

Minutes of February 3, 2016 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday February 3, 2016 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 Hunker, First Ward, Phil Wallace, Second Ward, John Davies, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis Sr. Council at Large

Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Director of Public Service: Mr. Cleary reported that Mayor Krajnyak sends his apologies for missing tonight's meeting, but he is unable to attend because of a family medical emergency.

Mr. Cleary said that a Utility Office Manager had been hired. Judy Leonard has accepted the position and started on Monday.

Mr. Cleary said he met with Mr. Vaughn regarding issues on Cemetery Rd. The maintenance manager at Jaycee Manor said they will be doing renovations and are concerned with flooding. Plans are being looked at to divert the water down Columbus Ave. The company that completed the manhole project on Don St. will look at the Cemetery Rd issue.

Auditor: Ms. Randall said end of the month financials were distributed. The expanded form was explained. Ms. Randall said she is working on the budget. Ms. Randall added that Ms. Leonard is working out well and will be compiling a policy and procedure manual.

Development Director: A copy of the Development Director's report was distributed and will be made a part of these minutes.

A joint application with Pease Township was approved. \$11,300 will be received for water line repairs.

Police Dept. no report

Fire Dept. no report

Water Superintendent no report

Code Administrator: no report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: no report

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street discussed the future of the Aetnaville Bridge and said he is in favor of a foot bridge.

Mr. Hord asked about striping Broadway and Aetna Streets. Mr. Cleary said he has estimates and needs to talk to one of the companies that bid regarding their price.

Mr. Hord suggested new businesses send a representative to Council Meetings to introduce themselves and their business. President Davis said that the Mayor has several ideas regarding businesses. Mr. Hord added that the Mayor's plaque needs updated.

Mr. Hord asked about the possibility of a new location for the City Building since the current location is not handicap accessible. Mr. Cleary said he would entertain options.

President Davis asked for a change of order so that Council could go to Miscellaneous Business.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Wallace moved to go into Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 for Sale of Property. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion. Mr. Neiman said he was at the City Garage today and that it is a disgrace. He added that the citizens have a right to know what is being discussed. Mr. Wallace rescinded his motion.

Ms. Gagin and Mr. Cleary were called upon to present information. Mr. Hunker said that he understands the current garage issues but wanted to know how the new location would be paid for. Mr. Cleary said that with a 30 year loan from the USDA the building and equipment would cost \$673,000. This would make the monthly payment approximately \$2400 a month. Ms. Randall said the division of how the building would be paid for was still being worked on by the Auditors but looked like 45% street, 30 % or 35% sanitation and the balance sewer. Mr. Hunker asked how 45% could come out of the General Fund. Ms. Randall said that the amount would be approximately \$1450 per month from street.

Mr. Cleary discussed the utility bills at the Ohio Valley Chemical site. He said that the gas budget was approximately \$450 for three buildings. Electric was normally around \$100. The buildings are well insulated and the City would see a savings in utilities at the site. Mr. Davies asked for a breakdown of the payment. Mr. Cleary said that Ms. Randall and the auditors were still working on those figures. Mr. Davies said he knows the garage is bad and that something needs to be done, but he wants to see how it will be paid for.

Mr. Cleary said that they looked at the garage and that this building seems to be the best fit. It would also get the City Garage out of the flood plain. Mr. Cleary added that the City could not get a loan to fix the garage since it is in the flood plain. Mr. Cleary said it is frustrating to see the opportunities the City has passed up through the years. Mr.

Hunker said that Council represents the citizens and they need to protect the money. He added that a lot of factors need to be looked into. Mr. Davies asked for two weeks. He said that they know something needs to be done and that the citizens elected

Administration with faith in their ability to do the job. Mr. Davies said he doesn't want to

see workers laid off to pay for a new building. Ms. Gagin said there is no deadline, the application is in process. She said the application can be stopped but funding may not remain available. She said it needs passed so that the new Mayor's signature can be on the documents. Mr. Wallace said that taxes are due on the property. It was explained that the Mayor spoke with Mr. Stecker and the liens do not follow the property. Mr. Stecker said it is not a concern. The oil and gas rights were discussed. The rights do not transfer. Mr. Schramm said the liens are on the owning company, not the property. Mr. Wallace asked about the parking meter fund and said it should be reinstated. Ms. Randall said the money now goes into the General Fund. Mr. Davies asked to postpone voting on the legislation until there is clarification.

Mr. Davies moved to postpone the reading of legislation pertaining to the City Garage funding and extra equipment for two weeks. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and Rodgers voting no and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis scheduled a Finance Meeting for Tuesday February 9 at 5:30 pm.

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

Mr. Rodgers moved to allow the Lion's Club to use the City Park on Saturday June 4th for the annual Yard Sale in the Park. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis scheduled a Safety Meeting on Tuesday February 16 at 5:00.

Mr. Rodgers proposed meetings around the City. He listed dates and possible locations. These must be confirmed. Mr. Regis will be unable to attend the March 2 meeting. Mr. Neiman suggested a Council Meeting be held at Betty Zane Days.

President Davis asked for nominees for President Pro Tem. Mr. Neiman nominated Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Regis seconded the motion. Mr. Regis moved to close nominations. After hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed a Mr. Rodgers was named President Pro Tem.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE REIMBURSEMENT BY THE SEWER FUND TO THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE REPAIR OF THE SEWER TRUCK was given a first reading. Mr. Regis moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed. Mr. Rodgers moved to pass the ordinance as read. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members

Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE REIMBURSEMENT BY THE SEWER FUND TO THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT FIXTURE was given a first reading. Mr. Hunker moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Regis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed. Mr. Hunker moved to pass the ordinance as read. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to remove the table from the resolution regarding the OPWC grant application. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, and Schramm voting no Council Members Rodgers, Neiman, and Regis voting yea and the legislation remains tabled.

Mr. Davies asked that the OPWC grant application and details of the project be discussed at the Finance Meeting. Mr. Davies asked about the street being bonded. Ms. Gagin explained the RUMA agreement. Mr. Cleary suggested Mr. Stecker be asked to explain the RUMA agreement. Ms. Gagin explained that basics of a RUMA agreement. Mr. Davies asked if National Lime and Stone are in support. She said yes. Ms. Gagin said she is always available to answer questions.

Mr. Regis moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodgers 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