

Minutes of September 2, 2015 Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday September 2, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Donald Myers Memorial Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Council President Kristine Davis with the Pledge of Allegiance and was followed by a prayer by the Clerk.

Answering roll call were Robert Krajnyak, First Ward, Bruce Shrodes, Second Ward, Russell Armstrong, Third Ward, Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Jack Regis Sr., Chris Cleary, and Rob Duncan, Council at Large.

Correspondence: A thank you note was read from the Kitlak family for the paving of Fox Ave.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Service:

Mr. Bennett said that work placing grindings continues as time allows.

The City offices will be closed Monday September 7 in observance of Labor Day. Trash pick up will resume Tuesday. Packer 2 had to have a new cylinder installed.

Mr. Bennett met with the Ohio EPA. Downspouts were discussed. These should not empty into the sewer system. They also checked on the creek. They recommend tree trimming and the removal of debris. Mr. Bennett is going to get in touch with the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources about making the creek deeper. Catch basins on Broadway and Grant were checked and the sinkhole on Center St. Mr. Rodgers asked about the sinkhole and whether Mr. Vaughn would be drawing up the plans. Mr. Bennett said Mr. Vaughn would be doing the plans.

Auditor:

End of the month financials were distributed. A new City Income Tax ordinance needs to be passed by Nov. 15. The information was sent to Mr. Stecker. Ms. Randall attended a meeting regarding public records retention. A policy needs to be approved. She added that minutes must be kept for committee meetings. A purchase order for water well cleaning needs to be approved by Council before the Auditor can pay it.

Law Director: No report

Development Director:

The OPWC grant is ready to be mailed tomorrow.

A developer looked at the land in Crawford Heights and said that six lots could be made from the piece of property.

The USDA grant is ready to be mailed.

The County Rd 4 Project should begin in two weeks.

Code Director: no report

Police Dept.: no report

A check was received from the county for \$15,000 for services relating to the Drug Task Force.

Water Superintendent:

The ozone generators have been switched to compressed air. This will save the City money.

Two fire hydrants are out of service and one needs to be replaced.

Several water breaks have occurred, but were fixed using straight time.

The Colerain/Mt. Pleasant water line has been completed.

700,000 gallons of water were sold in August to the oil and gas industry. This included two new customers.

Fire Dept:

The ladder truck is back in service.

Betty Zane Days was a success. Chief Regis thanked everyone for their support.

The Christmas Parade will be held on Friday November 27. Chief Regis asked permission to use the City streets.

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: a Finance Meeting will be held on Monday September 14 at 4:30 pm. The results of the conference call will be discussed. Mr. Krajnyak said he spoke with Ms. Randall and that the Finance Committee recommends setting aside the money for the garage computer system. Mr. Krajnyak said the matching funds for the Industrial Park will be discussed at the meeting.

Street: No report

Ordinance: No report

Sewer/Sidewalk: No report

Code: Mr. Cleary said he sent Mr. Stecker an ordinance to review. A meeting will be set up at a later date.

Safety: A Safety Meeting will be held on the 14th after the Finance Meeting.

Service: No report. A Service/Street meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday September 9 at 5:30 pm.

Cemetery/PR: Mr. Krajnyak said that one person is currently doing all the work at the cemetery. He said that he is going to gather estimates to consider contracting it out. Mr. Krayjnak also suggested a meeting to look at the endowment fund.

Citizens to be Heard:

Tom Burns of 411 Grant Ave. said he has spoken with Aaron Pennington at the Ohio EPA. Mr. Pennington will be here tomorrow to address the flooding issues and EORWA will check the basins and creeks.

Pat Burns added that perhaps grants would be available for a project to help this issue.

Debbie and Scott Spano told Council that they are trying to purchase the former South School property.

Wes Neal of N. 5th Street discussed the slippage issues he is having at his storage facility due to the ground settling. He distributed a map to Council. He would like to put more dirt along the embankment to help secure it. Mr. Regis said he wouldn't want to do anything that would cause drainage issues. He suggested the City Engineer look at the issue. Ms. Gagin said she spoke with the engineer and he will be in to look at the problem. Mr. Krajnyak added that Council didn't just table the discussion. He said it was discussed thoroughly but that an engineer must be brought in to assure Council and Administration that there won't be any issues. Mr. Rodgers set an appointment with Mr. Neal to visit the property tomorrow.

Bill Moran of 520 N. 5th Street said that if Mr. Neal is correct and that creek is dry then there is a problem. He discussed the water backing up in his yard and driveway. Mr. Cleary said that Mr. Moran will be notified of the engineer's findings.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street said he asked about Land Banking at the County Commissioner's Meeting. He said that they are looking at selling property to the neighbors and want to keep the price within 10% of the fair market value. Mr. Hord said Aetna Street needs lines painted. He added it is a very confusing area. Mr. Armstrong said they will discuss the matter at the Service/Street committee meeting. Mr. Hord reminded everyone of the Town Hall Meeting with State Rep. Jack Cera on Monday Sept. 21 at the Library.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

There was no legislation to be read.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Cleary moved to approve payment of wellfield related work in the invoice amounts of \$9865 and \$9115. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to give the Fire Dept. permission to use City streets for the Christmas Parade on Friday November 27. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion and after hearing an affirmative voice vote, the motion was declared passed.

Council and Administration discussed the paving of the Industrial Park proposed project and the grant that would go with the project. Mr. Stecker explained that he looked at the State statute and that it is clear that money raised from license plate fees for paving can

be used for what is needed but it is unclear as to whether it can be used to repay debt. Mr. Stecker has called the Attorney General but has not heard back. He added that two years ago, he was told it could be done. Mr. Stecker said he would write an opinion for the case. Mr. Armstrong said that the money comes from our citizens. Ms. Randall asked that the statement that Mr. Stecker would write an opinion should be in the minutes.

Mr. Regis moved to pledge to appropriate from Permanent Improvement a match of \$154,500 for 1st Street paving project pending on the OPWC grant. Mr. Shrodes added that a RUMA agreement will be necessary. Mr. Stecker said you must get all the businesses to sign a RUMA agreement. Ms. Gagin said letters will be sent to all the businesses once the City gets the approval from the OPWC. Mr. Krajnyak asked how long this will take if we don't apply now. Ms. Gagin said 2 ½ years. Mr. Krajnyak said if the area is designated an Industrial Park/Enterprise Zone other money may be available. Mr. Regis said that if other money could be available he would rescind his motion. Mr. Armstrong suggested passing now to continue the application process and changing later if needed. Mr. Krajnyak agreed. Mr. Cleary asked for the paperwork on the grant when it is received after the grant process as well as other grants. Mrs. Davis said that the 1st street area must be designated an Industrial Park or Enterprise Zone. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Regis moved to appropriate up to \$5,000 from Permanent Improvement for a analyzer computer system for the City Garage. Mr. Cleary seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council members Krajnyak, Shrodes, Armstrong, Rodgers, Regis, Cleary and Duncan voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Shrodes said that he has been receiving calls to complain about light pollution. He asked that someone look into what other cities are doing.

Mr. Rodgers said he looked through the codified ordinances and couldn't find any on grass clippings on sidewalks. Mr. Cleary will research further.

Mr. Regis made a motion to accept the reports of Supervisors and Management. The motion was seconded by Mr. Krajnyak and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodgers and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

