

Minutes of December 2, 2015 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday December 2, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Martins Ferry Recreation Center. 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, Chris Cleary, and Rob Duncan, Council at Large.

President Davis reminded Council that no action could be taken on legislation with only five Council Members present.

Correspondence: A letter was read from the Martins Ferry Chamber of Commerce welcoming the City to the Chamber.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Riethmiller thanked the Fire Dept. for the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Riethmiller asked that the resolution of appreciation for Paul Collini be signed after the meeting.

The December 16 Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chambers

Service Director:

No more hot patch will be made this year.

The gabion baskets have been installed on S. Ridge.

The estimate on the sewer truck should be in early next week.

The new packer will be delivered Friday.

The new LED lights will be completed soon.

The cemetery worker is done for the season.

Safety: no report

Auditor:

End of the month financials were distributed.

Paybacks and transfers need to be approved at the next meeting.

Cost allocation will need to be approved as well.

Final appropriations will be ready for the next meeting.

Law Director: No report

Development Director:

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

Code Administrator: No report

Water Superintendent:

The Hillendale portion of the County Rd 4 Project was completed today.

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: A Finance Meeting will be held Dec. 7 at 3:30.

Street: No report.

Ordinance: No report

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report

Code: No report

Safety: No report

Service: No report

Cemetery/PR: No report

Mr. Krajnyak said the cemetery looks better than it has in years.

Mr. Krajnyak asked that a resolution of appreciation be prepared for Yvonne Myers from the Belmont County District Library.

Citizens to be Heard:

Joan Kalotis of 1054 Broadway discussed the vacant property next door to her house. She said the front is falling in and there are cats living in the basement. Also the person across the street has no power or running water. Mrs. Suto has tried to take the owner to court. There is a bench warrant for their arrest. Mr. Stecker was asked what else could be done. He asked if there were liens on the property. Mrs. Suto said no. Mr. Cleary discussed the vacant property registration. Mr. Shrodes suggested declaring a public nuisance. Mrs. Davios said Safety and Code will look into the issue. Mr. Duncan asked what it would cost to seize the property. Mr. Cleary said it would be discussed at the Finance Meeting.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street asked that Council consider a resolution of appreciation for Yvonne Myers.

Mr. Hord asked for the outstanding achievements of 2015.

- President Davis said the paving of Zane Hwy. and the County Rd. 4 Project.
- Ms. Gagin said the electrical/lighting retro fit.
- Mr. Shrodes said the water plant improvements and the sale of water for the oil and gas industry.

- Mr. Cleary said the land banking demolition of dilapidated structures. Mrs. Suto said nine houses were demolished in 2015. Mr. Duncan added that approximately 50 have been demolished in 4 years by the City, private citizens, and businesses. Mr. Shrodes added that the City maintained the additional lots created by the demolition.
- Ms. Gagin said the new equipment that was purchased.
- President Davis said the work of the Belmont County Drug Task Force/Crime Unit.

President Davis said she hates to see Council members leave because the Council and Administration worked well together.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF OFFICE MANAGER FOR THE UTILITY OFFICE, AND ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL SALARY THEREFORE, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016 was given a second reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a third reading.

AN ORDINANCE TO REDUCE FALSE ALARMS FOR THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS was given a second reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a third reading.

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR PAUL COLLINI was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Cleary asked that Council consider moving the December 16th meeting because of the Belmont County Right to Work Protest Rally. The matter will be discussed at the Finance Meeting.

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

Mr. Shrodes 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.

Mayor Riethmiller asked Council to consider amending the noise ordinance and changing the time to 10 pm to 7 am.

Mr. Duncan moved to adjust the salary of the Development Director to \$50,000 plus benefits with the Development Director being responsible for current membership dues, mileage to meetings, and lunches. Mr. Rodgers asked that the matter be discussed at the Finance Meeting. No second was heard and the motion died.

Mr. Shrodes moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Krajnyak 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