



Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of March 21, 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, and Jack Regis, Council At Large.

Minutes: Minutes from the March 7, 2018, Council Meeting were approved as received.

Correspondence: None.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak mentioned that everyone should have received an email or correspondence from Southeast Ohio Building Department for consideration to utilize their services rather than State Inspections due to several complaints about the time delay associated with the State agency. Mayor Krajnyak further advised that Southeast Ohio Building Development has opened a new location in Cambridge, Ohio, that would make them more accessible rather than traveling to Marietta or Columbus.

Mayor Krajnyak requested a Service Committee Meeting to be scheduled to discuss EMS personnel, because a few employees will be leaving in approximately a month for other employment opportunities. Mayor Krajnyak would like to ensure EMS remains functional during this transition.

The Mayor reported that video inspections of the homes damaged because of the Eighth Street slip has begun. Once the inspections have been completed, a report will be submitted, and work will begin immediately thereafter.

Mayor Krajnyak also requested a Cemetery Committee Meeting to discuss policies that need to be addressed and possibly changed to make the care of Riverview Cemetery easier. The Mayor asked that all grave decorations from plots at the cemetery be removed by March 30th in preparation for the grass cutting season; if any grave decorations remain, City Employees will begin disposing of them in the beginning of April. Additionally, applications will be accepted for seasonal employees to work at the cemetery to begin employment in April, with former employees to be contacted for first consideration.

Mayor Krajnyak also noted that that the flags on the street poles throughout the city need to be replaced, with an estimate of forty-five (45) new sets (pole and hardware); approximately twenty-five (25) replacement flags; and three gross of gray flags for Veterans to be purchased, at an estimated cost of \$3,000. The Mayor has prepared a letter that will be sent out to various organizations asking for donations to help defray the cost. Mr. Rodgers advised that the Elks would commit to purchasing the three gross of flags for the Veterans.

Finally, Mayor Krajnyak stated that a joint Safety and Service Committee meeting would be beneficial to address mapping viable truck routes through the city. The Mayor noted that GPS has routed many semi-trucks on streets they should not be attempting to drive on and it is his hope that the issue can be addressed appropriately.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary said that the city's sewer-vac truck has arrived and in operation, weather permitting. He further requested that council pass the Ordinance for the purchase of said truck.

Mr. Cleary advised that a manhole in front of Wayne Hayes Towers that will need to be replaced. He has spoken to EORWA about a fund they have available to help with the costs and an application for assistance will be submitted to them. A cost estimate was not available currently.

Cold patching of potholes continues as weather permits and Mr. Cleary has been advised that hot-patch material is expected to be available in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Cleary invited council and the public to the Martins Ferry Hall of Honor Ceremony on April 8, 2018, at 2:00 p.m., at Martins Ferry High School. The 2018 Honorees are Margaret Brainerd; Dan McGrew; John M. Solovan II; and Robert McNabb.

Mr. Cleary advised that the next Project Forward Meeting will be held at the Elks on April 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Cleary further stated that a meeting with Heritage Ohio will be scheduled soon to discuss downtown revitalization.

Mr. Rodgers asked Mr. Cleary if any old grindings could be placed in the alley behind the Knights of Columbus building. Mr. Cleary stated that he has been approached by several of the businesses in that area and that pothole patching and additional improvement work will begin from the Romano Building to Citizens Bank as a necessity because of the frequent traffic flow.

Mr. Rogers further inquired of Mr. Cleary to investigate the price associated with providing council members with iPads, to enable them to locate Codified Ordinances online rather than in the books.

Mrs. Armstrong requested that any upcoming patching projects begin with streets that haven't been addressed previously. Mr. Cleary responded that the most traveled roads would be addressed first, and secondary streets will be prioritized thereafter.

Auditor:

Ms. Randall stated that after speaking to a representative from Kansas City State Bank regarding the sewer vac, she learned that the first payment on the loan is of a different amount than what was passed in a 2017 Ordinance. Ms. Randall said that she will need a new Ordinance related to that vehicle to be drafted by Mr. Stecker and requested a motion to be passed allowing \$47,512.42 to be taken from Permanent Improvement Fund rather than \$46,026.00.

Ms. Randall also asked for several motions approving the forgiveness of debts to the Permanent Improvement Fund from the Sewer and Police Departments; and to allow the transfer of monies from the General Fund to the Street, Cemetery, and EMS Departments for operations throughout the year, in accord with the requirement of the State Auditor.

Park District:

Park Board Director Larry Deaton provided an update regarding the public pool and letters have been mailed seeking donations for the chemicals needed to operate the pool. Mr. Denton further advised that a crew of employees will be provided through Connections to help maintain the parks throughout the city and Walnut Grove Cemetery. Mr. Denton asked that after the city gets their leased vehicles, if an old truck becomes available he would like for council and the city officials to consider giving it to the Park District because he is currently utilizing his personal truck.

Mr. Denton further asked for the city to consider renting a stump digger during the month of June for several large stumps in Walnut Grove Cemetery and Fodor Memorial Park.

Committees of Council:

Finance and Audit: No Report from Chairman Regis.

Street: No Report from Chairman Rodgers.

Ordinance: No Report from Chairman Shrodes.

Sewer/Sidewalk: No Report from Chairman Hunker.

Code: No Report from Chairman Regis.

Safety: No Report from Chairman Schramm, although he did mention that the cameras at Fodor Memorial Park were not working and asked Mr. Cleary if a new IT company would be brought in to assist. Mr. Cleary will discuss the issue with the IT company representative Chris Baker.

Service: No Report from Chairman Shrodes, although he did mention that the police department police has started writing citations for abandoned vehicles without proper tags, which was also confirmed by Chief McFarland. Mr. Shrodes also expressed his frustration with the amount of garbage throughout the city and lack of enforcement of the city's ordinance related to utilization of garbage cans and the houses with unused household items (i.e., mattresses, refrigerators, etc.) on their porches or yards.

Mr. Shrodes further stated that the Code Administrator has not provided any written reports related to individuals who have been cited and properties that have been inspected. Mayor Krajnyak stated that he will ensure that the Code Administrator provides the necessary reports and the properties are inspected.

Cemetery: No Report from Chairman Burns. Cemetery and Safety Committee Meetings were established to take place on April 3, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., by agreement of the parties.

Utility: Chairman Hunker provided a report from the meeting on March 15, 2018. The meeting consisted of further discussions of establishing electronic payments and delinquent accounts and the enforcement of delinquent account shut-off policy after sixty (60) days.

Council President Kristen Davis reminded committee members to provide minutes from any committee meeting conducted.

Citizens to be Heard:

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street reminded everyone of 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.

Mr. Hord further advised members of the Vietnam Road Dedication Ceremony on March 23, 2018, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Shiloh Temple Church in Aetnaville, Council noted that an official press release had previously been distributed to everyone.

Mr. Hord asked once again for the Mayor and Council to opine on potholes and how the current year and expense related to such compares to years past. Mayor Krajnyak reiterated that the potholes were bad, and the city will be looking into the purchase of a pothole patching machine.

Mr. Hord inquired about the status of the property at 911 Indiana Street and its placement on the demolition list. Mr. Cleary said that it was near the top of the list of properties scheduled to be demolished.

Larry Deaton of 1102 North 9th Street is putting together an Easter egg hunt for City Park on March 31, 2018. He is contacting local groups and organizations for donations to provide candy and snacks for children during the event.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

Mr. Regis moved to suspend the seventy-two (72) hour rule for all Ordinances on the agenda for this evening, which was seconded by Mr. Rogers. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, and Schramm voting yes, declaring the rule suspended.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Director of Public Service to Purchase a New Street Sweeper.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Director of Public Service to Purchase a New Sewer Vac Truck.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Martins Ferry to Apply for, Accept, and Enter Into a Loan Account Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation on Behalf of the City of Martins Ferry for the North 8th Street Improvement Project.

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

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Rodgers moved to transfer money, as needed, from the General Fund to the Street Department: \$150,000.00; to the Cemetery Department: \$10,000.00; to the EMS Department, \$30,000.00; and an additional \$30,000.00 to the Street Department specifically for street truck usage. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, and Armstrong voting affirmatively. The motion was declared passed.

Mr. Rodgers moved to forgive debts owed to the Permanent Improvement Fund by the Sewer Department as follows: \$9,424.00 for a computer; \$13,300.00 for sewer repair on Don Street; \$7,421.40 for the Lesco Pump repair, for a total of \$30,145.40. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. After a lengthy discussion, a roll call vote was heard with Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, and Armstrong, voting yes. The motion was declared passed.

Mr. Hunker moved to temporary suspend monthly payments to the General Fund in the amount of \$4,594.59 for the Sewer Departments fair share of cost allocation. This amount shall be suspended for an undetermined time until the Sewer Department becomes more financially stable. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shrodes. A roll call vote was heard with Mr. Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Regis voting yes. The motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to forgive payments for the last police cruiser purchased from the Police Department Budget to Permanent Improvement totaling \$28,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting yes. The motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to give Administration permission to move forward on the contract with Southeast Ohio Building Partner, for services related to building permits, which was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting affirmatively. The motion carried.

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

Mr. Regis moved to amend and appropriate the first payment for the Sewer Vac truck from \$46,026.00 to reflect \$47,512.42. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hunker. A roll call vote was heard with Council members, Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, and Schramm voting affirmatively. The motion carried and approved.

Mr. Shrodes asked fellow council members to make a list of dilapidated properties located within their wards that may need to be addressed at a future Service Committee Meeting to assist city officials.

Mr. Hunker moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Regis; 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