

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
April 18, 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, Hahn, Johnson, and Paul.

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

Also present; City Manager James Mavromatis, Assistant Law Director Costa Mastros, Finance Director Dave Lewis, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star and WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hahn moved that the minutes of April 11, 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 PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF WELLS STREET.

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

NO. 2017-28 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF THIRD STREET.

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

NO. 2017-29 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF BATES STREET.

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

NO. 2017-30 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF AN UNNAMED ALLEY.

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

NO. 2017-31 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2nd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

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

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the second reading of Ordinance No. 2017-31. 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.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Timmons – “On Saturday the CDC Hilltop group is having a pickup and there are a couple spots I want to go to but one of them is on Kendall Avenue; there are several tires and that’s City property. If we pick those up can we get somebody from the City to help us discard those or where can we take them?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “The City will have to pick them up; if that’s who you’re going to have pick them up.”

Mayor Mucci – “Are these just tires?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Do they belong to a resident?”

Mr. Timmons – “No it’s just where they’ve been dumped in a specific area.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Give me the addresses if you can before Saturday.”

Mayor Mucci – “Just a point of clarification Mr. Timmons; the Hilltop is a cleanup of the hilltops and we should remind everybody that it’s going to start at 11:00 a.m.; those willing to participate should meet at the Trinity Hospital parking lot for Pleasant Heights and on Labelle at Piece of Pie Park; and those are both starting

at 11:00 a.m.; there will be a light lunch for all the volunteers and normally the Franciscan University participates with a lot of volunteers; but it's not for any particular item; it's to walk the streets and pick up litter."

Mr. Timmons – "There are just a couple spots that I want to hit specifically because they're in bad shape."

Mr. Villamagna – no report

Mr. DiLoreto – "Yes I want to thank Judge Mascio's community service people; they worked down Beatty Park and so I think if we put those people up at the pool it might get ready. They worked very hard; they picked up all kind of scrap; all kind of weeds and they were properly supervised and complete gentlemen and ladies; they'll be back again. Beatty Park is in very good shape and ahead of everyone else; free, volunteer."

Mrs. Hahn – "I have a handful of items; next week on the 25th we have Andrea Irland coming back for our next visit. We're going back and forth a little bit on whether or not the Steubenville Revitalization Group is going to host her again in the afternoon; and I think probably a little clarification is needed that we'll get through the emails; her idea of meeting with the people in the afternoon and anyone is welcome to come; most likely it will be at Froelich's; please just be paying attention to the newspaper for the details when we get that together. She is hoping to inspire more of a group like friends of the parks. But it wouldn't be limited to just developing the marina; I guess what people have to figure out is are they interested in doing that or are they just interested in helping out with the marina; so I will hopefully have more information for you and we'll get that in the paper; but that'll be Tuesday. On Wednesday there is a code enforcement workshop; all of Council will be there and I believe we're meeting in the Pugliese room; Chris Petrossi will be there; do you know, Jim, if Patrolman Dorsey is able to join us?"

Mr. Mavromatis – "If you want him there I can have him there."

Mrs. Hahn – "I think that would be great; I know he's still pretty new on the job but if he could help us understand what would be helpful to him in terms of reports and that's hopefully what we'll talk about is how do we do these reports and how can we get them on the website so that any of us who see a variety of violations can report them so that we can have our neighborhoods all improve; so that'll be 2:30-4:30 on Wednesday the 26th. Thank you if you are any of the people who have signed up to volunteer; we have seventeen people who have signed up to volunteer in some capacity for getting the pool ready and I really appreciate that; some people are willing to do anything; the other jobs are preparation for painting, cleaning and gardening; so if you haven't signed up please see me afterwards so I can get your information. Bob Villamagna and the Mayor already met and have begun to get a list together of projects; we have a group of cub scouts willing to come and give a couple of hours; maybe you have a group; maybe you have an organization that would be willing just to do one thing; please let us know and we really welcome the support and help."

Mr. Johnson – "I'd like to make a motion that we move in to executive session after public forum for Council personnel; litigation regarding the health insurance lawsuit; and the F.O.P. insurance grievance." Second by Mr. DiLoreto. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

Mr. Paul – "I have a resolution to sunshine proclaiming the week of April 24-28, 2017 as Catholic Schools Week. Also, an ordinance amending the table of organization to add nine part time temporary seasonal positions for summer help and declaring an emergency."

Mayor Mucci – "We should note that although we're creating nine positions if it is adopted by Council next week; that doesn't necessarily mean that we will fill all nine of them; but we're hoping to. Before we move into the report of administrative officers I just want to take a quick opportunity once again so far it's been a busy week; earlier today I had the opportunity to attend in Salem, Ohio the OMEGA meeting; just so everybody knows they have agreed that the June meeting will take place here in the City of Steubenville so we'll host all ten counties; it will be the third Tuesday of June and we will have the event at Scaffidi's; on the 20th of June; it'll be at Scaffidi's; I'll get more information to the members of Council as it comes closer; everyone is looking forward to it. Last year when we hosted them here they were at Scaffidi's restaurant and that's all I kept hearing from everyone today; are they going to have the lasagna for lunch again. So I think food is extremely important to them. But at the last EODA meeting; I know sometimes when I use these acronyms people get a little confused; OMEGA is the Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association; I happen to hold the office of Vice President; however, that is ten counties in Eastern Ohio. There is another organization; OMEGA is where all of our funding grant opportunities; in fact, today we approved the submission of the traffic light on University Boulevard that City Council already did; we already received the funding for Aberdeen; but the pre-application for Wilshire was also submitted today. But putting that aside there is another group EODA and the EODA group is more of the networking group; funding doesn't come through them but that consists of twenty eight counties; mostly in Eastern and Southern Ohio. I and Evan Scurti and I understand maybe Judy Bratten also; they have an annual banquet every year; and a few years ago we submitted, Ed Looman and I; the Old Fort Steuben to receive the tourism award and Jerry is here this evening and he can attest that it is a very well attended luncheon; probably about three hundred either economic development people; elected officials such as County Commissioners and all; and some State office holders; attend this luncheon and it is pretty impressive. Evan and I at one of the EODA meetings decided to once again seek a nominee for the small business award and we submitted Nelson's Fine Arts and Gifts; and I'm happy to say Nelson's will receive the small business award. About a month ago when I was talking to Mark at one of the events I indicated that we were submitting his name and he was excited about it and the angle; let alone the thirty full time employees and his involvement in the community and I could go on and on and on in talking about the value that he adds to our community; but the nutcracker village and advent market was such a great success and if you think about it; the ten counties of OMEGA region here in Eastern Ohio and the EODA group, twenty eight counties in Eastern and Southern Ohio is a perfect market drive time for them to come. So I'm excited that Mark is going to be receiving this award

because of his accomplishment of a small business and the growth that he had; however, we'll be able to also capitalize and talk about the nutcracker village and hopefully entice a lot of those individuals and community leaders from other counties to visit us during the Christmas season. I gave all members of Council the application profile that we submitted and if any member of Council or anyone is interested in attending this event there is a \$30 charge for the luncheon; it starts at 10:00 and will be at the Carlisle Inn in Walnut Creek, Ohio; and you can either contact my office or I understand Judy is also taking reservations and we're hoping to all sit at one table; hopefully we'll have a nice showing for Mr. Nelson and his accomplishments."

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – "Thank you, Mayor; last Saturday we started our bulk pickup; it was the first weekend; we had just a couple minor violations meaning there were building materials out there and they were corrected. This Saturday will be our second; it will be on the South End of Steubenville; we'll go through there. If you go back a year ago we had several locations; I know Mr. DiLoreto has put a lot of time and effort in putting out publications to his residents in his ward so hopefully they will abide by what the papers say can be picked up. The best part tonight I would like to introduce our new Parks and Rec Director; I want to thank our Parks and Rec Board; they diligently went through a total of fifteen applications; they whittled it down to six and eventually we conducted four interviews. The lady that I'm going to introduce has been in the business of dealing with children, adults, swimming pools, ball fields for over twenty six years; she's worked in six other cities in Ohio in her twenty six years; she's also worked in Michigan. I asked her to come up today; she will be here today, tomorrow and Thursday to get acclimated here; bottom line is she absolutely sure she wants this job; while she is here I threw quite a bit at her; she is ready to go and based on the recommendations that I received from her previous employers through her interview process I think this is the right person that we need to bring on board here. So again, I'd like to introduce at this time Lori Fetherolf; if you could please stand and let Council and our citizens see you. She's going to have an extremely busy three days while she's here."

Lori Fetherolf – "I'm ready to get started; I was talking to the gentleman back here and I've got lots of plans so I'm ready to hit the ground moving."

Mr. Mavromatis – "You have a lot of citizens that have a lot of ideas; I will tell you this; she does not have a \$935,000 budget and that's what she left in her last job that she had; so again, she understands what she's working with; she had creative thinking and ideas and I'm sure with the input from our Recreation Board that we can start moving where we need to go. It's going to take time; I know that; but Council understands that and we have some challenges ahead of us but I think you're going to be able to take care of them."

Mayor Mucci – "Thank you; once again we want to welcome Lori to the Steubenville family and when Mr. Mavromatis is done with you I have my list for you too."

Mr. Mastros – no report

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

Mrs. Hahn – "I just wanted to share my heart a little bit about the shooting that happened up on Labelle. Yesterday I went to Tower of Power and there were a couple of other people and we met there to pray; I hear comments from people that people who were shooting at each are one gang against another gang and they're really killing each other; they're not killing people in our community. They are people in our community; every life is precious; every life is valuable; I don't know all the reasons why teenagers think the way that some of these children are thinking; but I really want to ask you to be thinking and praying about how we can intervene; how we can strengthen families so that kids don't turn to a gang to be their family; how we can have more men come to the floor to be father figures for those who don't have father figures. We are such an amazing community with many people who care deeply and I just believe that we need to step forward as leaders; we need to step forward as people of faith and find that way to speak to the hearts of these children; and they are still children; and to call the young adults in their twenties and thirties to truly be adults. I wanted to ask you to pray that there not be retaliation and I want the pastors to know we are praying very hard for you as you reach out to these kids to try to intervene; to try to help by the grace of God to change their thinking. Every life matters; every life matters and I really wanted to say that from this desk; God bless you."

Mayor Mucci – "Before we move to public forum; Mr. Mavromatis, next week City Council as they consider the legislation to consider 9 part time employees is it possible for you to get the job description or have a job description from Civil Service for the part time individuals because I know we want to fast track this so we can get the applications and that process moving forward after it is adopted."

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."

Asantewa Anyabwile – "I live at 472 Spring Avenue. I have a few quick points I want to raise. First of all, thank you for sending out the notices to let us know when spring cleanup is in our areas because I would drive around and think it must be our turn; so thanks for sending those notices out. Second, I was in my first Finance Committee meeting and I didn't have a clue what was going on because I didn't have that report in front of me like when we get the report for what's going on in the City Council meeting. Are those reports public?"

Mayor Mucci – "You can request those reports but it was a committee meeting that you attended earlier."

Asantewa Anyabwile – “So if that is our public taxes that are going to these funds shouldn’t we be able to have a report so we can find out?”

Mayor Mucci – “After Council reviews them and all they are public record and you can request those documents.”

Asantewa Anyabwile – “The third point is how can we have a reserve fund and have deficits in other areas? Shouldn’t the reserve fund be used to help bring up those deficits cause I don’t know; I didn’t see the report. I’m just asking a question.”

Mayor Mucci – “The reserve fund was established by City Council; the normal course of business for governments; as you can see the State of Ohio has a healthy rainy day fund as they refer to it; if it is needed City Council can transfer those monies to offset those deficits in the appropriate areas if the money is appropriated from that particular line item.”

Dave Lewis – “There are two different types of deficit; one is a cash deficit which we do not have; we have deficits; a deficit is basically where we’re spending more money than we’re taking in but because we have a beginning balance of cash that is covering that deficit for that particular calendar year; at the end of 2017 we’re projecting every fund to have a positive balance. In some funds the revenue is not enough to cover the expenses so we’re relying on kind of like a savings account in that fund to cover the deficit for the calendar year. If needed we have the reserve; if we got into a dire situation where the funds was going to end with a deficit we could use the reserve which probably cover it.”

Asantewa Anyabwile – “My final point; we talked about the Mall situation; foreseeing the Mall closing. The owners that had the Mall, I understand the Mall is in need of repair; they have leaky roofs; you could even walk the mall and see the floor dip because they have structural problems and everything; they weren’t putting the money in the mall. What makes us think that the new owners which is the bank are going to be putting money in the street? So my question to you is when you see residents whose properties are in disarray and need repairs isn’t there City ordinances that you can cite those people because of; things like that and garbage and weeds? Isn’t the mall property inside the City limits? Can you not cite the bank for the roads? Because if you don’t do something with the roads, the little bit of revenue that’s coming in from Walmart and Texas Roadhouse and all those; you’re right, they’re not going to come up here so you’re going to lose even more money up in that area if you continue to ignore the problem. I understand it’s not City money that has to fix it; but it’s the City’s responsibility to make sure it gets fixed. And if they need to get cited in order to keep our revenue coming in from those businesses up there; it seems like the City should be able to force or put a little pressure on getting those roads fixed.”

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.”

Ann Sweeney – “I live at 710 North Fifth Street. Last night was the first organizational meeting that I decided to do after the recent events in and around Steubenville. Three children were hurt; one died; because they think nobody cares. And it really hurt my heart to see these kids thinking this; like Kimberly said, we have to come together as a community and show these kids yes we care; yes we love them; we’re there for them. From the Mayor, Council members, community, pastoral leaders; everybody; I’m cordially inviting you for my next Steubenville Community Prayer/Peace Walk. We will meet every Monday at different locations in town and we will walk around a block or two praying and just being a presence to show the community that we care; that we love them; that we’re there for them. I am thinking this Monday night we can meet at the courthouse; that might be a better location because of the recent events up on the hill and people might not want to be there; so I’m thinking next Monday night at 7:00 at the courthouse steps and walk up Third, cross Washington and down Fourth and then back; just one block at a time. Let’s show these kids and this community that we care and we love where we live; thank you.”

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.”

Jermaine Moore – “I live at 370 Scenic. The kid that was killed; his father is a member of our church; the funeral will be held this Saturday at Mt. Zion Church. I’ve been talking to Bob and Ms. Wiggins about some things; prayer is necessary; it’s good; it’s essential; it’s the foundation of everything that we do as Christians. However, we have to have a plan and activities that will keep their minds occupied that is constructive. I’ve been talking to the congregation about putting some things in place here that will actually keep them occupied; one is putting together a grant writing team at the church so that we can have an actual music studio at the church where those kids can come and actually participate in the studio at the church; if they want to write it has to be positive, no cursing; no foolishness of course; they can spend time there. Again, I’m a preacher but I’m also a realist; a lot of times we can tell the kids you’re doing this wrong and you’re doing that wrong; however if you fill a person’s life up with purpose and what they should be doing they won’t have time for foolishness. So I thank God for your prayer walk and prayer vigil; that’s great; but we’ve got to put actual things in place to keep them occupied and that’s what I’m planning to do as a pastor. You have my support; I’m going to put things in place to keep them occupied; we don’t have a boys’ club; I would love to see a boys’ club in the City; that would keep them occupied; they’d have a pool table and air hockey and different things like that; a man cave where those kids can go and have a room full of play stations; constructive things that would keep them occupied, keep them out of the streets; not only for them but with actual curriculum and courses that will help the parents because there is no reason why a 15, 16 or 17 year old is walking at 11:00 on a Sunday night when there is school on Monday morning. So there also has to be some type of training; some type of way that we could reach even the young parents. I’ll say this and then I’m finished; the Bible says that we ought to be fruitful and multiply; then it says replenish the earth. A lot of times we misconstrue being fruitful and multiply by saying that just means make babies; that’s not what that part means. Where it says be fruitful is indicative of being productive; and when you are productive now you’re able to multiply; you produce the fruits of the spirit which is in Genesis; love, peacefulness, kindness,

gentleness; all of that; now you have a productive environment and because you have a productive environment now you can replenish the earth and bring kids in to a productive environment. As a church and as a community we've got to produce a productive environment because we've got replenishment going on but no productivity. I'm a Bishop for God's sake and on Friday night I have to go to Pittsburgh to have a good time. I'm not looking for any trouble; I just want to go somewhere and hear some good music and have some good ribs, enjoy myself, come home, go to sleep and get ready to do it again the next night. But this is where we as a community have to come in and put these things in place; if we have to spend our money we have to do what we have to do; or else we're going to have what happened Sunday night happen over and over and over again; thank you."

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."

Regina Blanchard – "I live at 153 North Fifth Street. As you know I've been coming here for a long time talking about the young people because my passion has always been for the young people. I 100% agree with what the Bishop; prayer is good but action speaks louder than words any day. We've done the walks here in Steubenville many times; we've had children, young people to be murdered, killed, whatever, shot; and we say I'm going to do this, we need to do this; a couple weeks later it dies down; it goes away; who cares until the next time and it's a repeat, a repeat, a repeat. The problem is when is the repeat going to stop; that is the problem. We do need things to do for the young people, Mr. Mayor; and we need productiveness like he said. I had a basketball team as a woman; I can't get any help from the men in the community. They would lie; I'll be there; then I had to get somebody off the streets and stuff; I had to do the best I could; I had like thirty five all men 7-17; but guess who came with them; the older kids because they were looking for something to do. Again, we have to be creative; we have to have vision; the young people have vision; the old people have dreams; you put that together and what happens; the older people mentor the younger people; we come together as one; and then we all work together. And again, the last time I was here I said it's not about this; denomination; it's not about that; it's all about coming together as a community. I'm not going to say this anymore but young people are my passion; sometimes it's not always about gangs either; sometimes it's about he said she said slander and gossip; we have a gossiping town and it is so bad; it's not only the churches, it's out there; it's downtown; it's just everywhere and that kills. So all I'm saying is if we're going to work together let's start working together with a solution on how to help our young people start up these mentor programs; some of these parents need to be mentored too; they need help too. We have drug problems like crazy; not just in Steubenville but Follansbee and the surrounding areas. We always talk about Weirton; Weirton is just as bad as we are; you might see a little bit more over there but this is the young people. If we lose them what future do we all have; thank you."

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."

Amelia Taggart – "I'm president of the Hilltop Community Development Corporation and our address is 380 Summit Avenue. I know you guys talked about our cleanup but just to reiterate it is Saturday at 11:00 a.m.; we have two locations that we meet; we meet at the former Roosevelt School on Belleview Boulevard and we also meet at the Trinity East parking lot. If you can't come out and meet that day we do give out bags and gloves sponsored by JB Green; if you can't come out and meet we ask that you do just do your part on your part of the street and we have volunteers that go around and will pick up all of that and in cooperation with the City we get all that trash picked up. After the cleanup we will have a luncheon for all the volunteers that come out at the former McKinley School. April 20th we are having a meet the candidate night; that is also at the Trinity East lower level boardroom; this is not a political forum, it is just a come out and meet the candidates that are running and affect the hilltops; so that is the Mayoral race and also the Second Ward Council. I'm glad to meet the new Parks and Rec Director; we saw that you don't have a location for your May meeting and in the past the hilltop has hosted the parks and rec board at Murphy field and if you are willing we'd like to do that again this summer; we've had good attendance in the past and hope to get City leaders and different people; we just got new playground equipment and we'd like to show that off so hopefully you'll consider having that meeting at May at the park; thank you."

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."

Mrs. Hahn – "The only comment I wanted to make and I'm not trying to preempt what you're going to do so I'm not trying to set the agenda; but Frankie DiCarlantonio is helping us to rework our website and one of the things that I had thought would be very useful is all the various things that churches are offering for kids; if there is a way that we can coordinate this on our website so that parents and grandparents can access it; then we can get the information out and more people will understand there really are things for our young people to do and maybe see the gaps where ok we've got these activities covered but no one has thought of this and that's what I could volunteer to do so hopefully we can do something like that on the website."

Mayor Mucci – "We need to have a discussion on that; if you can recall about three or four weeks ago our Law Director sent us all a notice from the Ohio Municipal League about even having prayer at the Council meetings; which I told them we'll never stop that here but we'll have a discussion on that to move forward the website. However, I do know that the Convention and Visitors Bureau has quite a few events listed throughout the community and you can start following that information to the Fort Steuben to get that message out."

Mr. DiLoreto – "I've been here for a long time; I hear there is nothing to do in this town; I'm around this town twenty four hours a day; I have a list in my care of businesses that are looking for help; right now I'm up to six; if I get up to twelve I'm going to get the Bishop and some other people and we're going to go to these places and take these young kids with us and see if they want a job. There are jobs; I've been working since I was fifteen years; I'm not the smartest guy but nobody will outwork me. If I get that list up to twelve I'm going shopping."

Chambers were cleared for Executive Session.
Chambers were reopened for adjournment.

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

Mary F. Anderson
Clerk of Council

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR