

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 3, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Mucci presiding. The meeting was opened with a silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmen Hahn, Paul, Timmons, Villamagna, & DiLoreto.

Mr. Paul moved that Mr. Dressel & Mr. Johnson be excused from the meeting. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

Also present; Law Director Costa Mastros, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Engineering Director Mike Dolak, & Dave Gossett from the Herald Star.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for September 26, 2017. Second by Mr. Timmons. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Mucci.

**PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Mucci – “Madame Clerk is there any petitions in communications?”

Mrs. Haley – “Nothing your Honor”

Mayor Mucci – “Before we move on I would like to point out that on the tentative agenda the very first item is Resolution No. 2017-71 that was placed there in error; we talked about it last week to call for a committee meeting that Resolution will not be under consideration it will be sunshine by the chairman of the Service Committee Mr. DiLoreto for consideration next Tuesday. So without explanation we will move into Resolution No. 2017-72 by Council as a whole and if there is no objection both Resolutions No. 2017-72 and Resolution No. 2017-73 will be read in its entirety. Hearing no objections it is so ordered.”

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**NO. 2017-72 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER, 2017 AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AND OCTOBER 20, 2017 AS NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY.**

Mrs. Haley – “Whereas, 2017 marks more than 33 years that National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM) has educated women about early breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment, and Whereas, this year, NBCAM is again reaching out to women with several key messages, most notably, the importance of early detection through annual mammography screening for women over 40; and Whereas, mammography screenings are a woman’s best chance for detecting breast cancer early, and Whereas, when coupled with new treatment options, mammography screenings can significantly improve a woman’s chances of survival; and Whereas, Women in Action Against Cancer Coalition of Jefferson County was formed in 1994 under the National Cancer Institute Program of Appalachia Leadership on Cancer (ALIC) to promote awareness of Breast Cancer through education; and Whereas, the cause of breast cancer is still unknown, and the most reducing cancer deaths are through a combination of self-examination, clinical breast examination and mammography; and Whereas, the Women in Action Against Cancer Coalition’s mission is to enhance grassroots to help residents of Steubenville and Jefferson County to become Aware of when and where to seek early detection, assistance with care, and financing. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council does hereby proclaim October, 2017 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and October 20, 2017 as National Mammography Day throughout the City of Steubenville and Jefferson County in conjunction with national observances. Section 2: That this Council does hereby encourage all citizens to take the opportunity to observe this month and day in ways appropriate to their significance and importance. Section 3: That this Council shall present a certified copy of this Resolution to a representative of the Jefferson County Woman in Action against Cancer Coalition. Section 4: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council; otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.”

Mr. Paul made a motion that Resolution No. 2017-72 be adopted by roll call. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll call. All ayes. Resolution No. 2017-72 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

Mayor Mucci – “There is no one here to accept the Resolution but if you would like to make remarks about the Resolution.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Just echoing the things that Willie had said last week that it’s so important that it’s one of these cancers that because of early detection we really can make a dramatic difference. I remember in high school once someone said that they had breast cancer it was like this death sentence and there was no turning back and now because of the early detection; being able to compare mammography’s from year to year a lot of people are now recovering and that is such a blessing so yes it’s very important.”

**NO. 2017-73 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 8-14, 2017 AS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.**

Mrs. Haley – “Whereas, the City of Steubenville is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Steubenville: and Whereas, U.S. fire departments responded to 365,500 home fires in 2015, according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and U.S home fires resulted in 2,560 civilian deaths in 2015, representing the majority (78 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths, and Whereas, newer homes are built with lightweight materials that burn faster than older home constructions and many of today’s products and furnishings produce toxic gases and smoke when burned, making it impossible to see and breathe within moments. These conditions contribute to a much smaller window of time for people to escape a home fire safely, with people having as little as one to two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds; and Whereas, a home fire escape plan provides the skill set and know-how to quickly and safely escape a home fire situation and a home fire escape plan includes two exits from every room in the home; a path to the outside from each exit; smoke alarms in all required locations; and a meeting place outside where everyone in the home will meet upon exiting. Home fire escape plans should be developed by all members of the household and practicing a home fire escape plan twice a year ensures that everyone in the household knows what to do in a real fire situation; and Whereas, Steubenville’s firefighters are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education and Steubenville’s residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes, and Whereas, the 2017 Fire Prevention Week theme, “Every Second Counts; Plan 2 Ways Out!” effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of developing a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it twice a year. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Steubenville, County of Jefferson, State of Ohio: Section 1: That this Council does hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2017, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this community and urges all the people of Steubenville to develop a home fire escape plan will all members of the household and practice it twice a year, and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of Steubenville’s fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2017. Section 2: That the Clerk of this Council shall present a certified copy of this Resolution to Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi on behalf of the Steubenville Fire Department. Section 3: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and approval by Council; otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.”

Mr. Paul made a motion that Resolution No. 2017-73 be adopted by roll call. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll call. All ayes. Resolution No. 2017-73 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

Mr. Paul – “Yes your Honor I would like to present this Resolution to Chief Capaldi as our Clerk said October 8-14 is Fire Prevention Week; also October 9<sup>th</sup> Monday is Fire Prevention Day; maybe it’s a good idea to have everybody check their smoke alarms and our carbon monoxide detectors. Thank you for all you do; the first responders in this City are a great bunch of individuals and thank you.”

Chief Capaldi – “Thank you everyone.”

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Hahn – “We have two pieces of legislation that need to be sunshine from the Planning Committee. The first one is an ordinance amending Chapter 1175 of the Zoning Code creating the Garfield Avenue Neighborhood Conservation District, including the 300 and 400 Blocks of Garfield Avenue. There’s a second sunshine ordinance authorizing the demolition of 2531 Chestnut Street; 141 Lovers Lane; 112 Laila Court; 305 Union Avenue; 315 Union Avenue; 329 Union Avenue; 1202 Park Street; 316-318 Marsh Alley; 1336-1338 Pennsylvania Avenue (garage); 428 South Seventh Street, and 711 North Fourth Street.”

Mayor Mucci – “Just a point the first ordinance that was sunshine by Mrs. Hahn creating the Garfield Avenue NCD; there will be a public hearing that will be scheduled on December 4, 2017; City Council next week will receive the first reading, the following week the second reading and then of course the public hearing on December 4<sup>th</sup>; the meeting following that which I believe is December 5<sup>th</sup>; City Council will have the third and final reading. Also the second piece of legislation the resources to complete those demolitions will be the sanitation fund that was approved already by Council.”

Mr. Paul – “I didn’t have anything but you did pass this out on the levy issue number 5; it is our real estate tax; it is a renewal; it is not a new levy and I wish that everyone would support this as they’ve done since the early 1960s; it is a big part of our operating budget and I don’t want to take away anything the Mayor is going to talk about here a little bit later; he’s going to have a meeting here later on this month and probably every week until we go to election on November 7<sup>th</sup>; I will ask everybody to please vote yes on Issue #5; Vote yes on Issue #5 and I’ll let the Mayor discuss a little bit later on in the meeting but thank you your Honor I’m done.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you Mr. Paul and I will follow that up with remarks but as Council members are aware when we’re involving anything political in government we got to have a separation so I’m going to step down as the Mayor; be a public citizen when I make those remarks but thank you Mr. Paul.”

Mr. Timmons – No report

Mr. Villamagna – No report

Mr. DiLoreto – “Two short ordinances. One for next week Resolution No. 2017-71 a Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to make application for a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission to be used towards funding the City of Steubenville 2018 City street hot-mix resurfacing project, city project no. 2018-100 and to execute contracts as required; that will be voted on next week. Another resolution and ordinance authorizing the City Manager to advertise for bids for the 2018 city street hot-mix resurfacing improvements, city project no. 2018-100 subject to the right to reject any and all bids and rebidding that may be

required, authorizing the entering into said contract with the lowest and most qualified bidder, and to execute contract as required and another one for Mrs. Hahn I think you said you were going to say something under miscellaneous; I'd like to have a little update on that meeting that was attended last week by the neighborhoods up on Labelle and Pleasant Heights who attended; who didn't attend; what they're going to do and what they're not going to do; cause we have a big trash pickup coming up and we got on October 11<sup>th</sup> the hilltops are going to be cleaned up and I just want to know who is all going to be involved; I got three more empty houses that they left. Thank you."

Mrs. Hahn – "Can I ask one question? Do we need to declare that it's an emergency that first resolution?"

Mayor Mucci – "Yes I'm going to explain that in just a second here. The resolution to apply for the Public Works will be passed next Tuesday as an emergency; it's necessary so we can meet the deadlines of the grant application; however the second piece of legislation for the actual list of the hot-mix street paving projects will receive three readings; that was discussed earlier at the Service Committee Meeting. Thank you Mr. DiLoreto."

## **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

Mayor Mucci – "I would just like to give a very brief report on a couple of subjects. First of all I want to inform the members of Council that the project of the trimming of the trees in Veteran's Park on Pleasant Heights was completed; it turned out extremely well we're working on partners to continue to make improvements to that park but the work at the Veteran's Park is now completed. Also last night I attended a Solid Waste Authority meeting in Bellaire; representing the City of Steubenville as it was noted by our City Manager we are working on having the JB Green Team to do a tire and electronic collection last night I spoke to the board made a motion it passed unanimously; the two largest municipalities in Jefferson and Belmont County; the City of Martins Ferry and the City of Steubenville will receive this consideration probably in the cost of about \$9,000 each locations to the Solid Waste Authority; I'm informing Council that to show you the investment that they're making but we're going to be scheduling that for Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we're going to utilize the old Grant School lot; tires will be collected there and TVs will be collected however it's \$10.00 per TV to dispose of on that day. With that I would also like too to inform the member of Council that you probably read this in the newspaper; Mr. Gossett did a great job in covering this; the Steubenville sign painted on Market Street above the Martin Luther King Center has been refurbished as the article stated and all we were able to purchase the paint through Sherwin Williams and they gave us a deal on that but we still had some cost there but the individual that refurbishing two of the murals in downtown, one in the Court Street alley by the bank on their wall and of course the one across from Froelich's Classic Corner the gentleman Claude Ruston Baker from Millersburg, Ohio has volunteered his time and if you pass that you can see how great it is looking; we're checking into the cost as the article indicated of the sealant on that wall to make it last a little longer and to bring out the colors a little bit better but I would like to request from City Council the gentleman; not being from our community; stepped up to the plate; spent time up there and working; I know he had assistants and volunteers we'll get into that; but I would like City Council to sunshine a resolution recognizing his volunteer work and I have a little bit of background information so if a member of Council would do a resolution honoring..."

Mrs. Hahn – "Sunshine a resolution of gratitude towards Claude Ruston Baker who's a muralist from Millersburg, Ohio for his contribution in repairing; doing really challenging repairs to some of our murals."

Mr. Paul – "Didn't he also have his son involved with him?"

Mayor Mucci – "His son and there was also a couple of local volunteers; we'll get into that discussion when we present him that resolution next Tuesday. With that I want to remind all members of Council that this coming Monday is Columbus Day; city offices will be closed. Also an update on Adams Street everybody has been questioning the completion of Adams Street; we're almost there if anybody passed that area the road was closed for a while and all but we're bringing it up putting the final grade on there to catch (inaudible) but other than that all that work if not should be completed by the end of this week; the latest but we're looking probably tomorrow or so. And also Aberdeen I think this was mentioned upon; we did the waterline replacement, repaving of Aberdeen is being done as we speak and we should have that project completed by the end of the week. Also at the Martin Luther King Center the HVAC project they started work; we're hoping and anticipating that to be done this week probably next week; I wanted to inform and update Council on that. Also I want to inform City Council there will be two street closings in the downtown area for some fundraising activities on Saturday; 4<sup>th</sup> Street and the 200 block will be closed this process went through both the Police Department, the Fire Department, and staff we will be providing barricades but it's a fundraiser for somebody that has cancer I'm not quite sure so excuse me; the important part is that the road will be closed to traffic from about noon to early evening and then Saturday and Sunday the Harmonium Project Group will be having a fun event a concert on Third Street in front of the City Building basically the full day we'll be providing barricades and assistance to that particular project and if I could meet with the Chairman of Finance Committee after the meeting for discussion of personnel and stable organization."

Mr. Paul – "Okay"

Mayor Mucci – "I really would like this opportunity to step down as Mayor and conducting this meeting; I'm not going to go down there for the record if you want I will state my name and address but I do want to speak on the 5 Mill Renewal Levy that is facing our voters. As I said time and time again this generates about \$633,000 I've provided all members of Council a breakdown of where these resources go and it goes basically to personnel cost; as you are aware most of those personnel costs are within the Police and Fire Department

however there is staff like supporting staff and the engineer's office and all; it's extremely important that we communicate to our citizens on the renewal of Issue #5 this coming November 7<sup>th</sup>. So I will be calling for a public meeting for public input and anyone willing to serve on the committee next Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m. at the Steubenville Visitor Center across the street 120 South Third Street; all are welcomed to come and help us promote the levy; I am happy to say that Stan has volunteered to be our treasurer today and we spent some time at the Board of Elections and opening up a checking account so if anybody is interested in contributing for the passage of this they can see Stan or myself but once again I provided all members of Council, letters will be going out to some of our State Quoters if you could make next Thursday's meeting October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. I would surely appreciate it."

Mr. Paul – "What is the... if I want to make a check out."

Mayor Mucci – "It's on the bottom of the flier or the letter that I provided you."

Mr. Paul – "You mean way down here that fine little print?"

Mayor Mucci – "Yea that fine print. It's always in fine print. The name of the committee is 'Yes for Progress Renewal Committee'."

Mr. Paul – "Alright well thank you."

Mayor Mucci – "Thank you Mr. Paul."

Mr. Villamagna – "Mayor if I could I want to back up a little bit about the wall up there where Steubenville is. I've been thinking about this for a while and I talked to a couple guys and it came up; you know the water trough going up Washington Street. You can't even see it from the road I was wondering and even if we can clear it nobody is going to go up there and look at that trough; it's a bad location to get up; I wonder if there is some kind of grant available or a process cause I know it's very old; that that trough could be removed from Market Street and maybe be brought down to the fort and put in an area like; where it could be displayed and explained what it actually was and I don't know if there's that kind of grants available for historical stuff or what the expense would be; because I'm sure there would have to be a professional (inaudible) to take it down; you can't just have a bunch of people take it down. Could we look into that maybe?"

Mayor Mucci – "I would be happy to ask Mr. Petrossi who has pretty good idea of historical grants if there is anything possible but I think that really deserves a lot of discussion. The watering trough is located there all its life; it's a historical marker; I understand the ingress and egress the issue of it but if you can recall not too long ago we had that all cleared out and we use to decorate it for Christmas remember the dinosaurs? But anyhow I think we could bring that back as long; to the visibility of the traffic on Market Street or Washington Street but your points are well taken and I'll ask Mr. Petrossi; that will be a major undertaking of course we don't even know if the fort wants it."

Mr. Villamagna – "But if we can't do that; it's like a jungle up in there and I understand the weed problem and my concerns is the weeds are going to overtake it and just ruin, crumble it, and destroy it all together. If we can't move it; which I like that idea so somebody can actually see it you know what I mean; at the least maybe we can get up there and clean it out; it's a little bit late now."

Mayor Mucci – "It's not if you can recall it was one of the four projects that's on the list for the United Way day of action (all inaudible) we got the Steubenville sign done on Market Street; there's two other projects; that is one of them; the (inaudible) organization promised if we could get people up there they could possibly provide lunch for them and refreshments for them so we not last year but the summer before; however when we started to try and organize that we have our seven year visitors saccades or locusts whatever you want to call them and it was just a mess up there; we weren't able to take it; this year we didn't have enough volunteers to address that but I have a commitment from Mr. Baird our superintendent that between the fall now and over the winter months and all they will be clearing some of that out so we can have access to at least do an analysis of what it's going to take for that and don't forget years ago Mr. Petrossi and all through the Ohio Historical gave us restrictions on that and what we can do to it. We weren't allowed to sand blast it what have you but let's have a conversation with Mr. Petrossi and I'll get back to you on it."

Mr. Villamagna – "Thank you Mayor."

Mr. Mastros – "Thank you your Honor just very briefly on Thursday I will be traveling to Columbus to meet with our lawyer regarding the Healthcare lawsuit; hopefully I can brief you guys on what's going on; this is my first trial notebook so we've been doing a lot of work; but a few things have to fall into place before we do that but hopefully to brief you on it in executive session maybe; maybe two meetings from now. Thank you."

Mayor Mucci – "Thank you Mr. Mastros and talking about his heavy schedule I think this is an active time; tomorrow most of the day I'll be spending in negotiations with the (inaudible) union; I have a couple other meetings scheduled; Thursday the healthcare containment meeting and then back into negotiations on Friday so we're all keeping busy."

Mr. Villamagna – "Isn't there something else important you wanted to bring up?"

Mayor Mucci – "Yes thank you. It's election year; I get it and I understand; I've been down that rode many of times; however it is prohibited for political signs to be on City Property or City right of ways; traveling throughout the committee I notice some of them are popping up here and there; I have instructed our superintendent of the M & R department that after tonight's warning we're going to give an opportunity for any of the candidates might be aware of it and I understand you got volunteers and you're not quite sure and all; and I'm not talking about someone's front yard that we may have a right of way and all; these are in City right of ways such on Washington Street and the ingress and egress to other areas; these are (inaudible) disregarding and putting them on City Property and I've noticed that; not to pick out any one person or issue; they're popping up. We're going to give you an opportunity to get your signs; if not and I hope it doesn't come to this; we will use city resources our M & R Department to remove those signs however they will be available to the

candidates at our M & R Department so you can retrieve them and use them again but I'm asking all candidates and anybody with any of the levies cause we'll have a few of those; to make sure they are not on city property or city right of way and if they are at the end of the week and throughout next week we're going to start removing them."

## MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mr. Timmons – "Thank you Mayor. I just want to mention the Together for a Cure Event will be held this Saturday at Harding Stadium; the event is to raise money to fight against Breast Cancer; there will be four soccer games involving the four Jefferson County Soccer Programs; it starts at 11:00 a.m. and they bring in \$60,000 in the past five years for the Teramana Cancer Center; it's a great event and I encourage everybody to attend. Thank you."

Mrs. Hahn – "Okay a few things first of all you asked about the landlord meeting. We had over 30 landlords attend."

Mr. DiLoreto – "Good."

Mrs. Hahn – "Chris Petrossi said that that was excellent it's really an unusual showing; we had the opportunity to talk for an hour and a half and then we just had to stop; we did not get to the end of all the issues but some of the difficulties that we tried to talk about and see if we could address and this is only a suggestion that I bring to you all depending on what the right process is; there are renters who leave with a lot of damage and they leave furniture that nobody wants and garbage and other things and so one of the challenges is when someone moves out then no one is paying for garbage pickup and what do they do with all these materials? At this point they have to rent a dumpster and it can be \$275.00-\$300.00 to rent it for a week; so I asked Jim Mavromatis whether or not we could do this limiting it maybe to once in a year for that particular property but for a \$100.00 they could call Sanitation set up a pickup and then sanitation would come and pickup everything that is put out at one time and that was meant very favorably that is not something that is their fault yet they are left with having to clean that up. We talked about water the current policy of the city and it is very difficult for the landlords to pay those additional bills however I would say there was a lot of positive comments about how we (inaudible) the billing cycle; the billing cycle was a 107-108 days and now we went back to the cards we were able to move up the cycle to about 78 days and that's without changing any ordinances at all; they have seen a huge difference in that and many more of them have been proactive when they get the notice as the people do that the bill is delinquent they are calling their people and saying look you got to take care of this and a lot more people are not allowing that bill to just simple go. Then we also had the Mayor talk briefly about what he shared last week in Council; that the Jefferson County Utility Providers are meeting; they are beginning to share the information and hopefully within a few months we're going to have a database; that database could be people that have skipped out on water bills, people who have skipped out on rent, and people who have left tremendous amounts of damage. Home improvements; we were able to give them some information Chris Petrossi explained the Community Reinvestment Act and what that means; this is for every home owner so if you're the landlord you're the home owner; on LaBelle, most of Pleasant Heights, and all of downtown you have a onetime whatever the expense is; a major home improvement you can go through an appeal process and you're property taxes will not go up for ten years; there were a lot of people very surprised to hear that and his recommendation was if you're going to do a small project don't waste that one time you know having (inaudible) but if you do something major this is a real asset for you to not have the property taxes go up and so I think they appreciated that information and we also gave them information about background checks and for local people it is possible for them to contact the Police Department and the Police Department will do a local background check; the Chief directly; and then I passed out information on several national organizations so that they had the contact information for the national organizations and depending on how much you pay it can actually give you a history of evictions, it can give you the criminal history, it can give you bills not being paid, etc. so hopefully that will be additional information for the landlords and it was actually a good opportunity to (inaudible) that they do provide a necessary service within our city; it is a business it's not a ministry but everyone cannot buy a house and so we're really hoping to collaborate a lot more extensively and really work together on this. I hope you picked up the addresses when we were talking about the engineering; the grant that we're going to pursue but this is actually effects some of the streets on LaBelle and that's going to be I think a great benefit and our hope is that we will inspire both homeowners who occupy their homes and landlords to really work on their properties on those particular streets and really begin to have the rising tide to raise all the ships and there was a lot more conversation but hopefully that's helpful and we hoped for me (inaudible) then I thought there was and I think it was a great deal of mutual respect expressed and it was very (inaudible). On the Marina; tomorrow if any of you are free and want to come down and work on the Marina; I'm going to be there again with community service people and we're continuing to try and clear one small particular amount of land; Lou's tree service brought us three truckloads of mulch so we're planning on spread that around I'll be there 9:30 till noon tomorrow and then on Saturday the Urban Mission is sending down a team from the I serve teens and I'm going to be there from 9:30 till noon on Saturday so an additional to all the other wonderful things going on if you feel like being down there; it's so peaceful, it's so beautiful, and you just watch the ships go by, the trains, the trucks and it's (all inaudible). Last thing the Harmonium Project there are going to be 15 different bands performing some at Froelich's, some of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, some at the Fort..."

Mayor Mucci – "We're blocking off Third Street in front of the City Building that where they are having everything."

Mrs. Hahn – “Yea there’s going to be craft beers; there’s going to be all kinds of activities and they are a lot of local people who are musicians who are also just going to set up on corners and play guitars, ukuleles, and accordion, but anyway they are going to be performing on street corners, in front of businesses as well as the 15 bands that are being paid to come and it’s also going to be homecoming weekend for Franciscan University and the public is welcomed to come up on Saturday there will be a mass at 10:00; there’s a blessing of animals at the end of mass outside and then there’s all kinds of arts and crafts and medieval costumes, a contest and lots of food; the households which is sort of the University’s version of sororities and fraternities do all kinds of different foods and offer different events up there and the Rugby team will be playing at 1:00 on the upper pitch I know there will be a soccer game so please especially if you have never been to the University please just drive up and join the fun. There’s a lot to do this weekend its exciting so thank you.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you Mrs. Hahn and if I could just clarify that Mrs. Hahn made on the investment area on the improvements that they will not increase your real estate taxes that is on the improvements only your taxes won’t be improve however if there is a levy such as a school district and all and there’s a levy place on it that will appear on it; just for some clarification but it is still a great mechanism and let alone landlords the property owners should take advantage of that too.”

## PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Mucci – “If there is anyone wishing to speak to City Council on City business please come forward and state your name and address.”

Ladonna Delatore – “715 Belleview Blvd. Steubenville, Ohio. First of all I want to thank Mrs. Hahn the landlord meeting was wonderful. I realize there was 30 but you said out of the amount of dwellings on the hilltop there’s what 640?”

Mrs. Hahn – “I didn’t know the total and if you include the apartments Chris said there were over 1700.”

Ladonna Delatore – “I think there’s 640 but you said there was 200 landlords.”

Mrs. Hahn – “8 landlords that have 500 properties.”

Ladonna Delatore – “Alright; so what I look at it is like myself; I’m a landlord I’ve invested in the hilltop but I’m also a small business whether people realize it or not these rentals are my retirement and it’s us; the neighborhood up there we support Sherwin Williams, M & M Hardware, and Lowes we have to maintain our property yet when I look at what the city gives back to us; I found it; you were there and you heard the same issues that we’ve heard for the last 10 years; code enforcement; for some reason we have been very negligent on code enforcement. Code enforcement would take care of three quarters of the property; the problems that are on that hilltop and when I look at it the one code that I have a little bit of a problem with is the one you said has two residents into a household. Well most of those homes up there are 2-3 bedrooms so how can you define a family with two people when you got a three bedroom home? The reason you would be able to control that issue is if you gave us permit parking; our lots are only 35-37 feet wide you can only get two cars on the street. The property owner who lives there is owner occupied should have their two spaces free; the landlords if you got three cars that live there you should have to provide off street parking there’s no reason that some of those old garages come down and the landlord is very easy and I’m personally listening to the people who are very receptive to that idea of permit parking; and then I look at the demos that we’re doing within the city right now; this is my second issue; I see we’re out there doing all these demos well when there’s a fire don’t the City of Steubenville take a bond from the insurance company? I mean legally every building in the City of Steubenville is supposed to have fire insurance; I mean if it’s banked owned or what and generally there use to be a \$2500 bond on any fire that went down. Can the Law Director answer it?”

Mr. Mastro – “There’s a statue that we utilize; it’s not so much as a bond but we are entitled if the home owner does not tear it down or the insurance company does not tear down but there is insurance we can recoup some of that money if not all of it from the home owner’s insurance and we’ve done that. I’ve never heard of a bond but I’m not saying it doesn’t exist but I know that I just actually wrote a letter to the insurance company regarding a fire that occurred not too long ago and we’re going to collect some funds cause we did the demo; the insurance company did not do it and we did so we’re going to collect some money for it. I never heard of a bond but I’m not saying it doesn’t exist.”

Ladonna Delatore – “I understand that we’re taking demos down now on Lovers Lane and Laila Court don’t those people have insurance?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Those weren’t fire; those are abandoned houses; those weren’t fire.”

Ladonna Delatore – “So are you then placing a lien on those properties that you’re tearing down?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes.”

Ladonna Delatore – “Okay. The other thing I wanted to talk about; I wanted to talk about the 7/10 Levy we’re doing. I can’t understand why we’re out there doing Efts Lane; when my property was built and most of the people in Steubenville whether you live in Westwood, Braybarton, Pleasant Heights, LaBelle, Lincoln Heights, you built your home; your property was assess for streets assessments and sidewalks; the people out on Efts Lane went out there because they wanted to live on the country lane; they never paid those assessments out there; I think it’s unfair because the rest of us tax payers in the City of Steubenville to have to support Efts Lane (inaudible).”

Mr. Villamagna – “We didn’t pave Efts Lane.”

Ladonna Delatore – “You’re going too. If that area needs to do a CCD development fund they need to put there and do their street right; your supposed to do storm sewers; you do... you actually improve the street I feel sorry for the people back there those two new sub divisions but they knew where they were building those sub divisions when they went out there that that road was a country road. So I resent the fact that they are taking our 7/10 out there and Aberdeen was another one; Aberdeen should have never been done with 7/10 money; that street was never rehabbed it’s not up to code as far as storm water; yet our money and each and every one of us pay \$10-\$20 more for a license tag for our streets to be maintained in the City of Steubenville; well my streets are terrible; we need sidewalks; we need curbs; I mean have you driven Ridge Ave.? Have you gone up on LaBelle? There’s one place I go and I try to support the laundry mat on Sunset Blvd. try going through that piece of property. I keep thinking this is the City of Steubenville where is our 7/10 going? Out there doing unapproved streets and I think legally I would like the Law Director to find out if it’s legal. It is legal?”

Mr. Mastros – “I can check.”

Ladonna Delatore – “Thank you I appreciate it. Thank you Mrs. Hahn it was a good meeting.”

Mayor Mucci – “Just for a point of clarification it’s not the 7/10 as you well know we have three sources of income, the 3/10, the 7/10 which is a wage tax, and a 5 mill which is a; City of Steubenville in November will be seeking a renewal of our 5 mill operating levy which is a real estate again about generates \$633,000; those dollars don’t go directly to roads or road improvements they go to wages and as you well know and Council is aware what is heavy top in the wages is the Police and the Fire so thank you Mrs. Delatore.”

Ed Palombizo – “113 South Bend Blvd. I spoke here a couple of weeks ago having this discussion about cleanup for the residents and now we have a situation; (inaudible) haven’t acted on this yet but I’m trying to get some clarification some understanding on this. Have a group of landlords who are businesses they have a trash removal problem that’s a cost of doing business for a landlord; we’re now talking about possibly subsidizing their business expense in some way to remove that trash when two weeks ago we were reluctant to provide a service to the residents who live up there; I’m just saying to me that presents a consideration that’s it.”

Mayor Mucci – “Let me clarify Mrs. Hahn’s remarks she was giving a report from a meeting that she held at her house with landlords those were some of the concerns and alternatives; before City Council offers as Mr. Mavromatis indicate this service if it’s a \$100.00 whatever that will go through the proper committee, proper legislation will be brought in, and those discussions; what Mrs. Hahn gave was a report on meeting at her house and some of the input that she received, I received from concerned landlords up there. You are absolutely correct and I neglected to write down on my notes; City Council made it quite clear they would like a fall pick up and talking to Mr. Baird; I’m not going to say tomorrow or Thursday for our department head meeting but I will assure City Council by the end of the week we will be coming out with a schedule for the bulk pick up as we do every year at the fall time however we might do it a little reverse and we can explain the rationale behind it. Normally especially the spring cleanup we always left LaBelle for example last because of the Franciscan University students moving out and some of the furniture they may put out and all. We might be reversing that and doing LaBelle first and all and I know Mr. DiLoreto will be happy to hear this cause he wanted for some reason on the bottom of list but that might shake out for you but the schedule is being worked out by the superintendent but we will release it and we’ll inform all members of Council. Mr. Baird indicated to me before I came here that he was hoping to have it today or tomorrow; I know how things are going and the commitments we have so I’m thinking out department head meeting Thursday if not Friday but we will get that schedule out the pickup will be happening.”

Mr. Villamagna – “About this Efts Lane deal about paving Efts Lane. The people that live on Efts Lane they pay taxes the same that the people are paying on LaBelle; we’re not talking about; we were never talking about doing sewers and curbs and everything out there and if we did have that conversation; the city engineer we were prepared to assess all the property owners to do that work but they are entitled to have a street chipped and sealed, paved, pot holes patched, the same as anybody on LaBelle or any other neighborhood in the city and that’s what was being considered. So there’s; nobody has the right to just to have their street paved and Mr. Palombizo is 100% right; I agree with him 100% and the Mayor explained that to you we’re not in the business to subsidize private business and that will be discussed before that ever comes back up; I just want you to be aware and sure of that.”

Mayor Mucci – “I just want to point out very quickly that both (inaudible) Mrs. Delatore and Mr. Villamagna are well pointed; if for example since we mentioned it Efts Lane if we do the full blown out curbing, drainage, paving it all; property owners will have to buy in; there will be a assessments on their property; now that’s going to mean a lot of resistance obviously but that is our policy and we would proceed with that. Unapproved streets as Mrs. Delatore is referring to we have to make passable notes of what we’re addressing on Efts Lane.”

Mr. Mastros – “Just a point of clarification I guess I should bring this up now cause this has happened a couple times since I’ve been either Acting Law Director or now Law Director; Mrs. Delatore asked me for an opinion; I spoke too soon and this is for the public as well; please understand this everybody and I say this respectfully if you come up here and ask me for an opinion; if you ask me to give you an opinion I’m not going to give you one; I represent the City Council, Mayor, the City Manager, and the Department Heads so they’re my clients. If you want a legal opinion hire a lawyer; I won’t give you one; I represent them not you; if you want legal research people have asked me for legal research I’m not going to do that; hire a lawyer; I’m not your lawyer these are my clients and I say that respectfully because this is a public office but when it comes down to it these are clients of mine just like any other client; I say that with respect so if anybody ask me for a legal opinion I’m not going to give you one. Thank you.”

Mike Smith – “2700 Sunset Blvd. Smitty’s Carpet. As everybody knows I started my business on a whim while I was in college in 1998; you know moved into the old Newbrough’s building after it caught on fire; had no intentions of ever having store hours; I had that building and it smelled like a fire in there people thought my building was on fire when they came in; I ended up buying the top value building off of (inaudible) and just again I’ve ran my business just on a whim; 20 years later you know we have been blessed with an unbelievable business; the City of Steubenville; the whole Ohio Valley has supported me as I’ve supported the Ohio Valley; I’ve donated over \$100,000.00 back in the OVACs. I own more property downtown; I mean I own 100,000 square feet; I don’t know if it’s a good thing or a bad thing at this point in my life; I’m trying to remodel the Catholic Community Center which everybody in this city I think has some form of tie to it; Mr. Rich Lewinski met his wife there; there’s so much history in that Community Center. The big thing; the reason why I’m here is you know I’ve spent a \$100,000.00 in that building in the last six months; I don’t know of any other personal business owner that spent \$100,000.00 downtown other than me personally; we filled the pool in; we did jobs in Shadyside today, Moundsville, people drive very far to come to see me because of how I treat people and how I run my business and they drive by 20 carpet stores before they get to me so I’m a destination business. We’ve moved our warehouse and operation back down to the Cresky building because I own all these buildings and just made no sense; we have a warehouse up on top of the hill; yes we still have our showroom there reason being is people aren’t comfortable with coming to Steubenville and bringing me money; they’re just not comfortable with downtown so right now I think the Steubenville in downtown is a spot where people can do business whether it’s warehousing or e-business; it’s pretty hard to have a business where; downtown I feel right now; where people are going to come and shop; that is definitely something that needs to be changed. My point is; I’m a young guy and I’ve been doing business for 20 years and nobody has ever come to me once and just picked my brain or said Mr. Smith what are your thoughts? You’re buying all these buildings where do you think Steubenville is going to go? I’ve stayed out of the spotlight for whatever reason because I never wanted to ask for help and things like that but what got my attention was me spending a lot of money at the Community Center and just reading the paper that my building should be tore down; I just feel like that’s kind of going against; taking the wind out of my sails; last meeting there was this thing saying people aren’t doing things with they’re buildings we should do things; I’m doing things with my building I’m spending a lot of money and I just didn’t understand why the Council last meeting just threw out the Community Center should get torn down when they see that I am over there you know spending money and doing the right thing. In the perfect world I would love to make the Community Center an event center; I have things that I do with my time is wrestling as everybody knows and I’ve got contacts with; our facility was a US Wrestling Facility which is the (inaudible) body of the Olympics; I’ve had gold medalists in our building sent to me by USA Wrestling if the Community Center was an event center people would be flying in; it would be amazing to have that place as an event center. Just two things as a business owner I think that to bring that back downtown I think you really need to focus on the people who are here now; I hate to say not to worry about new business but I would worry about who is downtown right now; Mr. George from Yorgo’s, Tri-State printing, Malta’s Pizza I mean those people are here now; they’re vested they’ve went out on a whim; I mean I could’ve packed up and gave up on Steubenville a long time ago and I didn’t; I’m from Toronto I’m an Ohio Valley guy and I believe that Steubenville could come back but I really think that the Council and the City really need to focus on the current business owners and what you could do to help them; morale; keep up the morale and that’s all I really got to say; I’m spending a lot of money at the Brody; I’ve put \$35,000.00 roof on the brody building I mean we filled in the pool; we’re working our butts off; I’m not at wrestling practice now so I could be at this meeting and I should be volunteering at wrestling practice but I felt it was the right thing to do was to come over and let Council know that I’ve spent a lot of money downtown and I really don’t want to hear that we should tear down the Community Center. That’s all I have to say.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you for your input this evening just a couple of points; there is a group; the Steubenville Revitalization Group that you maybe want to get involved with they are always talking about activities and how to improve. The City of Steubenville through their comprehensive plan does have a strategic plan for the Central Business District downtown especially on 4<sup>th</sup> Street with a new sidewalks and all but it will take an investment with the business owner, the property owner, along with City Council participating in it but I do believe that we recognize your investment; it has always been a priority of this Council on economic development to include business retention that’s part of our community and the fabric of our community; helping and assisting if possible within the ways of means that we have are existing businesses not only in our Central Business District but throughout our community but points well taken. Thank you.”

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR