

## **Minutes of March 2, 2017 Council Meeting**

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Thursday March 2, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Donald Myers Memorial 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, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, John Davies, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis Sr. 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 the Chamber of Commerce would hold a Business After Hours on Thursday March 16 from 5:30-7 at the Times Leader.

A copy of the proposed budget was distributed.

Copies of legislation for the State Rt. 647 project were distributed.

Mayor Krajnyak asked that \$10,000 be appropriated from the General Fund for the demolition of a house on Jefferson St.

Mayor Krajnyak and Mr. Cleary have been researching street sweepers.

The Boy Scouts will be hosting a "Scrap for Scouts" program on March 18 at the site of the old City Garage.

Fourth Street will return to two-way traffic on Monday. Data and traffic counts are being considered before a permanent decision will be made.

A check in the amount of \$663,000 was received from the Port Authority for the renewal of the gas and oil lease.

#### **Service Director:**

Mr. Cleary announced that a 3 ft slip occurred in Bruney Alley. Mr. Cleary feels the City workers can complete the needed repairs.

The culvert on Vineway needs to be re-excavated. There is also a slip that needs to be addressed by a homeowner.

Mr. Cleary thanked the Times Leader, the Code Administrator, and the Property Maintenance Board. Violations were printed in the newspaper.

The conversion and data transfer continues in the Utility Office. The office will be closed until the project is finished. The new system will go live early next week.

A temporary line was installed in the alley between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets. Final connections are needed. The EPA is happy with the temporary solution. Mr. Cleary has not heard about the easement.

The annual report for the EPA is nearly complete.

Mr. Cleary reported that because Mr. Suto agreed to the NRG Energy Curtailment Plan the Water Dept. received a check for \$8,000. This was for completing a one-hour test that involved the Water Plant running on a generator for one hour.

Mr. Davies asked if the Utility Office will be able to accept online payments. Mr. Cleary said that is part of the last stage.

Mr. Neiman asked for an update on the sewer truck. Mr. Cleary said parts cannot be found for the truck. It is on its way to Twinsburg. Mr. Cleary thanked Mingo Junction for the use of their truck and operator. Also, thanks to Bellaire for offering to help.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the Utility Office staff. Mr. Cleary said they are training on the system.

**Auditor:** No report

Mr. Davies asked when the money from the Police levy would be certified. Ms. Randall said next month. Mr. Davies asked why we haven't certified at least half. Ms. Randall said the money cannot be spent until it is there.

**Law Director:** No report

**Water Superintendent:**

Mr. Suto said the fire hydrant on Columbus Ave was replaced. It was unable to be repaired. Two more hydrants need work.

Several water breaks have occurred on small 2 inch galvanized lines. They will need to be replaced soon.

The altitude valve in Crawford Heights needs replaced. The replacement will be a pressure reducing valve that should last 10 years.

Mr. Davies asked about the capital outlay for water. Ms. Randall said it is just the money collected for new water meters. Mr. Davies said a % should be put in the fund. Mr. Suto said he would meet with Mr. Davies to discuss. Mr. Davies said a long range forecast is needed.

Mr. Cleary thanked Mr. Suto. He explained that there is a new law in Ohio regarding listing lead lines (HB 512). Our report was submitted ahead of schedule.

Mr. Cleary also thanked Mr. Suto for the idea to charge trucks purchasing water for wear and tear on the streets. This has raised \$3300 for the Street Dept. Mr. Cleary also thanked Mr. Stecker for his help with this idea. Mr. Suto said 2.8 million gallons of water were sold.

**Police Dept.** No report

**Reports of Committees of Council:**

**Finance/Audit:** A Finance Meeting was scheduled for Wed. March 15 at 6:00 p.m.

**Street:** No report

**Ordinance:** No report

**Sewer/Sidewalk:** No report

**Code:** No report

**Safety:** No report

**Service:** No report

**Cemetery:** Mr. Neiman said he was through the cemeteries this week and there are lots of branches down and headstones turned over. Mr. Cleary said a Cemetery Mtg. is needed. Mr. Cleary suggested not allowing artificial flowers. Mayor Krajnyak said the flowers clipped to the top of the headstone cut down on trimming time. He added that the wall is in bad shape and that the City may need to petition for the use of the perpetual care money. A meeting was scheduled for Monday March 13 at 5:30 p.m.

**Public Relations:** Mr. Shrodes announced that Mr. Weekly passed away.

**Citizens to be Heard:**

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street asked about options to alleviate the financial issues in the City. Mayor Krajnyak said every option is being considered. The Mayor added that some funding has come in because of the oil and gas industry and there are possible businesses moving in. Mr. Hord asked about lay-offs and the Mayor said that is not being considered at this point.

Mr. Hord asked about Subway. Mayor Krajnyak said power has been installed and they are still completing renovations.

Mr. Hord asked about the former Stromboli's and the former Dee's Bar. Mayor Krajnyak said he hadn't heard anything. Mr. Hord asked about 4<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. Mr. Cleary said it is a warehouse.

**Ordinances and Resolutions:**

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Mr. Regis 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. Davies moved to appropriate up to \$3700 from Permanent Improvement to the Martins Ferry Civics for the purchase of a mower and pitching mounds. Mr. Shrodes seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Schramm, and Regis voting yea Council members Rodgers and Neiman voting no, and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to amend the motion passed on February 15, 2017 to appropriate up to \$10,000 from permanent improvement for the demo of the property at 602 Jefferson Street to now state to appropriate up to \$10,000 from the general fund for the demo of the property at 602 Jefferson St. Mr. Schramm 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 stated that the house on Jefferson was being torn down using tax payers money and that the money would probably not be recouped. President Davis clarified that a vote had been taken to tear down the house using Permanent Improvement money, however, that could not be done so the motion needed to be changed to use General Fund money. Mr. Hunker said it is hard to do, but the house is not stable and could fall on the neighboring house. Mr. Neiman said the homeowner has other properties in the City. Mr. Stecker said a claim will be filed against the estate.

Mr. Davies said Rider Rd. has extremely large potholes and asked if something could be done. Mayor Krajnyak said that the City was waiting for hot mix, since cold mix wouldn't last long. Mr. Cleary said bug dust could be used temporarily. Mr. Shrodes said the road was dug up 5 or 6 ft and the problem needs to be looked at.

Mayor Krajnyak asked that Council vote to keep Mr. Jeff Vaughn of Vaughn, Coast, and Vaughn on retainer at a cost of \$2400.

Mr. Regis moved to keep Mr. Jeff Vaughn of Vaughn, Coast, and Vaughn on retainer at a cost of \$2400. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Neiman, Schramm, and Regis voting yea Council member Rodgers voting no, and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to move the March 15 Council Meeting to March 22. 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. Regis motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shrodes and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

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Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

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Kristine Davis, Council President