety Director's report was distributed which will be made a part of the minutes.

Service Director:

Two bids were received for the new packer.

A catch basin was rebuilt on Hanover and Zane. All of the catch basins on Zane will need to be rebuilt before paving begins.

Auditor: End of the year reports were distributed.

The appropriations ordinance for the year ending December 31, 2014 needs to be amended. It incorrectly reads 2015.

Law Director: No report.

Development Director: No report.

Code Administrator: No report

Police Department: No report

Fire Department:

Chief Regis said Chief 2 Mike Reese was reelected at the Department Mtg. in December. The Vigilant Truck is due to be replaced. It is 21 years old and the department spent \$6,000 in repairs last month.

The 5 year Fire Dept. levy is due to be renewed this year. It will be on the November ballot.

The Christmas parade was a success.

A grant was submitted to FEMA (the Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant). It would replace the 5 inch hose in two trucks and upgrade the 2 ½ inch hose to 3 inch. It would also upgrade to the universal adapters for the fire hydrants.

Fire Chief 2 discussed the heating issues at the Vigilents Station. Two quotes were distributed. The station has not had heat since December 26. Electric heaters are being used. A high efficiency unit would cost between \$13,000 and \$14,000. A standard unit is \$9,000. A forced air system would be between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Mr. Shrodes commented that a new boiler wouldn't provide air conditioning like a forced air system. Mr. Armstrong requested additional bids, especially from companies in Martins Ferry. Mayor Riethmiller said the old lines are the other problem. Mr. Shrodes asked about the lines freezing with no heat. Mr. Reece said it was above 50* with the space heaters.

Water Superintendent: no report.

Mr. Suto said there was a lengthy Service Committee Meeting. Mr. Cleary asked if Mr. Suto had met with the person regarding the computer system. Mr. Suto said the meeting had been rescheduled.

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: No report

Street: A Street Committee mtg. was scheduled for Tuesday January 13 at 5:30.

Ordinance: No report

Sewer/Sidewalk/Code: A meeting will be scheduled. The 2015 updated Property Maintenance Code needs to be passed.

Safety: No report

Service: A Service Meeting was held on Monday January 5 at 5:30 at the Water Plant. Fire Dept. needs and the City garage were discussed.

Cemetery/PR: A meeting will be scheduled the beginning of February. Mayor Riethmiller discussed the plans of the Civil War Roundtable to refurbish the carriage for the cannon at Walnut Grove Cemetery. It was decided that the committee would present their plans to Council. Mr. Shrodes discussed the other cannon that is from the Spanish American War. Mr. Shrodes said it is currently being stored in the basement and suggested we have the Civil War Roundtable group evaluate it as well.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street asked how the Belmont County Drug Task Force is funded. Mayor Riethmiller said in the past the cities paid for the time spent on task force work. Now there are plans for some of the money to be reimbursed for those hours.

Mr. Hord asked for outstanding achievements in 2014.

President Davis said the paving grant for Zane Hwy.

Mr. Cleary said the water line project for County Rd. 4.

Mayor Riethmiller said both of those projects will take place this year. In 2016 additional turning lanes will be added on Rt. 7.

Mr. Cleary said the County Land Bank. Mr. Cleary said Mrs. Suto has done a great job removing safety issues and Martins Ferry will lead the way in removing unsafe structures.

Mr. Shrodes said the projects for the citizens including the Veteran's Day Celebration, the Christmas Parade, Trick or Treat in the Park, etc.

Mr. Krajnyak said the number of improvements at the water plant thanks to Mr. Suto.

Mayor Riethmiller added that the water plant is selling water to trucks for the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Hord thanked Mrs. Suto for the structure on Virginia Street that was torn down.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW PACKER TRUCK

was given a first reading. Mr. Shrodes moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed. Mr. Krajnyak moved to pass the ordinance as read. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Cleary moved to amend Ordinance 2014-21 to read year ending December 31, 2014. Mr. Shrodes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Armstrong said the city made it through the year with hard work and cut backs and that that needs to continue in 2015. Mr. Cleary said that HB #5 passed, which will cost around \$150,000 from the city budget. Mr. Cleary said that everyone needs to stay alert on State legislation. Local government takes the biggest cut and our money will be spent elsewhere.

Mr. Riethmiller encouraged citizens to get involved. He explained that all Council and Administration positions are up for election.

Mr. Shrodes moved to go into Executive Session for Sale and Purchase of Property. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Krajnyak moved to go out of Executive Session. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Duncan moved to excuse Mr. Regis. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Shrodes made a motion to accept the reports of Supervisors and Management. The motion was seconded by Mr. Armstrong and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cleary and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Council President, Kristine Davis