

Minutes of May 20, 2015

The Martins Ferry City council met in regular session on Wednesday May 20, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Donald Myers Memorial Council Chambers. 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 Krajnyak, First Ward, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Jack Regis, Chris Cleary, and Rob Duncan, Council at Large.

Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

A copy of the Mayor's report was distributed and will be made a part of these minutes.

Service Director:

The street sweepers are down. Parts have arrived and they should be back in service next week.

Catch basins are being rebuilt.

Mr. Bennett thanked the Fourth Grade classes at Ayers Elementary for planting four white oak trees at Riverview Cemetery.

1200 flags will be put out at the cemeteries on Saturday at 9:00 am. Citizens are invited to help.

Auditor: No report

Development Director:

A copy of the Development Director's report was distributed and will be made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Shrodes asked about the OPWC application. Ms. Gagin said that combining projects is usually better.

Water Superintendent:

A copy of the Water Superintendent's report was distributed and will be made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Riethmiller discussed a hydrant issue on Crawford Street that has now been resolved. Mr. Shrodes asked if there is way the Fire Dept. and Water Dept. can locate hydrants on a computer. The issue was discussed. Currently, the City does not have the computers to do this. Mr. Cleary asked if that was available through the GIS study that was completed. Mr. Suto said yes, but on paper only.

Police Dept.

Chief McFarland asked Council to vote on the Major Crime Unit.

Fire Dept.

Chief Regis thanked Mr. Suto for the Crawford St. hydrant.

Chief Regis said he has received numerous compliments on the quick response of the squad and for the squad slowing down past the park.

Mr. Rodgers asked Chief McFarland about the Major Crime Unit. He said that as far as he knew any additional information regarding the program had not been received.

Chief McFarland said that he had not been provided anything, but would answer any questions.

Mr. Krajnyak said he spoke with Mr. Fry . Mr. Krajnyak said that if the City does not participate it will end the drug task force and Martins Ferry will be forced to fight the drug problem with their own resources. Mr. Fry is working on paperwork for reimbursement for hours spent on the drug task force. Mr. Krajnyak said the Major Crime Unit is going to happen whether Martins Ferry participates or not. Mr. Shrodes said that going forward he would like to see reimbursement dealt with. Mr. Shrodes also said that if the City is not happy with the Major Crime Unit they can opt out. Mr. Shrodes added that we have to provide service to our citizens and we need the drug task force. Mr. Krajnyak agreed that we can opt out if not happy and that we have the power to control costs and time spent serving.

Reports of the Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: Mr. Krajnyak said a Dept. Head Mtg. was held on Tuesday May 12. He added that a \$3,000 change in appropriations from the Recreation Center to Cemetery

needs to be approved. : Flags will be placed in the cemeteries on Saturday May 23rd at 9:00 am. Flowers planted at walnut Grove by Ms. Gagin were removed. Mr. Krajnyak asked that anyone wanting to help around the City please let someone know so these types of things don't happen in the future. Mr. Regis asked about the transfer of funds. Mr. Krajnyak said \$20,000 is usually transferred in a year. Mayor Rethmiller said there is no money to hire part-time help. H added that people cannot be pulled from other departments to cut grass. Ms. Randall said that regardless of where workers are being pulled from, their time cutting grass in the cemetery comes out of the cemetery budget. Mr. Duncan said this is a constant argument over the use of perpetual care money. Mr. Krajnyak said that he met with someone who writes laws for Ohio and that according to Ohio Revised Code 17.21.21 municipalities that own their own cemetery are exempt. He said that the City is by no means required to have a cemetery endowment fund and that the City would need to repeal the previous ordinance. The discussion continued to explain that the cemetery is not full. Mr. Krajnyak will speak with Mr. Stecker regarding an ordinance to repeal the other ordinance.

Street: no report

Ordinance: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: no report

Code: A meeting was scheduled for Monday June 8 at 5 pm to discuss vacant building and rental registration.

Safety: A meeting was held Monday. A quote was received for the heating system at the Alerts. Cost will be approximately \$24,000.

Service: A meeting was held. The Water Dept. gave an in-depth report. The Major Crime Unit was discussed. A drainage issue off of West Vine was also addressed. Safety was also discussed including the painting of yellow lines, the volume of traffic on Madison Street, and the great job the Civics are doing with the ball fields.

A Service Meeting was scheduled to discuss the City Garage. The meeting will be held on Monday June 1st at 5:30 to be followed by a Safety Meeting.

Citizens to be Heard:

Vince Keller discussed a road issue created by Columbia Gas of Ohio. Mayor Riethmiller said he has received several complaints and will call the gas company tomorrow.

Mr. Keller also asked about cigarette butts all over sidewalks downtown. The issue was discussed and Mayor Riethmiller has had several offenders in Mayor's Court.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street asked about summer help at the cemetery. Mr. Krajnyak said they will be available when school is out.

Mr. Hord asked about an announcement regarding the previous Wheeling Pitt plant. No one was aware of any announcements.

Mr. Hord suggested that Council recognize Dairy Queen and Griffith's Pharmacy.

Mr. Hord invited everyone to see the Hall of Honor display at the Belmont County Tourism Office.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATIONS FUND was given a first reading. Mr. Cleary moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the rules were suspended. Mr. Regis moved to pass the resolution as read. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the resolution was declared passed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Krajnyak moved to allow the City and the Police Dept. to join the Major Crime Unit. Mr. Cleary seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Krajnyak moved to give the Development Director permission to attend the Ohio 6th Congressional District Forum. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Duncan said that Fox Addition needs to be paved. He will move to do so at the next meeting.

Mr. Cleary moved to excuse Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Krajnyak moved to authorize the Auditor to decrease the recreation appropriation by \$3,000 and increase the cemetery appropriation by \$3,000. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis made a motion to accept the reports of Supervisors and Management. The motion was seconded by Mr. Krajnyak and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Shrodes said that a cemetery caretaker is needed. Mr. Regis asked if the cemetery has the equipment it needs. Mr. Bennett said it has tractors and weed eaters. Mr. Duncan asked if there is equipment for setting stones. Mr. Bennett said no.

Mr. Regis moved to approve the memorandum of understanding to allow the City, the Board of Commissioners, and the Village of Bellaire to complete a feasibility study regarding shared services. Mr. Cleary seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Cleary moved to continue participation in the OMERSA cooperative purchasing plan for 2016. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis said he was approached by a group from C-Cap and they would like to clean up and cut the grass at the Crawford Heights playground.

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cleary and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Council President, Kristine Davis

