

Minutes of August 16, 2017 Martins Ferry City Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday August 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Liberty Fire Station. 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, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, John Davies, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis Council at Large.

Minutes: Minutes from the July 19, 2017 Council Meeting were approved as received.

Correspondence: None

President Davis thanked the Liberty Fire Station for hosting the Council Meeting this evening.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak thanked Richard Hord for organizing the County Commissioners Town Hall Meeting. He also thanked the commissioners for having the meeting.

Mayor Krajnyak said State Senator Frank Hoagland held a meeting. Severance tax concerns were addressed as they relate to Belmont County and Martins Ferry. Local Government Funding was also discussed. Mayor Krajnyak said Senator Hoagland seemed to be on board.

The Belmont County Port Authority needs to have ordinances passed for the sale of Floto Field and the old City Garage. Mayor Krajnyak said the company interested in purchasing Floto Field will build another field near the school complex. Mr. Shrodes asked if the maintenance building is included in the sale. Mayor Krajnyak said no.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary asked that Council pass the legislation that would allow inspection of sewer lines on private property. Mr. Cleary said we have similar legislation for the water department, but not the sewer dept.

Mr. Cleary said a voice vote would be needed to extend the use of county permissive funds to cover S. Ridge Dr.

Mr. Cleary said the water tower at Sunset Heights has been painted.

The six homes scheduled for demolition by the Land Banking Committee have been completed.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the exploratory inspection of the 1st St. sinkhole. The inspection was done. The large block used is giving way on the sides. Mr. Vaughn suggested covering with a tarp to limit rain water entering the hole. Funding is being sought. Mr. Vaughn is working with the railroad over right of ways.

Law Director: no report

Police Dept: no report

Fire Dept: no report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: A meeting was scheduled for Sept. 13 at 5:30.

Street: No report

Ordinance: No report

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report

Code: No report

Safety: No report

Service: No report. Mr. Cleary was asked about the sewer truck. He said more information is coming in and additional demos are scheduled.

Code: Mr. Cleary was asked about the hole in the wall at the former Rose Café building. Mr. Cleary will check it out.

Cemetery: Mr. Neiman said the cemetery looks good. The road has been patched.

PR: No report

Real Estate: The sale of property on Columbus Ave. was discussed. The property cannot be built on. Mayor Krajnyak will draft a letter. Mayor Krajnyak said Jaycee Manor would like to restore the basketball court. Mr. Neiman said it has been a mess for years. Mr. Davies said a homeowner has been cutting the property. Mr. Regis said it should be surveyed and proceed with sale. Mayor Krajnyak asked Mr. Stecker if the property needs to be turned over to the Port Authority. Mr. Stecker said it could be put up for bid with a minimum price.

Citizens to be Heard:

Mrs. Clower of Cemetery Rd. asked about the paving project. Mr. Cleary said Lash Paving was awarded the bid and should begin paving in the next month.

John Applegarth asked about the property at 530 N. Zane Hwy. He said it is unlivable. Mr. Applegarth asked about the sale of the Rose Café building. Mr. Cleary said it was purchased by someone in Texas. Mr. Applegarth also asked that painting be done around the schools.

Doug Richards of Clinton St. asked about water and sewer debt. Mr. Cleary said he could get a list from the Auditor's Office. Mr. Cleary will also post to the website.

Roger Blinko of 603 Vine St. asked that the pothole on Vine and Catawba be filled.

Carmen Pratti-Miller of N. 8th St. thanked the City for patching. She said people are leaving grass clippings in the street, lines need painted or signs need installed to control parking, and people are leaving furniture and other trash on the sidewalk.

Sue Sutak thanked Mr. Cleary and the Water Dept. for taking care of their water pressure problem. She also asked for an update on the Colerain Pike project. Mr. Cleary said there was a preconference this week so work should begin in a few weeks. Mrs. Sutak also said there is a large pothole on Walnut and S. 10th.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia St thanked everyone in regards to the Town Hall Meeting. Mr. Hord asked how closely the City works with the Port Authority and the CIC. Mayor Krajnyak said both groups are very helpful. There is a lot of communication as information is relayed back and forth to help match businesses with properties that fit their needs.

Mr. Hord asked about the street sweeper. Mayor Krajnyak said the sweeper is out of service and citizens do not need to move cars.

Mr. Hord said that he is still working to set up a Town Hall with State Senator Hoagland.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

**AN ORDINANCE
AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR TO
TRANSFER
REAL PROPERTY
OWNED BY THE**

CITY TO THE
BELMONT
COUNTY PORT
AUTHORITY FOR
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AN ORDINANCE
AUTHORIZING THE
MAYOR TO
TRANSFER
REAL PROPERTY
OWNED BY THE

CITY TO THE BELMONT COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TRANSFER REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY TO THE BELMONT COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (City Garage) was given a first reading. Mr. Shrodes moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the rules were suspended. Mr. Shrodes moved to pass the ordinance as read. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TRANSFER REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY TO THE BELMONT COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Floto Field) was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL INCREASE TO FEES FOR UTILITY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICERS was given a first reading. Mr. Shrodes moved to suspend the rules. No second was heard so the motion dies and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 925.10 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY, OHIO TO PROVIDE FOR INSPECTIONS was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mayor Krajnyak said a house on N. 7th ST. has become a safety concern. Mayor Krajnyak will get an estimate and will ask for money to be appropriated for demolition.

Mayor Krajnyak said the picnic at Jaycee Manor was a huge success. He thanked the FOP, FOPA, Fire Dept. and volunteers.

Mr. Regis moved to proceed with the expansion on the Hillendale project to include S. Ridge and using county permissive funds. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies moved to authorize Administration to proceed with the sale of property in Crawford Heights. Mr. Regis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

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

Mr. Hunker brought up concerns for the storm sewer situation. Mr. Hunker explained that the current storm sewers cannot handle rain water during heavy rains. He is concerned with removing downspouts from the system. Mr. Cleary explained that the ordinance that received a first reading tonight does not give anyone the permission to remove storm drains. Mr. Cleary said an ordinance is in place for the water dept. to enter private property for inspections. The ordinance read tonight would do the same for the sewer dept. The pilot program being discussed is a study of a small area in Hillendale that can be easily monitored through the pump station. Mr. Cleary said this a first step in a very long term program. The ordinance would allow inspectors to go on private property.

Mr. Shrodes said that the City has ordinances regarding grass clippings but that it could be put in the paper. Also, there are state laws regarding how close you can park to a corner, regardless of whether the curbs are painted or not.

Mr. Hunker asked if Mr. Suto has a new water truck without graphics. Mr. Cleary said yes, he is waiting for the new graphics that are being donated.

Mr. Rodgers asked about meter enforcement. Mayor Krajnyak said the meter attendant is doing the job the way it should be done.

Mayor Krajnyak added that the ordinance regarding auxiliary police officers was brought in because two officers will be resource officers for the schools, leaving the department short two officers.

Mr. Davies asked if the plans to construct a new field to replace Floto Field are in writing. Mayor Krajnyak said yes, all the plans will be included.

Mr. Shrodes moved to adjourn. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion 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