

## **Minutes of March 18, 2015 Council Meeting**

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday March 18, 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 Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, Russell Armstrong, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Jack Regis Sr., Chris Cleary, and Rob Duncan, Council at Large.

**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. Mayor Riethmiller thanked Chief 1, Chief 2, and the Fire Department for their response to the diesel fuel spill.

Chief Regis said that Ty Wilson received the Belmont County Paramedic of the Year award at a recent banquet.

Chief McFarland presented Bob Walton and Steve Beltre with a Life saving Medal for their quick action during a foot pursuit that ended with the man trying to escape to Wheeling Island. The individual started to drown and was rescued.

Mayor Riethmiller introduced Cliff Meyer of the Jefferson Belmont Solid Waste Authority and Commissioner Ginny Favede who is also the Chair of the JB Green Team Board of Trustees. Mayor Riethmiller said that Steubenville had passed the resolution to approve the JB Green plan. If the plan is not approved, control would go to the EPA. Mr. Rodgers asked for a list of names and numbers for those on the JB Green Board. JB Green has reinstated all programs previously discontinued. Mr. Bennett thanked JB Green for recycling TVs. He said that the City receives a lot of phone calls asking where people can dispose of televisions. Mayor Riethmiller said a deputy was hired by JB Green to handle dumping sites around the county. Mrs. Favede said that JB Green is trying to attack illegal dumping sites.

### **Service Director:**

Mr. Bennett sent his condolences to Development Director Gagin who recently lost her father.

Mr. Bennett said a resolution will be needed to purchase salt for next year.

The sink hole on S. Zane Hwy and Willow was only a surface sink hole. The City Workers dug down 4 ft and saw no evidence of a deeper problem. They repaired the catch basin while working on the sink hole. There are now 53 more catch basins to repair before paving. Mr. Regis asked if grindings from Zane could be used to patch alleys. Mr.

Bennett said yes. Mr. Armstrong said that the City keeping the grindings was a part of the bid packet.

Mr. Bennett announced that Saturday April 18 is Clean Up Day from 8-12 at the City Garage.

Mr. Cleary asked about patching potholes on Zane Hwy. Mr. Bennett said that he is trying to only do the large ones as to not waste money.

**Auditor:** No report

**Law Director:** No report.

**Code Administrator:** No report

**Police Chief:** No report

**Fire Chief 1:**

Chief Regis said they had been unable to attend several Council Meetings because of mutual aid calls.

Chief Regis thanked the City for plowing and salting the hill during the fatal fire on Hughes Ave.

12 members of the Fire Department are in Fire Fighter 1 transition class. Fire Fighter 2 class will be held in late summer. Chief Regis said that training increases the department's chances of receiving grants.

August 4-8 will be Betty Zane Days. Council needs to grant permission to use the park and close Grant from Zane to Washington, Zane from Hickory to Grant, and 4<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday for the Water Battle.

**Water Superintendent:**

A copy of the Water Superintendent's report was distributed which will be made a part of the minutes.

The Walnut Street Pump Station has been repaired, but will need spare parts.

Mr. Suto will get with Mr. Stecker concerning the specs for the air compressor bids.

Mayor Riethmiller thanked Mr. Suto for keeping everyone informed during the pump failures at the Walnut Street Pump Station. Mr. Shrodes added that the employees took all precautions and did a great job.

**Committees of Council:**

**Finance/Audit:** Mr. Cleary said a Finance Meeting would be held on Tuesday March 24 at 3:30. Mr. Cleary said that the Finance Committee has met multiple times and has gone over the budget carefully. Mr. Cleary requested addition reports from the Auditor's Office to keep the Dept. Heads up to date with their budget.

Mr. Cleary added that a Special Meeting will need to be held to pass the appropriations ordinance.

**Street:** Council members were asked to suggest streets in need of paving.

**Ordinance:** No report

**Sewer/Sidewalk:** No report

**Safety:** A Safety Committee Meeting will be held following the Finance Meeting on March 24.

**Service Committee:** Mr. Shrodes reminded citizens of the 3 can limit for trash. All trash must be in a garbage can with a lid. Mr. Shrodes thanked Chief McFarland, the Police Dept. and Mrs. Suto who cited 16 people for trash violations.

**Citizens to be Heard:**

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street asked about the status of land banking. He was told that he should see progress very soon. Mr. Hord congratulated Mrs. Suto on her hard work.

Mr. Hord asked about the current legal action against JB Green by Flushing and Dillonvale. It was explained that the issue is separate from what is being voted on this evening.

Mr. Hord reminded everyone of the Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony on Sunday April 12 at 2 pm at the high school cafetorium.

Commissioner Favede offered a private night at the Belmont County Museum as a fund raising opportunity for the Historical Society.

Mr. Rodgers pointed out that the Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony is on Orthodox Easter.

**Ordinances and Resolutions:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY TO RATIFY THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE JEFFERSON/BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY** was given a first reading. Mr. Regis moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary and Duncan voting yea and the rules were suspended. Mr. Shrodes moved to pass the resolution as read. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary and Duncan voting yea and the resolution was passed as read.

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY TO THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A FIVE (5.0) MILL LEVY**

**AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY** was given a first reading. No action was taken and the resolution will go on to a second reading.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Mr. Shrodes moved to allow the Fire Dept. to use the City Park and to close Grant from Zane to Washington, Zane from Hickory to Grant, and 4<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday for the Water Battle for Betty Zane Days. Mr. Regis seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Cleary asked if the Lime Energy Audit needs to be approved. Mr. Regis suggested looking at the Alert Engine Co. before winter. Mr. Armstrong suggested getting prices. Chief Regis will get estimates.

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

Mr. Cleary recommended that due to the current cash flow issues that bill be paid no sooner than 15 days before the due date and that if bills need to be paid sooner then Council must be petitioned for permission.

Mr. Cleary moved to approve a bill pay procedure to pay bills no sooner than 15 days before the due date and to pay sooner would require permission from Council. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary and Duncan voting yea and the motion was passed. This will be followed up with a resolution. Mr. Cleary reminded that anyone could come to Council and ask to have the rule waived if needed.

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

Mr. Armstrong 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.

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Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Council President, Kristine Davis