

## **Minutes of August 17, 2016 Regular Council Meeting**

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday August 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Donald Myers 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, John Davies, Third Ward Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis, Council at Large.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence was received.

**Minutes:** Minutes were approved as received.

### **Reports of Officers of the City:**

#### **Mayor:**

Mayor Krajnyak updated Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street slip. He said the City is waiting for a cost estimate from ADR. He said that they suggested concentrating on saving the road and utilities. The Mayor said several agencies are looking into funding for the project. The Mayor will be calling the Governor's Office on Thursday. The vacant house has shifted more toward the open lot. Neighbors have been advised to be ready to move if needed. No one has been told that they have to move. It was suggested to Mr. Burch and family.

Estimates to repair the three slips on State Route 647 have been received. The cost will be \$1,070,000. The Federal Government will cover 80%, ODOT will pay \$120,000 which leaves \$94,000 for the City to pay. The Mayor met with Belomar and they can contribute \$50,000. That leaves the City \$44,000. The City is looking for funding. Mayor Krajnyak asked Council to give permission to go forward with the repairs. He asked that up to \$50,000 be appropriated from Permanent Improvement if needed. If other funding sources are found, the money would not be used.

The brush hog is back. It will be put into service next week. The repairs came in \$5,000 under the estimate. The cost for ADR to get the estimate on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street project is \$2,250. Mayor Krajnyak asked that the savings from the brush hog be used to pay for the engineer estimate of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the rest be put toward the needed repairs on N.Ridge. Mayor Krajnyak said that the Democratic Central Committee failed to appoint someone to fill the Second Ward vacancy. Now, it is up to Council to appoint the replacement. Council will have 30 days. Candidates can represent any political party, the only requirement is that they reside in the Second Ward. Interested citizens may submit a letter of interest. If Council does not fill the vacancy in 30 days, it will then be the selection of the Mayor.

Mr. Davies asked Mr. Stecker if Permanent Improvement money can be used for engineering. Mr. Stecker said yes, because it would be part of an improvement that would last 5 years.

#### **Service Director:**

Mr. Cleary said August 11 was the public opening for bids for the First Street Project. Shelley and Sands was recommended by ADR and their estimate came in below expected. If Council sees fit, Mr. Cleary asked that the project move forward.

Mr. Cleary received the loan approval for Cemetery Rd. With Councils approval, the project should begin the end of August and end in October with paving next year. The cost is \$219,167, but will be less with the grant for paving. Cost should come down to around \$200,000.

The County Rd 4 Project is at West Lawn. It is 2-3 weeks from completion. There have been numerous service line breaks recently.

The Colerain Tank is being checked every 4 hours due to telemetry system upgrades that are needed. It should be fixed tomorrow.

Several citizens have reported suspicious behavior around hydrants. Mr. Cleary thanked them for their help and diligence.

Mr. Cleary wished Ms. Randall well after her surgery.

**Law Director:** no report

**Police Dept.:** no report

**Fire Dept.:** no report

**Committees of Council:**

**Finance/Audit:** no report

**Street:** no report. A meeting is needed to discuss N. Ridge, 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and other issues. Mr. Rodgers asked Mr. Cleary when he expected bids to come in. Mr. Cleary said the end of next week. A Street Committee Meeting was scheduled for August 30 at 6 pm.

**Ordinance:** no report

**Sewer/Sidewalk:** no report

**Code:** no report

**Safety:** no report

**Service:** no report

**Cemetery/PR:** no report

**Real Estate:** A meeting will be set up. Mr. Cleary will email a summary. Meeting will be held after the Street Committee Meeting on Aug 30 at 6:30 pm.

**Property Maintenance Board:** Mr. Regis updated Council on the appeals board. Mr. Regis said the committee members are Mike Miklas, Tom Burns and himself with Kim

Neavin and Suzanne Armstrong as alternates. The board has met three times. Appeals are for structural issues. If they do not show up for the appeals board meeting they pay the entire fine amount. So far, three citizens have started to fix their property. They are given reduced fines, but they still keep the court costs. Mr. Regis said progressive fining is needed. He said that he is willing to work on a committee for stricter penalties. Mayor Krajnyak thanked Mr. Regis and the board. He said the City is seeing improvements.

### **Citizens to be Heard:**

Matt Coffland introduced himself to Council and Administration. He is running to keep his position as Belmont Co. Commissioner.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street asked for an update on landbanking. Mr. Cleary said that Mr. Coffland works on the landbanking committee. Mr. Cleary said that the committee is waiting for reimbursement money. Also, additional funding has come to the state, but so far no rules are tied to the additional funds. Mr. Cleary said there are a host of houses that need torn down, and that expansion to the townships would help. Mr. Cleary said it is a goal of the committee to get that done. He said it is a slow process but creates a big benefit for Martins Ferry and Belmont County.

Mr. Hord asked about striping on Broadway and Aetna. Mr. Cleary said that was put on the back burner with the many slips in town.

Monday October 3 at 6 pm will be the Meet the Candidates at the Martins Ferry High School Cafetorium.

Mr. Hord asked if there is any information available about properties to be marketed for development and is the City able to market those properties. Mayor Krajnyak said that the City directs interested parties to the owners of the properties.

Mr. Hord asked about the paving on Virginia that is being done by the gas company after they replaced lines. Mr. Cleary said that the paving is not curb to curb and that yes, it is done.

### **Miscellaneous Business:**

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

President Davis explained that the 45 days has passed that the Democratic Central Committee had to fill the vacant Second Ward seat. Ohio Revised Code 733.31 and 731.43 says that it now falls to City Council to fill the vacancy. Council has 30 days (which would be Tuesday Sept. 13). If Council does not fill the vacancy in that time, the seat will be filled by the Mayor. Letters of interest should be submitted to the Clerk with a deadline of Friday August 26. A meeting will be scheduled for the interviews and the new Council Member could be sworn in for the first mtg. in September. Mr. Hunker said there was some confusion over the Second Ward boundaries. August 31 was suggested for the meeting. Commissioner Coffland said there is a RUMA meeting at Undo's on the 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm.

Mr. Regis moved to hold a special meeting on Thursday September 1 at 5 pm with applications due in by Friday August 26 at 5 pm to fill the vacant Second Ward Council Seat.

Mr. Schramm moved to accept the bid from Shelley and Sands for the First Street Paving Project. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Schramm moved to use the remaining balance of \$5,000 from the brush hog repair be used toward N. Ridge and engineering for the 8<sup>th</sup> St. project. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to appropriate up to \$50,000 from Permanent Improvement for the State Rt. 647 project with the stipulation that the money not be used if alternate funding is made available. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies said applications were open to all party affiliations. The only stipulation is that applicants live in the Second Ward.

Mr. Regis asked when the garage move would take place. Mayor Krajnyak said they should be out of the building in a few weeks then we can start moving.

Mayor Krajnyak thanked Council for passing the St. Rt. 647 project.

Mr. Rodgers asked about tree removal estimates. Mr. Cleary said no definite price.

Mr. Rodgers asked if the perpetual care ordinance could be rewritten to include maintenance. Mr. Stecker said no. He explained that the City could stop putting money into perpetual care. The Mayor asked Mr. Stecker for a meeting to discuss.

Mr. Regis said a date needs to be set for the ballfield dedication. Mayor Krajnyak will set a date with the family.

Mr. Neiman said the next Council Meeting would be held at the Liberty Fire Station on Sept. 7.

Mr. Hunker motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Davies 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

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Kristine Davis, Council President