

Minutes of September 7, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday September 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Liberty 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.

President Davis asked that the order of the meeting be changed so that Bruce Shrodes could be sworn in as Second Ward Council Member. Mr. Shrodes was sworn in by Mayor Krajnyak.

Answering roll call were Robert Hunker, First Ward, Bruce Shrodes, 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 announced that JB Green would hold a hazardous waste clean up on Saturday September 17 from 9-1 at the Ohio Valley Mall.

The brush hog is up and running and the city workers are getting caught up.

The CAC crew that was working at the cemeteries finished their season on August 31.

Mayor Krajnyak said they did a great job. There will be one more visit from the prison work crew. Mayor Krajnyak said he would try to keep one person in the cemetery as long as possible.

A comprehensive report was received from ADR regarding the 8th St. slip. State officials have been forwarded the report and will be mailed a copy as well.

The house on Hickory St. that was found in deplorable condition has been cleaned up.

Mayor Krajnyak pointed out that the City works to get these properties cleaned up to improve living conditions for children and to improve the appearance of the city, not for money.

Mr. Regis asked about the recent announcement of a business leaving. Mayor Krajnyak said it was due to lack of business. He had no further details.

Mr. Rodgers asked if a decision was made about the demolition or repair of 429 N. 8th St. Mayor Krajnyak said he would look into the matter. He said that the land banking committee is waiting for the release of funds.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary said connections on the County Rd. 4 Waterline Project will be made this week. He added that several breaks have occurred in the area.

The 1st St. Paving Project should start in two weeks. In the Pre-Construction meeting they said that they will try to complete the job in 45 days. Crews will work 60 hour weeks. They are aware of intersection issues. Work will start at Hanover Street then move to Center Street.

Julie Ward of RCAP requested a Service Mtg. for Wednesday September 28 at 5:30 or 6 p.m.

Mr. Cleary said that the 8th Street slip project is to the point of needing to be made “shovel ready” To do this the area needs to be surveyed and core samples need to be drilled so that a more accurate cost estimate can be prepared. Cost of the survey would be \$5750 and core drilling will cost \$17,250. This would ensure that everything is ready to proceed when the money becomes available. Mr. Cleary said this could be discussed further in the Service Mtg. with Julie Ward.

Mr. Cleary said a study has been done of our sewer rates to meet with EPA requirements. Rate increases will be needed over the next few years. Mr. Cleary said the first rate increase will be \$3. Mr. Cleary offered copies of the EPA recommendations. Mr. Cleary said that while he does not need Council’s approval to increase the rates, the State Auditor’s have recommended it in the past. Mr. Cleary said there are too many sewer infrastructure issues. Mr. Rodgers asked when the increase will go into effect. Mr. Cleary said he would like to see it in October. Mr. Cleary said RCAP will come be here in November. They have suggested a \$5 increase with an additional 3% each year. Mr. Neiman said he heard Bellaire has increased their sewer rates by \$10. Mr. Cleary said they have increased rates by \$8.50 or \$9. Mr. Regis asked if the \$3 increase will be enough. Mr. Cleary said it is a start in the right direction. Mr. Davies asked about the sewer debt. pay off. Mr. Cleary said that none is being currently collected. Mr. Hunker said that this has been discussed for the last 3-5 years and there is no way around it. Mr. Cleary added that it is a regional issue. Mr. Shrodes said this was addressed with the EPA 3 years ago. Mr. Cleary said it needs to start now. Soon ground water is going to be metered. Mr. Davies asked if Mr. Cleary wanted a show of Council support. Mr. Cleary said it was requested by the State Auditors.

Mr. Shrodes asked about the lights on Hanover Street. Mr. Cleary said according to the ODOT schedule he received it will be done some time between Aug. 9 and Sept. 30. Mr. Cleary said their scheduling has been tough and that ODOT has received a lot of complaints.

Law Director: No report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: Mr. Regis said Street Dept. is in the red. The EMS is moving in the right direction. He added that something needs to be done before the end of the year.

Street: A meeting was held on Aug. 30 to discuss N. Ridge, 8th Street, St. Rt. 647 and Cemetery Rd. Materials have been ordered for Cemetery Rd. Work will begin in 2 ½ to 3 weeks. Engineering reports were received for 8th St. The reports were shared with Mr. Davies. First Street work should begin on Sept. 12. Mr. Regis said he attended the RUMA meeting. He gave Mayor Krajnyak materials from the meeting and has extras if

anyone is interested. Mr. Davies asked if any plans were in place to insure 1st Street is taken care of after this paving project. Mayor Krajnyak said it has been discussed with Richard Waugh. The RUMA agreement can be done after paving is complete.

Ordinance: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: no report

Code: no report

Safety: no report

Service: no report

Cemetery/PR: no report

Real Estate: President Davis told Mr. Davies that she received another real estate inquiry through email. Mr. Davies said a brief discussion was had concerning Carlisle St. and the offer on the railroad property.

Income Tax: no report

Citizens to be Heard:

Mike Bianconi and J.P. Dutton introduced themselves. Both are running for Belmont County Commission.

April Brown of N. 7th Street said she lives below the slip and her house and garage are slipping. She asked what will happen to the homes affected by the sinkhole? Mayor Krajnyak said he has talked to Veteran's Affairs concerning one homeowner. He has also talked to others about helping with relocation.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street commented that he felt the selection for Second Ward Council went very well.

A Town Hall Meeting with the commissioners will be held on Tuesday September 13 at 6 pm at the Martins Ferry Public Library.

Mr. Hord mentioned the pothole situation on Virginia and Adams Streets.

Mr. Hord asked about Air Evac leaving and if the City is involved in finding another business. Mayor Krajnyak said he needs to get more information from AirEvac since this was just announced. Also, the property they located on is privately owned.

Suzanne Armstrong of Seabrights Lane said she emailed ODOT about the traffic lights. They told her they need to coordinate with the railroad.

John Applegarth asked that curbs and crosswalks be painted. Mr. Cleary said he can't get a purchase order for paint.

Mitch Taylor spoke regarding 429 N. 8th Street. He said the property has lost 5 ft of yard and 2/3 of it's foundation since March. He doesn't feel the house can survive the winter.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Davis moved to support the Service Director in the \$3 increase of sewer rates. Mr. Regis seconded the motion. Mr. Hunker asked if rates should be increased by \$5. Mr. Cleary said it could probably wait until next summer. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea and the motion was declared passed. Mr. Cleary thanked Council for their support.

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

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

Mr. Shrodes announced the Veteran's Day Parade and Celebration will be held on Sunday November 13. Mr. Rodgers asked that flags be put up across town.

Mr. Hunker told Mr. Cleary he would be unable to attend the Sept. 28 Service Mtg. The meeting will be held at 6 pm.

The 8th Street project was discussed. It was decided that the total money in Permanent Improvement was needed to proceed.

A Finance Meeting will be scheduled and Council will be notified.

Mr. Hunker motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodgers 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, Council President