

Minutes of May 4, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday May 4, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Alert'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 Phil Wallace, Second Ward, John Davies, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis, Council at Large.

Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak said the Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours event was held on April 27 with a small turn-out. The next Business After Hours will be held on May 19 at the Elks from 5-7:30. RSVP's are required.

The National Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday May 5 with a service at noon at the corner of 5th Street and Hanover.

Mayor Krajnyak thanked Mr. Schramm for the flag donation.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the increase in revenue in 2016. Mayor Krajnyak said that collections in the first 4 months on 2016 are ahead of the total collections from last year. Mayor Krajnyak thanked the Police Dept. for enforcing the laws.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary said a resolution had been distributed with the cost estimate for the Cemetery Rd. project. Mr. Cleary suggested the Sewer/Sidewalk Committee hold a meeting and view the area. Mr. Cleary explained that emergency funds cannot be accessed because the sinkhole is due to degrading infrastructure. Mr. Schramm scheduled a meeting for Monday May 9 at 6:00. Mr. Regis asked about payment. Mayor Krajnyak said the first payment would be due one year after the completion of the project.

Mr. Cleary explained that this is in a low to moderate income level area. This could cover \$20,000 to \$25,000 of the total project cost which could cover paving and possibly extend paving to Zane Hwy. Mr. Regis said this would eliminate icing issues in the area. Mr. Wallace asked if the resolution had been approved by Mr. Stecker. Mr. Cleary said no, Mr. Stecker still needs to go over the legislation. The sample was distributed for Council to look over.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the unfinished clean-up on State Rt. 7. Mr. Cleary spoke with Mr. Schaffer and the equipment is not currently available for them to complete the job.

Safety: no report

Law Director: no report

Development: no report

Code Administrator: no report

Mr. Rodgers said that power lines are coming off a house on N 8th Street.

Water Superintendent: Mr. Suto thanked Father Michael and the clergy for the Earth Day program. He also thanked the employees and said it was a big success.

Thanks were issued to the Alert's Fire Station for hosting tonight's Council Meeting.

Street Superintendent: Mr. Matz said that patching was being done. So far 30 tons has been used. The guard rail was replaced and fill added near the Polish American Club. Grindings are being added to alleys. Also, the pool and fountain were cleaned.

Park District: Mr. Deaton said the pool has been emptied and is 90% cleaned. It will be filled this weekend and will open June 1. Mr. Deaton said he has no employees yet for grass cutting.

Police Dept. no report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: Mr. Davies reported at the last meeting. Mr. Regis said the committee continues to watch the budget. He added that tough decisions will need to be made. Also, EMS is working to find solutions to their budget issues.

Street: Mr. Rodgers said a meeting was held on May 2. Concerns include North Ridge, Cemetery Rd. and 5th Street. The estimate for N. Ridge was \$300,000 because of erosion to the roadway.

Sewer/Sidewalk: a meeting will be held on May 9 at 6:00. Sewer rates may need to be raised.

Code: Mr. Rodgers asked if a meeting would be scheduled. He asked about the ordinance regarding cleaning up grass clippings. Mr. Regis will make copies.

Safety: no report

Service: no report

Cemetery: Mr. Neiman said the cemetery looks nice. He thanked everyone for cutting. He added that a new employee has been hired. Mr. Cleary said there is \$4,000 in operating.

Ordinance: Mr. Wallace said an ordinance meeting will be held on May 12 at 5:30 in the City Building. The meeting is to discuss feral and domestic cats.

Mr. Regis said a Safety Meeting will be needed. He said he will call Mr. Hunker and schedule the meeting and will notify Council Members to the date and time.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street invited everyone to stop in the Belmont County Tourism Office at the Ohio Valley Mall to view the Martins Ferry Hall of Honor display. Mr. Hord suggested plaques for the past Police Chiefs and past Fire Chiefs.

Mr. Hord asked that a Meet the Candidates be organized. Mayor Krajnyak will meet with Mr. Hord to discuss the details.

Mr. Hord reminded Council and Administration that barber Don Falbo will celebrate 65 years. Mayor Krajnyak will discuss with Mr. Hord when they meet.

Mike Masters of 1059 Central Ave. asked about the culvert issue at the end of Central Ave. Mr. Suto is looking into the problem.

Mr. Masters asked about the guardrail on Beretta. Mayor Krajnyak has discussed the issue and is setting up a time to get the work completed.

Mr. Masters asked about the street sweeper and said it has not been to Crawford Heights in two years. Mr. Cleary will look into the issue.

Mr. Masters updated everyone on the progress of the playground. He said that the grass needs cut once a week, perhaps on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. He said that the Auditor told him there is no money to cut grass. Mr. Wallace encouraged Mr. Masters to check with the insurance company regarding mulch under playground equipment. Mr. Deaton said it's legal, but must be a certain depth.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Miscellaneous Business:

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

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

Mr. Schramm asked to be excused from the next meeting. He will be out of town.

Mayor Krajnyak discussed the ordinance requiring dog owners to clean up after their pet.

Mr. Rodgers said the trucks parked on Spence Lane are still there, as are the mattresses and box springs.

Mr. Regis asked Mr. Stecker about establishing a truck route through town.

Mr. Wallace motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Regis and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Kristine Davis, President of Council