



Martins Ferry City Council Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2020

The Martins Ferry City Council met for an abbreviated Session on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the Gym of the Martins Ferry Recreation Center. The meeting venue was changed in order to allow better personal separation due to the Corona Virus Pandemic (COVID-19). The public was discouraged to attend this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Kristine Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by those present, 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; Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward Council Member; Thomas Burns, James Schramm and Jack Regis, Council at Large Members.

Suspend the Order of Meeting: Mr. Regis made a motion to suspend all business and address legislation only at this meeting. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting yes. The motion carried.

Ordinances:

An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For The Expenses Of The City Of Martins Ferry, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2020, And Declaring An Emergency.

This Ordinance was given a first reading. Motion was made by Mr. Regis to suspend the rules. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting yes. The motion carried. Mr. Hunker made a motion to pass the ordinance as read. Motion was seconded by Mr. Burns. A roll call vote was heard with Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns, Schramm, and Regis voting yes. The motion carried and the ordinance was declared passed.

An Ordinance Authorizing The Auditor To Transfer 10% Of Net Income Of The Water Department To Water Capital Projects Fund.

This Ordinance was given a first reading. This ordinance will go to a second reading.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion was made by Mr. Regis to suspend all Council Meetings until May 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Armstrong. A roll call vote was heard with Regis, Hunker, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Burns and Schramm voting yes. Motion carried. If Council needs to have an emergency meeting, President Davis will contact Mr. Stecker and set up a Phone Conference Call.

Auditor Randall announced that on April 23, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., a Representative from RITA (Regional Income Tax Authority) will be available to meet with Council Members. If the meeting is cancelled, Ms. Randall will notify Council.

Mrs. Armstrong moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Rodgers.

Mayor Davies then asked if he could make an announcement. He apologized for being late since he thought the meeting was going to be at the city building. He read an Emergency Directive created by Safety Director Regis. This Directive enforces changes to the Fire Department in response to restrictions enacted by the President and the Governor of Ohio due to the Corona Virus Outbreak (COVID-19).

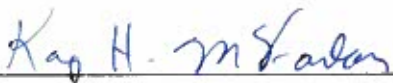
Changes include:

1. Corn Hole League has been suspended for the month of April.
2. Fire Department Meetings have been cancelled for the month of April.
3. Fire Stations shall be limited to essential personnel only. Essential personnel shall be those individuals who are needed to respond to emergencies.
4. Gatherings of 10 or more people will not be permitted.

Sometimes the Fire Departments are used for birthday parties and other gatherings. This Directive would suspend all of this until further notice or it is approved by the Mayor, Safety Director, City Council or the Fire Chiefs. If parties were held at the stations and the attendees would contaminate the Fire Engines, the firefighters may become infected and have to be quarantined. Council Members were given the option to sign it. The Mayor and Safety Director Regis have signed it. This Directive would let the public know the city is serious about the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Councilman Regis said he would not sign this Directive since he did not have any input in it. He believes that situations should be handled case by case and not a blanket order.

After an affirmative voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.



Kay H. McFarlan, Clerk of Council



Kristine Davis, Council President