



Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2018

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at the Donald Myers Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Council President Kristine Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by those present in chamber, followed by a prayer by the Clerk.

Answering Roll Call were Bob Hunker, First Ward Council Member; Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward Council Member; Suzanne Armstrong, Third Ward Council Member; and Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward Council Member; Thomas Burns, and Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis, Council At Large.

Minutes: Minutes from the March 21, 2018, Council Meeting were approved as received.

Correspondence: None.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor: *Mayor Krajnyak was unable to attend due to illness, although his report was provided by Service Director Chris Cleary as follows:*

Preliminary work on the 8th Street slip project is now complete, including a video footage that has been provided to the Engineers Office to keep of record. Work will begin as soon as the weather permits.

Seasonal workers for the cemetery crew will be hired in the coming weeks, at which time cleaning of the Riverview Cemetery will begin. Any decorations on the gravesites that have not been removed by family/caretakers will be disposed of by city employees. There will be policy updates regarding what will be permitted for use as grave decorations in the near future.

The Environmental Reports for the Bauer Ford lot have been received. The developer is waiting for a cost study for the removal of two tanks located on the property for the project to move forward.

The Mayor and Mr. Cleary have requested that the Real Estate Committee investigate the possibility of the city purchasing the lots on South Fourth Street where the fire occurred in October of 2016. The Mayor and the Service Director believe that future development would be simplified and there may be opportunities for the city to qualify for grant funding.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary announced that the water department will be flushing fire hydrants April 22 – 27, 2018, and that citizens may experience discolored water as a result. Hydrant flushing will take place again in July and October, with information regarding such available on the city's website.

Mr. Cleary mentioned the retirement of Betty Kinnan who served as the city's payroll clerk for thirty-nine (39) years. Mr. Cleary thanked her for her years of service and dedication, in addition to wishing her well on her retirement.

Mr. Cleary stated that he met with Belomar Regional Council representatives and Jeff Vaughn to discuss Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, including a neighborhood revitalization program which makes up to \$500,000.000 available to qualifying applicants. Mr. Cleary does not believe the city would be awarded the maximum amount of funding available but would like to submit the Glenhurst Terrance project under the neighborhood revitalization program to replace water and sewer lines; paving projects; and possible demolition of dilapidated properties. Mr. Cleary is also looking for funding for the installation a new water line directly from the water plant to North Fifth Street that directly

feeds the north end of Martins Ferry, including East Ohio Regional Hospital and United Dairy, which area continues to experience frequent water line breaks.

Mr. Regis asked about the water line near the Martins Ferry Christian Church. Mr. Cleary stated that the issue had been discussed and it is on the list to be fixed with a hydra-stop or bi-stop valve in the coming weeks.

Mr. Schramm inquired if there were any recent problems with sanitation pick-up, to which Mr. Cleary responded that he neglected to mention that the older trash packer broke down yesterday and therefore there is slight delay in trash pick-up. Mr. Cleary said that he has once again received assistance from Bridgeport with a loan of one of their packers.

Auditor:

No report from Ms. Randall.

Law Director:

No report from Mr. Stecker.

Police Department:

No report from Chief McFarland.

Committees of Council:

Finance and Audit: No Report from Chairman Regis, although he did say that a meeting would be established when Ms. Randall was available to attend and members will be advised of the date and time.

Street: No Report from Chairman Rodgers.

Ordinance: No Report from Chairman Shrodes.

Sewer/Sidewalk: No Report from Chairman Hunker.

Code: No Report from Chairman Regis.

Safety: Chairman Schramm advised that a Safety Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, which the future of the EMS Squad. A second meeting on the issue has been scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., with all the Supervisors from the EMS Squads to attend.

Service: No Report from Chairman Shrodes.

Cemetery: Chairman Burns provided minutes from the Cemetery Committee Meeting of Tuesday, April 3, 2018, which were read into the record. The minutes will be filed as an attachment to Council Meeting Minutes, with the following issues being addressed:

The Auditor has approved the purchase of two (2) all-wheel drive mowers, with an estimate of approximately \$800.00 per mower for use at the cemeteries.

Mayor Krajnyak suggested looking into the construction of a cremation vault and a Memorial Trail that could be utilized for interment of urns; nature-dedication stones or a location to scatter ashes. Mayor Krajnyak would like to investigate utilizing the Cemetery Endowment Fund for the projects.

Policy changes were discussed related to uniformity in gravesite décor that may impede cemetery upkeep and no longer permitting the gluing of stones to footers, which often results in broken stones when attempting to repair the footers. Mr. Schramm is attempting to put together an estimate for the cost of repairs that need to be made in various areas of the cemeteries by the end of May, pursuant to the request of Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Schramm went on to commend the efforts and work that has been performed in the last several years and admitted that more work is needed.

Utility: Chairman Hunker did not have a report, although he did state that a Utility Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., with PNC Bank and another meeting on April 17, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), to establish electronic payment capabilities.

Citizens to be Heard:

George Haggerty of 712 Broadway Street voiced his strong concerns of the new water meters and the estimate of his usage of four thousand (4,000) gallons of water, which he believes he does not use based upon prior water bills. Mr. Haggerty inquired as to why the new meters that were installed were not working. Council President Kristine Davis explained that the installation of the new meters was mandated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency throughout the State, rather than by a decision of City Officials as Mr. Haggerty believed. Mr. Cleary stated that most of the meters were working without any issues, although a small percentage, approximately 700 meters, were experiencing problems obtaining an actual-usage reading due to a computer software problem that the city was aware of and attempting to resolve. Mr. Cleary further advised that the meters in question were in fact working but reiterated that a glitch in the software was making the actual usage unreadable.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street thanked everyone who attended the Meet the Candidates Night sponsored by the Martins Ferry Chamber of Commerce on March 27, 2018.

Mr. Hord asked if there has been any more consideration or a decision on the elimination of parking meters, to which Mr. Cleary responded that there has not been a decision made on the subject at this time. Mr. Hord also inquired as to the consideration of Fourth Street becoming a one-way street. Mr. Cleary said that a traffic study would need to be conducted on Fourth and Fifth Street, in addition to a few of the side streets, before determination could be made.

Mr. Hord requested permission for a Town Hall Meeting with State Representative Jack Cera after the primary election, which Mr. Cleary advised that he was confident the Mayor would agree to the request.

Mr. Hord inquired about the city's recent decision to work with Southeast Ohio Building Partner out of Washington County and if officials were aware that the County Commissioners had decided at a March 7th meeting to no longer work with Washington County but instead contract with Muskingum County and if that decision would have any impact upon Martins Ferry. Mr. Cleary stated that he well aware of the decision and had previously looked into both companies and the decision to work with Southeast Ohio Building was in large part based upon the ability to submit request electronically and a solid time-frame of returning answers quickly.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2017-19 Amending the Amount of the Sewer Truck Down Payment and Declaring an Emergency.

The Ordinance was given a first reading with Mr. Regis moving to suspend the rule, which was seconded by Mr. Shrodes. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, and Schramm voting yes, declaring the rule suspended. Mr. Hunker moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which was seconded Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm and Regis voting yes, and the Ordinance was declared passed.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Director of Public Service to Purchase a New Sewer Vac Truck.

The Ordinance was given a first reading with Mr. Shrodes moving to suspend the rule, which was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Regis, and Hunker voting yes, declaring the rule suspended. Mr. Hunker moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which was seconded Mr. Shrodes. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Regis voting yes, and the Ordinance was declared passed.

A Resolution Requesting the County Auditor to Certify to the City of Martins Ferry the Total Current Tax Valuation of the City of Martins Ferry and the Dollar Amount of Revenue that would be Generated by a Three (3.0) Mill Levy and Declaring an Emergency.

The Resolution was given a first reading. No action was taken, the Resolution shall proceed to a second reading.

An Ordinance Levying an Annual License Tax on Motor Vehicles Pursuant to Section 4504.171 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Ordinance was given a first reading. No action was taken, the Ordinance shall proceed to a second reading.

An Ordinance Authorizing a Request to the Ohio Board of Building Standards to Certify the City of Martins Ferry, Ohio, to Exercise Enforcement Authority in Accordance with the Ohio Building Code with the Condition that the Washington County Building Department Perform all Inspections and Authorizing an Agreement for Such Enforcement Between the City of Martins Ferry, Ohio and Washington County, Ohio.

The Ordinance was given a first reading with Mr. Shrodes moving to suspend the rule, which was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Regis, and Hunker voting yes, declaring the rule suspended. Mr. Schramm moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which was seconded Mr. Regis. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, and Burns voting yes, and the Ordinance was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to suspend the seventy-two (72) hour rule, which was seconded by Mr. Shrodes. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, and Schramm, voting yes, declaring the rule suspended.

An Ordinance Creating the Martins Ferry Building Department and Authorizing a Request to the Ohio Board of Building Standards for Certification as a Sub-Department of Washington County Building Department DBA Southeast Ohio Building Department for Enforcement of the State of Ohio Building Codes for Non-Residential Construction.

The Ordinance was given a first reading with Mr. Rodgers moving to suspend the rule for three (3) readings, which was seconded by Mr. Shrodes. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, and Armstrong, voting yes, declaring the rule suspended. Mr. Schramm moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which was seconded Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, and Burns voting yes, and the Ordinance was declared passed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Regis moved to accept the Reports of Officers, which was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. After a voice vote in the affirmative was held, the motion was passed.

Mr. Shrodes moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Hunker; after an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Laura A. Zupko, Clerk of Council

Kristine Davis, Council President