

Minutes of September 1, 2016 Special Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in special session on Thursday September 1, 2016 at 5:00 PM at the Donald Myers 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 Hunker, First Ward, John Davies, Third Ward Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis Council at Large.

This Special Meeting was called for the purpose on interviewing and selecting a Second Ward Council Member.

President Davis explained the process that would be used for tonight's meeting. She told Council that four individuals had submitted letters of interest. Council received copies of these letters to review before tonight's meeting. Each interviewee will wait outside the Council Chambers until their name is called. When called, the interviewee will approach the microphone and will be given ten minutes to answer three questions from the President of Council and other Council Members. Any remaining time can be used to explain why they would like to be appointed. They may then sit in the gallery for the remaining interviews. Following the interviews, Council will vote. A resolution will be needed to appoint the candidate. President Davis explained that due to a conflict, she will not vote in a tie-breaking situation. If Council cannot break a tie, the decision will go on to the Mayor.

The four candidate's names were written on pieces of paper and drawn to decide interview order. Mr. David Reasbeck was the first name drawn. Mr. Reasbeck did not attend the meeting. He will not be interviewed, but is still eligible to be selected from his letter of interest.

Mr. Bruce Shrodes was the next name selected.

Mr. Shrodes was asked why he wants to be the Second Ward Council Member. Mr. Shrodes said that he has served as Council Member for ten years, the last eight consecutively. He said he has worked with several of the current Council Members and Administration and enjoyed every minute. He said he didn't realize how much he would miss Council. He said he has lived in the Second Ward for 42 years. Mr. Shrodes said he knows the City's financial standing and current projects as well as City ordinances. He spent time as a Police Officer and knows what is expected.

Mr. Shrodes was asked the main function of City Council. Mr. Shrodes said that the main function of City Council is to legislate. They work with the Administration to achieve the same goals. He said Council is not all about creating new ordinances but working with Administration to enforce the ordinances and to work together financially. Mr. Shrodes said there are a lot of infrastructure issues.

Mr. Shrodes was asked his goals for the next year. Mr. Shrodes answered to work with the administration to find funding for ongoing projects including the 8th Street Project.

Also, Mr. Shrodes would like to work with businesses and to work to enforce the ordinances with the Code Administrator.

Mr. Regis asked what made him change his mind and will he seek reelection. Mr. Shrodes said he didn't realize how much he would miss serving. He said he is 72 and can't answer whether he will run for the next term.

Mr. Tom Burns was the next name selected.

Mr. Burns was asked why he wants to be the Second Ward Council Member. Mr. Burns said he put in his letter of interest in January when the seat was available. He said he saw the need for change and the problems with the infrastructure. He said he is 61 and can now put in more effort. Mr. Burns has degrees in accounting and finance with a partial Master's Degree. He has experience in finance. Mr. Burns said he works well with citizens, knows a lot of people, and has experience with infrastructure. Mr. Burns is concerned about drugs and the youth in the City. He supports the Police Dept. and what they are trying to do. Mr. Burns said he has a lot to offer.

Mr. Burns was asked the main function of Council. Mr. Burns said the main function is decision making. He said you have to listen to people and filter the needs and wants of the people compared to the resources and safety. Mr. Burns said Council is a guiding governing force. He added that there is a lot to do financially. He said the Police and Union relationships are important. Mr. Burns serves on the Property Maintenance Board and says he wants to make the City healthier for its citizens. Council also works with organizations to promote activities in the park.

Mr. Burns was asked his goals. Mr. Burns answered to secure funding for infrastructure issues and identify issues while they are easily fixed. Getting a hold of the budget is also a goal. He said he doesn't have all the facts but enjoys accounting and managerial accounting. Mr. Burns is concerned with the youth and the eradication of drugs. He would like to see more jobs. He supports the Fire Dept. and the Police Dept. He has safety concerns since working with OSHA. Mr. Burns would like to see a more positive attitude in the City. He said there are a lot of events going on in the park that are building trust with the young people. He said the Swim with the Cops event was one of the nicest things he has seen. The City also needs to build the trust of the older citizens. Mr. Regis asked why he waited until now to run for a Council seat. Mr. Burns said his house was flooded after a heavy rain last year, so his thoughts and energy were elsewhere but he did put in a letter of interest in January.

Mr. Bob Bender was the final name selected.

Mr. Bender was asked why he wants to be the Second Ward Council Member. Mr. Bender said he was a City Employee for 25 years and he wants to give back. He said the City gave him a lot and he wants to give back. He would also like to work with this administration.

Mr. Bender was asked the main function of City Council. Mr. Bender said the main function of Council is to make sure the City runs the budget fairly and to make sure the departments have the money they need to operate.

Mr. Bender was asked his goals. Mr. Bender said he would like to see the budget in the black and he would like to work with Council to make that happen. Mr. Bender said he

loves Martins Ferry. He has lived here all his life. He loves working with people and would like to work with the administration and do what he can to help.

Mr. Regis asked why he didn't run for the seat in November. Mr. Bender said he would run again if selected and that he didn't run because he didn't think he had a chance. Mr. Rodgers said there is more to the position than just meetings and asked if the meetings would be a problem. Mr. Bender said no. Mr. Bender thanked Council.

Ballots were distributed. When ballots were ready they were collected by Mayor Krajnyak. Mayor Krajnyak served as a witness while the ballots were counted. In the first round of voting Mr. Bender received one vote, Mr. Burns received two votes, and Mr. Shrodes received three votes. Four votes were needed to win, so the candidate receiving the fewest votes was eliminated. Mr. Bender was thanked for his interest and encouraged to run for Council in the future.

In the second round of voting Mr. Shrodes received three votes and Mr. Burns received three votes. President Davis reminded Council that she would not be voting to break the tie due to a conflict.

In the third round voting Mr. Shrodes received three votes and Mr. Burns received three votes. Since President Davis cannot vote, a deadlock was announced and the responsibility was passed to Mayor Krajnyak. Mayor Krajnyak can select from all the candidates, since Council was unable to choose. The Mayor was told he had 30 days to make his decision. Mayor Krajnyak said he didn't want to drag out the process. Mr. Davies said that Mr. Shrodes and Mr. Burns were two well qualified candidates and that it was a tough decision. A five minute recess was observed to allow the Mayor time to decide.

Mayor Krajnyak returned and said that both were outstanding candidates. Mayor Krajnyak said Mr. Burns has done a great job on the property maintenance board and he was sure he would do a great job on Council. Mayor Krajnyak said Mr. Shrodes was always a great asset on Council. Mayor Krajnyak said that with the issues the City is facing, he felt in his heart that Council needed someone with experience so he selected Mr. Shrodes. Mayor Krajnyak thanked everyone for their time.

Mr. Regis moved to appoint Mr. Shrodes to the Second Ward Council. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis thanked the Mayor for acting quickly. He said he appreciated the quick appointment and said it showed integrity.

The ballots were made available for viewing after the meeting.

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