City Of Martinsburg
Special City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 30, 2016
5:15 P.M.

With a quorum present, the special session of the Martinsburg City Council was called to order by Mayor George Karos at 5:15 p.m. The following Council Members were present: Gregg Wachtel, Harriet Johnson, Dennis Etherington, Kevin Knowles, Ken Collinson, Mark Baker, and Jason W. Baker. Also present were: Mark Baldwin, City Manager; Kin Sayre, Legal Counsel; Gena Long, City Recorder, Police Chief Maury Richards, Fire Chief Paul Bragg, Public Works Director Jeff Wilkerson, Utilities Director Steve Knipe, City Engineer/Planning Director Michael Covell and Finance Director Mark Spickler.

3. Administer Oath of Office to Mayor George Karos

The City Recorder administered the Oath of Office to Mayor George Karos.

4. Administer Oath of Office to the Following:
At Large Councilmember Harriet Johnson, At Large Councilmember Gregg Wachtel, Ward One Councilmember Dennis Etherington, Ward Two Councilmember Kevin Knowles, Ward Three Councilmember Ken Collinson, Ward Four Councilmember Mark Baker and Ward Five Councilmember Jason W. Baker.

The City Recorder administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Johnson, Wachtel, Etherington, Knowles, Collinson, M. Baker and J. Baker.

5. Presentations

6. Petitions from Citizens

Mr. Vernon Pearson, Iroquois Trail, spoke about the Library Board. Mr. Pearson stated that, per the Open Meetings Act, any citizen can demand an agenda item and it shall be placed on the next meeting agenda. For the July 14 Regular Council Meeting, Mr. Pearson was asking that the Council add a discussion about the Martinsburg/Berkeley County Library Board and its dereliction of duties as well as a discussion of a hostile work environment. Mr. Pearson also presented a copy of a FOIA Request submitted to the Library Board and asked that it be made part of the record.

Ms. Anne Pearson, Iroquois Trail, asked that Council consider the immediate termination of Sheridan Montgomery, Library Director, that the entire current Martinsburg/Berkeley County Library Board be dismissed and that Council take control of the Library.

Ms. Lilly Straub, Hedgesville Road, stated that she supports Ms. Pearsonôs comments, adding that she volunteered at the Hedgesville Library for many years and has left because she no longer enjoys doing so.

Mr. Allen Parker, Berkeley County, stated that he and his friend went raspberry picking on Lovett Avenue and his friend was bitten by a wood tick and contracted Lyme disease. He also spoke of several vacant properties in town.

Ms. Lisa Taylor, Hedgesville Elementary School, stated that the school had wonderful relationships with many of the library employees, who have since been terminated.

Ms. Consuelo Newman, W. Race Street, presented photographs of stacks with no books on them, stating that was the current state of the Martinsburg Public Library. She stated that three members of the Library Board live on the same street, along with one Library employee. She asked about the role of Council in appointment the Board and stated that the Board is not open to public input.

Nicole Taggart, W. Addition Street, Service Coordinator for Senior Towers, asked that Council move to dismiss the Director and the Board, as well as demand that the annual report be made public. She is concerned with the large number of books that have been removed and is upset about some of the new policies, such as limited computer usage.

7. Receive and File Reports, Minutes and Correspondence of the Following:

8. Reports of Chairpersons of Council Standing Committees

9. Report of Mayor
a. Reminder of Thursday, July 14, 216 Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 PM.

b. Schedule Special City Council Meeting for Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 5 PM for Purposes of Reporting the Unencumbered Balance—(due to the State of WV by July 30, 2016)

c. Reappoint Ms. Wilma Roberts to the Human Resources Committee from 7/9/2016-7/9/2018

Motion made by Councilman Wachtel, seconded by Councilman Etherington, to accept the Mayorôs recommendation and reappoint Ms. Roberts through 7/9/2018. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Reappoint the following to the Martinsburg Parking Authority—term 7/1/2016-7/1/2019
Randy Lewis
Craig Shanholtzer

Motion made by Councilman Knowles, seconded by Councilman Baker, to reappoint Mr. Lewis and Mr. Shanholtzer to the Martinsburg Parking Authority through 7/1/2109. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Reappoint Scott Campbell to the Martinsburg/Berkeley County Public Library Board—term 7/1/2016-7/1/2021

Councilman Baker suggested that Mr. Campbell come in for a discussion prior to the reappointment, considering the recent public reactions to the actions of the Library Board. Mayor Karos stated that he feels the vacancy should be filled and proceed from there.

Motion made by Councilman Etherington, seconded by Councilman Collinson, to reappoint Mr. Campbell through 7/1/2021. Motion carried 3-2, J. Baker and Knowles voting no.

f. Appoint John Stillwagon to the Historic Preservation Review Commission to fill an unexpired term 1/1/2016-1/1/2019

Motion made by Councilman Knowles, seconded by Councilman Collinson, to appoint Mr. Stillwagon to the HPRC through 1/1/2019. Motion carried unanimously.

g. Reappoint the Following to the Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council (Region 9)—Term Beginning 7/1/2016 and Ending 6/30/2016

City Manager Mark Baldwin
Mayor George Karos
Ms. Kenda Rogers

Motion made by Councilman Knowles, seconded by Councilman Wachtel, to reappoint Mr. Baldwin, Mayor Karos and Ms. Rogers to the Region 9 Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Appoint Gregg Wachtel (Planning Commission Ex-Officio Member) to the City of Martinsburg Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (Planning Commission Committee members are George Reichard, Mark Palmer and Jeff Molenda). Committee to work with City Staff

Motion made by Councilman Etherington, seconded by Councilman Collinson, to appoint Councilman Wachtel to the Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

i. Appoint Councilman Mark Baker as Council Representative on the Brownsfield Committee (to replace Councilman Boyd)

Motion made by Councilman Etherington, seconded by Councilman Wachtel, to appoint Councilman M. Baker to the Brownsfield Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

j. Announce the Following Vacancies on Various Boards and Commissions:

Shade Tree Commission
Parking Authority (2)
Code Appeals Board
Human Relations Committee (1 as of July 9)

10. Report of City Attorney

11. Report of City Manager

Steve Knipe, Utilities Director, gave an update on the Big Springs water contamination issue, stating that Kilmer Springs is still being used. Samples from Big Springs well have been sent to determine treatability to remove the contaminant, and approval has been received from the WV Department of Health to use the actual spring at Big Springs as a water source, but it has limited supply.

Councilman M. Baker asked about the normal output for the Big Springs plant. Mr. Knipe replied that the output is significantly higher than what the spring can provide, and it will have to continue to receive supplemental service from the Kilmer Springs facility.

Councilman M. Baker asked if a program is available to filter the water from the Big Springs well to remove the contaminant, Mr. Knipe stated that treatment options may be available, but they must wait for laboratory results, and the labs are approximately 30-60 days behind at this time.

Mr. Knipe also gave an update on the WWTP upgrade project, stating that is to be substantially finished by the end of July, and all but one process is online at this time. He invited Councilmembers to tour the facility at their convenience.

12. Unfinished Business

13. New Business

a. Appointments to the following positions:

City Recorder—Gena Long

Motion made by Councilman Knowles, seconded by Councilman Collinson, to appoint Ms. Long as City Recorder through June 30, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Court Judge(s)—Steve Kershner and Dale Buck (alternate)

Motion made by Councilman Wachtel, seconded by Councilman Etherington, to appoint Judge Kersner as Police Court Judge and Judge Buck as Alternate Police Court Judge. Motion carried unanimously.

City Treasurer

Motion made by Councilman Wachtel, seconded by Councilman Collinson, to appoint Councilman Etherington as City Treasurer for FY 2016-2017. Motion carried 6-1, J. Baker voting no.

13. Executive Session
Motion made by Councilman J. Baker, seconded by Councilman Collinson, to go into Executive Session for legal matters at 5:43 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned with unanimous consent at 5:57 PM.

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Gena Long, City Recorder George Karos, Mayor