

Minutes of February 15, 2017

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday February 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Martins Ferry Ladder Company. The meeting was called to order by Council President Kristine Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by the Clerk. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis present.

President Davis thanked the Ladder Company for hosting tonight's meeting.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received

Correspondence: No correspondence was read.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak reported that the traffic light project on State Rt. 7 is completed.

The JB Green Team Spring Clean-up schedule was distributed.

A small ceremony was held on Saturday by VFW Charities with an additional ceremony to be held Friday at 3:30.. Both ceremonies were to distribute funds to Mr. Burch for his relocation.

The Bellaire VFW will present Mr. Burch with \$1500 to help cover expenses.

Mayor Krajnyak and Mr. Cleary met with hospital officials from Allecto regarding EORH. It was a very positive meeting.

Mayor Krajnyak asked that Council appropriate up to \$10,000 for the demolition of the structure on Jefferson St. The cost of demo will be placed against the taxes on the property.

Mr. Regis asked if the hospital meeting included talks of renegotiating the EMS transport contract. Mayor Krajnyak said it was discussed.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary said that the Real Estate Committee had received letters. Copies were distributed to Council.

Julie Ward from RCAP requested a meeting on Feb. 23 with the Sewer Committee.

Border Patrol has been working in the alley off 7th Street. The manhole has been cut-off due to the secondary slip. A temporary line was installed above the ground to the other manhole. Border Patrol was asked to look at installing a permanent line and two new manholes. They will accept a payment plan if needed.

The Land Bank Committee is moving forward. Bidding will start soon. Six properties in Martins Ferry will be demolished. The committee is looking to impact neighborhoods instead of scattering projects around.

OMEGA and ADR and proceeding with grants and loan funding opportunities for the 8th St. project.

Mr. Neiman asked about the sewer truck. Mr. Cleary said they tried to find one locally to borrow. He added that the sewer line needs unclogged. Mr. Neiman asked if a firehouse would work. Mr. Cleary said there is a broken lateral at a neighboring house.

Mr. Rodgers asked if anything has been done regarding the City Building. Mayor Krajnyak is

checking with the state historical society. Mr. Cleary said if the City sought to become a certified local government more funding would be available.

Mr. Rodgers requested that the community service workers pick up litter if they are not doing anything. Mr. Cleary said he would speak with Mr. Deaton.

Mr. Rodgers asked why the City has to get approval from the County Engineer to use permissive county tax money for road paving. Mr. Stecker said that is decided by state statute. Mr. Stecker explained that the license plate fees put on by the City can be used as the City sees fit. If they are placed by the County, then the County must approve how they are used.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the storm culvert by the boat club. Mr. Cleary said that there is a contractor willing to help with this project in the spring.

Mr. Rodgers said that ordinance 301.21 states that cars cannot be parked on the sidewalk and that the issue needs to be addressed.

Mr. Regis said in regards to workers standing around at the Recreation Center, we need to talk about the good stuff too, not just the bad.

Mr. Shrodes asked if the sewer project could be done in house. Mr. Cleary said that a very steep hill is involved. He also asked if an easement would be needed. Mr. Cleary said the manholes are on our property.

Mr. Shrodes asked about the property on Jefferson St. Mayor Krajnyak said the owner is dead. There are four sons. The property is in probate. It is a safety issue.

Auditor:

Ms. Randall said that she met with Richard Waugh concerning paperwork from N. 8th St. \$35,000 is needed from permanent improvement for work completed to get ready for the project. Mr. Cleary added that additional funding is still being sought for the project. Mr. Davies asked what the cost covered. Mr. Cleary said surveying and geotech. Ms. Randall said the price is typical for that type of project. As of today, \$309,000 in funding has been secured. Another \$200,000 is probable. Mr. Davies asked when we would know about the \$200,000. Mr. Cleary said July or August. Mr. Hunker asked for the amount needed tonight. Ms. Randall said \$35,000. Mr. Regis asked how much is in permanent improvement. Ms. Randall \$121,000, but that \$50,000 is obligated to the State Rt 647 slip. Mr. Hunker asked if some of this money is in General Fund adjustments. Mayor Krayjnak said yes.

Fire Dept:

Chief Regis said they are currently getting the specs on a new engine #2 for the Vigilents. There has been at least one call a day, everyday since January 29 and only 2 were false alarms. Also, several grant applications have been turned in for equipment upgrades.

Police Dept: no report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit:

Mr. Regis said once the budget is put together the committee will meet to discuss. Mr. Regis also said that the Civics can no longer use Floto Field. The Civics have asked for money for pitcher's mounds (\$1400) and a mower (\$2300). The ruts need taken out of Hillendale Field. Mr. Regis suggested the city employees could do that. Mr. Shrodes asked about the slip in left field. Mr. Regis said it is slipping and suggested it book looked at in the spring. Mr. Regis also asked if Fodor Field could be locked. Mayor Krajnyak said yes. Mayor Krajnyak also said that there has been interest in purchasing Floto Field. He said if sold, the deed states the money would go to the American Cancer Society. He suggested that the money could be used to make a new ballfield and asked Mr. Stecker for advice. Mr. Davies said it would be like moving the field to a new location. Mr. Stecker said he would need to see the deed.

Mr. Regis said he met with EMS and they are having problems and need help.

Street: no report

Ordinance: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: Meeting with Julie Ward on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m.

Code: no report

Safety: no report

Service: no report

Cemetery: no report

PR: Mr. Shrodes said Mr. Riethmiller is in the hospital if anyone would like to visit.

Real Estate: Mr. Davies asked Mr. Cleary if the property sale had already been approved. Mr. Cleary told the interested party that he needed the offer in writing. The other letter is in regards to 13.1 acres in Floral Valley.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia St. asked if repairs to the City Building would include making it handicapped accessible. President Davis said two different studies concluded it is not possible to make the building handicapped accessible. Mr. Hord asked if a new building was possible. Mr. Davies said the new garage has office space available that could be used for Council meetings and would be handicapped accessible.

Mr. Hord said he asked the Commissioners about the use of casino funds and they said no.

Mr. Hord said the presentation by the Business Advisory Committee was excellent and asked if new businesses are being discussed. Mr. Cleary said the Chamber of Commerce is speaking with two businesses. Mr. Cleary added that new businesses are interested in no parking meters. Mr. Hord asked if the area would still be monitored without meters and was told it would.

Mr. Hord said he contacted the Governor's Office. Mr. Cleary said several residents have told him that they called.

The Business Advisory Committee meeting is tomorrow at 11 a.m. And is opened to the public.

Ordinances and Resolutions

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY, ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OHIO (BORROWER), TO REIMBURSE ITS GENERAL FUND FOR THE FIRST STREET AKA INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY PAVING PROJECT(LOAN NUMBER CR17T/CR18T) WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was given a third reading.

Mr. Regis moved to pass the resolution as read. Mr. Shrodes seconded the motion. 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.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Regis moved to move the Wednesday March 1 meeting to Thursday March 2 because of Ash Wednesday. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to accept the reports of officers and management. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Schramm asked about credit card limits. Mr. Cleary explained that they are currently researching a credit card for the water department that would have a higher limit. Mr. Suto can often save a significant amount of money on parts and materials by shopping online.

Mr. Davies asked about live streaming. Mr. Cleary is going to have Don Mew look at our system to see what can be done.

Mr. Davies asked what can be done about potholes. Mr. Cleary said cold patch prices are in the 70's and that hot patch may be available soon and would be cheaper and last longer.

Mr. Neiman said he spoke with Mr. Kelley and he feels the sweeper won't make another season. Mayor Krajnyak said he is researching different makes and models. Mr. Shrodes said if it isn't safe we need to get it off the street.

Council discussed the house at 602 Jefferson Street. Mayor Krajnyak said he thought demo would run \$8,000 to \$8500. Mr. Shrodes said he didn't like the way safety concerns were handled on S. 10th St.

Mr. Schramm moved to appropriate up to \$10,000 from Permanent Improvement for the demo of

the property at 602 Jefferson St. Mr. Shrodes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Schramm, and Regis voting yea, Neiman voting no and the motion was declared passed. The estate was discussed and how the money could be recovered. Mr. Stecker will look at the issue.

Mr. Rodgers moved to appropriate up to \$35,000 from permanent improvement for the 8th St. Project. Mr. Davies seconded the motion. 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. Davies moved to adjourn. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion 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