

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
April 11, 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 Timmons, Villamagna, DiLoreto, Dressel, Hahn and Johnson.

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

Also present; City Manager James Mavromatis, Assistant Law Director Costa Mastros, Engineer Mike Dolak, M&R Director Bob Baird, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star and WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hahn moved that the minutes of April 4, 2017 be accepted as written. Second by Mr. Johnson. Roll call. All ayes. So moved minutes accepted declared Mayor Mucci.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

NO. 2017-27 – BY THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF WELLS STREET.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-27. The second reading will be on April 18th. The third and final reading will be on April 25th.”

NO. 2017-28 – BY THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF THIRD STREET.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-28. The second reading will be on April 18th. The third and final reading will be on April 25th.”

NO. 2017-29 – BY THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF BATES STREET.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-29. The second reading will be on April 18th. The third and final reading will be on April 25th.”

NO. 2017-30 – BY THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF AN UNNAMED ALLEY.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-30. The second reading will be on April 18th. The third and final reading will be on April 25th.”

NO. 2017-31 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 1st reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1175 OF THE ZONING CODE CREATING THE BROCKTON ROAD, EAST CARLTON ROAD AND PRESTON ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the first reading of Ordinance No. 2017-31. The second reading will be on April 18th. The third and final reading will be on June 6th; however, there will be a public hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission on June 5th.”

NO. 2017-32 AS AMENDED – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY (ODSA)/GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA (GOA) FOR THE UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROJECT AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Johnson moved that Resolution No. 2017-32 be amended to add and declaring an emergency due to the time sensitivity of the application to ODSA/GOA. Second by Mr. Dressel. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

The Clerk read Resolution No. 2017-32 as amended.

Mayor Mucci – “If there is anyone wishing to speak on Resolution No. 2017-32 as amended please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Villamagna called question. Roll call. All ayes. Resolution No. 2017-32 as amended duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – no report

Mr. Villamagna – “Yes, Mayor; from the committee meeting this was brought up and some of these people weren’t here, they came in later; the pool is starting to shape up; the trees are being cut down; they’re in the process of finishing up that job; the cement sidewalk has been replaced and there are just a little bit of finishing touches; they have to put a cut in the cement and stuff; the slide will be down by next week; so everything is going along and it looks pretty decent up there right now just with the trees gone it makes it look 100% better; that’s all I have to say.”

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you, Mr. Villamagna; and as you’re talking about the pool I would like to remind everyone that tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Recreation Board meeting here at Council Chambers and the pool is part of their agenda and conversation.”

Mr. DiLoreto – “I want to thank you again, Franciscan University friends; the theology class and Dr. Haney cleaned up Beatty Park again; two times a year they clean it out and every year they get the same old stuff; old tires, TVs and garbage. They’ve been coming down for the last five years, volunteers; not one cent; and they are a tremendous part of the community and they don’t even use the park; thank you.”

Mr. Dressel – no report

Mrs. Hahn – “The only thing I wanted to tag team with Bob on and a few more people came in so I’m going to go ahead and circulate this one more time; we’re looking for people who are willing to volunteer to help us prepare for painting or to do weeding and planting or do cleaning and once we get an idea; I think the Mayor is going to meet with Bob and sort of itemize the list from most important to least important; we know some things we may not be able to get to until next summer but this summer we’re going to be able to have the pool up and running and it really would be very helpful; this is in preparation for the opening of the pool; this isn’t really volunteering at the pool; at this point this is just preparation. So if you’d be willing to sign up we’ll get back to you; just the best way for us to get in touch with you and if you’re able to make the meeting tomorrow night that would be great.”

Mr. Johnson – no report

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mayor Mucci – “I just want to start off by saying last week was an extremely busy week for the community and the Mayor’s office; first of all I attended a luncheon on Wednesday for Child Abuse Prevention Month; and let me say that I had an opportunity to present the Resolution that was adopted by City Council and the staff at Children Services and the director wanted me to thank the members of Council for adopting the Resolution proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Also on Thursday I attended the United Way dinner for Jefferson County; as you’re well aware through my office we do the campaign; we encourage our employees for payroll deduction; this year they honored the top ten workplaces for their campaigns and the money that was generated and I’m happy to announce that the City of Steubenville was awarded the top ten workplace campaign so I want to commend our City employees for participating; we raised over \$5000 through payroll deduction for the United Way so I wanted to thank the employees. The plaque will go up in the City Building and proudly displayed for their work. Also on Friday we had a visitor from Germany who was doing some research; I’m not quite sure but I believe his title was similar to what we consider our U.S. Senators; but the gentleman was here with some of the media people doing a story on the Ohio Valley and the steel industry, the coal industry, the pottery industry and I had an opportunity to talk about the City of Steubenville and the industry; the manufacturing base. Once again I was able to relay to the individual about the summer manufacturing camp that the City of Steubenville participated in that was organized through my office where we had students from 14 and 15 years old in the third week of July last year; an opportunity for them to visit five different manufacturing plants in Jefferson County. Although we encourage everyone to get a higher education, to go to college; quite frankly not everyone is cut out for college and there is a large influx now of trades. So we’re trying to get the youth interested. He really liked the concept and the idea and we are planning another one and hopefully that camp will be happening the third week in July again but that wouldn’t have been possible without the cooperation of Eastern Gateway Community College; the Community Action Council; Jefferson Educational Services; there is a whole host of people and of course the manufacturing volunteers we get. But we’ll have room for 25 students between the ages of 14 and 15 and the information will be supplied by each of the school districts probably the first week in May so they can sign up before they go on to their summer breaks.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Thank you, Mayor; for several months we’ve been talking about this and have numerous discussions with Mr. Baird; what has finally come to fruition is these new garbage containers that will be issued to every resident in the City that pays for refuse service. This is your can; it will be assigned to your property by this serial number here that identifies to us who it was issued to and where it belongs. It’s very easy; it holds 96 gallons. Now, there are clearly families that this is not going to accommodate based on the size of the family and the amount of refuse that they have. You can purchase an additional can for approximately \$55 once we find out exactly what it will cost us to add another one. When I say these are your cans; they’re registered to you and your property; there is a reason for that; these have wheels on them and they may disappear or walk

away; so we can track them. Our handlers will be able to identify by the serial number; they can call in via radio; this is the serial number; who does it belong to; and go from there. We may also look at this to place strategically in neighborhoods where there has been an unusual amount of trash. This is not going to stop all the trash in our city because it is humans that do this, not the cans. What it will help though is getting people to be more aware; put your garbage in your cans; we don't allow garbage, it's not supposed to be out prior to sixteen hours before pickup; they put it out three or four days ahead and they expect it to stay there when we have animals that roam our city streets; coyotes, cats, dogs, whatever; that go into them. This will help cut this down because what happens is these bags are put out early; they're broken into and the winds take them all over the neighborhood and when our sanitation workers get there nothing is left but an empty bag in some cases. This is a transition; a lot of people don't like change; and I can clearly tell you my mother on Sunset doesn't like change; but she doesn't put the garbage out, I do. But again; for the elderly I know it is a change but it is for your benefit; again, you never know what you're going to have extra from your one bag that you put in. Again, it keeps it safe and secure in here; you wheel it down. The good part is it isn't just about the trash; it's about wear and tear on our employees; it's about speed and what we're trying to go to; when I say a four day work week, not just four days and they're off; it's four days focusing on our scheduled refuse pickup; the fifth day will be used to focus on other things that have come up in our city. Because again, these cans don't cause the problem, people do. Until we get this under control; and that's everybody's responsibility; you live in each of your respective neighborhoods; if you see people putting trash out there then call the police; we have a code enforcement officer we can send out there. Once you start citing these people and start being hauled in to court and paying these stiff fines they may change their habits then. But again, there is no other city in the Valley that has this and I will tell you right now I've had City Managers calling me already wanting to know how this is going to work; we're going to find out; we've got 6000 of them sitting in the warehouse. The good part is it is contracted out to deliver these to all the accounts in the City by this serial number right here. You also know because of the seal that is on the side right here; our City seal. Other things we can look at are parks; maybe strategic locations in neighborhoods where we can put additional cans so that way we know they're our cans and we can go empty these on a schedule. It's a little hard to show in here but what will happen is we have brand new trucks; two brand new trucks and vehicles that have been retrofitted already; and what I mean by retrofitted; some of these will have to be what we call rear end loaded because of the narrowness of some of the alleys in some of these neighborhoods like Pleasant Heights and Labelle. That means they'll be pushed around to the back; the arms will come out from the back and pick it up and dump it. The other ones where there is more room to work the arms will be on the side and it is about 12 or 14 feet they can go up so again they have a reaching capability so they don't have to come clear to the curb there; they will pick those up, bring it in to the truck, lift it up and dump it, bring it down and put it back. So again, these are all over the country; this is something new in the Ohio Valley here and it is getting us to start modernization where we need to be here. I wanted everybody to see this; this is what will be coming here once we get all our cans in and we'll be ready to distribute that. Again, it'll be a learning curve; I've already talked to Don Sloane at News9; I've talked to the Herald Star; they are behind this and we will do the proper paper notifications; there will be directions that are put in each can that is dropped off; again, I can't make people read. That's why I ask if you don't get the directions in there; notify us and we'll get them to you; the newspapers will have them; News9 will have them; News7 will have them. So again, everybody will be educated on how these are supposed to operate; how they'll be picked up; what you can and can't put in these."

Mr. Villamagna – "Wasn't there going to be an option for a smaller can for some of the elderly people?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "There is sir; and again once we get this all rolled out; we will have to determine how many changes we need. Here is where the problem will come; I need a small one, now I need a big one. This is manpower that has to do this but the quick answer is yes; there are smaller ones; we'll have to order them but we have to find out exactly what we need. This is the biggest challenge; I will tell you a family of four; this is probably not big enough for them; if it isn't, we have a couple options we're looking at; get another can or maybe we go in to what some cities have done; they sell through our utility office city garbage bags. Why; because you can purchase those at a nominal amount and when we have bags in our city garbage; when you go down to buy them, they know you have an account, they sell you the bags and you bag them and tie them. We just had a recent incident I think it was last Friday; this had to do with a storefront in downtown; they put the garbage out; just laid out there pizza boxes; put out the bags of garbage and didn't tie them; that was the weekend we had the winds come by and the garbage was all over Fourth Street. This just shows you how people operate; this is common sense; this is not hard to do. So again, we're giving you a tool to help you; the neighborhoods work together; Labelle, Pleasant Heights; these are tools now to work in your neighborhood. Maybe now when we have the pickups we can drop three or four extra cans down there; there are a lot of things that can be worked out. The biggest thing we need your cooperation on is letting these workers get these cans out there and go from there. Bob, is there anything else you'd like to add?"

Bob Baird – "Not at this time."

Mayor Mucci – "Mr. Mavromatis, if I could ask; we're not sure when we're going to start delivering the cans, is that correct?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "As soon as we get our cans here; there was a delay with the company on a shipment; we're waiting to get them all here; once that happens the notifications will go out so people know exactly who is bringing them."

Mayor Mucci – "The people that are distributing the cans; does the homeowner need to be home at the time the cans are being delivered to them?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "No; it will go to the registered address on who is paying for refuse service."

Mayor Mucci – “And once they receive the can and we start the pickup it will still be the routes that we have presently until we go to the four days; we’ll keep those same routes?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “This is the biggest challenge here is getting these cans out.”

Mayor Mucci – “You mentioned about buying an additional can; the cost could be possibly \$55 for an additional can; so now if I have two cans am I still being charged the same sanitation fee a month even though I have two cans?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Yes; you’ve already paid for the additional can; it’s still our can but you paid for that additional can; you fill them both up and they both get picked up; naturally one at a time.”

Mayor Mucci – “The only other is you mentioned about smaller ones but possibly we’re going to have availability of bags?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s something I need to talk to Mr. Baird about because this came to me from a citizen here in town; he brought up Courting, New York; you can go down to the City and purchase bags from the city; it has a city seal on them and they bag them up and put them out at their residence. Again, this is a transition period; we need everybody’s assistance on this and I think in the end you’ll be happy to have this because you can put your garbage in your cans because some of the garbage cans are in the back in the alleys and you’re putting it back there and the animals are getting in it. This has a lid that comes down, keeps the animals out and your refuse in here.”

Mayor Mucci – “I think we would want to remind our citizens also that they still need to bag their garbage to put in there because I had two residents tell me oh this is great; I don’t have to buy garbage bags anymore; I can just throw the garbage in there; but that’s not the case.”

Citizen – “What about the raccoons? They’ll get in that because even if you buy a trash can like say from Lowe’s that has the long handles on it; raccoons get into that; so that’s what I’m saying; is that going to protect the raccoons from getting in?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’d like to see the raccoons get in; I’m interested in that.”

Citizen – “But see I don’t live in a house; I live in an apartment so it’s not like that for me but I have a friend that lives in a house and she’s inundated with the raccoons and all of that. They’re just like humans; they can open that.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “I’m sure they could; I would invest in some bungee cords and attach it to the front back to here and try to do that. What’s easier to get in; the open bags outside that lets them get in there or at least let them fight to get in this; that’s where I’ll go. Give me a location because I’ll come out and watch this.”

Citizen – “I told you I live in an apartment but I have a friend that lives in a house; I’ll tell you where she lives; she lives at 243 North Seventh so look there.”

Thom Way – “We have a whole economic set of families in here; if somebody wanted a second can is there a program in place for individuals where they could spread out payments of the \$55 across their water bill?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Well, we’d probably have to take a look at their account and see how that’s been; have there been past months where they haven’t paid their bill. Anything is open here; and again this is a general thing but I’ll be very candid with you; I hear this quite often here; but I’ll tell you what the first of the month go up to Kroger’s and tell me what you see what is going in there; I feel bad for the kids, not the adults; that’s what upsets me there. Our biggest challenge right now is getting this out, getting it in place and having people comply with it. It’s an adjustment for everybody because it’s new; but again, those that have lived outside of here in other parts of Ohio and across the country, this is an everyday thing. I haven’t heard anything negative about it yet; there could be but I haven’t heard it yet.”

Thom Way – “Are there considerations for the blue version of that for recycling?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “The recycling part is handled by the JB Green Team; they’re the ones handling the recycling. I had heard; now, again I wasn’t here; they supposedly had neighborhood pickups but there wasn’t enough participation so they went in strategically located places throughout the City. But this is for us to pick our refuse up.”

Citizen – “How wide is that?”

Bob Baird – “I’m not sure; I do know that it fits through a standard door.”

Citizen – “Does this container accommodate the bags of grass; sometimes you see in neighborhoods they have bags of grass; are they allowed to put that in there?”

Bob Baird – “Anything that is currently being discarded by a resident of the City can continue to be discarded in that can. Anything that would pertain to separation of waste; be it recycling or yard waste or green waste; is another process to be considered at some future date. This is simply a step in the collection process for our garbage; so whatever a resident is currently throwing away that isn’t in violation of our ordinances; they can continue to do so just usual.”

Mayor Mucci – “For example you can’t put tires; anything with Freon; old paint cans; TVs.”

Mr. Mastro – no report

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.”

Brenda Fetty – “I live at 707 Market Street; which is also known as Gaylord Towers. As President of our Resident Council I am seeking information as to how we can get the condition of our building and property improved.

JMHA tell us they have no funds to make improvements; the improvements that we need. Can you please direct me?”

Mayor Mucci – “First of all the Gaylord Towers is operated and managed by the Metropolitan Housing Authority. The City of Steubenville really has no control over that unless they’re in violation of any of the building codes and then we can send the building officials to inspect up there. However, the federal government also has inspectors to do the inspections of the building and that is through Metropolitan Housing Authority.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “What the Mayor has explained to you is accurate; this is not our property; if they’re in violation of City codes we can do something about that; since you brought up the rats I will make this known to Mr. Misselwitz; they handle all the health issues here in the City now. But what I will do for you if you could before you leave tonight; give me your number; I will get you a name and address of the name of the head of the HUD people in Cleveland so you can let them know about this.”

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

Pat McLaughlin – “I am an employee of Vapor Jet Professional Cleaning and Restoration. If there is any carpet, upholstery, anything up at the clubhouse up at the pool; I talked to Tim and Gina today and they want to donate any cleaning you need up there when it comes to that. I just want to speak as a resident; I want to apologize to you, Bob Baird; I know I’ve been a pain in the butt about these garbage cans downtown. We have too many businesses using the City public trash cans as their means of throwing garbage away. I know I make a fuss about this because it seems like every two or three days these trash cans are overflowing with trash. If you pay attention they just walk out and throw their trash in there; there is one on just about every street where these businesses are doing this. Now, these cans aren’t for commercial use, right; just residential? So these businesses downtown are responsible for having their own dumpster, right? I do want to apologize to you for the incident we had the other night on Fourth Street; I know I probably bothered you and Babette so I want to apologize for that.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s alright.”

Pat McLaughlin – “I know that somebody here had made contact with them up there; I know you said you were going to talk to them and get that thing addressed and hopefully that is. There is a reason we try to keep things beautiful downtown; just as a volunteer across the street; I’m just going to say a quick story real quick; I encourage everybody to come downtown and walk around; it’s safe; it’s quite; it’s relaxing; you can come over to the Fort. Last year one evening I had a couple downtown walking; they were probably in their seventies; I may have told some of you this story before. I was cleaning up the pocket park and they asked me how I was doing and I said good; they asked me if I was cleaning up and I said yes; I asked them how they were doing and they said good. They made a comment about the empty buildings; I said, empty buildings? The gentleman said well they look empty to me. I said let’s go for a walk. So we decided to walk North; we were walking North and I said boy I can remember when I was a kid me and my dad used to come down to Kiddings and get my fishing stuff and then we’d come over to Isaly’s and get something to eat and then it started; they were talking about they remember this and I said can you remember buying her first ice cream cone and the conversation went on and on and on. I said I have to get back to clean up the park but just remember; there’s not an empty building in this City; they’re all full of memories and I’m proud to live here and we should all be proud of that. That’s why I think it’s important; if you live in this city, even though you may not live in that necessary neighborhood but it would never hurt to get involved someway with the City to volunteer to help this great community we all live in.

Mayor Mucci – “Thank you, Patrick; memories are made of that. If there is anyone else wishing to speak to City Council on City business please come forward and state your name and address.”

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

Mary F. Anderson
Clerk of Council

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR