

Minutes of October 4, 2017 Martins Ferry City Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday October 4, 2017 at 6:00 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, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, John Davies, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis Council at Large.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 20, 2017 Council Meeting were approved with a correction by Council Member Shrodes regarding the Cemetery Ord. The Ordinance will be resubmitted to the state.

Correspondence: no correspondence was received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak said JB Green will hold a tire and electronic recycling day on Nov 4 at the site of the old City Garage.

Paperwork has been submitted to the EPA for the environmental study of the previous Bauer Ford site.

ADR has asked for approval of the N 8th Street slip project bid. The City has secured \$505,000 in grants. An additional \$192,000 loan is available.

The Cemetery Rd project is finished pending final inspection. The sidewalk does still need to be fixed.

Sunday is the Belmont County Rubberneck Tour from 12-6. Martins Ferry stops are Walnut Grove Cemetery, the Good Neighbor Garden, and Sedgwick Museum.

Volunteers are needed. Mayor Krajnyak thanked those who decorated the City. It looks beautiful.

Mr. Rodgers asked about progress of the proposed combining of the EMS and Fire Stations. Mayor Krajnyak said a meeting was held and was lead by Council Member Regis. The 2016 fire station expense report is needed.

Mr. Regis asked if the N. and S. Ridge paving project is completed. Mayor Krajnyak said it is.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary asked Council to grant permission to advertise for bids for transfer station services. Mr. Cleary would like to get prices.

Mr. Cleary said citizens have been notified of the Utility increases. These increases will go to the purchase of a sewer vac truck and sweeper.

Mr. Rodgers asked when the Rt 7 project would be finished. Mr. Cleary said the original date was the end of September. He added that it looks like they are surfacing so it

shouldn't take long. Mr. Rodgers asked if the streets will be swept for the Rubberneck Tour. Mr. Cleary said the walk-behind sweeper is down, so sweeping will need to be done by volunteers. Mr. Rodgers asked about the tree removal in Walnut Grove. Mr. Cleary said he is waiting for the job to be scheduled by the tree service.

Mr. Rodgers brought up that the summer cemetery help salary was increased to \$10. The part time EMS salary to start is \$9.23. Mr. Regis said he will speak about the issue in his Finance report.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the cost of the Utility Office computer system. Ms. Randall said it was approximately \$50,000. Mr. Rodgers said he did not receive his bill today. Mr. Cleary said there have been issues with bill delivery, not generation. He said that bags of bills that have been torn in the post office machinery have been received. The problem is those bills are not returned to the Utility Office for 4-6 months. There is no way for the Utility Office to know which bills were damaged and not delivered.

Mr. Hunker asked for an update of the State Rt 647 project. Mr. Cleary said they were paving the first section today. They have set a tentative completion date of the end of November.

Mr. Shrodes has received two calls from citizens of Cemetery Rd and Fanhouse Rd thanking the City for the paving.

Mr. Cleary said he was approached by Superintendent Fogle about striping Alumni Rd because it is hard to see in the fog. Mr. Cleary is trying to get a price, but such a large job won't be cheap.

Mr. Schramm said he got complaints regarding the Utility Office from someone trying to get building permits. Mr. Cleary said an issue was dealt with today.

Auditor:

End of the month financials were distributed.

The appropriation ordinance was sent out.

Public records training will be held October 25. Lunch will be provided.

Law Director: no report

Police Dept: no report

Fire Dept: The Christmas Parade will be held November 24. Line up begins at 4:30 with the parade starting at 6:30. The route will be the same as last year. The Fire Dept. would like permission to use the Old City Garage for registration.

Chief Regis also asked to meet with the Finance and Safety Committees to discuss levies.

Mr. Davies said the garage is not safe and should not be used. Mr. Neiman said the maintenance garage could be used.

Park District: no report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday at 6:00. A Safety Committee meeting will be held on the same day at 5:30.

Street: Mr. Rodgers said he read in the paper that East Richland and St. Clairsville got a piece of equipment for free to patch cracks in streets. Mr. Rodgers would like to speak to them about how they got the equipment and would like to set up at meeting. Mayor Krajnyak said he saw the article online and shared it with Mr. Cleary. HE said he spoke with Mayor Pugh and the cost was \$50,000.

Mr. Regis asked about the use of Jake Breaks on First St. Mr. Davies said they are not allowed in the City limits. Signs added to the stop signs were discussed. Mr. Cleary said there are two signs on State Rt. 7. Mr. Regis said Stuebenville has flashing lights to let truckers know the light is going to change. Mr. Cleary said Mr. Wildman tried 20 years ago and was told no. Mr. Davies asked if the speed limit could be changed. It cannot because it is a state road.

Mr. Schramm asked about waterline repairs. Mr. Cleary said they are working on them.

Ordinance: No report. Mr. Shrodes is working with the Chief to get two ordinances put together.

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report

Code: No report

Safety: No report.

Service: A mtg was held last night to discuss the purchase of a vac truck and sweeper. Mr. Davies asked Ms. Randall the down payment amount and if we had that money. Ms. Randall said it will come from permanent improvement with a payback and interest. There is \$247,000 in PI and \$80,000 will be needed to put down. Financing for seven years was discussed. Mr. Cleary said they have five year warranties.

Code: No report

Cemetery: No report. Mr. Neiman said the cemetery looks nice.

PR: No report

Real Estate: No report. Mr. Cleary is still trying to get the surveys scheduled.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia St. said the Belmont Co Commissioner's had received a grant to renovate the front of the Sheriff's Residence. Mr. Hord wondered if Martins ferry could apply as well. Mayor Krajnyak said the City could look for grants through the historical society. Mr. Shrodes said that casino money was given to the county commissioners and was used as a matching grant. The funds were also used for the Courthouse and museum. Martins Ferry has never had the matching funds for that type of grant. Mr. Shrodes said it is up to the commissioners to use the way they see fit. He said the money could have been used to fund the Drug Task Force or to help with paving, but instead it is being used to renovate buildings in St. Clairsville.

Mr. Hord said the commissioners are evaluating departments and wondered if Martins Ferry is evaluating and how do things look for 2018. Mayor Krajnyak said we should make it, but it will be tight.

Mr. Hord asked for a comment on the closing of Goodwill. Mayor Krajnyak said he was shocked and it came as a surprise to everyone.

Mr. Hord suggested Council honor Andy Sutak for his years of service as County Auditor.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Regis distributed information regarding the EMS. He explained that other local cities and villages pay more for part time help. Because of this, Martins Ferry has lost employees. Also, the EMS needs to get back into transports. They can't right now, because they can't get part time employees to work the shifts.

Chief Regis said Family services uses four transport services in the area for all of there transports. Changes that have been proposed would mean that Family Services in Columbus will be scheduling the transports. Mr. shrodes asked how much has been transferred to EMS. Ms. Randall said so far \$40,000 but that \$80,000 was approved. This will be discussed at the Finance Meeting. Ms. Randall said there are issues with unpaid transfers. These include \$100,000 that can't be collected and \$200,000 in collections. Mayor Krajnyak sais the salary needs to be discussed with the contract representative. Mr. Regis said part time employee salaries are set by ordinance. Mr. Regis said transports need to be billed from the hospital, so they are easier to collect.

Mr. Hunker told Mayor Krajnyak he had received a call from Mike Masters about the grass cutting at the park in Crawford Heights and the guardrail on Berretta Drive. Mayor Krajnyak said he has spoken with the county and they don't feel a guardrail is needed in that location. Mr. Deaton said that he cut the grass in the park every week this summer. Mr. Deaton no longer has the help needed to complete the job.

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

Mr. Shrodes announced the Veteran's Day Parade will be held on Saturday Nov. 11. Line up at Liberty at 1:00 with the parade at 2:00. The parade will end at the Park.

Mr. Schramm moved to accept the bid on the N. 8th St. project. Mr. Neiman 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. Rodgers moved to allow Administration to advertise for bids on the Transfer Station services. 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 asked that the railroad company be contacted about the tracks on Rt 7.

Mr. Davies asked Mr. Cleary about the vac truck and sweeper regarding how soon Council needs to act. Mr. Cleary said the sooner the better. The vac truck will need to be built and there is only one sweeper available.

Mr. Davies moved to purchase a sewer sweeper contingent on financing over seven years with a payback of 3.2% interest and a five year warranty. The ordinance will state that \$24,454 will come from PI for purchase of a sewer sweeper with 3.2% interest. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion Mr. Neiman 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 allow Administration to purchase a sewer sweeper and declare an emergency. Mr. Rodgers 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. Hunker moved to adjourn. Mr. Schramm 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