



## Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2020

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, February 5, 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; Thomas Burns, Jim Schramm and Jack Regis Sr., Council at Large Members.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the January 22, 2020 Meeting were approved as written.

**Correspondence:** There was no correspondence.

### Reports of Officers of the City:

**Mayor:** Mayor Davies announced his management team:

Auditor: Rita Randall

Service Director: Andy Sutak

Water Superintendent: Bill Suto

Street Superintendent: Rob Duncan

The cylinder for the Transfer Station is currently being repaired. This will cost \$5,000. A truck will be needed at a cost of \$180,000 to haul the boxes to the landfill. This price is slightly higher than previously stated since a PTO pump and a pump system to raise the hoist is needed but was not included in the original estimate. This truck is needed to begin operations at the Transfer Station, otherwise the process of moving the boxes has to be contracted to an outside source. Along with this truck, the Mayor would like to purchase a couple of roll offs containers so when Dollar Tree and Dollar General start to build, the city can place a dumpster on site and these companies won't have to use an outside service.

The Mayor informed Councilman Rodgers that the Elevator at the Recreational Center is under a maintenance contract until next October. The elevator is currently working.

Because of the mild weather, city crews have been patching potholes and cutting down trees in the Cemetery.

Mayor Davies would like to show appreciation for the citizens and businesses. He distributed a picture of a plaque that will be prepared for Thomas Kelly, Jr. who saved a man from a burning house. Mr. Davies would also like to move ahead with the Veterans Flag Project. Mr. Burns said he would like to see the flags displayed on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

Mr. Regis asked if the tree branches and bushes be cut back from the road on the top of 6<sup>th</sup> Street Hill. The city has a mower with an arm that can be used to clear this area. The Mayor also asked for permission to maintain the weeds along St. Rt. 7. The State cuts the brush back twice a year and this is not enough. Having city crews clear the area will make the city look better.

Councilman Regis reported the EMS Board met and discussed repairs to the building, updates to the equipment, separation of the two buildings, and duties of the Safety Director.

**Service Director:** President Davis welcomed Andy Suto as Service Director. The Lift Station at Turf Care is completed. New fencing and gravel for the access road will be needed to complete the project. Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority will reimburse the city \$56,000 for this project.

Mr. Suto said plans are being made to separate the sanitary sewers and the storm sewers. There are 5 criteria needed to be in compliance with the EPA. Martins Ferry has not met any of the criteria. The new camera equipment will be used to begin mapping the city sewer system. A smoke machine will have to be purchased to check the lines. Mr. Suto is checking to see which machine model would be best for the city. Residents will need to know that if their downspouts empty into the sewer line, they must be brought to the outside and run into the street.

**Safety Director:** Director Regis could not attend this meeting but the Mayor reported that a meeting was held with the 4 new EMS Supervisors to discuss their duties and roles. Two EMS vehicles need replaced. A Chevy Cruze with over 300,000 miles will be maintained for local transportation of patients but another vehicle will be leased for longer transports out of the area. Council is invited to a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the purchase of an ambulance. Another ambulance is currently having motor issues. Since the price for a basic ambulance starts at \$138,000, the Mayor asked Council to consider getting a new motor for this vehicle. The equipment inside this ambulance is still in good shape.

**Auditor:** Auditor Randall distributed the January 2020 Financial Reports to Council.

**Water Department:** Mr. Suto reported the 2020 Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule will be: April 19-24; July 19-24; and October 18-23. Crews will be working from 6:00 p.m. till 2:00 a.m. As the hydrants are being flushed, Mr. Engleman from the Sewer Department will direct the flushed water into the sewers to move the stagnant water.

During warmer days, crews have been out cleaning sewers and operating the street sweeper.

Mr. Suto is in the process of developing a five year plan to replace water meters. During the first year, 1100 meter heads will need replaced due to battery problems. Replacement of meter heads will be staggered over the next 4 years until all have been replaced. Mr. Suto also wants to develop a comprehensive maintenance program because the batteries will continue to die. He would like to meet again with the Utility Committee to discuss these plans.

**Law Director:** No report.

**Police Department:** No report.

**Fire Department:** Fire Chief Cody Engleman reported on repairs and maintenance to the Fire Stations. Information on grants have been given to the Service Director and Safety Director.

**Code Administrator:** No report.

**Park District:** No report.

## **Reports of Committees of Council:**

**Finance and Audit:** Mr. Regis said the committee met last week even though Auditor Randall could not attend. They reviewed items in the General Fund and repairs to the fire stations. Mr. Rodgers stated he received a phone call at 12:10 p.m. on the day of the Finance Committee Meeting and was told the meeting was cancelled, therefore he did not attend.

**Street:** Mr. Rodgers wanted to set up a committee meeting and the Mayor suggested sometime during the week of February 17.

**Ordinance:** Chairman Shrodes announced that there is one ordinance and one resolution to be heard.

**Sewer/Sidewalk:** No report.

**Code Administration:** No report.

**Safety:** Chairman Schramm reported the committee met with representatives from the Fire Department to discuss Knox boxes for businesses in town. If a business had one of these boxes and there was a fire, firefighters would have a key to the box and could enter the building to extinguish the fire without additional damage to the door or property. Mr. Schramm will talk with businesses in town to see if they are in favor of this device. Cost of the box is approximately \$200. The Mayor said he would like an ordinance to state that any new building must have a Knox box but it would be optional for existing businesses.

**Service:** No report.

**Cemetery:** A meeting will be held after the Council Meeting regarding the new monument. Mr. Burns expressed appreciation for the city cutting down some trees in the cemetery and saving the expense of an outside source.

**Public Relations:** No report.

**Real Estate:** No report.

**Utility Committee:** No report.

**Income Tax:** No report.

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

Manuela Clower, 668 Cemetery Road, stated at the top of the hill on Cemetery Road there is a large slippage that is going into the creek and is breaking up. There is only one way in and out to the homes in this area. She presented pictures to the Mayor and Service Director. Mr. Sutak said he would address this issue.

Terry Wildman, 24 South 3<sup>rd</sup>. Street, distributed final pictures of the proposed monument for Riverview Cemetery. Total Cost is about \$25,000. He hopes Council can provide a down payment of \$15,000 to get the project started. Fund raising and donations received will be handled through Project Forward. Mr. Suto also suggested checking with the County Veteran's Association for funding.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street, asked about renovations to the city building or possibly buying a new building. The Mayor stated it is not feasible at this time for the city to move to another building. Maybe in the future the city could purchase property and build a building. Mr. Hord asked why the restrooms in the city building were closed to the public. Mr. Shrodes said there had been issues with individuals using the restrooms and destroying some property. The restrooms are available to citizens during Mayor's Court. When asked about the Hall of Honor, Mayor Davies said he would like to revamp this program so the city can properly show pride and honor to its citizens. There are no updates on the possible sale of East Ohio Regional Hospital or the relocation of the Dollar General Store. Dollar Tree has begun moving power lines and the Mayor believes they are ready to move forward.

#### **Ordinances and Resolutions:**

##### ***An Ordinance Setting The Annual Salary For Certain Appointed Officials And Declaring An Emergency.***

This Ordinance was given a first reading. Motion was made by Mr. Shrodes to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Hunker voting yes. Mr. Regis abstained. The motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Hunker to pass this ordinance as read. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Regis voting yes. The motion was passed as read. Because of salary negotiations, the Mayor said this will save the city \$15,000.

##### ***A Final Resolution On The Project That Consists of Resurfacing S.R. 647 Between S.R. 7 And The Martins Ferry Northern Corporation Limit, Including Curb Ramps and Pavement Markings, Lying Within The City Of Martins Ferry***

This Resolution was given a first reading. Mr. Shrodes expressed concern on funding for this project. Mr. Stecker did not think License Plate money could be used for this project. The city's share of this project is 8% of the total cost or \$49,107.56. This resolution has to be in the State Office by Tuesday, February 11. Mr. Sutak said he would investigate the funding for this project and report back to Council. A special meeting of Council may have to be held before February 11.

#### **Miscellaneous Business:**

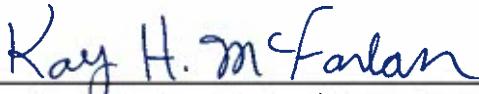
Mr. Regis made a motion to reflect Council has received reports from the Officers and Management, and to incorporate these reports into the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Shramm. After an affirmative voice vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Regis noted that High School Student Chloe Hill will be singing the National Anthem at the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Basketball Tournament.

The Mayor asked Council for their thoughts on the truck for the Transfer Station. It will take 3 months to get the truck once it is ordered. Mr. Shrodes inquired on how the city would pay for this truck. The Mayor said it would be part of the Sanitation Department. Total cost is \$180,000 for the truck and \$60,000 per year (salary and benefits) for the new position created. Other entities have expressed interest in using the Transfer Station which would bring in extra revenue. Mr. Regis made a motion that we allow the Mayor and the Service Director to investigate possibility and feasibility of purchasing a new truck for

the Transfer Station. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting yes. The motion carried.

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

  
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Kay H. McFarlan, Clerk of Council

  
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Kristine Davis, Council President