



Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2018

The Martins Ferry City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, March 7, 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.

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

Minutes: Minutes from the February 21, 2018, Council Meeting were approved as received.

Correspondence: None.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak thanked all the volunteers; the Police Department; Fire Department; EMS; city officials; city workers; and citizens who participated in the search of the missing seven-year old, who was located in Wheeling.

Mayor Krajnyak also noted that he had a conversation on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, with Brian Hendershot from Ohio-West Virginia Excavating and Mr. Hendershot stated the project to fix the North Eighth Street slip is expected to begin in the next two weeks.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary stated that the Sanitation Department is attempting to stay on schedule after experienced issues with Belmont County Transfer Station that resulted in a set-back of a couple of days. Mr. Cleary further advised that work will begin on the city's transfer station next week to bring that system back online.

Council was advised that the Water Department has begun to replace the twenty-four (24) meters with malfunctioning or non-working batteries that were discussed at the Utilities Committee meeting. Residents who have received a water bill with an "E", which indicates an estimated reading, may need to have their meter replaced and should call the department. Mr. Cleary noted the meters are under warranty and would like to have all malfunctioning meters replaced before the warranty expires.

Mr. Cleary said the Sanitation Department has been busy with repairs to damaged sanitary-sewer lines and storm-sewers from the heavy rains and that the sewer vacuum combo truck would be delivered next week.

Mr. Cleary re-addressed the damage to Bruney's Alley, which was mentioned at the last council meeting, providing an estimate of \$26,787.00 from Border Patrol Construction. Mr. Cleary requested that the funds to be allocated from Permanent Improvement, although because a State of Emergency Declaration was issued by the Governor, the city may be eligible to waiver two (2) of the OWDA payments. If the payments are waived, the funds available is projected to be approximately \$9,600.00, for the completion of "phase one", that consists of the installation of a thirty-six-inch culvert pipe; riprap and a head wall.

Mr. Rodgers asked the Service Director how much money it would cost to repair the city's transfer station, to which Mr. Cleary estimated to be between five and six thousand dollars.

Auditor:

Ms. Randall provided Council with the Month-by Month Reports. Ms. Randall stated that after a review of the 2017 Ordinances and Meeting Minutes, she was unable to locate an Ordinance approving the purchase of the Sewer Vacuum or the Street Sweeper. Ms. Randall confirmed that the Sweeper Truck had been approved by counsel as a matter of record during a regular meeting, although the Sewer Vacuum had not been addressed. Ms. Randall said it was her belief that it was pertinent to rectify the oversight this evening because the Sewer Vacuum will arrive soon. The official cost for the Sewer Truck was \$329,786.05.

Police Department:

Chief John McFarland agreed with the Mayor and expressed his appreciation for everyone who assisted in the search for the missing child last week.

Chief McFarland requested that Council move forward on the Enterprise Lease proposal for city vehicles.

Fire Department:

Chief Mike Cooper provided an update on the new fire truck, which may be ready sooner than anticipated, with an expected completion around March or April. Chief Cooper further advised that because they have been unable to sell the old fire truck as of this date, he was requesting a permanent improvement loan of \$55,000.00, which will be repaid upon the sale of the old fire truck.

Committees of Council:

Finance and Audit: No Report, although Mr. Hunker stated that everyone had a copy of the Ordinance for consideration and would like to see it pass this evening.

Street: No Report from Chairman Rodgers, although he had been reminded that as a result of repairing North and South Ridge, the funds available for Street projects is currently around \$35,000.00, which will not be sufficient for the proposed 5th Street project he mentioned at the Council Meeting of February 21, 2018.

Ordinance: No Report, although Chairman Shrodes agreed with Mr. Hunker regarding the passing of Ordinance for appropriations and stated he would like to address the two (2) Ordinances Ms. Randall mentioned earlier for the city equipment.

Sewer/Sidewalk: No Report from Chairman Hunker.

Safety: No Report from Chairman Schramm, however he also would like to discuss with Mr. Stecker an Ordinance addressing the lease vehicle program proposal.

Service: No Report from Chairman Shrodes.

Cemetery: No Report from Chairman Burns.

Utility: Chairman Hunker reported that the Committee was considering drafting a policy manual and have consulted with Law Director Paul Stecker for his assistance and welcomed any suggestions and input from Council.

Mr. Hunker stated that the possibility of accepting electronic (charge/debit cards) and online payments were discussed for utility payments, in addition to the list of delinquent bills.

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., and Mr. Hunker requested Paul Stecker; Rita Randall and Bill Suto to be in attendance.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street advised members and extended an invitation to the Meet the Candidates Night sponsored by the Martins Ferry Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., at the Martins Ferry Highschool Cafetorium.

Because of the earlier discussion regarding the Street Sweeper, Mr. Hord asked if street sweeping would begin on April 15th, to which Mayor Krajnyak responded that street sweeping is expected to begin on Monday, April 16, 2018.

Mr. Hord asked for opinions on the pothole and slippage throughout the city and how the current year compares to years past. Mayor Krajnyak agreed that the potholes were bad and reiterated that the city will be looking into joining with the Village of Bridgeport and other communities in exploring the purchase of a pothole patching machine. Councilmember Shrodes concurred with the Mayor's opinion on the potholes, although he added that it was not an exclusive issue to the City of Martins Ferry, but prevalent throughout the County.

Mr. Hord mentioned two pieces of literature he had obtained at the Belmont County Commissioners Meeting prepared by the Belmont County Tourism Council titled *Belmont County, Ohio Tourism 2018 Guide* and *Guide to Historic Landmarks of Belmont County*, which features Martins Ferry prominently. Mr. Hord stated that they were also available at the Ohio Valley Mall and it was his hope that it brought more citizens to the city.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

An Ordinance to Make Appropriations for the Expenses of the City of Martins Ferry, State of Ohio, during the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018 and Declaring an Emergency.

The Ordinance was given a first reading with Mr. Hunker moving to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, and Schramm voting yes, declaring the rules suspended. Mr. Shrodes moved that the Ordinance be passed as read, which was seconded Mr. Rodgers. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers Burns, Schramm, and Hunker voting yes, and the Ordinance was declared passed.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Shrodes asked Ms. Randall about the \$55,000 loan which was requested by the Fire Department from the Permanent Improvement Fund, to which she affirmed that sufficient funds were available for the loan. Mrs. Armstrong asked Chief Cooper if it was his intention to repay the money this year, with Chief Cooper stating he was unable to determine when the old fire truck would sell, but he would hope so. Ms. Randall recommended that an interest rate be charged to the Fire Department to match the interest that the city would be paying on the loan.

Mr. Shrodes moved to loan the Fire Department \$55,000.00 from the Permanent Improvement Fund to be repaid immediately upon the sale of the old fire truck with an interest rate to be added after six (6) months. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Hunker voting yes. The motion was declared passed.

Mrs. Armstrong moved for Council approval of the Fleet Leasing from Fleet Enterprise, which was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Hunker and Shrodes voting yes. The motion was carried and approved.

Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the purchase of the Sewer Vacuum at \$329,786.05. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Hunker, Shrodes and Armstrong voting affirmatively. The motion was declared passed.

Mr. Rodgers moved to excuse Mr. Regis from the council meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Schramm. After a voice vote in the affirmative was held, the motion was passed.

Mr. Schramm moved to accept the Reports of Officers, which was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. After a voice vote in the affirmative was held, the motion was passed.

Mr. Shrodes moved to appropriate up to \$26,787.00 to repair Bruney's Alley, which was seconded by Mr. Rogers. A roll call vote was heard with Council members, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Hunker voting affirmatively. The motion carried and approved.

Mr. Shrodes moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Hunker; after an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Laura A. Zupko, Clerk of Council

Kristine Davis, Council President