

Minutes of September 16, 2015 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday September 16, 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, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Jack Regis Sr., Chris Cleary, and Rob Duncan, Council at Large.

Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

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

Mr. Regis asked about the property on Broadway Street and if it was on the land banking list. Mr. Regis also stated that the old Vigilant's station, more recently the Booster Club, needs to be torn down. Ms. Gagin said that this round of land banking money cannot be used on commercial property.

Mr. Cleary said that Mr. Suto would not be at the meeting due to a water break, but that he wanted Council to know that the excavator was vital to their ability to get to today's break.

Auditor: No report

Law Director: No report

Development Director: Ms. Gagin said she had been working on several large grants. The USDA Grant for the City Garage pre-application was received and approved. Additional documents arrived today and need to be completed. The OPWC Grant for the First Street Project has been submitted and acknowledged. Scores are due on the 18th. The City will be working with another company for the lighting project. Lime Energy will no longer be doing the project.

Mr. Vaughn has been contacted regarding the start date for the County Rd. 4 project. Letters have been prepared regarding the leasing of gas and oil rights for City owned properties.

Mr. Vaughn has reported back to Ms. Gagin concerning the railroad property near Mr. Neal's business. Mr. Vaughn recommends a partial sale of property. Mr. Vaughn said that a retaining wall should be constructed. There is currently encroachment onto City Owned property and Mr. Vaughn would like the vegetation removed so it can be assessed.

Ms. Gagin met with new businesses including a candy shop and veterinarian office. The Rec. Board will meet the 2nd week of October.

Mr. Rodgers asked if the EMS transport vehicle has been ordered. Ms. Gagin said yes. The amount does not show on the permanent improvement report because it will be paid for when it is delivered.

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: A Finance Meeting was held on the 14th. Several issues were discussed including establishing policy and procedure for the Utility Office. A conference call was held with the State Auditor's Office. It was recommended that a Board be established for rate changes. The board would bring their findings to the Council for approval. They recommend a late fee for late filing of City Income tax. Mr. Suto asked for an appropriations adjustment to water.

EMS was discussed. The EMS is struggling with overtime. Finance recommends hiring two full time EMS employees.

Street: No report

Ordinance: No report

Sewer/Sidewalk: Mr. Regis said he will get with Mr. Shrodes about a Sewer/Sidewalk/Service Mtg.

Code: No report

Safety: a Safety Committee Meeting was held after the Finance mtg. Chief McFarland discussed storage of records. For now, they will continue to save information to the computer hard drive until everyone is more comfortable with cloud storage.

The new furnace will be installed in the Alert's tomorrow. The Safety Committee agreed that EMS needs additional full time employees. Mr. Krajnyak added that the EMS has 3 or 4 businesses that want to contract with them, n\but they can't unless they add more full time help.

Mr. Rodgers apologized for missing the meeting. He asked about the roof at the Vigilent's. Mr. Regis said that Chief Regis and Chief Reese were unable to attend the meeting, but they have quotes.

Service: No report

Cemetery/PR: Mr. Krajnyak said the one employee currently at the cemetery is doing a great job for being by alone. Mr. Krajnyak said the cemeteries need to be ready for winter which will help with spring clean-up. Mr. Regis said he has prices for mowers. Mr. Krajnyak said he spoke to St. Mary's Church about what they use at their cemetery. The caretaker is willing to do a demo with their walk behind mower.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street reminded everyone of the Town Hall Meeting with State Rep. Jack Cera on Monday September 21 at 5:30.

Mr. Hord asked if anyone checked into painting lines on Broadway and Aetna Streets. Mayor Riethmiller will get an estimate.

Bill Moran of 520 N. 5th Street thanked Council members Duncan and Rodgers and Ms. Gagin for coming up to look at the railroad property.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Duncan moved to appropriate up to \$6122 from Permanent Improvement for the purchase and installation of security cameras in the City Park. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Council discussed whether a report on grants was necessary. Mr. Krajnyak said that the point of a report was to find out why the City was denied so changes could be made the next time. Mr. Cleary agreed and said he wants to hear about the unsuccessful attempts so they can be learned from.

Mr. Regis moved to bring in legislation to increase the EMS staff by two full time employees. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to accept the reports of supervisors and management. Mr. Krajnyak seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to establish a research committee for the potential creation of the position of Office Manager of the Utility Office. Mr. Cleary seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed. Council Members Regis, Cleary, and Krajnyak volunteered to serve on the research committee.

Mr. Krajnyak moved to increase appropriations for the water distribution line item by \$10,300. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Krajnyak, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary, and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

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

Mr. Cleary asked if the First Christian Church had been notified of the decision regarding Madison Street. Mr. Riethmiller said he spoke with them. He will also send a letter.

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