

Minutes of July 20, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday July 20, 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 said state funding for St. Rt. 647 has been submitted to ODOT. The City is waiting for the response from the state.

Lots are being cut this week by CAC.

A Business After Hours event will be held Thursday from 5-7 at EORH in the Ruth Brandt Maquire Room.

Service Director:

Hydrant flushing will begin on Sunday around 10 p.m. and will continue all week. Water may be discolored. Sewers will be flushed as well.

Work on Filter Bed #2 at the Water Treatment Plant has been completed.

The Prison Work Crew will be in the City on Monday and Tuesday and will cut grass in the cemetery. The CAC crew will cut downtown. Mr. Cleary thanked Belmont Co.

Corrections. He said the crew should return in October.

Several grave markers were reset at the cemetery. Larger stones will need equipment.

Five stones were reset last week. Footers are also being repaired.

Mr. Regis said he was at the Water Treatment Plant the other day and he is impressed with the turn around. Mr. Regis thanked Mr. Suto and the employees for doing a great job. Mr. Regis said he had out of town family in recently and they were very happy with the condition of the cemetery. Mr. Regis asked about the weeds on Vineway. Mr. Cleary said the City is waiting on the brush hog repair. Mayor Krajnyak said they tried to find one locally but couldn't.

Mr. Davies asked about hydrant flushing. He pointed out an issue with the broken storm drain on Zane Knoll that will cause flooding when hydrants are flushed. Mr. Davies told Mr. Cleary to let him know when equipment is needed to set stones. Mr. Cleary added that the City received estimates for removing eleven dead trees that are posing a hazard in Riverview Cemetery and one enormous tree in Walnut Grove. The tree in Walnut Grove will cost approximately \$11,000-\$13,000 to remove. The estimate for the trees at Riverview was \$21,000. Mayor Krajnyak said if the City could do the work the cut wood could be sold as a fundraiser for the cemetery.

Auditor:

Ms. Randall said the Income Tax revenue was higher than normal.

Law Director: no report

Police Dept.: no report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: Paperwork was distributed to be looked over before the next Finance Mtg. Mr. Rodgers asked Mr. Stecker about Street Dept. operating in the red. Mr. Stecker said the City can not continue to do that. Mr. Rodgers requested a meeting to discuss.

Street: Mr. Rodgers said bids for 1st Street will be advertised in the paper on Monday. Mr. Cleary said bids are due in the first week of August with openings the second week of August. A meeting will be scheduled after the bid openings. Mr. Cleary said he contacted the engineers concerning the permissive county tax. Mr. Bennett will be contacted. Mr. Regis asked about Hillendale estimates. Mr. Rodgers said Mr. Callarick is giving three separate estimates.

Ordinance: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: no report

Code: no report

Safety: no report

Service: no report

Cemetery/PR: no report

Citizens to be Heard:

Brian Shambach introduced himself to Council and Administration. He is running for Belmont Co. Commissioner.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street commented on the economic development occurring in and around St. Clairsville and asked about the type of relationship the City has with the Port Authority. Mayor Krajnyak said the City works with OMEGA and the Port Authority. He said that often the issue is that businesses are looking for 40+ acres, which Martins Ferry does not have. Mayor Krajnyak said the City is currently working with the Port Authority on some things.

Mr. Hord said he continues to work with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the Meet the Candidates. Nothing can be confirmed at this time.

Mitch Taylor of 431 N. 8th St. said the neighbor's house foundation is washed out and the house is ready to collapse. Mayor Krajnyak got Mr. Taylor's phone number. He said that he thought citations had been issued and he will look into the matter.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Davies asked about scheduling a Finance Meeting. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday August 26 at 6 p.m.

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

Mrs. Davis asked that Council consider creating a committee to research the purchase or sale of property. It was agreed and Council Members Davies, Regis, and Hunker will make up the committee with Mr. Davies as the chairman.

Mr. Regis moved to cancel the Aug. 3 Council Meeting. Mr. Hunker 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.

Ms. Randall reminded Council that the budget hearing will be held on the 29th at 2p.m. at the Auditor's Office in the Courthouse.

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

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Kristine Davis, Council President