



## Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2020

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, February 19, 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, Suzanne Armstrong, Third Ward Council Member; Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward Council Member; Thomas Burns, Jim Schramm and Jack Regis, Council at Large Members. Mr. Shrodes informed President Davis that he would not be able to attend this meeting.

Since Mr. Rodgers had to leave the meeting early, President Davis asked if Council would change the order of the meeting and address the legislation first. Mr. Regis motioned to change the order of the meeting and address legislation first. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting yes. The motion carried.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the February 5, 2020 Meeting were approved as written.

**Correspondence:** There was no correspondence.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions:**

***A Final Resolution For 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.***

Motion was made by Mr. Regis to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting yes. The motion carried. Last year, Council passed resolutions for the curb ramps, paving and slip repair of S.R. 647. Discussion centered on funding for these projects. It was decided funding would be as follows:

Slip on S.R. 647	\$ 35,500	From Permanent Improvement Fund
S.R. 647 Paving/Curbs	Up to \$ 32,000	From Permissive County Tax Money & balance from General Fund

Mr. Sutak noted that when these Final Resolutions are passed, they have not gone out for bid yet. These amounts are estimated projections from ODOT. There is a possibility that when the bids come in, they may be a little higher or lower than projected, although ODOT is usually close to the actual bid. Mr. Hunker motioned to pass this Resolution as read. Motion was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Regis voting yes. The motion carried.

### ***An Ordinance To Clarify Supervisors Benefits.***

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

Mr. Regis. A roll call vote was heard with Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Armstrong, Rodgers and Burns voting yes. The motion carried and the Ordinance was passed as read.

### **Reports of Officers of the City:**

**Mayor:** Mayor Davies expressed appreciation to Council for taking care of the S.R. 647 legislation. There are 1,100 city water meters that must be read manually due to dead batteries. These 1,100 meters can be replaced for \$262,000. These newer meters don't transmit a signal from 6pm to 6am when no one would be driving by and picking up the signal. Some meter heads will be kept in stock and as meters go bad, city crews will replace them. This plan enables a staggered replacement and cost is spread out over a couple of years. A maintenance program is being developed.

The cylinder for the Transfer Station will cost \$15,000 to repair. The Mayor has requested a quote on a new one. He also asked Council if they wanted to proceed with the Transfer Station. Leasing a truck instead of purchasing one is being researched.

On May 16, 2020 the Hungarian Festival asked for permission to block off the alley by First Presbyterian Church to 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on Walnut.

The Mayor asked if the Off-Street Parking/Parking Meter Fund be reinstated. Auditor Randall said all money from the Parking Meters goes into the General Fund.

**Service Director:** Mr. Sutak said most of his time last week and this week was spent with ODOT on S.R. 647 situation. He will inform ODOT tomorrow that the city will proceed with this project.

The Service Director and the Mayor attended an OMEGA meeting on February 18. Concerns about drinking water in the Appalachia Region was discussed. Mr. Sutak will look at funding and grants discussed at this meeting.

A smoke machine has been purchased to assist in the storm sewers and sanitary sewers separation. The city will inform the citizens that they will need to take their downspouts out of the Sanitary Sewers and position them to drain to the street or their yard. This is EPA mandated and it is important to show that the city is trying to meet EPA guidelines.

**Auditor:** No report.

**Safety Director:** Director Regis reported that the air packs were tested and two failed. They are being repaired. The air packs are over 10 years old. Grants will be applied for to get the air packs replaced.

The Air Compressor at the Liberty Station was tested and is good for another year. A mobile air compressor was placed back in service after receiving two new batteries. The furnace at the EMS building on Zane Highway isn't working and a part has been ordered.

A new EMS vehicle has been received from the Enterprise leasing system. It will replace a vehicle that has almost 300,000 miles on it.

An EMS supervisor will visit city buildings to make sure all the Automatic Defibrillator batteries are charged and ready to use. A ceiling in the EMS building was repaired due to a water leak from a drain valve.

Director Regis commended the Fire Department for their swift action regarding a house fire on the Pike. No one was in the house but two dogs were lost in the blaze.

**Law Director:** Mr. Stecker said a developer wants to construct a building at 115 Lombard Street (behind the Stadium). The site is above the flood plane. City code requires free board of two feet in addition to being above the flood plane. The Developers are asking to waive this requirement. If Council agrees, a variance letter would be sent to them and they could continue with construction. There is no legal problems in granting this variance. This building would be replacing a building that was previously there.

**Police Department:** No report.

**Fire Department:** No report.

**Code Administrator:** No report.

**Park District:** No report.

**Report From Project Forward:** Rev. William Webster noted that Project Forward is an economic redevelopment group for the city. The organization arranges 2 festivals a year to raise awareness and bring people to downtown area. Project Forward has received a grant from Heritage Ohio to enable the city to grow. This group is coming to look at the city and meet with different stakeholders on Friday, February 21. They are interested in seeing the Walnut Grove Cemetery, the City Park and the Downtown Buildings. Rev. Webster invited Council to come and meet with these representatives on February 21 from 1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Martins Ferry Public Library. This grant consists of \$13,000 per year for the next 3 years.

As President of the Complete Count Committee of Belmont County, Rev. Webster encouraged Council to help with the 2020 Census. He stressed the importance of getting an accurate count.

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

**Finance and Audit:** Mr. Regis said he will schedule a committee meeting with the administration to discuss the finances.

**Street:** No report.

**Ordinance:** No report.

**Sewer/Sidewalk:** No report.

**Code Administration:** Mr. Regis will contact Code Administrator and set a date for the next meeting.

**Safety:** No report.

**Service:** No report.

**Cemetery:** No report.

**Public Relations:** Mrs. Armstrong reported that the Chamber is planning a fundraising dinner with guest speaker Rich Donnelly in September. Mr. Regis complemented the Water Department on their

diligence in fixing water breaks in the city, especially this past weekend when the temperature was 6 degrees.

**Real Estate/Utility Committee:** No report.

**Income Tax:** Mrs. Armstrong reported that the Income Tax Committee wants to meet with the Utility Committee.

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

Terry Wildman, 24 South 3<sup>rd</sup>. Street, distributed revised pictures of the Veteran's monument to be placed at Riverview Cemetery. Cost of this structure is \$33,000. Memorial bricks to line the 4 walkways to the monument will be sold at \$100 each as a fundraiser for the project. The bricks can be made to honor/memorialize a loved one who was a Veteran. All the bricks are being donated by Lollini and Sons Brick Company.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street, inquired about new Council Committee assignments for 2020. President Davis said that since there was a new administration, all committees stayed the same for the first quarter of the year. Mr. Hord asked for a City Holiday Schedule (dates the city offices are closed) and the Mayor said it was on the Website or copies can be picked up at the Utility Office. Groundbreaking for the Dollar Tree Store should begin soon. Some overhead wires at the site still need to be relocated. Mayor Davies did not know how much money has been saved this winter due to the milder conditions and there has been no word on a possible sale of East Ohio Regional Hospital. The Mayor feels very confident that Martins Ferry will remain a city after the 2020 Census is complete.

#### **Miscellaneous Business:**

Mr. Burns reported on the Hometown Hero Banners for the City. He submitted a report that will be filed with these minutes. The Elks, Lions Club and Project Forward have offered to help with this project. A meeting will be held on February 24, 2020 at the Elks Lodge at 6:00 p.m. The Committee's goal is to fly the banners beginning July 4, 2020.

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. Schramm made a motion to waive the 2 foot building clause for a developer to build a Structure behind the Stadium at 115 Lombard Street. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. A roll call vote was heard with Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Armstrong, and Burns voting yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Regis made a motion for Council to give permission to the Hungarian Festival to close portions of Walnut, 3<sup>rd</sup>. and 4<sup>th</sup> Street on May 16, 2020. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Armstrong, Burns and Schramm voting yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Davies is working on a proposal to help the city of St. Clairsville with their water problem. This proposal would provide St. Clairsville with water until they can build a plant. Martins Ferry would pump water through Bridgeport and out to Lansing. A pump station would have to be built at the bottom of the Blaine Viaduct to transport water to St. Clairsville. This project is one of five options that St. Clairsville is contemplating to fix its water problems.

Mayor Davies offered to donate his equipment to tear down some of the dilapidated structures in the city. The only thing he asks for is fuel for the equipment. The city would have to pay for insurance which should cost around \$1,000 and a truck to haul the debris to the landfill. Estimated cost would be about \$5,000 per structure.

Mayor Davies asked that monies from the Parking Meters be directed to an Off-Street Parking/Parking Meter fund instead of the General Fund. This money can then be used to repair parking meters and maintain parking lots owned by the city. Councilman Regis said the Finance Committee will address this at their next meeting.

Mr. Regis shared a comment on Facebook that praised City Sanitation Workers who helped a woman pick up trash and debris.

Mr. Regis motioned and Mr. Hunker seconded to excuse Mr. Shrodes from tonight's Council Meeting. After an affirmative voice vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Hunker made a motion to allow the administration and the water department to spend up to \$265,000 for 1,100 new water meters. Motion was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Armstrong, Burns, Schramm and Regis voting yes. The motion carried.

Mr. Hunker thanked Service Director Sutak and Mayor Davies for their hard work on the S.R. 647 but also stressed he would like to see S.R. 647 de-annexed.

Mr. Burns noted that a police officer stopped and helped his elderly aunt with her groceries. The identity of the officer is unknown. The Mayor commented that all of the city employees are very dedicated to helping the citizens.

Mr. Regis scheduled a Finance Committee for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Mr. Hunker moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Burns. 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