

Minutes of March 2, 2016 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday March 2, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Vigilant's Fire Station. 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 Hunker, First Ward, Phil Wallace, Second Ward, John Davies, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman and Jim Schramm, Council at Large

Correspondence: Two letters were received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control concerning the renewal of licenses for CVS and Convenient Food Mart. No hearings were requested.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak said that the Business Meet and Greet was a success with approximately 40 people in attendance. He said future events are being planned. Mayor Krajnyak thanked John Ayers for the donation of food for the meeting.

Mayor Krajnyak said a meeting with Clergy is being organized.

The Ohio EPA requested a meeting on March 28 regarding sewer issues.

A Department Head meeting was held to discuss the budget.

Nine letters were sent to citizens with past due parking tickets. The total fines for these nine letters were \$5,700.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary said AED training will be completed on Friday. The AED's have been installed in all locations. Mr. Cleary thanked Jack Regis Jr. for getting this grant for the City.

Mr. Cleary said estimates are being updated for the roof at the Vigilant's. Council Member Regis invited Mr. Cleary to Oakview to learn about the insulation being installed there. Mr. Cleary thanked the Fire Chief's for their work getting estimates.

Mr. Cleary said that all new accounts for rental properties will be put in the landlord's name.

Auditor:

End of the month financials were distributed.

Law Director: No report.

Code Administrator: No report

Water Superintendent:

Mr. Suto gave an update on the County Rd. 4 waterline project. He said that the altitude valve for the first section of pipe is being installed. They are almost done with phase 1 of the project.

Mr. Suto said that fire plugs will be flushed three times this year. Dates of flushing will be available next week.

Police Department: No report

Fire Department: The Fire Dept. asked permission to use the City Park from July 31-August 7 for Betty Zane Days.

Park District: No report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: Mr. Rodgers reported that the members present discussed finances and suggested going over the proposed budget. A meeting will be held March 10 at 3:00.

Street Committee: A meeting will be held on Tuesday March 8 at 5:00 in the Mayor's Office.

Code Committee: no report

Ordinance Committee: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: no report.

Safety Committee: A meeting was held on Feb. 22 to discuss parking issues in Crawford Heights. It was decided that cars can only park on the lower side of Kennedy Ave.

Service: A meeting was held on Feb 22 at 5:30. The Utility Office computer system was discussed. Mr. Cleary explained that the current system was installed before the water meters so integration with the meters has been an issue. Customer service has also been an issue. A company did a demo on a new system that would be much faster and is made for today's needs. It would offer online bill pay with receipts available for the last two years. Credit card payments would also be accepted. Mayor's Court payments could also be accepted online. The server in the Auditor's Office could run the new system, saving the cost of a new server. Reports could be generated from other offices. Cemetery and Code charges could also be processed. Mr. Suto added that the billing process now takes 20 steps and the new system would cut that to 4 steps. Mr. Cleary said he talked to EORWA and other cities in the area that use this system. Mr. Davies said the cost is \$49,600 (\$826.67 per month). Mr. Cleary said the VIP model is an additional \$13,000. The model isn't available yet, but the price could be locked in. Mr. Davies suggested discussing this at the Finance Meeting. Mr. Cleary said it is a 6 month process including download of information. Ms. Randall said it could hopefully start June 1. Mr. Davies

asked about payment. Ms. Randall said it could be lent from Permanent Improvement with monthly payback.

Cemetery/PR: Grass cutting was discussed. Mr. Neiman will meet with Mr. Cleary to discuss then a Cemetery Mtg. will be set.

Citizens to be Heard:

Patricia Cline of Crawford Heights asked who is responsible for Beretta Dr. She said there is a very large pothole. Also there are two potholes on Vineway that a car can not straddle. Ms. Cline also asked about a drainage ditch on Dutch Hill. She said everything washes down when it rains. Ms. Cline thanked Council for holding the meeting at Vigilant's.

Ed Lewis of 30 N. Ridge Dr. asked when N. Ridge would be blacktopped, if there would be an emergency exit, and added that there are large potholes on Darrah Rd. Mayor Krajnyak said that paving is tied to the waterline project. He will look into a possible start date but have to wait until the companies start production. Mr. Suto said an exit will be established.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia St. announced the Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony on Sunday April 10 and asked about proclamations or letters of recognition.

Mr. Hord asked about possible layoffs as quoted in the Times Leader. Mayor Krajnyak said the City is exploring every avenue and looking at every line item.

Mr. Hord asked about land banking. Mr. Cleary said they are waiting on the asbestos abatement contracts in six properties. He added that additional federal funding has been made available but he is not sure of requirements.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED was read after being postponed at the last meeting. Mr. Rodgers moved to postpone until the March 16 meeting. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Wallace, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman and Schramm voting yea and the resolution was postponed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Davies asked for thoughts on live streaming the Council Meetings. Mr. Cleary is going to speak with Rev. Webster.

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

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

Mr. Rodgers moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker 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