

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
June 2, 2020

The Regular Meeting of City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Barilla presiding. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Roll Call.

Present were Council persons Villamagna, Anyabwile, Dressel, Hahn, Paul, Petrella, & Timmons.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, Parks and Recreation Director Lori Fetherolf, & Linda Harris from the Herald Star.

Mayor Barilla – “Before we proceed I would like to make a brief statement here before Council. I would like to acknowledge the protestors that were in front of the City Building last Saturday and Sunday in response to the George Floyd tragedy. I am thankful and appreciative to those that participated so that the ideals and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King by non-violent and peaceful demonstration. They showed respect to not only for Dr. King but for also George Floyd a non-violent man as well as the Black Lives Matter movement. Thank you Steubenville and we appreciate you.”

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for May 26, 2020. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Barilla.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Barilla – “Petitions and Communications Madame Clerk?”

Mrs. Haley – “Nothing this evening.”

Mayor Barilla – “Thank you Madam Clerk.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2020-28 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED SECTION 145.08 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (TRAVEL EXPENSES).

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-28. If you would like to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-28 please state your name.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-28 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on July 2, 2020.

NO. 2020-29 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE’S RELOCATION POLICY.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-29. If you would like to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-29 please state your name.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-29 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on July 2, 2020.

NO. 2020-30 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Dressel, Timmons

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A WRITTEN INTERNAL CONTROL POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS FOR THE STEUBENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-30. If you would like to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-30 please state your name.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-30 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on July 2, 2020.

NO. 2020-31 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 3rd reading

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 145.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE.

Mayor Barilla – “You’ve heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2020-31. If you would like to speak on Ordinance No. 2020-31 please state your name.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved Ordinance No. 2020-31 is duly adopted declared Mayor Barilla. This ordinance will go into effect on July 2, 2020.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor I have three resolutions that I want to sunshine.”

Mr. Villamagna sunshine A resolution adopting amendments to the City of Steubenville’s F.Y. 2019 annual action plan providing for the use of CDBG-CV Cares Act Funds. A resolution authorizing the City Manager and Urban Projects Director to execute a subrecipient grant agreement with the Urban Mission Ministries, Inc. for the use of CDBG-CV Cares Act Funds for the replacement of the roof and related improvements at the dormitory homeless shelter located at 142 N. 6th street, Steubenville, Ohio. A resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager and Urban Projects Director to advertise for proposals from qualified service offerors for professional services for the implementation and operation of a Microenterprise Assistance Program and related services, authorizing entering into contract based on cost and qualifications, and authorizing payment therefore.

Mr. Villamagna – “I highly recommend that we move as quickly as possible to implement the activity described above for the fiscal year. That’s all I have for the resolutions but I have some other stuff I wanted to let Council in on. First off Dunkin Doughnuts is now opened and you can’t get in there because there’s so many people trying to get around there so that’s a good thing. The shoe store that’s in the old K-Mart plaza next to Rural King is getting ready to open any day. They’re training their staff but there’s a couple bad things; the building permits for the month of May are down to 270 from last year which was 443 and the year before that was 400. So a lot of that has to do with this COVID-19 where these contractors had to lay people off and they couldn’t get them to work so hopefully that picks back up but that’s not good. There’s a lot of money involved there. So that’s it. Thank you.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – No Report

Mr. Dressel – No Report

Mrs. Hahn – “Just a couple of things just in case people have been wondering at this point we still don’t have a clear go ahead of opening up the MLK Center. Lori said she is still waiting on guidelines from the Governor to be able to do that and so we’re still trying to figure out when that’s possible. Also we don’t have the mulch yet but when we do we’ll let everyone know in case anyone is free to join in to help scatter that around and under economic development I received a letter; Karly forwarded it to me; the hospitality group at Eat-N-Park provides the (inaudible) service at the university and they just announced that they are laying off 106 people who work here in Steubenville for the university. It’s not university personnel it’s the Eat-N-Park hospitality group. Some of them are part-time jobs some of them are full-time but their earnest hope is that it’s just a temporary layoff and the university does plan on reopening in the fall but just for people to keep that in their thoughts and prayers you know a lot of lives are affected by it. That’s all I have to report tonight.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes you’re Honor I have two ordinances I’d like to introduce tonight.”

Mr. Paul sunshine an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2019-96, the existing Table of Organization of the City of Steubenville regarding the Police Department only and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Paul – “Do you have any questions Mr. Petrella?”

Mr. Petrella – “What’s happening in the Police Department?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “What we need to do is and we’ve done this one other time before because it’s a matter; we have a promotion list with the Police Department for a Sergeant position. We have one sergeant that is going to retire next month and the list expires at the end of this month. So we’d like to bring this person on now so we can have promoted off of this list that will fill that position. Then we will have to give a new sergeant’s test later this year.”

Mr. Paul – “I was just wondering if anyone had any questions because I know a lot of times when we have an emergency there’s questions involved. I just want to make sure everyone understands what is going on.”

Mr. Petrella – “Thank you for the clarification.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I have two questions. Yeah I’m confused where it says the annual salary like 87,000 and then an hourly wage of 41,000; I’m confused or is that a raise 41 to 87,000 for a year? What does that mean? I don’t understand it.”

Mrs. Haley – “I think you’re looking at the ordinance; I think one is an hourly wage and then the other one is the year round the officer would make.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “But the hourly is like 41,000.”

Mrs. Haley – “No it’s 41 point and then four numbers after it.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Oh so it’s like almost \$42.00 an hour.”

Mrs. Haley – “Pretty much yes.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “That’s how it goes right?”

Mrs. Haley – “Yes.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay. I’m still confused why is it an emergency opposed to okay something being put into place when someone leaves you either what promote somebody or hire someone correct? I don’t understand why it’s an emergency.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “It’s an emergency because the promotion list expires before this individual retires. So if we have to do three readings the list will have expired so this is why we need an emergency reading. This person will be promoted. The other one will retire and then everything is back to normal. It’s not costing us any money because we’ve been out of three positions that this is money that we’ve been able to save here because we haven’t filled those positions yet. All we’re trying to do is preserve a sergeant’s promotional list that is going to expire prior to this sergeant retiring.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “So instead of doing it in three readings you want us to do it in one. Correct?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That is correct. That’s why it’s an emergency.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay. I understand.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you mam.”

Mr. Paul also sunshine an ordinance amending the existing table of ordinance (Ordinance 2019-96) as it relates to the Water Department only.

Mr. Petrella – No Report

Mr. Timmons – No Report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you Mayor. Mr. Dressel you had asked me about the lighting and where it’s at up on North 4th Street I had talked to Mr. Baird our initial quote came in at \$10,000 to replacing all of these lights and putting them to LED. Some of the technology has changed and we’ve been able to bring that cost down to \$5,000 instead and we’re waiting for the lighting to come in so this can all be done at once. Should be in next week and they’ll begin this whole process.”

Mr. Dressel – “Okay thank you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Alright sir. Was there anything else Mr. Dressel that you needed answered?”

Mr. Dressel – “The other one was the parks but we already got that answer from Lori.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “I have a question for the City Manager.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes mam.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “How about the roof for the adjoining building of the Police Station in City Hall?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Those are in our plans to have it completed. Have the bids gone out on that Mike?”

Mike Dolak – “I don’t believe so.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “It will have to go out for bid. It’s one of the key projects that we want to get done hopefully in the summertime because if you’ve noticed the rain and everything by the time that we get our bids in we’ll get that replaced.”

Mrs. Anyabwile – “Okay thank you.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “You’re welcome. To Council some of you are aware; you probably are we had a shooting last night approximately 11:30 in the evening. One deceased; one individual wounded and one subject that left the scene as another shooter. He was apprehended as a person of interest tonight by our detectives; excellent cooperation by our citizens and our detectives; our afternoon shift and our midnight shift; tracing all leads that came in and trying to obtain video from different sources so it looks like we have all parties that were involved in that shooting. Now they are hopefully identified and we will bring them to justice but again that’s less than 24 hours this case was solved and again a lot of part goes to our citizens a lot goes to our Police Department so I wanted Council to know this. Mayor that’s all I have right now.”

Mr. Mastros – “Thank you Mayor I do have one thing for Council so there’s been some questions and some issues regarding our ability to go back to our regular format to meet in person. I’ve been discussing this matter with Mr. Mavromatis so and in doing so I’ve reviewed the latest order from the Department of Health which is the April 30th order. The April 30th order states that we’re still under the 10 person rule for public and private gatherings. I do not find yet and I keep reviewing it any kind of exception which would allow us to go back to regular meeting. So I’ve reached out to the Director of the Ohio Municipal Attorney Association to see if he has any guidance on this issue. Maybe I’m missing something in the order. Maybe I’m missing something in the interpretation of the order. I’ve looked at it and I don’t think I have. I am waiting to hear back from him to determine whether or not I’m again missing something or misinterpreting something of the order. I don’t think I am but I’m obviously not (inaudible) so my guidance to you all right now at least presently is that we probably will still have to meet via telephone at this point however that could change; that could change when I hear back from Mr. Hutter of the Municipal Attorneys Association to see if I’m correct but also I’m looking at maybe some other options that we still may be able to meet as a group live; we can distance out in the Council Chambers but maybe have the public phone in if they want to listen in and if they want to participate in public forum we will give them a designated time to call in or we will tell them or unmute them if you will; we’ll have to figure that out and also stream it live over YouTube. So that my final recommendation will be to you all either Friday or Saturday once I hear from Mr. Hutter but right now my guidance to you all is I do not believe we can until the 10 person rule is lifted but I’ve been going over this with Mr. Mavromatis; I will keep you all briefed; I will keep him briefed but I think probably as it stands right now that we’ll probably have to meet by telephone at a minimum at least one more time if we can’t figure out another option and or we’re still under that 10 person rule. So again I will have my recommendation out to you either by Friday or Saturday morning and please stay tune. Thank you Mayor that’s all I have.”

Mike Dolak – “Yes thank you Mayor. Council I just wanted to update you on a couple projects. Last year you authorized me to apply for a couple OPWC grants. The first one was the 7th Street resurfacing OPWC grant and it was for \$350,000 and then the other project through OPWC was the marina waterline project and that one was for about \$64,000. In December we were notified that we would receive those grants through OPWC. Now that’s through something called round 34 but since all this has happened with the virus the general assembly hasn’t met so those funds are being delayed. I’m not sure when the capital bill will be voted on or appropriate so both of those projects are on hold. The marina waterline project has not went out to bid yet. The 7th Street project which is a \$350,000 grant we prepared that like we usually do in my office and that did go out to bid and

bids were opened on April the 8th. We do not have contracts signed it's written in the legal that we have to wait until the OPWC agreement comes and they usually come around July 1st. Actually that project was estimated at \$500,000 and it actually came in at \$400,000 so the price is really good. We will hold on that one for at least another month to see what happens during the month of June with the general assembly to see if the legislative body would meet and vote on the capital bill. Are there any questions? Thank you."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mike I have one question for you buddy."

Mike Dolak – "Yes."

Mr. Villamagna – "The roof on the city building when are we talking about the bids going out? Do you know when that is?"

Mike Dolak – "You know Councilman that was being handle through Mr. Petrossi's office. I will talk with him first thing in the morning and either I will make a phone call back to you or Mr. Mavromatis or I'll have Chris call you. Is that okay?"

Mr. Villamagna – "That's fine."

Mr. Mavromatis – "To Council as a whole Saturday we're supposed to have many of our areas cleaned by a company coming in to fog it; antibacterial spray. We're still waiting for a couple ropes to separate areas if we don't get these by the end of the week my recommendation would be to Council that we still keep the City Building on lockdown like we have it for another week. Is there anybody of opposition that I need to talk to? Okay I'll take that as a no and I will keep Council informed. Right now unless Costa changes this we'll have another meeting next Tuesday by phone like we're doing now but I want to make sure we have everything in place that we need that we can accept people coming in here; maintain who's coming in here so we can adequately do our back tracing god forbid if something happens. Thank you."

Mr. Paul – "Mr. Mavromatis that's a good idea."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you sir."

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mayor Barilla – "Alright we'll move onto miscellaneous reports this evening and signing in this evening is Mr. Petrella."

Mr. Petrella – "Yeah I have a couple of things under miscellaneous. One is weeds and litter again and maybe this is a question for Costa. Is there any way that we can shorten some of these vacant lots that's been vacant for years and we've already established that in getting them into court and getting them cut such a lengthy process."

Mr. Mastros – "So I re-forwarded an email; a memo basically that I wrote for Mr. Mavromatis a couple years ago actually and I'll have to look at it again but I believe when our ordinance was created we mimic if you will the timeframe as provided by the Ohio Revised Code which provides us with a floor. So we can go beyond that so if the floor is 14 days we can go above it but I'm not sure we can go below it but there's a minimum amount of due process that we have to have that I believe the revised code would set the floor but I can check that. Now the only thing that we can maybe also do is in terms of shortening things is request the court to expedite those complaints so the one hitch in that issue is this so once we file the complaint; if they don't comply with the notice and we bring them into court the court has to get service which means we have to obviously be able to serve them the notice by certified mail but if we get them served we can request the court to expedite the process in essent speed it up if you will so we can get them in the court faster and to rejuvenate it faster. I don't know if we'll be able to shorten our timeframe on our notice but I will check on that for you sir. But I think that would at least be one way is to request the court to expedite those issues."

Mr. Petrella – "But you know there's got to be something; these properties have been abandoned for years. I'm not talking about a homeowner that or somebody that just recently let their property go. I'm talking about these official places with torn down houses; you know they're downtown they're up on the hill they're all over the city and we are never ever you know they're just abandoned. There ain't nobody to serve."

Mr. Mastros – "Well if there is no one to serve then we kind of follow of what we did in the past and give them the notice; if they don't comply with the notice; we can shorten our time down in the sense of if you don't do this within 30 days that we will go ahead onto the property; cut the property and put it on your taxes as a lien. We might be able to do something like that on the abandoned ones so I can look into that as well."

Mr. Petrella – "I'd like you to look into that and those properties that we have lien for years; can we force to the Sheriff's sale to get rid of some of them?"

Mr. Mastros – "The only thing we can do with those is make the request to the prosecutor's office to put those on I'll call it the front burner but we can't ourselves; we don't control that process. We can only make a request."

Mr. Petrella – "Well we need to make that request. I feel we need to make that request. I mean there's lots next to people's houses that they can buy this for a dollar and I think if they take care of it you know that's a win win situation. One the adjacent property owner will have a nice yard and secondly they're back on the tax rolls."

Mr. Mastros – "Sure and it is a win win and I agree so what we would need to do though is we would have to compile a list if you will for the prosecutor's office to show where we have placed a lien on those properties that were vacant that we have cut that we have placed that lien on and then send that list to the prosecutor's office to request that if at all possible please expedite or put these on the front burner for Sheriff's sale or Auditor's sale which ever it may be for delinquent taxes and that presumes if you will that presumes then I got to think that it's going to be the case nine times out of ten that that particular piece of property that their property taxes have not been paid therefore they are in default and the procedure if you will can move forward

because of the unpaid real estate taxes. We don't and they would not start a foreclosure action if all the taxes are paid but the lien is on there. It's an odd situation but that has to happen first the real estate taxes have to be in default for them to obviously trigger the process of a property tax foreclosure. So I'm assuming that would be the case. It would make logical sense that they have them take care of our lien and if they're basically abandoned that they have not kept up with the real estate taxes so again that would have to be the condition proceeding for us to begin to collect number one our taxes and two make it right for foreclosure but we'll have to compile a list."

Mr. Petrella – "You know I've asked this for a few years since I've been on Council now. These are eye sores; they're (inaudible) and as early as this year I've asked in January for a list to be compiled and ready to go and I understand that April 1st is the ordinance date that we could've done this but we should've had everything done prior to April 1st and then April 1st start the process."

Mr. Timmons – "If you want to get with me sometime you know like I know I drive into some of your streets or adjacent and you know I have the same problem; I've had the same problem in my ward for the five years that I've been on Council and it's the same ones year after year. I recently did put in 2630 Hollywood; that one I went to the prosecutor's office myself; filled out the paperwork and they're going to put that on for Sheriff's sale hopefully this year. So that is a process I just got tired of it and did it myself so you know maybe if we want to get together we can talk about this and get some of these; there are so many of them but yeah I share your pain."

Mr. Petrella – "Yeah we got them in every single ward. There's not one ward in the City of Steubenville that doesn't have these lots. That's about it for tonight."

Mr. Paul – "On St. Charles Drive I have gentleman living in a house with no running water; they're all brand new homes and no running water, no electricity for several years now this has been going on and I was told this from a reliable source in the city that there's \$27,000 liens on this property; Costa I would like to talk to you tomorrow and see what we can do with this property. I know Mr. Mavromatis has been trying to help me; the code enforcement officer has been trying to help me but there's something we need to do and I think Costa you might have some answer to this. I don't know but it's getting to be an eye sore. I have a lot of complaints and it's a very nice neighborhood and what's going on there it's a tragedy."

Mr. Mastros – "Okay."

Mr. Paul – "Okay I'll call you tomorrow Costa. Thank you."

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Paul moved to adjourn. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll call. All ayes. So moved; meeting adjourned declared Mayor Barilla.

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR