

Minutes of July 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

The Martins Ferry City Council met in regular session on Wednesday July 13, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Donald Myers Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by President Pro Tem Rick Rodgers with the Pledge of Allegiance and was followed by a prayer by the Clerk.

Answering roll call were Robert Hunker, First Ward, John Davies, Third Ward Rick Rodgers, Fourth Ward, Ben Neiman and Jim Schramm, Council at Large.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Second Ward Council Member Phil Wallace resigning his seat. A copy of the letter will be made a part of these minutes.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as received.

Reports of Officers of the City:

Mayor:

Mayor Krajnyak said that the state has started cutting on State Rt. 7. He had contacted State Rep. Jack Cera about this issue. Also, the city brush hog was picked up for repairs. Mayor Krajnyak thanked Mr. Schramm and Mr. Cleary for their work in finding a place that would do the repairs.

Mayor Krajnyak said the house on Broadway St has been torn down. Mayor Krajnyak thanked Council for getting this done. There is a neighbor interested in the property when it becomes available.

There are three slips on St. Rt. 647. ODOT was in to look at the problem areas. Funding is being sought for this work.

Prisoners will be in July 25-26.

Mayor Krajnyak requested a Service Committee Mtg. to discuss the sale of the City Garage property.

Service Director:

Mr. Cleary requested a Service Committee Mtg. to discuss telemetry and SCADA systems for the Water Plant.

Mayor Krajnyak and Mr. Cleary met with EORWA about new regulations and responsibilities. This includes separating the storm storms from the sanitary sewer system. Also, EPA violations and the need to increase rates need to be discussed. During the evenings of the week of July 24-29 the water dept. will be flushing hydrants. They will flush the sanitary sewers as well. Another round of hydrant flushing will be done in October.

Council was given a list of possible adjustments to City licenses and fees.

Mayor Krajnyak and Mr. Cleary met with a company about slips on N. Ridge. Three plans were discussed. The City is waiting on estimates. Mr. Cleary said Mr. Rodgers has one estimate on paving.

Auditor: no report

Law Director: no report

Police Dept: Chief McFarland asked Council take action on the replacement of the K9 vehicle.

Committees of Council:

Finance/Audit: no report

Street: Two estimates have been received for N. Ridge. No decision will be made until slip repair estimates are received.

Ordinance: no report

Sewer/Sidewalk: no report

Safety: no report

Service: no report

Cemetery/PR: Mr. Neiman said they are doing the best they can with what they have at the cemetery.

Citizens to be Heard:

Bill Jones of 914 Hughes Ave. asked about the broken sewer cover on Hughes and Adams. Mr. Cleary said it is scheduled to have the pipe replaced and the catch basin rebuilt next week. Mr. Jones also said the hillside needs cut back. Mr. Jones asked about the paving to be done where the gas company replaced lines. Mr. Cleary said they are required to replace it to the way it was before or better.

Richard Hord of 915 Virginia Street said that tearing down the house of Broadway is very positive for the City. He said a house on Pearl was razed as well. Also four houses are on the list for demolition through the land bank. Mr. Hord asked when that would start. Mayor Krajnyak said in the next few months after funds are released.

Mr. Hord praised the Police Dept. in light of recent events around the country and said we are very lucky to have Chief McFarland and the officers. Mayor Krajnyak agreed.

Mr. Hord asked who was writing grants now that the City doesn't have a Dev. Director. Mayor Krajnyak said the Police and Fire Depts. Have people that write grants for them. The City uses Belomar, Omega, and an engineer to write their grants.

Mr. Hord asked when Virginia Street would be paved. Mr. Cleary said the gas company will pave when the project is finished.

Mr. Hord asked how long it will take to fill the Second Ward vacancy. Mr. Hunker said probably mid August.

Mr. Neiman said he hopes that the appointment process for the Second Ward seat will be fairer this time. He said that many felt they didn't get a fair shot. Mr. Hunker said everyone was interviewed and got a fair shot.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO AN UPGRADE TO THE COMPUTER SYSTEM OF THE CITY AUDITOR'S OFFICE was given a third reading. Mr. Rodgers said that there is \$430,315.46 in Permanent Improvement. Mr. Hunker asked Ms. Randall how old the computer system is. Ms. Randall said it was installed in 2003. Mr. Hunker asked what all it was used for. Ms. Randall said payroll and accounts payable. The utility office computers only run off the server. Mr. Rodgers said that there are streets in need of serious repair, some that have needed repair since the 1970's. Mr. Hunker moved to pass the ordinance as read. Mr. Davies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Davies, and Schramm voting yea and Council Members Rodgers and Neiman voting no. Mr. Stecker will look into whether the vote passed.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARTINS FERRY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was given a second reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a third reading.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE 10 MILL LIMITATION AND TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL TAX OF 5.0 MILL FOR POLICE SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS 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 ADJUSTING THE 2015 SALARY OF CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS PAYABLE ON A BI-WEEKLY BASIS was given a second reading. No action was taken and the ordinance will go on to a third reading.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Schramm suggested talking about the St. Rt. 647 issues at the next Service Mtg.

Mr. Davies said the K9 unit was discussed at the Finance/Safety Mtg. Chief McFarland said with equipment the cost would be just under \$42,000. Mr. Davies asked Mr. Stecker if an ordinance is needed. Mr. Stecker said yes and that he would work on one.

Mr. Davies moved to appropriate up to \$42,000 from Permanent Improvement for a new k9 unit cruiser. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was heard with Council Members Hunker, Davies, Rodgers, Neiman, and Schramm voting yea and the motion was declared passed.

Mayor Krajnyak discussed N. 8th St. and said he would talk to the engineers as well as State Senator Gentile and State Rep. Cera about the issue.

A legislation only meeting will be held Thursday at 7 pm.

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

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

Mr. Davies asked if ordinances are needed to adjust licenses and fees. Mr. Stecker said he could do one ordinance to adjust all the fees.

Mr. Schramm asked to be excused from the August 3 meeting.

Mr. Neiman motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schramm and after hearing an affirmative voice vote the meeting was adjourned with a salute to the flag.

Lee Ann Cleary, Clerk of Council

Rick Rodgers, President Pro Tem