



## Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2018

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at the Donald Myers Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Council President Kristine Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by those present in chamber, followed by a prayer by the Clerk.

President Davis welcomed everyone back for the New Year and welcomed new Council Members, Suzanne Armstrong, representing Third Ward and Tom Burns, representing as Council At Large.

Answering Roll Call were Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward Council Member; Suzanne Armstrong, Third Ward Council Member; Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward Council Member; and Thomas Burns, Jim Schramm, and Jack Regis, Council At Large.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the December 27, 2017, Council Meeting were approved as received.

President Davis stated that the first official duty of council for a new term is the hiring of a new Clerk. Mr. Shrodes moved to hire Laura Zupko as the new Clerk of Council, which was seconded by Mr. Regis. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Regis voting yes, and the motion was declared passed.

President Davis advised that the next action should be the declaration of President Pro Tempore. Mr. Shrodes moved to elect Mr. Rodgers as President Pro Tempore, which was seconded by Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with affirmative votes by Council Members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm and Regis. Mr. Rodgers was declared President Pro Tempore of City Council and agreed to serve in said capacity.

**Correspondence:** No correspondence was received.

### **Reports of Officers of the City:**

#### **Mayor:**

Mayor Krajnyak welcomed council members to the new term and thanked everyone for their participation in the City Government.

The Mayor stated that the core drilling at the former Bauer Ford lot was completed and he was waiting on a final report to determine if the project at that location can move forward. If the project is unable to move forward, Mayor Krajnyak advised the members that an alternate project idea will be presented by him and Mr. Cleary.

Mayor Krajnyak stated that he received a text message during the previous council meeting from Jack Regis, Jr., who could not be present this evening, requesting Council's permission to place Engine 2 up for bid to sell. The new truck is expected to be completed sooner than expected. The Mayor further advised that Mr. Regis, Jr., is requesting that two (2) old squad trucks, which are located at the station, be sold outright, due to a lack of bids following the initial advertisement. The fire department will consider advertising once again or an outright sale with an update to be provided to council accordingly.

**Service Director:**

Mr. Cleary stated that unfortunately, sanitation services were running behind this week due to mechanical issues on the newest packer. He went on to state that crews were out with dump trucks attempting to stay on target, which may result in overtime hours for the crew the following day. Mr. Cleary is hopeful that the new packer will be returned in working order by the end of the week and sanitation services will resume as scheduled next week.

Mr. Cleary provided Council Members with a copy of the Department of Public Services City Utilities Rules and Regulations for review before a future vote to officially incorporate them into the department's policy. He stated that the document was previously provided last year, but needed to have a formal approval from Council and welcomed any input and/or amendments that may be deemed appropriate.

Council Members were also provided a document outlining the amount of water sold for use in fracking in 2017, totaling 24,397,500.00 gallons, generating over \$243,000.00 in water income. Mr. Cleary anticipates this revenue to increase, as new companies are being added on a weekly basis. Council members were reminded of the \$5.00 fee per truck that is collected to maintain the water plant's asphalt. It has been determined that the total number of trucks for the year came to 5,879, generating \$29,395.00 for the Street Department. Mr. Cleary stated that all signs indicate that it will be a great year for fracking in the surrounding areas.

Mr. Cleary advised that the Street Department is seeking quotes for additional road salt. The Department bid out 250 tons of salt through the State Purchase Program and one-third (1/3) has already been utilized due to winter weather thus far. Mr. Cleary stated that he felt it is a great program through the State with the only downside being not knowing the actual costs until after the order has been submitted. Mr. Cleary has contacted Cargill, who is also the State supplier for a quote.

An update was provided regarding the Street Department dump trucks previously mentioned in a December meeting by former Council Member Davies, about any improvements that are needed. Discussions were had about the replacement of the truck beds and prices are being gathered and will be provided for consideration at a future meeting. Additionally, Council was advised that the Enterprise Leasing Program utilized last year, would like to come back to present their findings with specific vehicles. A representative from the company will be back to present information and answer any questions.

Mr. Regis inquired if any considerations were being made for citizens of Martins Ferry who must leave water running as result of the cold weather we are experiencing. Mr. Cleary stated he has not received any telephone calls on that issue. Mr. Cleary suggested adding that to the City Utilities Rules and Regulations that was submitted for review because he feels as though he is losing leeway in terms of issuing credits based upon the State Auditor and the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Cleary stated he tries to be as sympathetic as possible to any citizen requesting assistance but there is only so much he is permitted to do by law.

**Auditor:**

Ms. Randall greeted council and advised that the State Auditor has been working in her office. Ms. Randall provided year-end financial reports to the members, which include the listing of individual funds of all revenue received and expended. Ms. Randall stated that she has begun to work on the budget and will be discussing it with Mayor Krajnyak as soon as her figures have been finalized.

Mrs. Armstrong asked for further clarification on a figure provided in the report. Ms. Randall responded that the figure indicated the amount of income tax revenue received.

Mr. Shrodes inquired as to if there were any updates on the new computer system, which had been discussed at prior meetings. Ms. Randall stated that a new system couldn't happen soon enough, although it looked as though it wouldn't be in place until June.

**Law Director:**

No report from Law Director Paul Stecker.

**Fire Department:**

Martins Ferry VFD Assistant Chief Cody Engleman provided information on the old Engine 3 bid for any council member who wanted a copy.

**Committees of Council:**

**Finance and Audit:** Mr. Regis stated he didn't have a report, but discussions have begun about figures and that he anticipates the upcoming year to be a little tougher than last year.

**Street:** No Report from Chairman Rodgers.

**Ordinance:** Chairman Shrodes advised Mr. Stecker of an amendment to the Ordinance pertaining to the payment of Clerk of Council to be paid once a month rather than bi-weekly.

**Code Administration:** No Report from Chairman Regis.

**Safety:** Chairman Schramm updated members about a new police vehicle but is waiting for a bid from Enterprise to compare with a bid from Doan Ford.

Mr. Regis advised council members of a recent injury to a volunteer fireman, Cody Goff, while responding to a fire in Bellaire. Mr. Regis stated Cody has broken both of his ankles as a result of a fall from a ladder during the call. Martins Ferry VFD Assistant Chief Cody Engleman confirmed this information and that Mr. Goff is at home resting, although he is unable to bear weight on his legs.

**Service:** Chairman Shrodes scheduled a Service Meeting for Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 5:30 p.m., to include Mayor Krajnyak and Mr. Cleary. Mr. Shrodes will advise Mr. Hunker of the meeting.

**Cemetery:** Chairman Burns did not have a report because this was his first meeting, although he did request a meeting with Mr. Shrodes to answer any questions he may have regarding the committee. Mayor Krajnyak offered his assistance to Mr. Burns as former Chairman of the committee.

**Public Relations:** No report from Chairman Rodgers, although he requested a meeting with the Chief of Police to discuss the suggestion of non-perishable food donations to the Daily Bread Food Bank in lieu of monetary fines for parking meters for the months of November and December 2018.

**Citizens to be Heard:**

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street welcomed council members and reminded them of a former inquiry regarding ice accumulation on the 900 block of S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street and requested an update on the issue. Mr. Cleary stated that as soon as additional salt is received, a crew will be sent to the location.

Mr. Hord asked who was responsible for maintaining clear sidewalks in front of homes and businesses in the city. President Davis stated that it was her recollection that question had been addressed at a former meeting by Mr. Rodgers, stating that it is the homeowner and/or business owners' responsibility to clear sidewalks. Mr. Hord inquired if warnings were issued to those people who fail to do so. Mayor Krajnyak assured Mr. Hord that if the office receives specific complaints the matter could be considered, although the City lacks the police manpower for officers to patrol each block and knock on the doors of every home that may not have shoveled a sidewalk. Mr. Shrodes further explained that business owners are obligated to clear sidewalks, although considerations should be made for homeowners, especially those who may be elderly or sick and expressed concerns for the issuance of fines without such consideration.

Mr. Hord inquired of the Mayor, Service Director and Council of a possible "wish list" for the New Year. Mayor Krajnyak responded with the hopes of new business development and addressing homes that are not in compliance with Code Enforcement and hopefully getting them torn down. Mayor Krajnyak further expressed his optimism for the New Year.

**Ordinances and Resolutions: None**

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Mr. Regis moved to accept the Reports of Officers, which was seconded by Mr. Schramm. Mrs. Armstrong inquired before a roll call was conducted that a vote in the affirmative did not necessarily mean agreement with the report of officers, but it was just making them a part of the minutes. President Davis answered in the affirmative. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Regis, Schramm, Burns, Rodgers, Armstrong, and Shrodes voting yes, and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Rodgers moved to allow the Fire Department to take bids for the sale of Engine 2, which was seconded by Mr. Regis. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Regis, Shrodes, and Armstrong voting in the affirmative. The motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to allow the Administration to sell two (2) old squad trucks, subject to review Law Director Paul Stecker, which was seconded by Mr. Schramm. Mr. Shrodes asked why the vehicles were being sold and was advised that they have already been “parted out” and are essentially a shell of a vehicle. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Regis, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, and Schramm voting yes, and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Rodgers moved to excuse Mr. Hunker from the evening’s counsel meeting. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Shrodes and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was passed.

Mrs. Armstrong asked for clarification as to the Cemetery Capital Fund which was approved at the meeting on December 27, 2017. Ms. Randall advised that a set fee in the amount of \$350.00 is collected when a grave is sold and said revenue is placed in the Capital Improvement Fund. Mrs. Armstrong inquired if there was money in the fund currently, which Ms. Randall did not believe there was currently. Mr. Shrodes elaborated by stating this Fund was created by the passage of an Ordinance the prior April or May. Ms. Randall also stated that money received since that time were utilized to purchase a new law mower to maintain the property.

Mr. Regis moved for adjournment and seconded by Mr. Shrodes. After hearing an affirmative voice vote, the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

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Laura A. Zupko, Clerk of Council

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Kristine Davis, Council President