

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
October 31, 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 Villamagna, DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn, Johnson, Paul, & Timmons.

Also present; City Manager Jim Mavromatis, Law Director Costa Mastros, Police Chief Bill McCafferty, Fire Chief Carlo Capaldi, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star, & WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by Mrs. Hahn for October 24, 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 – “Yes I do have one. It’s a notice to legislative authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. A transfer of license from Zane Donald Roe 205 S. 4th St. Steubenville, OH to Dawn R. Zullo DBA Plain Janes 205 S. 4th St. Steubenville, OH. Please complete and return this form to the Division of Liquor Control whether or not there is a request for a hearing. Refer to this number in all inquiries BTRFO 9897200. Please sign below and mark the appropriate box indicating your title.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I move that (inaudible) should be filed; made part of the minutes; refer to the Ward Councilmen, Law Director, City Manager, and the Police Chief and I want to make note that there has already been one incident down there; I don’t think we need more our Police Department has enough work. Thank you.” Seconded by Mr. Johnson. Roll Call. All ayes. So moved communications accepted declared Mayor Mucci.

Mayor Mucci – “Any other petitions in communications Madame Clerk?”

Mrs. Haley – “I have nothing else your Honor.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2017-79 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Paul, Johnson, Dressel

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER OVER \$3,000.00 PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.41.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 2017-79. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-79 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-79 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci. The effective date of this ordinance will be November 29th.”

Mayor Mucci – “Before we move into the report of committees I’d like to recognize Mr. Timmons; this evening he has invited both athletes from Catholic Central High School and Big Red High School the soccer team and accomplishing the OVAC champs and I want to turn it over to Mr. Timmons.”

Mr. Timmons – “First off you can tell it’s Halloween strange things are going on because we have Big Red’s boys soccer and Central’s boys soccer in the same room and nobody is pushing or fighting everything is calm right now; coaches aren’t yelling so (inaudible). I just wanted to invite them both I’ll give a little background the OVAC Conference there are 3 divisions and every year they have a tournament in season; Central is in the 1 to 3A division; Big Red is in the 4A and then there’s a 5A division and both of these teams won their respective tournaments in their divisions so I’m pretty proud of these guys; out of 3 tournaments both are boys from Steubenville; we won 2 of the 3 tournaments that’s pretty impressive and it says a lot about soccer in our area; Coach Kopcha, Coach Bowers, talks about the program that you guys have developed; not only that these kids they do a lot in the community several of them are referees for the youth league; I did some math figuring and the GPAs are 3.7 among all of them so that’s really great too; the Breast Cancer Awareness games where there are; every school Big Red, Central, Edison, and Indian Creek boys and girls they all play on a Saturday in October and they’ve been doing it for about 5 years; they’ve raised over \$80,000 for the Teramana Cancer Center so it’s really a big event they’re doing a lot for the community and I just want to say that we’re all proud of you guys you represent Steubenville well and keep doing what you’re doing. Thank you.”

Mayor Mucci – “Gentlemen before you depart this evening on behalf of our citizens I would like to congratulate you also. Mr. Timmons will be bringing in a Resolution that will be adopted by City Council and we’ll make that presentation to you in the near future. Congratulations and good luck.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor a couple things. First under Economic Development I attended a Port Authority meeting and I talked to Evan and I also talked to Mastros the Law Director; Evan and Costa are collaborating together to find out to go through that contract with the Core of Engineers to see what we’re allowed to do down there and everything before we start the actually process of what we’re going to do there at the Marina. The second thing that came up was Evan is working on a networking program that will have all the vacant buildings that are available in the City of Steubenville for business and it’ll be listed and he’s going to have a program all set up and he’ll have that ready in about a week or 2 he said; he’s going to come to a Council meeting with us for that. That’s it for Economic Development there are 2 developers that are looking at downtown property to tear down and rebuild so that might be coming later on here; first of the year. Under Pride Committee Light Up Night; we had a very generous donor well we had several; a lot of people contacted me that I didn’t really know and they wanted to know what they could do so we’ll have again like we had last year free hotdogs, drinks, and cookies between Third and Market in the City Building except we’ll have more hotdogs this year so that will be good. The second thing well it’s actually under Safety Committee; on Starkdale Road almost Sunset Blvd. hanging over the street is a very low tree branch and cars are swerving to miss it and some aren’t swerving to miss it and its caused some damage to a couple cars with this tree branch and its hanging over the city streets I don’t know if it’s our responsibility or who’s…”

Mr. Mastros – “We have the right to cut it.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “If it’s a hazard we can go out and get it resolved.”

Mr. Villamagna – “It’s a big tree you’ll see it as soon as you go out there you’ll see it.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “It’s on Starkdale and Sunset?”

Mr. Villamagna – “Almost at Sunset there’s a vacant lot at the corner of Starkdale and Sunset.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “So (inaudible) and Starkdale.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes it’s on Starkdale.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’ll go by there tonight and I’ll call Bob.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay and the other thing under Pride Committee this tree commission we have no idea what’s going on with this tree commission. I would like the minutes forward from every months meeting they have to this Council to see what’s going on; without going into a bunch of stuff; I would just like to have the minutes from every meeting forwarded to this Council so we can see what is actually being done by this tree commission. The second thing considering trees; the downtown trees it was brought to our attention that they wanted to know about it being trimmed and we have never answered; one of the trees is completely destroyed because of a person who took it on his own to trim it; we need to give the business owners an answer to whether these trees are going to be trimmed by us or whether or not they are going to be trimmed by us or what they can do but one way or another we need to know what we’re going to do with those trees; the tree commission I want to make sure that I’m clear I want to see the minutes of every meeting that they have forwarded to this Council. Thank you.”

Mayor Mucci – “The minutes from the tree commission meeting should be able to be obtain from our M & R Superintendent Mr. Bob Baird; when City Council created the tree commission they put that commission under the M & R Department; Mr. Baird has been attending the meetings I do know for a fact that I received an e-mail from the Chairman Justin Sofio and they will be attending training this coming Tuesday and the following Tuesday that should put them in the position of receiving their credentials and as they consider that will be the end of their Sophomore Year of the tree commission however they still need to develop a master plan for the City of Steubenville and they need this knowledge to do that so although the tree commission has been established they do have duties and power; I don’t believe that they have the certification to actually function as a tree commission until they complete the academy so that still is coming; it’s a longer process then necessary. Now to maybe try to answer your question on the trees on 4th Street as you well know for a short period of time I was the acting City Manager when some of the concerns of the property owners came up the one that you’re talking about and then just this past Friday or Thursday rather we had another incident at 4th and Washington Street a truck hit one of the trees and did some substantial damage to it however that tree is stable it’s not going nowhere. I had asked our Superintendent Mr. Baird to go out for bids on or receive quotes rather on the trimming of those trees and the only reason I asked that at the time we received an e-mail from AEP Chuck Hanlin and they couldn’t do work on 4th Street both 100 block of North and South 4th Street so Mr. Baird is hopefully taking quotes from providers to cut those trees or trim those trees. I also asked him to get prices on trimming the trees all the way down to sidewalk down; now it’s going to be virtually impossible to remove the stumps of those trees but as you’re well aware through our comprehensive plan and through the 4th Street the downtown revitalization plan we have intentions of rehabbing 4th Street both 100 blocks and maybe more through that plan but we are still building up our (inaudible) with the property owner that they need to participate that will be removing the sidewalk, the trunks of the trees, the roots of the trees because quite frankly a lot of the damage is being done by the roots of the trees with the sidewalks upheaving and all so hopefully soon the City Manager will receive those quotes, do an analysis of it, and move the project forward as I announced also to this Council that the funding for this particular project will come from the Sanitation that was already authorized by this Council and the auditors that we can use it because we’ll use the tree clippings when they’re mulched up and all within our park system to put mulch around trees and all and that’s considered recyclable so that’s an allowable expenditure there.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I just want to make sure because the ultimate decision is going to rest with this Council and what we do owe to the people that have businesses on 4th Street an answer and soon; because this is the tree trimming season. My last thing is office of the prosecuting attorney we have all these properties that were

forfeited; some of these properties are on 4th Street; they're cheap; in that 400 block I'd like to know are we permitted as a City to try and obtain some of these properties for Economic Development through this process."

Mr. Mastros – "Well those are going to go for sale."

Mr. Villamagna – "Right. Do we have the right to bid?"

Mr. Mastros – "Oh yes we've bought properties before; for sure."

Mayor Mucci – "Mr. Petrossi usually attends those..."

Mr. Villamagna – "Do we have to authorize? Because some of these properties I went through I think they're valuable to us in their location on 4th Street; if we could get rid of that whole block by the Library and that's where some of these properties are; I didn't go down to look and they also said there's one on the 500 block of South 4th Street I got a hard time figuring out where that is; I know where the 400 block is; but anyway if we could go through here and come up with a determination of some of these properties."

Mr. Paul – "That goes through our Land Bank right?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Yea; to obtain them so we can have them."

Mayor Mucci – "They really wouldn't go to the Land Bank. We have an inventory list that Mr. Petrossi keeps; when we were looking at the South end where (inaudible) market was and Steubenville Bakery and all we had purchased property there; Chris has an inventory list of our properties so I think working through his department would probably be the best idea."

Mr. Villamagna – "Okay thank you."

Mr. Johnson – "Are we talking about the Jefferson County attorney (inaudible)?"

Mr. Villamagna – "Yes."

Mr. Johnson – "Those have already gone through sale. She sent us a letter saying do we want to take and hold them and Costa reached out to the County to find out what the process is; does it cost us any money? The way taking hold you know to me it applies at that we could just take them but he's going to find out and no municipality has ever asked for the property."

Mr. Villamagna – "I know this says Auditor sale though."

Mr. Mastros – "Yes it's a sale. These are going to be for sale."

Mr. Johnson – "These are going to be the ones?"

Mr. Mastros – "Correct. These are going to be for sale."

Mr. Johnson – "So the e-mail from Jane was saying you want to take and hold these?"

Mr. Mastros – "There is a process and it's not available; like I did mention; reached out to Corrine and I asked her what is the process? She didn't know because no one has ever done it; she's going to get back to me on that but to her best understanding of it and it's a loose understanding you have to meet certain (inaudible) benchmarks if you will; each municipality does; it's based on the size of your municipality, some other factors of whether you can hold them; take and hold them; the State of Ohio can do it no matter what but then it's based on other factors of the statute; she was making those sometimes it could be quicker and cheaper cause there might be some money up have to put up; she doesn't know exactly; quicker and cheaper though to do what we did in the past; go bid on them and buy them; just buy them out right; and remember there may or may not be some liens on these properties."

Mr. Paul – "It might be our liens right?"

Mr. Mastros – "Probably. There is a possibility whether if it's a utility lien or whatever it would be but as soon as Corrine gets back to me I will get back to you but I think the sale if I'm not mistaken I'll double check on this too is November 30th; I believe so."

Mr. Johnson – "If no one buys them; then it faults to the State of Ohio."

Mr. Mastros – "(All inaudible) then it goes through the sale process; keeps going through the sales process."

Mr. Johnson – "Right so we have a lot of property that belongs to the State of Ohio with their name on it."

Mr. Villamagna – "One of those properties down there is like \$400."

Mr. Johnson – "We got to get that property; we got to try to repurpose that property."

Mr. Villamagna – "Exactly."

Mr. Johnson – "And as long as it sits in the State of Ohio's name we can't really repurpose it."

Mr. Villamagna – "And they're not going too."

Mr. Johnson – "They're just there by default; they don't even show up they don't do nothing; it just faults to the State of Ohio."

Mr. Mastros – "Remember they're not even on the deed. The deed still stays in the owner's name. It's just forfeited to the State of Ohio."

Mr. Johnson – "But we got problems with that type of property and it's all throughout the city; State of Ohio is supposedly the so called fact of owner."

Mr. Villamagna – "(All inaudible) belief we have to get the property I mean we have to have property because we talked about Economic Development constantly but we have nothing to offer to anybody; the only way that we can get it is by obtaining property."

Mr. Johnson – "I agree with you."

Mr. Villamagna – "We don't have a lot of money to go buy big property but; if I'm here next year; I'm going to force these owners; I'm going to do everything in my power to force these people that have these properties that are doing nothing with them to either sell them or develop them or tear them down; one of the two because the City; Economic Development that's it; you're not going to make it holding on to these properties; it's just not going to happen; I think we need to obtain some property and that 4th Street is coming pretty nice with the Library and Holy Name Cathedral; it's cleaned up we tore some houses down; I think 4 houses in that block and if we can obtain the block and then we got shovel ready property that you can offer to somebody to develop."

Mr. DiLoreto – No report

Mr. Dressel – No report

Mrs. Hahn – No report

Mr. Johnson – No report

Mr. Paul – “I have two items. One is under Finance and it is sun shining an ordinance approval the new ACSME bargaining agreement and declaring an emergency and the second one is Council as a whole; it’s a resolution proclaiming November 2017 as Lung Cancer Awareness Month.”

Mayor Mucci – “And to notify the members of Council as I announced the ACSME contract was going to be signed tonight; it is my understanding that the union membership will be leaving tomorrow evening to ratify the new ACSME contract; I did indicate to them that originally we’re going to vote on it on the 7th; they are aware that we moved our meeting to the 9th so they’re waiting until after the 9th to sign it and send it in; in the meantime the Law Director is still talking to our attorney Mike Dispadido on the final language of the contract.”

Mr. Timmons – “I just want to sunshine a resolution for the Steubenville Big Red and Steubenville Central boys soccer teams honoring them in winning the OVAC championship this year.”

Mayor Mucci – “If you would make sure that Cathy or our Law Director receives the appropriate information for the resolution we would appreciate that.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – No report

Mr. Mastros – “Thank you your Honor. I’m going to recommend to Council that in conjunction with the sunshine of the ACSME ordinance we should sunshine a table of organization ordinance adjusting salaries pursuant to the ACSME Contract and that should be done in conjunction with it and it should be an emergency.”

Mrs. Hahn – “One question when we were talking during the budget conversations about the 9 people that are in M & R we all seemed to agree that 3 should go to Parks and Rec and 6 be in M & R; is that an adjustment that we have to make on the table of organization?”

Mr. Paul – “Those are part-time people that’s what we wanted was those 9; those are part-time summer help.”

Mr. Lewis – “I’ll put it in there for you.”

Mr. Paul – “But yea I do want to make sure we have 3 in parks remember I made sure I wanted that perfectly clear.”

Mrs. Hahn – “If we’re going to adjust the table we may as well do it all.”

Mr. Lewis – “Yea we did need to get a new table of organization that’s one of the things we can clean up and put that in there as well as all the other appropriate adjustments.”

Mr. Mastros – “So with that Mayor we’re going to need Council to at least move to sunshine the T.O. to make those adjustments pursuing to the ACSME contract and to the spilt between M & R and Parks employees.”

Mayor Mucci – “I understand that and I don’t know how in-depth on this table of organization change; as a consideration in the table of organization for some of the non-bargaining union employees too so I’m just thinking that maybe the change in the table of organization should only reflect the ACSME contract figures and then all the other adjustments that we’re talking about to come under another table of organization.”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s fine.”

Mayor Mucci – “Do you agree with that? When we make the...”

Mr. Mastros – “To do it all at the same time.”

Mayor Mucci – “So the table of organization that Mr. Paul is sun shining this evening to amend the table of organization will be the changes that will reflect in the ACSME contract that was negotiated; to reflect the adjustments we’re making with the ACSME contract.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay so we’re going to amend the table of organization okay and we’re going to put the 3 people in...”

Mayor Mucci – “No just...”

Mr. Paul – “That’s what I’m saying we need to do this now; we’re not even going to use them people until next year. Okay so you want me to make a motion to adjust the table of organization to reflect the ACSME contract. Didn’t I say that a little bit ago?”

Mayor Mucci – “No you’re bringing in to adopt the ACSME contract and now we’re changing the table of organization to reflect the hourly rate that we just negotiated; two ordinances.”

Mr. Paul – “Two ordinances okay. So now I’m bringing in; I’m sun shining an ordinance to bring in the table or organization to reflect the new ACSME contract.”

Mr. Lewis – “We should be fixing everything at once; all of the adjustments need done.”

Mr. Paul – “It’s not a final contract though right? I mean it’s not a final...”

Mr. Johnson – “When you say all adjustment what adjustments are you talking about?”

Mr. Lewis – “You should be adjusting non-union...”

Mr. Johnson – “Well then we need to have an executive session discussing the non-union part.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I need an explanation.”

Mayor Mucci – “If you want my recommendation I think Mr. Paul was accurate in announcing tonight that we’re sun shining the ACSME contract that was negotiated and they’re going to be voting on supposedly tomorrow evening for consideration that’s one ordinance. The second ordinance is amending the table of organization as it was pointed out by our Law Director that should reflect what we’re passing in the new

contract reflecting the ACSME negotiating contract and the hourly rate of those employees only; what Mr. Lewis is indicating and what Mr. Johnson is questioning is that there are other considerations in the table of organization on the non-bargaining unit individuals that are always under consideration; in the past we said with the ACSME union employees receive; some of the other employees will receive but I don't think City Council had an in-depth conversation on those so I'm suggesting that (inaudible) passing the table or the new contract with ACSME that table of organization reflect those adjustments and then we'll talk about the non-bargaining units at another time because there's a list of them as Council is well aware; you got department heads, you got secretaries; I could go on and those non-bargaining union individuals and I think Council will; correct me if I'm wrong if you're ready to do it tonight."

Mr. Johnson – "No we're not ready to do it because also to my understanding is there are some fixes in the non-union parts that people want to fix."

Mayor Mucci – "As we talked about in our executive sessions there can be other considerations."

Mr. Johnson – "There can be other considerations and we've never had that conversation so I'm not willing to vote on something that I haven't talked about."

Mayor Mucci – "And that's why I'm indicating tonight."

Mr. Johnson – "I agree with you I think we need to follow your recommendation."

Mr. Villamagna – "And that's what we did."

Mayor Mucci – "Now I know Mr. Lewis will have; as our Finance Director rightfully so; a lot of concerns because we need to have that conversation sooner than later on the non-bargaining unions. Although we're doing this; adopting the ACSME contract and we'll adjust the table of organization here in the very near future City Council will have to do some conversations on the adjustments for the non-bargaining unions."

Mr. Paul – "Okay on the 9th we're coming in here at 5:00 and we're going to discuss planning commission, engineering department, water department, water and sewage, and then we can go into the non-bargain unit how's that? Can we do that?"

Mr. Lewis – "You would go from committee to executive session."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Council; Council starts then you go into executive session and that's where it needs to be discussed so Council is fully aware."

Mr. Paul – "Do you want to do it tonight?"

Council – "No"

Mr. Lewis – "I have to prepare (all inaudible)."

Mr. Paul – "Okay I'm going to give you until the 9th so you got 10 days."

Mr. Lewis – "Okay."

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

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."

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

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR