

Minutes of May 6, 2015

The Martins Ferry City council met in regular session on Wednesday May 6, 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, Russell Armstrong, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, 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.

A presentation was made by Fire Department Chiefs Regis and Reese to Ty Wilson and Mary Mansfield for their dedicated work that ultimately saved the life of firefighter Bill Rinderer.

Mayor Riethmiller asked to go into Executive Session under Miscellaneous Business for the Sale of Property under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G2.

Mayor Riethmiller turned the meeting over to Belmont County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Fry who addressed Council on the formation of the Major Crime Unit. MKr. Fry explained that participation in this program is completely voluntary. Cities may stop participation whenever they want. The Major crime Unit will be under the Belmont County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Fry continued to explain that the Drug Task Force will now be under the larger umbrella of the Major Crime Unit, as will the SPII Task Force. Every village and city will be asked to participate. It will be up to each as to how many officers participate and how.

Mayor Riethmiller said that he asked Council to not participate in this program because he did not want to move on to a new program when the City had not been reimbursed for past participation. Mayor Riethmiller went on to say that he had met with the County Commissioners three times regarding the officers being paid by the City for work done in other cities. Mayor Riethmiller said he was told the County Commissioners would look into the matter. Mayor Riethmiller said dispatchers were also discussed and the Commissioners were

asked to cover the cost of one dispatcher with benefits, since if the City had to do away with their dispatchers the County 911 system would need to hire more.

Mr. Fry said that \$5100 was going to be distributed for hours between January 1 and April 30, 2015. Mr. Fry explained more than that had been spent on drug buys in Martins Ferry at that time.

Mr. Shrodes said that in the last two years 200 warrants for meth labs and arrests have been made. Mr. Shrodes said he was concerned that this was a way to enlarge the Sherriff's Dept.

Mr. Fry explained that currently the Drug Task Force is under the Sherriff's Dept. because officers wouldn't have jurisdiction without. Being under the Sherriff's Dept. would also allow the Major Crime Unit to apply for grants. Mr. Shrodes expressed concerns regarding compensation for injured officers. Mr. Fry said that the City dictates how officers participate allowing them to control cost. Mr. Shrodes said that he wished there were Commissioners present at tonight's meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Cleary asked Mr. Fry if the City agrees to participate do the officers have to participate in everything. Mr. Fry said no, and that that is a way to control cost. Mr. Cleary said he understands the Mayor's frustration but asked what Martins Ferry gains by saying no. He added that the City would gain nothing by not participating.

Sherriff Lucas thanked the Chief McFarland for the good working relationship they have had. Sherriff Lucas said that there will be no changes to the Drug Task Force. Sheriff Lucas said that there will be no expansion to the Sherriff's Dept.

Mr. Krajnyak said that this seems to be two separate issues and that if Martins Ferry turns their backs on the county and the work we do there we are only hurting ourselves and our county.

Mayor Riethmiller said that he doesn't feel the City should join the Major Crime Unit until we receive the funding we were promised in the past. Mayor Riethmiller said the City should participate, but only after we are reimbursed.

Council President Davis asked for a time frame for the Major Crime Unit. Mr. Fry said a decision didn't need to be reached tonight.

Mr. Shrodes said that everyone is concerned with finances. He requested that a Service Committee Mtg. be held to discuss these issues.

Chief McFarland said that Martins Ferry has five officers that participate in the Drug Task Force . He said that he share Mayor Riethmiller's frustrations. Chief McFarland said this is a step in the

right direction and that he feels that Martins Ferry should move forward with the Major Crime Unit and that this will help make Martins Ferry a safer place.

Service Director:

Mr. Bennett said that crews have been short-handed, but are trying to get grass cutting and patching completed.

A resolution is needed for the purchase of salt. This needs to be voice voted tonight.

Safety Director: No report

Auditor: Beginning of the month financials were distributed. Mr. Shrodes asked if there was any way that reports could be sent by email.

Law Director: No report

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

Ms. Gagin said that Lime Energy did a second site search and found additional savings.

She said that two small business loans were granted.

Mr. Cleary asked if the grant for the cemetery overlook was received from the Belmont County Tourism Council. Ms. Gagin said no.

Code Administrator: There were two arsons this week. The house on Zane Hwy. has been torn down. Both houses were on the land bank list. The Fire Dept. did a great job.

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

Fire Department: Chief Regis said there have been two arsons in three days. Both were abandoned structures. They are working with the State Fire Marshall and the Police Dept.

Chief Regis thanked all who attended the Department Memorial Service.

Chief Regis introduced James Applegate of the Red Cross. Mr. Applegate discussed the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. This campaign will provide 50 smoke detectors, 50 batteries, installation, and education.

Eleven firefighters completed the Firefighter 2 certification. 10 of the 11 passed the test. The 11th missed 1 question.

Reports of the Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: Mr. Krajnyak said there would be a Dept. Head Mtg. on Tuesday May 12 at 3:30.

Street: no report

Ordinance: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: no report

Code: A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss vacant building and rental registration.

Safety: no report

Service: no report

Cemetery/PR: Flags will be placed in the cemeteries on Saturday May 23rd at 9:00 am. Mr. Krajnyak thanked Mr. Suto for getting the water on at the cemetery.

Mr. Krajnyak asked that decorations at the cemetery be removed one week before Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Krajnyak introduced representatives from the First Christian Church of Martins Ferry. Mr. Hill said that the First Christian Church plans to build on the lot next door to the church. They were asking to annex that section of Madison Street, or at least be able to block the street when the building is being used. Mayor Riethmiller said that the matter would need to be discussed, and that the church would be notified of the meetings so representatives could be on hand.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street invited everyone to go see the display in the Belmont County Tourism Office.

Mr. Hord asked for an update on the Commissioner's Town Hall Meeting. Mayor Riethmiller said he had not yet contacted the Commissioners about the meeting.

Mr. Hord expressed concerns over poor voter turn out. Mayor Riethmiller said there are 4600 registered voters in Martins Ferry. 570 voted in the Primary Election.

Mr. Hord asked how land banking was progressing. Mayor Riethmiller said everything could start as early as June.

Melvin Williams of Delaware Street spoke on behalf of Saints Charity. He asked about the former South School property. Mayor Riethmiller said the property is no longer owned by the City. Mr. Williams was given details about the current owner and who to contact.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Mr. Shrodes moved to suspend the 72 hour rule. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the rules were suspended.

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 FIVE (5.0) MILL LEVY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was given a first reading. Mr. Krajnyak moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the rules were suspended. Mr. Shrodes moved to pass the resolution as read. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the resolution was declared passed.

Miscellaneous Business:

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

Mr. Rodgers moved to go into Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G@ for Sale of Property. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Krajnyak moved to go out of Executive Session. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Cleary moved to allow the Service Director to enter into contract #018-16 to purchase rock salt. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Krajnyak moved to authorize payment to Mr. Vaughn for work completed but hold submissions until further notice. Mr. Cleary seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Shrodes asked that a Service Meeting be scheduled to discuss the Major Crime Unit. He asked if the figures for the cost of a dispatcher could be brought to the meeting. Mayor Riethmiller mentioned the difference in pay between Police Dept. in the area.

Mr. Cleary said that there are two separate arguments and that this Crime Unit is going to happen with or without Martins Ferry. Mr. Suto added that the reason the Major Crime Unit is being formed is to become eligible for more funding. Ms. Randall said she can prepare the information on the officer's rate of pay.

A Finance/Service/ Safety Meeting was scheduled for Monday May 18th at 5:30 pm.

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

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Armstrong 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

