



Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2020

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 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; Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward Council Member; Jim Schramm and Jack Regis, Council at Large Members. Thomas Burns, Council at Large Member, told Council at the January 8, 2020 meeting that he could not attend this meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 8, 2020 Meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence: A memo was received from the Ohio Municipal League announcing a Training Seminar for Council Members. If anyone is interested, please see the Clerk or President Davis.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor: City crews have been performing general maintenance, patching potholes and fixing water breaks.

The Mayor of Bridgeport has asked Mayor Davies if the City of Martins Ferry would buy their half of the pothole machine owned jointly by the cities. Bridgeport Mayor estimated their half is around \$23,600-\$23,800. This would be Council's decision.

The cylinder at the Transfer Station needs rebuilt which will cost around \$5,000. It will be about 3 weeks before the Station is running again. Yorkville and Bridgeport have expressed interest in using this station. Mayor Davies will be checking the tipping fees at the Short Creek Landfill. The City will also need a truck and trailer to haul the boxes to the land fill. The city would need another full-time employee for this project. Cost of the new truck/trailer is \$174,000 and would come with a 5 year warranty. Payments would be \$32,892 per year for 6 years.

Mayor Davies has found someone interested in the Street Superintendent Position based on a negotiated salary of \$35,000. After the Mayor met with this individual, an ordinance was presented to him from 2014 stating the wages should be \$30,000. The Mayor asked Council to consider amending the ordinance to \$35,000 and stipulate that this wage is increased when the union negotiates its contract.

A letter was received from Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority stating that the city's consumption rate is being reduced from 2500 gallons to 2375 gallons a month. Any amount over 2375 will be charged at \$.48 per 100 gallons. The Mayor would like to explore purchasing a sewer treatment plant. He has talked to representative from other towns and they have also showed interest in this project.

Mayor Davies has been working on a salary figure for the gentleman who will be the Assistant to the Mayor. A job description was distributed to Council Members. This gentleman is willing to work for insurance coverage for his family instead of drawing a paycheck. Because the city is in negotiations with another health insurance company, Auditor Randall could not give Mayor Davies an amount for the cost of family health insurance coverage. Mayor Davies will speak to Mr. Stecker to come up with an amount

that would cover the insurance payment for family coverage. The job title may be changed to Grant Writer since there is already an ordinance establishing this position.

This week 3 supervisors took time off so there was not enough vehicles to service the city. The Mayor will advise the supervisors that they will no longer be permitted to take their city vehicle home. The Mayor had to drive the Water Superintendent's truck today which needs replaced. Mr. Suto, Water Superintendent, is looking to purchase a used truck with ladder racks, for around \$20,000. His current truck could be made available to the Mayor's Assistant.

Mrs. Armstrong asked if some of the above issues could be sent to committees for further studies. Mr. Regis said he would set up a Finance Meeting to discuss these items requested by the Mayor.

Mr. Rodgers asked if the city is still considering collaborating with the YMCA to manage the Recreational Center. Mr. Stecker said there has been no communication with the YMCA since early December, 2019.

Service Director: Mr. Porter was not able to attend this meeting but sent his report to President Davis. He said that the Dollar Tree Building Plans have been approved by the Washington County Building Department. The temporary loading zone on Grant Street will remain the same during construction of the Dollar Tree Project. Once this project is completed, this area will return to previous use. Plans for the building were distributed to Council and a copy will be included with these minutes.

Safety Director: The part-time supervisors have started their new positions with the EMS. Director Regis will be meeting with the supervisors and the EMS staff early next week. He is in the process of hiring 4 part-time paramedics. The old C&L building is available to be leased. This will help provide revenue for the city. The roof has been repaired at the Liberty Fire Station but the ceiling still needs work. Director Regis is waiting for estimates for repairs at the Vigilant and Alert Fire Stations. Air Packs are being tested and two will need replaced. During a fire two weeks ago, Tom Kelly, a former fire chief, rescued a gentleman from the house. Director Regis will petition the State Fire Marshall for an accommodation for Mr. Kelly's heroic actions.

Auditor: Auditor Randall asked Council to pass the Resolution to join the Stark County Schools Council of Governments for the purpose of participating in their Health Insurance coverage for city employees. There will be changes in the deductibles that will benefit the employees. This resolution needs passed so representative from Stark County can meet with the 3 city unions and work out a few details.

The first month distribution from the RITA Income Tax has been received and the city lost \$27,000. Mr. Stecker will check to see if the city is due any royalties from the Gas and Oil Lease.

Auditor Randall clarified the furniture expenditure discussed at the last Council Meeting. Of the \$27,000 spent on furniture, \$20,000 was spent for computers and software and \$7,000 was spent on desks.

Law Director: No report.

Police Department: No report.

Water Department: No report.

Fire Department: No report.

Code Administrator: No report.

Park District: No report.

Reports of Committees of Council:

Finance and Audit: Mr. Regis set a Finance Committee Meeting for Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. The Committee will consider the needs of the city and adjust the budget to fund as many as possible. A report from the insurance company on the structure of the city buildings will also be discussed. In the future, Mayor Davies would like Department Supervisors to submit a budget to the Committee because they have a better idea of their department needs and costs.

Street: No report. Mr. Rodgers will set up a Street Committee Meeting at the next Council Meeting.

Ordinance: The Ordinance Committee met on January 20. Discussion centered on the city's ordinance policy. Chairman Shrodes read the ordinance pertaining to legislation presented to Council. The ordinance book was updated in 2019 but if anyone sees an ordinance that is wrong or needs amended, please inform Chairman Shrodes. Mr. Regis asked for last minute ordinances or resolutions, (less than 72 hours), to be hand delivered to Council before the next meeting.

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report.

Code Administration: No report.

Safety: Chairman Schramm set a Safety Committee Meeting for Monday, January 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to meet with Fire Chief I and Fire Chief II.

Service: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Public Relations: Mr. Rodger, Mrs. Armstrong and Mayor Davies attended the Chamber of Commerce Meeting on January 21. They are considering different fundraising options. On September 17, 2020 they are planning to have Rich Donnelly give a presentation at the Recreation Center.

Real Estate: No report.

Utility Committee: Chairman Hunker asked Mayor Davies to have Mr. Porter contact Badger Meters and set up a meeting to discuss the new city water meters.

Income Tax: No report.

Citizens To Be Heard: President Davis reminded citizens to limit their speaking to 5 minutes.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street, asked if the city plans to honor Deluxe Toy and Hobby for being named the best Toy Store in Ohio by Ohio Magazine. They will also be celebrating their 65 anniversary this year. Mayor Davies said that has been discussed and he is waiting on some information. Mr. Hord asked for an update on the Curley residence that is supposed to be torn down. The Mayor said that property now belongs to the City and there is a company interested in the property. This company would remove the structure and build a new structure in its place. There has been no additional information available on East Ohio Regional Hospital, only a rumor that there may be an announcement at the end of the month. Mr. Hord asked the Mayor to check on the status of the commemorative plaques

for the past Chiefs of Police and Fire Chiefs. Striping of the City Streets will begin when the weather gets warmer.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

An Ordinance Establishing An EMS Advisory Board.

This ordinance was given a second reading. Motion was made by Mr. Regis to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, and Schramm voting yes. Mr. Rodgers voted no. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Hunker to pass this ordinance as read. Motion was seconded by Mr. Regis. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Schramm, and Regis voting yes. Mr. Rodgers abstained. The motion carried and the ordinance was declared passed.

An Ordinance to Repeal and Abolish Ordinance 2013-02 That Established Additional Wages For EMS Personnel Possessing Both An Ohio and West Virginia Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification.

This ordinance was given a second reading. Motion was made by Mr. Shrodes to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Schramm, Regis and Hunker voting yes. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Schramm to pass this ordinance as read. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. A roll call vote was heard with Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, voting yes. The motion carried and the ordinance was declared passed.

A Resolution to Join the Stark County Schools Council of Governments for the Purpose of Participating in Their Health Insurance Coverage.

Motion was made by Mr. Regis to suspend the 72 Hour Rule. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, and Schramm voting yes. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Hunker to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Schramm, and Regis voting yes. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to pass this resolution as read. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Rodgers, Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes and Armstrong voting yes. The motion carried and the resolution was declared passed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion was made by Mr. Regis to designate JoAnne Regis, the Mayor's Clerk, to be Council's liaison for public records training. Motion was seconded by Mr. Shrodes. After an affirmative voice vote, the motion passed.

President Davis ask the Ordinance Committee to bring an ordinance to the next meeting allowing Council to destroy audio tapes, within a reasonable time period, after the minutes have been approved.

Mr. Regis made a motion to reflect Council has received reports from the Officers and Management, and to incorporate these reports into the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. After an affirmative voice vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Regis asked Council to consider vacating the section of road that has been closed during the construction of the multipurpose building across from the Christian Church.

Mr. Regis would like to have a resolution or a plaque made to honor the heroic efforts of Tom Kelly two weeks ago when he rescued a man from a burning house.

Motion was made by Mr. Shrodes to increase the wage of the Street Superintendent to \$35,000 and tie these wages to the Union Contract. This salary is less than the former Superintendent, thus a cost savings measure for the city. Effective date is January 27, 2020. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Schramm, Regis and Hunker voting yes. The motion is declared passed.

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to excuse Mr. Burns. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm. After an affirmative voice vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Rodgers asked if Council could update the public address system. The Mayor will get someone to check the system.

Mr. Regis asked the Mayor if the YMCA could be contacted to check on the status of the proposed management contract for the Recreation Center.

Mrs. Armstrong moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Hunker. After an affirmative voice vote, the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.



Kay H. McFarlan, Clerk of Council



Kristine Davis, Council President