

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
November 14, 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 Dressel, Hahn, Johnson, Paul, Timmons, Villamagna, & DiLoreto.

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 November 9, 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 this evening.”

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2017-86 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Johnson, Dressel

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING THE EXISTING TABLE OF ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO AND NOW ENACTING A TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Villamagna – “I just want to make sure that we’re clear on this ordinance; this is for a 2.2% raise for all non-union personnel in the city. In our last meeting we had some discussions about some pay adjustments for 4 or 5 people; this is not in this ordinance that for sure?”

Mayor Mucci – “To clarify that for you Mr. Villamagna I spoke with the Finance Director today; the ordinance that is before City Council is only for the non-bargaining personnel at 2.2 what the AFSCME union received; no other considerations or special considerations...”

Mr. Villamagna – “Those jobs that we had talked about the other day are 2.2% raise included for those people?”

Mayor Mucci – “That is correct in my understanding.”

Mr. Paul – “Are we talking part-time?”

Mr. Villamagna – “No.”

Mr. Paul – “Okay we’re going to discuss that at a later date.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes.”

Mayor Mucci – “It is my understanding Mr. Paul is absolutely correct; that discussion that was held in executive session on some other considerations for some personnel in the City will warrant another meeting and then also the other concern that you brought up for part-time employees will be discussed. This ordinance only reflects the 2.2 for the non-bargaining unit members such as Department Heads.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Thank you for that clarification.”

Mayor Mucci – “Do you have anything to add or correct me Mr. Lewis?”

Mr. Lewis – “No you’re absolutely correct it’s just the 2.2 increase for non-bargaining (inaudible) adjustment.”

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2017-86. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-86 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-86 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

NO. 2017-87 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 909 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dressel – “I make a motion that we table Ordinance No. 2017-87 for further discussion with the Law Director rewriting what it is we’re doing.” Second by Mr. Johnson. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

NO. 2017-88 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE – 1st reading

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING CITIZENS TO REGISTER WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL PRIOR TO SPEAKING DURING THE “PUBLIC FORUM” PORTION OF THE AGENDA.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-88. The second reading will be on November 21st. The third and final reading will be on November 28th. If adopted by city council it’ll be the effective date of December 28th.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Dressel – No report

Mrs. Hahn – No report

Mr. Johnson – “Yes your Honor. I would like to sunshine several pieces of legislation. Sunshine an ordinance amending 1197.02 and 1197.08; sunshine an ordinance amending Chapter 1323.01; and sunshine an ordinance prohibiting the payment of educational bonus or any additional compensation based on educational level to any non-union personnel unless specifically provided for in the table of organization.”

Mr. Paul – “Yes your Honor I have one item. It’s a resolution; Council as a whole; it’s a resolution of commendation to the Women of Distinction. The annual YWCA 2017 Women of Distinction awards dinner will take place on November 30th at the Hellenic Hall and they will be recognizing 6 outstanding women in the Jefferson County area; Francesca Carinci, Angelita Forte’, Esther McCoy, Michelle Miller, Vanessa Palmer, and Melinda Young. I think they’re all deserving women of distinction. Also do you want to try and discuss; we can do a Finance Committee meeting next week and discuss the other table of organization we were discussing on Tuesday. Do you want to get that over with and that way we can get it on the agenda.”

Mayor Mucci – “Let me just remind Mr. Paul that we have the Light Up night.”

Mr. Paul – “Well I guess we won’t do that.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Is it illegal to have a committee meeting after the Council meeting?”

Mayor Mucci – “No you could call it you could call on a different day or time.”

Mrs. Hahn – “Would that be too late?”

Mr. Paul – “How about on the 28th? We’ll get this ironed out then is that okay?”

Mr. Lewis – “Yeah.”

Mr. Paul – “And then also what we could do we could also have the finances for October; we’ll discuss that; how’s that?”

Mr. Lewis – “We can do that.”

Mr. Paul – “We can discuss finances for October and we’ll also discuss the other issues we talked about last week; we’ll do 6:00 on the 28th and I’ll call for a Finance Committee meeting. Thank you.”

Mr. Timmons – No report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes Mayor. Just a couple questions I just under Safety. The property on 6th Street behind Club 106 the obstructions are still there; it’s our property we paid money to have it surveyed.”

Mr. Mastros – “The charges have been filed on the violator in municipal court; he’s dealing with that; we coordinated that together...”

Mr. Villamagna – “Is it moving forward; the charges?”

Mr. Mastros – “Yes sir.”

Mr. Villamagna – “The second thing pertaining to the same thing there was a court case involving the property in front of it and all property was ordered to be auction off am I right or wrong?”

Mr. Mastros – “Not all property; property determined to be contraband as identified by the Judge was ordered to be auctioned off (inaudible) statue now I’d file a motion (all inaudible). We had a pre-trial hearing; I have to get together with his council and go through what is left there and the judge is to make an order as to what she’s going to auction off; cause I understand it though in terms of she gave us some guidelines (inaudible) with what she believes facilitated the nuisance so bottles of booze, glasses and things like that she doesn’t want to hear video equipment and stuff like that so what I gather though and I can go back a little bit later (all inaudible) there’s not too much in there; the judge actually went inside there she had told me so I’ll get back to you but it has happened.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay thank you very much Costa.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I just want to thank Mr. Mavromatis and Costa also and Mr. Repella; it’s been 3-4 years since that social club has been closed up; it’s been a long battle (inaudible); a big help to the Police Department and the courts so I want to thank everybody cause it was on my mind; very happy and I’m keeping my eyes on the other one; potential ones in south end (inaudible).”

Mr. DiLoreto – No report

Mayor Mucci – “I would like to take a moment I have some fliers there and it was already mentioned that next Tuesday evening will be Light Up Night in downtown Steubenville; I know there’s a lot of great activities planned; Mr. Villamagna the (inaudible) committee is planning the hot dog and refreshments out front of the City Building to be distributed and of course we look forward to the evening activities at the Nutcracker Village and of course then we’ll have to move into the Council meeting; but there is a lot of great activities the blessing of the tree will happen at 5:30; at 5:35 my favorite Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause will arrive then we’ll have some entertainment by Brenda Casey and then of course we’ll have some rides I believe that evening; hay rides if I’m not mistaken Mr. Mosti will be one of the drivers of the vehicle; he does a great job; the actually lighting of the tree will take place at 6:30 that evening so a lot of you that attend our Council Meeting please come down earlier that evening and enjoy in the festivities. I also want to inform Council I did and I hope everyone is okay with this; I spoke with our Urban Projects Director Mr. Petrossi updating a submission for the Capital Bill as you all know the State of Ohio being every 2 years adopts a budget there’s some capital expenditures in there; I had asked for the project of the continuation of the water line on LaBelle Street which is the Marina area; you know we got the new line up with the new construction down and all so far we’re about an area of where Howard Bowers building is right before the Marina but from that point all the way up to and past the Marina on

our property is only a fence post as it was in Buena Vista Blvd. servicing that area continue to have breaks and all but we've been talking about possibly improving it for recreational facility; I do want to point out that the Capital Bill only allows you to submit projects that deals with arts and entertainment or recreational facilities and all so we're submitting this request through a representative Jack Sierra office as a park improvement project and extending that line. I also had a very quick conversation with our State Representative was well excited about that project because of the potential that the Marina has he's aware of us trying to develop that area for recreational possibilities; the technical assistance that we receive will go a long way also in promoting that project; obviously it's going to be up to the legislators and the governor but yesterday him and I had a conversation also about maybe submitting another project; you understand that capital bill; particular areas they received one project we're fortunate; if other areas receive 2 or 3 because of their influence but we're hoping I do know that the capital bill has assisted the Grand Theatre not to the full amount that you requested but for partial; I believe the last one was for \$75,000 you receive."

Mr. Dressel – "We're still working on actually trying to get that; it's complicated."

Mayor Mucci – "Okay well yes there's a lot of (inaudible) but in talking with our State Representative he's all good about the project so Mr. Petrossi did submit to him the updated estimates that we have for that particular project so hopefully that will be submitted by our State Representative. Yesterday I had a conversation with him and I talked about our Civic Plaza to him and possibly now understand smaller amounts are always good; that's a large ticket item; the water line is projected to be about \$200,000 and he didn't think we would get all that from; but I had a conversation with him and thinking in submitting at least something to get that moving forward but we'll wait until the designs are done and then work on it as you said and just a follow up because we moved along with that subject; the green area that we have there is an excellent area to improve as the City Manager pointed out and I pointed out to him; the flag pole and Mr. Villamagna you would remember this; was the one that was in the parking lot before we built the new City Building; it was only a couple of years old it's electronic and all; it's supposed to be in storage at the M & R Department that will be a great start and a welcoming sign coming off of the bridge at that corner there of 3rd and Market to make that attractive too. I just wanted to report that we're submitting a project for the capital bill."

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Our group of officers for the last 3 weeks have been working all over the City but primarily in LaBelle, Pleasant Heights, and Downtown areas. They've made over 75 traffic stops, 47 citations, 33 warnings, 8 misdemeanor citations, 62 searches, 34 seizures, and 27 arrests and out of the 27 arrests 9 of them have been felony arrests so I will also tell you this a lot of it has been because of the input of the citizens from these areas; just identifying the areas where there's been some buildup of traffic going on they've been able to focus our resources there; so it does pay to call and give the information there; it may not seem like a lot but it gives our officers a chance to start somewhere especially in these specific areas. The gentleman that came up to speak about the parking I would like for you to call me; we do have a policy in regards permit parking and (inaudible) when you were there part of the real problem up there is you have homes that are being rented; rooms are being rented to students and there's 4 cars right there and I've seen that personally but this is a bigger magnitude and everything you've identified you are accurate so this could be a starting point here and I can help you out here just let me know what you need to do."

Mr. Timmons – "Jim what was the time frame on the arrests? Did you say 3 weeks?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "This was a stats information from the last 3 weeks; each week there were arrests; 7, 11, and 9."

Mr. Mastros – No report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mrs. Hahn – "Yes I just wanted to mention the Faith in the Future breakfast a lot of us have gone to this; it's one time a year; it's at Froehlich's Classic Corner just an \$8.00 donation at the door and we would just love to have you there. Rich Donnelly is going to be the speaker and it's just an annual breakfast where we just try to gather from all over the city for about an hour and a half so I don't think it goes any longer than that."

Mr. Johnson – "Friday?"

Mrs. Hahn – "It's this coming Friday morning and it's at Froehlich's and you can RSVP to Tracy Mcmann; you know what if you look up on the Facebook page Faith in the Future you'll get all the information."

Mayor Mucci – "Thank you Mrs. Hahn and now that you're mentioning about Faith in the Future if you could extend my apologies I need to be at the EODA but thank you."

Mr. Villamagna – "Yes Mayor. Light Up Night it's going to be a great evening I hope the new Mayor maybe we might be able to convince him to move it from the Council night so we can enjoy it a little bit more; if we can't go you can't go; anyways it's going to be a beautiful night we're going to give away free hot dogs, cookies, and stuff for the children right here in front of the Police Station and we're going to have face paintings for the little ones too to make them look like little nutcrackers over there; that'll be pretty nice; it was really heartwarming last year to see the people that came because a lot of less fortunate people came that was really excited about being there so that was a good thing."

Mayor Mucci – “Mr. Villamagna if I could just follow up since we’re talking about the holidays and of course none of us want to lose sight of why we’re celebrating Christmas but if you noticed in Downtown Steubenville in our community we’re getting ready for some really great times to celebrate the holidays; today we finished putting up the decorations on the lights; bells and all in the central business district of downtown at the intersection of John Scott and Sunset Blvd. and Lovers Lane and Sunset Blvd. and as we’re preparing I do want to take this moment to recognize the planters that I usually take care of on Markey and 3rd Street once again I worked my magic and put poinsettias in there and yes they were fake poinsettias again but I called upon our poinsettia doctor Toni Dear who spent the afternoon helping dress them up they look fantastic so thank you Toni for your help and participation and if we owe you anything send the bill to Bob.”

Mr. Villamagna – “The next thing is this tree commission thing and I know we’re going to talk about it later but I want to make sure that we’re on the same page with a couple things. The City has the right to tell somebody to cut the tree down or not cut the tree down because there’s some misunderstanding of who has the authority to tell people to cut the tree down on City property; that tree belongs to the City; we determine whether it needs to be cut down or not; if it’s on private property obviously we have nothing to do about it; would my statement be correct is what I’m saying Costa.”

Mr. Mastros – “That’s on City right of way.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Right.”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct”

Mr. Villamagna – “I just want to be clear and the second thing with the tree commission we’re willing to give them a second chance but there’s some rules that have to be followed. It’s a government meeting it has to be an open meeting; it should not be held at a private individuals place; it should be held at MLK center, these chambers here, it should not be held where they were being held and you have to notify the media that you are having a meeting because it’s a government function correct? Do we have anything on the trees on 4th Street because they put the request in; they’ve asked; we have to make a determination of that pretty soon; I mean plus they’ve been there a long time and I know if it’s an inconvenience but we will make a decision; (inaudible) if they won’t we will. Do we have anything?”

Mayor Mucci – “First of all you’re absolutely correct Mr. Villamagna as I continue to say; on City Property or City right of way has the right to determine in the absence of the qualified tree commission; I firmly believe that the tree commission needs to go through the academy and also needs to develop a master plan for the City and submit it to this Council for their approval; if the absence of those steps being taken the City Manager, the City has the right to determine on any tree removal, destruction, whatever on (inaudible) on City right of way or property; so that’s my opinion; I could be wrong; our Law Director could agree or disagree; I do know that City Council did adopt a tree commission and going through the process of being certified by the State at the present time so in that absence the responsibility falls with the City.”

Mr. Mastros – “As I might and (all inaudible) this point and I apologize I don’t know if I included you in this e-mail I should’ve and I’ll forward it to you. The question came up on whether our City Manager has a right to take down a tree or prune a tree on City Property; there’s nothing in the ordinance that says so there’s one person the street department head and the tree commission that’s it. That’s a cursory review that I know that’s the questions Mr. Dressel wanted me to answer that I did do a cursory review and I’ll do a little more extensive review of the ordinances but I don’t see it right now.”

Mr. Villamagna – “But it does state in there Costa that it has to go before Council to make a final decision.”

Mr. Mastros – “I think that’s a process there’s a process that it has to go through.”

Mr. Villamagna – “To be clear because whatever the ordinance says; they’ve cut one tree down up there I’ll disband that tree commission the next morning so I just want to make it clear.”

Mr. Mastros – “Sure and that’s fine and that’s what I was asked to do.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Those trees belong to the City they don’t belong to anybody that’s up there on 4th Street so I mean...”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct.”

Mr. Villamagna – “And Bob Baird that’s okay but; I mean just so we have; I want a City contact here not the tree commission because the Planning Commission when they go before the Planning Commission for these NCD they come to Council and they get it located through Council; if we vote on it no then it is not a district and it should be no difference with the tree and we’ll have to adjust this; we’re going to have to adjust this ordinance because it’s going to be the right way. How many people are here from the tree commission?”

Mayor Mucci – “There’s 2 members in the audience.”

Mr. Villamagna – “There’s 5 members to that tree commission 3 of them are not here and the reason why I talked as harsh as I did because we pay for training that no one attended except one person okay am I correct on that also?”

Mayor Mucci – “I don’t believe we pay for that training.”

Mr. Dressel – “We didn’t.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “We pay for the materials.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay so we pay for the materials and we also had to cancel the second one and I don’t know if we paid for the materials ahead of that; okay so we had to cancel it but there’s only 2 people here there’s supposed to be 5 on that commission so that leaves me to believe that; they got to show some interests because I was willing to vote to table it tonight but I mean we’re going to have a tree commission or we’re not going to have a tree commission one or the other and that’s it; but I would be correct in saying that if the permission to cut a tree down would go through Bob Baird or the superintendent the street superintendent right now because we in fact don’t have a tree commission because they haven’t been trained.”

Mr. Dressel – “That’s not what the ordinance says.”

Mr. Mastros – “No I don’t have it in front of me. The street department superintendent has the right to remove shrubs, trees, take out stumps in the city right of way he has that authority.”

Mr. Villamagna – “No one else has that authority correct?”

Mr. Mastros – “Correct but there is the tree commission that also has the right to make; and I have to make sure I get it right before I speak but they have the right to cut trees, prune trees, I don’t know if it has to be signed on by Council I’ve got to look at that.”

Mr. Villamagna – “But they do not become a tree commission until...”

Mr. Mastros – “Oh yeah they have to get certified and all that stuff that’s just presuming everything else is followed.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Okay and we’re going to have further discussion on this because some of this has to be changed; we all got to be on the same page because clearly there’s 3 or 4 different ideas on how this works and my idea of how this is going to work; cause not some other people so...”

Mr. Dressel – “Actually I agree with Bob so we’ll start there. I just want to make sure that everything is clear for this because the ordinance specifically states that the city has a responsibility to maintain the trees in a right of way as well; okay I’ve read it all you’ve sent it to me and I read it; but they aren’t doing that either so if we’re going to do it right; we’re going to do it right. All the trees on North 4th Street that were put in during this tree state project belong to the City of Steubenville they’re on City property because the City owns all that property to the inside of the sidewalk; they never finished it I sent that today to a couple of you; those trees are supposed to be trimmed above the lights in fact the ordinance specifically states they have to be trimmed so many feet from all the light fixtures which has never been done in the 17 years that those trees have been up there I’ve watched them grow from tiny little trees to great big trees; never touched; the only time they’ve ever been touched and I’m not blaming Jim because he just got here; this is the problem of every single manager before this since we did the project so they need to be trimmed if we’re going to do it then lets trim the trees because the original ordinance before the tree commission was passed specifically states that trees in the right of way need to be maintain by the City as well as all the sidewalks by the way and the roads and the curbs which isn’t done either so we need to do that. Now the downtown trees need to be trimmed as well required by the code that the city do this; the city didn’t do it; 4 years ago roughly it was the SRG actually raised the money through private funds to trim the trees cause the city refused to do it; okay now AEP is threatening to turn all the lights off on 4th Street because the trees are in the lines; they’re secondary lines not primary lines so they won’t trim them but we were supposed to get back to them; they actually called me as well wanting to know why they can’t get an answer; I know we’re working on a bid but getting a bid on trees isn’t that complicated so we just need to trim them though so they stay out of the power lines cause they’re also about to put all the street lights in; they aren’t going to do that until the trees are trimmed so they bumped their entire project to next year; they want to shut the lights off; they did shut them off on the South part from Market to South for about a week and a half until someone talked them into turning them back on for an event that was going to happen down there so they are currently on but this goes for the entire city not just downtown; all the trees in the right of way; all of them are the responsibility of this City to maintain. Now it also says in the new ordinance; not in the old one but in the new one that the City doesn’t have the funding they can hold property person; adjacent property person responsible; interesting in my opinion how they weaseled that into the new structure there; I don’t know if we’re going to be responsible or we aren’t and it also says all dead trees should be removed as well by the City which never gets done we discussed a while back and there’s several on Pleasant Heights and LaBelle that have been dead for years within inches of the sidewalk and never been taken out; so if we’re going to do it can we at least do it and not just agreeing with Bob because I think he’s absolutely right; if we’re going to do this let’s do it right and do it under the law; which we all have now because Costa sent it out to everybody and the tree commission ordinance probably needs some tweaking because if we take all of the authority away from the City Manager and we have a commission that meets once a month we can’t wait this long to take a tree down so someone has to have authority to act in the meantime and it doesn’t give him authority today at all he’s not even in it and Bob Baird under the old law he would have the rule but right now it’s gray and fuzzy he has that rule and I don’t think the new tree ordinance actually states specifically that they have to be certified before it becomes effective. I think we can work all that out in the next week hopefully because right now we have AEP waiting for us to trim trees to keep lights on and I just don’t think they have to wait.”

Mr. Villamagna – “I don’t know how long it takes to get a bid but again I’m glad nobody was planning Normandy seriously. Everything takes forever to get an answer back now who is, why, how’s come, I don’t have a clue but we’ve asked about this; I don’t even know how long it’s been a long time; do we have a bid or we don’t have a bid; Jim do we have one or we don’t?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I don’t know if it’s come back yet; I know Blue was one of the one’s contacted and one other one.”

Mr. Villamagna – “Maybe Bob should look into this since he’s the superintendent.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’ll ask him tomorrow morning.”

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.”

Justin Sofio – “385 Rosemont Ave. I wanted to thank Scott Dressel for replying back to me e-mail I sent it out to the members of Council. I think I spoke with most of you a little bit about the tree commission itself so that’s why I wanted to direct my words at and I did want to say starting off that we’re all volunteers and I think that you know when I spoke with the Mayor originally I thought a master tree plan sounded like a good idea; I’m going to go through with it; I didn’t ask to be chairman that was something that I was volunteered for; okay I agreed to accept that position and anytime that you are working with volunteers I think you Council are aware how hard it is to get citizens to volunteer for anything in the City and the fact that there’s only 2 of us here does not speak to the importance of the tree commission it speaks to the fact that you know as chairman I let them know I’m going to come down to Council tonight and I’ll report back to them so; I definitely saw it as more as my responsibility. We do have Janet Mann with us who is another tree commission member she has actually attended freshmen year tree academy training in Cambridge; she’s the only one so there’s 4 of us who have not; I had a resignation the day before the tree academy from Laura Sirilla so that means currently we were originally 5 now we’re down to 4 with one member Janet who does have tree academy training for freshmen year. One of the things in that tree academy training that she learned and shared with the rest of us at our meeting was most tree commissions in cities have a member of Council or City Representative on the commission; in my e-mail I mentioned that I thought that was a good idea some tree commissions of the City has the entire members of Council; the commission itself are only made up of Council members so I would like to invite Bob Baird to join the tree commission since we do have an opening or another member of Council as the Mayor sees fit approved by the Council I think it would be a really good idea moving forward; that’s something that was specifically spoken about during freshmen year at the tree academy you really want to have a City personnel involved with the commission process. As far as our meeting places go we began meeting down at Froehlich’s and that was something that we kind of inherited I know you actually met with us down at Froehlich’s but I wasn’t aware that that was a bad place to meet I thought the Mayor being there yourself; the Mayor kind of affirm our decision to meet at Froehlich’s and then we had one meeting in light of in spirit of you know working with a downtown businesses and seeing to their need we had one meeting at Bookmarks so those are the only 2 places that we have held meetings and as far as my knowledge I thought that was okay but if it’s not okay then yourself or the Mayor you know can give me another place to meet we’re happy to do that. That being said you know the decision does lie with Council; I’m a volunteer I would like to see the benefit of the City for the long term plan as I had mention this is a long term idea the way that Dom has explained it to me when I had spoken with the regional forester this is; you know the master tree plan is just that; it’s a master tree plan for the City; it takes time to implement it’s not something that even after we get the master street plan you’re still going to need the authority that’s Scott is talking about; that Bob is talking about for those decisions that need to be made cause the master tree plan itself to my understanding is going to take some time to implement so just because you have that doesn’t mean that you don’t need a City Manager or Bob Baird making the decisions; I’m sure you’re going to need that especially after a storm or like on 4th Street a box truck took out the tree; you don’t need a commission to tell you the tree needs to go you just need somebody to look at it so I fully support whatever the decision Council wants to make; I’m up here as a volunteering citizen of Steubenville saying that you know I want to serve and whatever is the best passing for the City and I do want to invite a member of Council to join the commission if Council decides that this is the best path forward; that as a citizen of Steubenville I do believe it is the best going forward; I think we should have a master tree plan and I know Mayor Domenick Mucci have spoken about this at a length that I agree I think in 5 years we might be saying I wish I had a master tree plan and in 10 years we might be saying let’s start a master tree plan so let’s start it now; it might take some time but I’m okay with that. I think right now the nicest tree we have is at Fort Steuben and it’s got a star on top and I’m really proud of that tree and I’m really hoping that AEP doesn’t come down and try to take it off we’ll see what happens but I do also want to say that as far as the commission members go to and it has been difficult when you’re working with volunteers none of us are getting paid to do this and I actually paid \$105.00 to the Regional Forester for that meeting that was cancelled and I haven’t gotten reimbursed for it cause I’m not even sure if the meeting is going to happen now we’ll see but you know are far as the City’s cut I imagine it was for the binders those were the materials that were there that are probably \$10.00 each and I’m out a \$105.00 and I want to make you aware of that because that’s the truth and that’s what happened and that was my pocket book that got hit a lot harder than the City and I do hope we can move forward with that; I’m sure if we don’t you know I would talked to them about getting some kind of a refund but I am very optimistic about the future of our City and I think we got a week of festivities ahead of us that we’re celebrating a tree; the most important tree the Christmas tree so I think it would be a good time to stay positive about trees in the City. Thank you very much.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you Justin I do want to follow up with a couple of remarks. I think Mr. Villamagna’s point was the place should be accessed to the public but more importantly the notification; I think Justin that you could agree every meeting I make sure was the media notified, do we notify Dave Gossett and all so we sent out the proper notices for it; 8:00 was never an ideal time for the commission to meet we would all agree but to be honest with the members of Council we were trying to develop and get the tree commission on the right path through the academy and exploring how and that was a convenient time for one of our members it turned out that the member we were accommodating obviously resigned.”

Justin Sofio – “Correct”

Mayor Mucci – “ I will need a copy of that letter of resignation I don’t know where she submitted it but I am the appointed authority in order for me to inform this Council I need that notice so if that could be forward to my

office I would appreciate that. I would also call on the administration that a lot of this falls under the M & R division we consider the trees; part of it to be recyclable materials and all but I really think the tree commission needs a budget; a small budget just as he's talking about the binders and all should not come out of commission's pocket book if it's for the legitimate expenditure for the tree commission we should have a small budget through the sanitation department for that operation of the tree commission cause that's not going to be the only expense that they're going to have; there'll be small expenses but there will be a expense and obviously the tree commission is really established to and I explained to the whole commission the importance of a tree commission and the future of a tree commission and the vision of a tree commission but ultimately once this is all developed with the master plan and everything you will be the oversight to make sure that the master plan and the development is happening within the city, city property, city right of way, city parks and all; your duties will be less and less each year and your monthly meeting will become a lot easier right now it's hard and it's a struggle for everybody cause we're developing it; there's no clear cut decision in fact tonight I and the Law Director have a little bit of a different take on the tree commission and in the absence of them being certified who's going to be responsible if it's a manager or the superintendent of M & R Mr. Bob Baird and quite frankly that still points to the City so we're going to be. What Mr. Dressel is indicating is the larger picture in the community financially I'm going to be honest with you the City of Steubenville will not afford to have a tree commission or the duties as outlined that means in every neighborhood on every street if it's our right of way and we are declaring the property owners responsible up to the curb; they cut that grassy area even if it's a (all inaudible) the City would be responsible quite frankly that would be an undertaking for the City that's unbelievable. I think that you would agree with that Scott."

Mr. Dressel – "I agree."

Mayor Mucci – "So there's a lot more discussion that have to happen on it; that particular subject; I really don't blame Council for tabling the ordinance this evening but this is another subject that's going to need to be addressed in the very near future or the ordinance has to be repealed."

Mr. Timmons – "I just wanted to say I mean; yeah we better make a decision cause they need to know if they need to continue with the education or not so my thought is you know I trust in the chairman; I'd be willing to give you guys a second chance to do that; I think it should continue."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Justin the \$105.00 you spent was for the training?"

Justin Sofio – "Correct"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Did the other 4 members spend or I should say 3 members because one of the ladies was already trained in the freshmen training correct?"

Mayor Mucci – "She's here and she didn't get reimbursed either."

Justin Sofio – "Correct"

Mayor Mucci – "Oh did you. She did get reimbursed."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Did the other 3 already pay?"

Justin Sofio – "I covered their cost there's one member that told me she didn't have the funds I said hey I'll go head and cover the cost then I just let the other ones know it's just easier if I just cover everybody's cost."

Mr. Mavromatis – "And that's what you did?"

Justin Sofio – "That's what I did correct."

Mr. Mavromatis – "We have a total now of \$420.00 that's been..."

Justin Sofio – "No it's actually \$35.00 per person so it's a \$105.00 total."

Mr. Mavromatis – "Oh alright thank you."

Justin Sofio – "You're welcome."

John Mascio – "567 Braybarton Blvd. Something I've talked about for the last 2 or 3 years is the trash pickup in the City. Now to my understanding that the City spends extra thousands of dollars a year on the spring and fall trash pickup that is going to be finished up this weekend. I know that the trash can be picked up 4 days a week because it's done every time there's a holiday so you have 4 days that you been doing trash pickup if you would just change that to year round; that leaves you the 5th day to use for your spring/fall pickup with no extra money being spent; so we are actually wasting money every year 10s of thousands and for the life of me I have never gotten an answer why we have not gone to a 4 day pickup to save the money. Is anybody going to answer why we aren't doing that?"

Mayor Mucci – "Mr. Mascio that subject came up under the committee meeting earlier this evening; I think Mr. Villamagna and Mr. Johnson brought it up."

Mr. Johnson – "In the planning committee we brought that up; I agree with you there's roughly 13 holidays; 25% of the year we're on a 4 day week; we've been talking about a 4 day collection period for 6 years since Willie has been here even before that and my opinion is it's not getting done because the will power to get it done is not there; they won't do it for whatever reason because if you wanted to do it you could do it."

John Mascio – "(inaudible) and it's done."

Mr. Johnson – "Well I agree with you it should be done but it's not done and believe me I said it's a lack of will power why it's not done."

John Mascio – "Really I think we're all entitled to know why it's not being done. Jim do you got an answer to that?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "Well the first thing I would ask you if you were concerned with this then why didn't you come and see me and I would've brought Mr. Baird in we would've sat down and walk through this? Because you already called him and asked for information at least that's what I've been explained. My next question would be did he give you the information?"

John Mascio – “He was going to e-mail me some information and he did not e-mail yet but he did agree with me it could be done in a 4 day week pickup; we’re spending 10s of thousands of dollars in overtime for them to do it on a Saturday and he’s actually been kind of deterred from putting it into a 4 day a week schedule. You’re the man in charge you could direct it; you could order it and it could be done next week with no problem and we’re spending all this money unnecessarily which also gets back is to why we aren’t using the new garbage compactors but that’s another story all together; since 2-3 months ago he said they would be on the street in 2 weeks but that’s beside the point. Why they aren’t being used nobody seems to know and nobody gives an answer but we’re wasting a lot of money I know in this overtime and in my opinion it’s inexcusable because the people of the City are suffering because that’s money that is being spent that could be used for other things; we talked about tree trimming wasn’t too long ago somebody said that we don’t have the money to trim the trees; time out; if you can give raises you can trim the trees bottom line; you got it for one thing you got to have it for another thing; those (inaudible) trees are a nuisance; the City by statue has the obligation to obey nuisances; go up to north end some of the places up on 4th Street on north end; those trees are scrapping the roofs of cars if you pull up along the curve; they’re in the City right of way but we do nothing but back to what I said about trash pickup there’s no reason why it hasn’t been done and like Mike says years we’ve been talking about it and nobody changes; nobody; and I think the people of Steubenville deserve more than what they are getting. Thank you.”

Mayor Mucci – “Mr. Paul before you adjourn I’ve neglected to announce also we will once again hold a residential lighting contest for our City residents; the judging will happen on December 13th and 14th and we have some special guests going around doing the judging this year.”

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