

Minutes of December 6, 2017

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday December 6, 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 a prayer by the Clerk.

Answering Roll Call were Bob Hunker, First Ward, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, John Davies, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman and Jim Schramm, Council at Large.

Minutes: Minutes from the November 15, 2017 Council Meeting were approved as received.

Correspondence: No correspondence was received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak introduced Paul Prater of AEP. Mr. Prater announced that AEP would be instituting a "smart meter" plan. Information was distributed. 3,400 meters will be changed to smart meters. These meters can be read without an employee being on homeowner property. There is also an app that will allow customers to check their electric usage. It takes under 5 minutes to install and the City should be completed in 3-4 days. The smart meter will alert AEP of a power outage. Citizens will receive a postcard explaining the project. They will also receive an automated call within a week of installation. The homeowner does not need to be home during installation. The City Building and Police Dept. will be notified when the program starts. Workers will be wearing AEP apparel and vehicles will be marked. Mr. Rodgers said there were issues when water meters were installed and asked if there could be similar issues with these installations. Mr. Prater said there shouldn't be any issues. He explained that basically the old meter is unplugged and the new one plugged in. Mr. Davis asked if the meters would be read by truck. Mr. Prater said no, these will be read by two-way communication. Mr. Prater said that citizens can opt out of the new meter, however there will be an uninstall fee of \$48 and it will cost \$24 a month to have the old meter read.

Mayor Krajnyak said he received a letter of thanks for the Police Dept. from a truck driver who had GPS issues.

Core drilling on the former Bauer Ford lot will be done Dec. 27-29.

JB Green will reinstitute their grant program in 2018. Mayor Krajnyak suggested placing flower boxes where trees had been removed.

Mayor Krajnyak thanked everyone for attending and/or volunteering for Winterfest.

The Mayor asked to go into Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 g2 for sale of property.

Mayor Krajnyak wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary said the results of the bid opening for the transfer station were in. The bid was \$10 more than the City currently pays. He asked that Council approve the bid.

Financing for the N. 8th St project was discussed. The City was approved for \$191,000. That total amount should not be needed. The estimated need is \$102,000 and up to \$105,000. The loan amount is 3% interest over ten years. The preliminary paperwork has been filed, no decision is needed tonight.

170 tons of asphalt was used to patch potholes this year. Cold patch is being used now.

The culvert on the 800 block of Hanover on the Dolfi property has been toured by Mr. Vaughn, Mr. Matz, and Mr. Cleary. There are two areas where the culvert is collapsing near the yard and garage. A box culvert was added in the alley between Hanover and Walnut in the 800 block. This was done

privately, not by the City. Plans were made to use a camera on the area. There is no mention of the culvert on deeds to the property.

Mr. Neiman asked about patching on N. 3rd St. Mr. Cleary will check.

Mr. Shrodes discussed the condition of the back road to the High School. Mr. Cleary said he has spoken to Superintendent Fogle. He is hoping to get it hot patched. Mr. Cleary said this will be the second time it has been done this year.

Mr. Rodgers asked if progress of N. 8th is contingent on funding. Mr. Cleary said work can start, but a decision will be needed. Mr. Cleary said it is the same amount, just the third part of the funding.

Mr. Rodgers asked about the tree in the cemetery. Mr. Cleary said AEP needs to drop and electrical line so a pole can be removed.

Mr. Rodgers asked if there is a snow blower in the basement of the City Building. Chief McFarland said he thinks there is. Mr. Rodgers read the ordinance regarding snow removal.

Auditor:

End of the month financial reports were distributed.

Ms. Randall commended everyone for the hard work on Winterfest. She added that she had never heard so much laughter and she was very proud of Project Forward's work.

Ms. Randall said that in the past Permanent Improvement money was spent frivolously. There is more debt on the books than there has been in Ms. Randall's 30 years with the City. Ms. Randall said she would rather see the City keep the Permanent Improvement money. She said that the N. 8th St loan wouldn't have to be taken over ten years. She also thought that year one of the loan was interest free. She wasn't sure if paying more on the loan was an option.

Ms. Randall wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The end of year budget will be delivered. Transfers will need to be approved as well as the temporary appropriations for next year. Cost allocation was distributed and needs to be approved by the end of the year.

Mr. Davies said if the first year of the loan is interest free, we should use that money. Ms. Randall said we need to find out if more money can be paid. Mr. Shrodes asked about a deadline for the loan. Mr. Cleary will check.

Mr. Rodgers asked for the status of the State Audit. Ms. Randall said she was told the exit conference would be held this month.

Law Director: No report

Mr. Rodgers asked about a meeting that was held in May regarding annexation. Mr. Stecker said that no specifics were given to him to research.

Police Department:

Chief McFarland said that different avenues are being researched regarding the police cruiser.

Committees of Council:

Finance: No Report

Street: Will revisit street evaluations in the new year.

Ordinance: No report

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report

Code: No report

Safety: A Safety Committee meeting was held last night. A lease program for a police cruiser is being studied.

Service: No report

Cemetery: No report

Public Relations: Winterfest was a great success. Mayor Krajnyak and Mr. Cleary were thanked for their hard work on the festival.

Real Estate: No report

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street complimented Winterfest. He said it was well attended and well received and he congratulated everyone involved. Mr. Hord also complimented the Christmas decorations.

Mr. Hord said that lots of Martins Ferry businesses received “Best Of” honors in the Times Leader annual poll. Mr. Hord asked if it has been considered to honor those businesses in some way.

Mr. Hord asked if announcement can be made regarding the activity in the building south of Zontini's Pizza. Mayor Krajnyak said not at this time.

Mr. Hord asked about prospects for 2018. Mayor Krajnyak said the City will start the year on a good foot but will need to watch finances. He hopes to have a business announcement soon.

Mr. Hord wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was given a second reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a third reading.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW SECTION 1163.02, MEDICAL MARIJUANA, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY, OHIO was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING REIMBURSEMENT BY THE SEWER CAPITAL PROJECT FUND TO THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VACALL AJV 610 SEWER TRUCK was given a first reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a second reading.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the bid by American Disposal Services for a three year plan for the disposal of municipal refuse. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, and Schramm voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies asked how the bid compares. Mr. Cleary said it's close and the fuel charge is less. Mr. Clear said it will be used in the winter so the City trucks don't have to travel to the dump in bad weather.

Mr. Shrodes moved to go into Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code 121.22 G2 for Sale of Property. Mr. Scramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, and Schramm voting yea and the motion was declared passed and the Council went into Executive Session.

Mr. Rodgers moved to go out of Executive Session. Mr. Davies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, and Schramm voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies moved to allow the Port Authority to move forward with the Sale of Property. Mr. Neiman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, and Schramm voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies moved to excuse Mr. Regis. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Davies moved to accept the reports of Officers of the City and to make the reports a part of these minutes. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Rodgers moved to appropriate \$5,950 from the General Fund for Street Evaluations. No second was received and the motion died. Mr. Neiman said we don't have the money to patch potholes and paying \$6,000 to decide what needs patched will take \$6,000 that could be spent patching. Mr. Rodgers said this would be a non-biased way to identify the greatest needs. Mr. Neiman said that \$6,000 could be spent on patching.

Mr. Davies asked about a zoning issue on a house that a contractor is working on. The contractor needs to contact the City. President Davis said they were contacted by email but there was no response. Mr. Stecker said it can be fixed but will still need to be zoned.

Ms. Randall said regarding the final budget, street will need additional money. \$25,000 was put in as transfers.

Mr. Davies asked if the City is ready for winter. Mr. Cleary Mr. Cleary said yes. Truck beds were discussed.

President Davis asked for committee requests. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Shrodes moved to adjourn. Mr. Hunker seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Kristine Davis, President of Council