

Minutes of January 20, 2016 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday January 20, 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.

President Davis welcomed the newly appointed officials and reviewed procedures.

Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

President Davis reminded everyone that Financial Disclosures are due Feb 3.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor: Mayor Krajnyak had no written report.

Mayor Krajnyak requested that Council voice vote approval for the retainer for Jeff Vaughn of Vaughn, Coast, and Vaughn to continue as the City's engineer.

An Executive Session is needed under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 Contract Negotiations. Mayor Krajnyak welcomed the new Council members and said he looks forward to working together for the best of the City.

Service Director: Mr. Cleary said that crews were out clearing roads. 100 tons of salt were used before the first of the year. Another 100 tons were ordered. The City is required to purchase 90% of the 300 tons left in their agreement.

Mayor Krajnyak and Mr. Cleary will meet with Mr. Vaughn regarding Cemetery Rd. Mr. Cleary requested that Council submit other projects for Mr. Vaughn's opinion for the meeting.

Mr. Matz had crews out along Dutch Hill Rd to work on the culvert issue. They dug out the culvert, which should help keep water from running across the road and becoming a freezing hazard.

80+ Christmas trees were picked up this holiday season.

Mr. Cleary thanked the City Workers for their hard work. He also thanked Mr. Matz and Mr. Suto for their knowledge and help.

Mr. Wallace asked for the price of salt. Mr. Cleary said it is \$71.34 a ton.

The new hospital signs were discussed. Mr. Cleary will approach the hospital about moving them.

Auditor: financials were distributed to the new members. These included cash balances, revenue, and expenses as required by the State of Ohio.

Mr. Wallace asked about the end of the year report that shows the General Fund \$8,000 in the red.

Law Director: No report

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

A meeting will be held with the residents of Crawford Heights on Feb. 2 at 6 pm.

Code Administrator: No report

Water Superintendent: No report

Mr. Cleary and Mr. Suto met with James White Construction regarding the County Rd 4 project. The project should be completed in June.

Mayor Krajnyak said that he has received compliments from the citizens about the workers on the project.

Mr. Davies asked Mr. Suto about the altitude valve in that area. Mr. Suto said they are not using the West Lawn altitude valve.

Police Dept. No report

Fire Dept. No report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: Mr. Regis said a workshop was held on Monday and that he sees a good working relationship between Council and Administration.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia St asked about options and resolutions to the City's financial concerns. Mayor Krajnyak said that some plans have been made. He suggested more diligence regarding the budget and said that meetings are being held weekly with Ms. Randall, Mr. Cleary, and himself to discuss finances. Mayor Krajnyak discussed the recent Police levy and ways that it could be changed to increase the chance of getting it passed in November.

Mr. Hord asked if renovations to the City Building were being considered since the building is not handicapped accessible. President Davis said a study was done several years ago and little can be done within the current structure. Mr. Regis said the City would be better off to tear it down and build new.

Mr. Hord asked about proclamations for Betty Pokas and Yvonne Myers. Mayor Krajnyak said he is hoping to have them ready to present at the Feb. 17 meeting.

Mr. Hord said that the recent memorial service for k-9 Rock was very well done and very appropriate. Mayor Krajnyak thanked all the communities who attended.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING REIMBURSEMENT BY THE WATER FUND TO THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE REPAIR OF THE

SEWER TRUCK was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE CITY GARAGE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING REIMBURSEMENT BY THE WATER FUND TO THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT FIXTURE was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED was given a first reading. No action was taken and the resolution will go on to a second reading.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY TO ENTER INTO THE HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WIT was given a first reading. No action was taken and the resolution will go on to a second reading.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Wallace discussed the recent announcement of the closing of the Aetnaville Bridge to pedestrian traffic. Mr. Wallace said he would be talking to ODOT on Thursday as well as OMEGA. Mayor Krajnyak agreed with Mr. Wallace and said he would bring it up at his meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Rodgers moved to schedule a special meeting for legislation only on Wednesday January 27 at 6 pm. 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. Wallace said that he had no knowledge of the resolutions. Mr. Neiman suggested discussion of the Utility Clerk position and the City Garage.

Mayor Krajnyak discussed the Utility Manager position. He said that 20 + applications had been received. 15 people were interviewed. The applicants were then narrowed down to 7 and finally three. The position was recommended by the State Auditor's Office to bring the office into the future, help with issues and system updates that must be compatible with the water department. The three finalists are currently receiving background checks.

The current City Garage wall is separating from the roof and collapsing. Engineers have looked into the problem and think it is a problem with the footer because of the railroad. The roof beams also need replaced. Repairs for the wall and roof are estimated at \$500,000. Since the current garage is in the flood plain and since the estimated cost of repairs is \$500,000 on a building that could have other issues and since the cost to build a new building in the same spot would exceed \$1 million it was decided that other options needed to be found. When the property being considered became available Ms. Gagin submitted an application to the USDA. Mayor Krajnyak said that this seems to be the best way to get the garage out of the flood plain and would not put the garage in a residential area. The life expectancy of the building is 60 + years and the property includes other buildings that could be utilized. Mr. Davies asked if it would be a loan for \$650,000. Ms. Gagin said it is a 30 year loan at 3.2%. Mr. Davies asked how it would be paid for. Mayor Krajnyak said it would be divided between the departments that would use the building: street, sewer, sanitation and that the water dept would share in some of the cost because they would be storing equipment and supplies there as well. Mr. Neiman said there is a nice office space area and that it fits the City's needs. Mr. Wallace asked if it would be feasible for the Service Director to take over the duties of the Office Manager. Mr. Cleary said he met with the State Auditor's Office and that they strongly recommended the Office Manager be there at all times. Mr. Cleary said that would mean the Service Director couldn't do anything else. Mr. Cleary said the State explained that the Office needs to be brought into line. He said this is a serious position with a salary recommended by the State. They need to have a college education in the field and also be state tested.

Mr. Regis moved to accept the reports of officers and management. Mr. Davies seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis suggested scheduling meetings around town to allow more people to attend. He suggested one meeting per quarter.

Mr. Hunker asked about the additional equipment with the proposed City Garage property. Ms. Gagin read through the list of equipment that included a fork lift, desks, computers, bookshelves, chairs, and the phone and security systems. Mr. Wallace said those items could be purchased at a state level auction. Ms. Gagin said that is where she got the value of \$15,000 for the fork lift alone.

Mr. Hunker moved to go into Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 for Contract Negotiations. Mr. Wallace 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 and Council went into Executive Session.

Mr. Wallace moved to go out of Executive Session. 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. Wallace moved to retain Mr. Vaughn of Vaughn, Coast, and Vaughn for \$2,400 a year as the City Engineer. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion. . A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea Mr. Rodgers voting no and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies moved to accept the tentative agreement regarding the Police contract. 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. Regis moved to adjourn. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Council President, Kristine Davis