

Minutes of September 20, 2017 Martins Ferry City Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday September 20, 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 6, 2017 Council Meeting were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak said an application was submitted for an EPA Phase 1 Environmental Study of the previous Bauer Ford lot.

Grinding was completed on N. and S. Ridge Dr. with paving to begin tomorrow. They should be finished paving on Friday. The Cemetery Rd. paving should be next week. The City is waiting for the final transfer of property for the old City Garage property. Business After Hours scheduled for tomorrow has been canceled.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary discussed a workshop for CBGD funding and the application process. There are a number of projects already submitted. We can go with the older projects or add new projects with a public hearing. Also, there is interest in a community grant for Glenhurst for neighborhood revitalization. Belomar is interested in this idea. Also, a permanent waterline to the hospital is a possible project. The line could guarantee the hospital is never without water.

Due to paving in Hillendale on Friday, those with Friday sanitation pick-up will need to have their garbage out by 6 am.

A contract was received regarding geophysical testing on leased properties for oil and gas. Mr. Stecker will look over the contract. This provides a 3D image of what is underground. It will not be done in the cemetery.

Cemetery Rd. paving will start next week. Residents are asked to park on Loop Rd. Signs will be posted. Mr. Rodgers asked about the pre bid meeting. The meeting will be held at 1:30 on Thursday Sept. 21 in the Council Chambers. Mr. Rodgers asked about the waterline break in Hillendale. Mr. Cleary said it happened in an area with transit pipe. The vibrations from the road work caused cracks in the line. Also, a manhole was damaged after being clipped by a piece of equipment. Mr. Cleary said that curbing will be replaced to redirect the water that used to flow down the hill. On N. Ridge, some curbing will be removed because it was restricting water flow and causing areas that freeze in the winter.

Mr. Rodgers asked if there is money for paving potholes in the budget because he doesn't want it to be an issue in the spring. Mr. Rodgers also said that according to City Ordinance it is the responsibility of home owners to clear their sidewalks. Mr. Rodgers asked about filling cracks in Zane Hwy. Mr. Cleary said the contract is out. Ms. Randall will check. Mr. Rodgers also requested a current event bulletin board be posted in the City Building. He said four events were scheduled on the same day. President Davis suggested using social media to post a calendar. Mr. Cleary said he was happy to hear that there were so many things for people to do, considering people complain there is nothing to do. Mr. Shrodes suggested a meeting for civic groups where they could do an annual calendar and avoid double bookings.

Mr. Shrodes asked about the tree removal in Walnut Grove. Mr. Cleary said it was submitted by Mr. Thomas and that he should have an answer soon. Mr. Cleary discussed the tree estimates and explained that the cost is high due to the location and historic nature.

Auditor:

Ms. Randall said a new ordinance is needed for the Cemetery Capital Project Fund. Ms. Randall said the appropriations ordinance will be distributed for the next meeting. Ms. Randall discussed the certified public records training that will be held at the Recreation Center on Wednesday October 25 from 10-1:15. President Davis said the sunshine law will be included in the training.

Law Director: no report

Police Dept: no report

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: A Finance Committee meeting was held on September 13. The appropriations ordinance was discussed.

Street: No report

Ordinance: No report

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report

Code: No report

Safety: No report.

Service: No report. Mr. Cleary was asked the status of the sewer truck. Mr. Cleary said the rate increase was discussed and suggested a Service Meeting be scheduled. Mr. Davies asked why the City would consider purchasing a truck. He said they are not trained and end up tearing them up. Mr. Cleary said the company will do training on the truck. He said the employees have been with the City awhile and are not passing through. Mr. Cleary said you can't raise rates and not give the people something that will work. Mayor Krajnyak said he isn't sure how others were trained, but the truck is 20 years old and the City can't keep dumping money into it.

Code: No report

Cemetery: No report. Mr. Neiman asked about the discussion to get the pump on the truck fixed. Mr. Davies said it would be \$8,000 if the pump is bad. The street sweeper repairs would cost \$1500 and the sweeper was not designed to go up hills. Mr. Davies said you can't find one that has been tested on hills. Mr. Cleary disagreed and said he has. Mr. Cleary said the City should never buy equipment that the operators don't try out. Mr. Cleary said the operators have been there for all of the equipment demos.

PR: No report

Real Estate: No report

Citizens to be Heard:

Bonnie Haskakis of Washington Street discussed a rat problem. Mayor Krajnyak said the sewers could be baited. Linda Shultz said the house is full of trash. The issue was discussed. Mr. Regis said that a vacant property ordinance was passed for properties in foreclosure.

Anthony Orsini of 410 S. 4th St. said the Belmont County District Library has a renewal levy on the ballot in November and asked for support.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street asked if murals were being considered for buildings. Mr. Cleary said it has been discussed.

Mr. Hord asked if a possible business could be coming to the previous Bauer Ford lot. Mayor Krajnyak said it is moving in that direction.

Mr. Hord said there has been no response from State Senator Hoagland's office regarding a Town Hall Meeting.

Mr. Hord asked if the properties being demolished are finished. Mr. Cleary said yes. Mr. Hord asked about 911 Indiana St. Mr. Cleary said the land bank committee is reassessing.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TRANSFER REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY TO THE BELMONT COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Floto Field) was given a third reading. Mr. Regis moved to pass the ordinance as read. 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.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL INCREASE TO FEES FOR UTILITY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY was given a third reading. Mr. Regis moved to amend to reflect the increase will go into effect June 1 of each year. Mr. Hunker 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 pass the amended ordinance as read. 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.

Miscellaneous Business:

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

Mr. Regis asked Mr. Cleary about Woods Lane. Mr. Cleary said he was there today. Mr. Schramm asked if the issue is with a waterline.

Mr. Davies said Mr. Cleary will email everyone with a date for the Service Committee Mtg.

Mr. Shrodes moved to adjourn. Mr. Neiman 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