

Minutes of March 16, 2016 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday March 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Martins Ferry City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by President Pro Tem Rick Rodgers 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, Council at Large

Correspondence: None

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak said the Property Maintenance Board has been established. The Board will have five members and two alternates. Violators will appear in Mayor's Court and if they choose to appeal, the Board will hear the case. Mayor Krajnyak will meet with Mr. Stecker regarding training.

Mayor Krajnyak will meet with the Aaron Pettington of the Ohio EPA regarding sewer issues. This meeting will be held at the end of the month.

A meeting with Clergy will be held on April 8 at 3:30 pm. The Clergy would like to hold a blessing of the water at the Water Plant on Earth Day.

The JB Green Team will not be awarding grants in 2016.

Safety- No parking signs for Crawford Heights will be installed.

Mayor Krajnyak met with the CAC regarding the Summer Youth Program.

Ms. Regis has returned and will be working on the Resolutions of Appreciation.

Service Director: Mr. Cleary said that hot patch is now being made. Due to budget constraints for pothole repair, a list of major potholes will be compiled.

Mr. Cleary met with a representative of the Ohio EPA-Community Relations division.

Mr. Cleary said the collections report was unavailable due to a computer crash. Mr.

Cleary said collections are up to \$2,000 from \$200 at this time last year.

Auditor: End of the month financials were distributed. Ms. Randall explained the format of the report.

Police Dept.: No report

Fire Dept.: No report

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

Mr. Suto added that the first hydrant flushing of 2016 will be held the week of April 10.

Code Administrator: No report

Law Director: Mr. Stecker asked that Council decide if they would like a Title search or Title insurance for the proposed City Garage property. Mr. Davies recommended the Title Insurance.

Mr. Davies moved to allow Mr. Stecker to purchase Title Insurance for the proposed City Garage property. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman and Schramm voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Park District: No report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: No report. A meeting was scheduled for Monday at 5:00. Mr. Davies gave the report from the previous mtg. Mr. Davies said the budget was discussed including the \$195,000 deficit in the General Fund. Mr. Davies said that with some brain storming the amount is now a more manageable amount. A Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 29 at 6:00 to pass the appropriations budget.

Mr. Davies said that fund 47 is struggling. He proposed Council forgive the EMS payback to permanent improvement.

The new computer system for the Utility Office was discussed. Mr. Davies commented on the poor customer service associated with the current system. Mr. Regis asked about training. Mr. Cleary said the system includes a sand box for training purposes so employees can access the training module. Mr. Regis asked if the system can control who can get into the information. Mr. Cleary said yes, it would use the server in the Auditor's Office but would have firewall protection. The VIP upgrade would allow designated people to access reports. Mr. Regis asked if the reports could be transmitted digitally. Mr. Cleary said that could be done through other programs. Mr. Cleary added that not everyone has a computer, but the reports could be put in Dropbox to view. Ms. Randall said she could email. Mr. Cleary said documents could be sent as pdf files and to let him know if they are interested. Mr. Neiman asked if the City Building recycles. Mr. Cleary said that the Mayor has started that project and that recycling boxes can be found around the building.

Street Committee: Mr. Rodgers said that he spoke with everyone about the First St. project. Mr. Waugh was introduced and is available to answer questions.

Code Committee: no report

Ordinance Committee: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: no report.

Safety: no report

Service: no report

Cemetery/PR: Grass cutting was discussed.

Citizens to be Heard:

John Applegarth of N. 5th St. asked about landbanking. Mr. Cleary said he attended a meeting on Monday. Six houses will be done. The schedule should be set soon. He added that Ohio received Federal money thanks to the work of Senator Brown. The state was hoping to receive \$250 million and received \$350 million. Mr. Cleary clarified that the new money does not have the previous rules attached, so it could be used outside the original target area. Mr. Applegarth asked if there was other money to be used for demolition. Mr. Cleary said no. Mrs. Suto said that several houses were already torn down on Mr. Applegarth's street and that the others are on the list. Mrs. Suto said the cost to demolish a one story structure is \$9,000 and a Two Story is \$17,000 not including asbestos abatement. Mr. Cleary explained the Landbank board has a mechanism in place to remove liens.

Mr. Applegarth asked Mr. Regis about the streetlight on N. 8th St. Mr. Regis said he turned it over to Mr. Riethmiller and would discuss with Mayor Krajnyak.

Mike Masters of 1059 Central Ave. updated Council on the Crawford Heights Playground project and thanked the Times Leader for the article. Mr. Masters discussed maintenance concerns especially grass cutting. He suggested the City set up a meeting with the Park District. Mr. Masters has a sample of the bricks that will be used. They will be available for purchase and can be customized on the website.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia St. asked for an update on the wall on S. 10th St. and asked if there are plans to tear it down. Mayor Krajnyak will look into the matter.

Mr. Hord thanked the City for help with the flyers and media releases for the Hall of Honor. He thanked the Times Leader as well and said the billboard will be up soon and will be located near the Hanover exit.

Mr. Hord asked about a Town Hall with the County Commissioners and volunteered to set it up. Mayor Krajnyak said he was in favor of a Town Hall and gave Mr. Hord permission to proceed.

Mr. Hord said Tina's Sweet Celebrations will open Saturday.

The Rev. Fr. Michael Ziebarth of 1117 Indiana St. discussed the Barnesville water supply issues that were caused by fracking and expressed his concerns regarding alerting the public to the issue and the education of the first responders on the issue.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING APPROACHING STATIONARY PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES DISPLAYING EMERGENCY LIGHTS was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading. Mr. Wallace expressed concern over a vehicle being stationary for a long period of time at the site of an emergency.

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 read after being postponed at the last meeting. Mr. Davies asked if the RUMA agreements had been signed. He also asked how long it will tie up paving monies. Mr. Rodgers said \$12,000 a year for 10 years. Mr. Davies said that would mean not paving any other streets for 10 years and wondered how many people travel 1st St. Mr. Hunker asked why RUMA agreements have not been signed. Mr. Waugh said RUMA agreements are temporary and usually used for the oil and gas industry. He said this is a City street and should be cared for by the City. He added that if you don't know who damaged the street it is hard to enforce the RUMA agreement. Mr. Hunker discussed overweight trucks on the road. He said Wheeling Pitt was allowed to carry heavier loads because they put up a bond. Mr. Davies asked the life expectancy. Mr. Waugh said ten years. Mr. Davies said that is how long it will take to pay for the project. Mr. Davies discussed overweight trucks. Mr. Waugh pointed out that 54% of this is free money with a 0% interest loan. This would be getting the street paved for 26% out of pocket. Mr. Regis said if the City turns down this money it will be nearly impossible to get future grants. Mayor Krajnyak explained this was started last year and he would like to see it done. He said he appreciates the caution but that it is needed for business. Mr. Regis moved to pass the resolution as read. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Rodgers, Neiman and Schramm voting yea Davies voting no and the motion was declared passed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Hunker moved to approve the purchase of the computer system. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies moved to forgive the \$14,500 debt of the EMS vehicle. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

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

Mr. Wallace asked if Council could receive a monthly financial report for EMS. Ms. Randall said it is in the monthly financial report.

Mr. Wallace moved to excuse Mrs. Davis. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Hunker asked about setting up the rate for payback on the computer system. Ms. Randall said she will get with Mr. Stecker.

Mr. Neiman asked about the dumpster on Hill St. Mr. Cleary will speak with them.

Mr. Hunker moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

President Pro Tem, Rick Rodgers