

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
April 4, 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 Johnson, Paul, Timmons, Villamagna, DiLoreto, Dressel and Hahn.

Also present; City Manager James Mavromatis, Urban Projects Director Chris Petrossi, Utility Director Chuck Murphy, Asst Fire Chief Mike Taylor, Dave Gossett from the Herald Star and WTOV9.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hahn moved that the minutes of March 28, 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. 2017-12 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1992-20 AS AMENDED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE, OHIO BY REZONING PROPERTY OWNED BY RIVER RAIL DEVELOPMENT, LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE 7 AT SOUTH THIRD STREET, STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, FROM I-3, HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, TO I-1, GENERAL COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

Mayor Mucci – “Before we move on we have two pieces of correspondence from the Planning and Zoning Commission.”

The Clerk read a letter of positive recommendation from Chris Petrossi to the Planning Commission and a letter of positive recommendation from the Planning Commission to Council. Hearing no objections the correspondence is ordered into the record.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the third reading of Ordinance No. 2017-12. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-12 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-12 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

NO. 2017-13 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1175 OF THE ZONING CODE CREATING THE CRESTLINE DRIVE AND CENTRAL AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Mayor Mucci – “Before we move on we have two pieces of correspondence from the Planning and Zoning Commission.”

The Clerk read a letter of positive recommendation from Chris Petrossi to the Planning Commission and a letter of positive recommendation from the Planning Commission to Council. Hearing no objections the correspondence is ordered into the record.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the third reading of Ordinance No. 2017-13. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-13 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-13 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

NO. 2017-14 – BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 3rd reading

Messrs. Johnson, Dressel, Hahn

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1175 OF THE ZONING CODE CREATING THE WHITEHAVEN BOULEVARD AND DEVONSHIRE ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Mayor Mucci – “Before we move on we have two pieces of correspondence from the Planning and Zoning Commission.”

The Clerk read a letter of positive recommendation from Chris Petrossi to the Planning Commission and a letter of positive recommendation from the Planning Commission to Council. Hearing no objections the correspondence is ordered into the record.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the third reading of Ordinance No. 2017-14. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-14 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-14 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

NO. 2017-24 – BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Messrs. Paul, Johnson, Dressel

ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE ONE (1) YEAR WAGE AND BENEFIT CONTRACT ENTERED INTO BY THE CITY OF STEUBENVILLE WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL NO. 228, I.A.F.F., O.A.P.F.F., AFL-CIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Mucci – “You have heard the reading of Ordinance No. 2017-24. If there is anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2017-24 please come forward and state your name and address.”

Mr. Paul called question. Roll call. All ayes. Ordinance No. 2017-24 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

**NO. 2017-25 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE
RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2017 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.**

The Clerk read Resolution No. 2017-25 in its entirety.

Mr. Paul moved that Resolution No. 2017-25 be adopted by roll call. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll call. All ayes. Resolution No. 2017-25 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

**NO. 2017-26 – BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE
RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2017 AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH.**

The Clerk read Resolution No. 2017-26 in its entirety.

Mr. Paul moved that Resolution No. 2017-26 be adopted by roll call. Second by Mr. Villamagna. Roll call. All ayes. Resolution No. 2017-26 duly adopted declared Mayor Mucci.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Johnson – “I have five pieces of legislation to sunshine out of Planning; a petition for creation of the Brockton, Bryden, East Carlton and Preston Road Neighborhood Conservation District; an ordinance vacating a portion of Wells Street; an ordinance vacating a portion of Third Street; an ordinance vacating a portion of Bates Street; and an ordinance vacating a portion of an unnamed alley. Also I would like to make a motion to enter into executive session following public forum to discuss personnel in Council, Parks and Rec and the Health Department.” Second by Mr. DiLoreto. Roll call. All ayes. So moved declared Mayor Mucci.

Mr. Paul – “I would like to call for a Finance Committee meeting on April 18th at 6:30.”

Mr. Timmons – no report

Mr. Villamagna – “I’d like to call for a Pride Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 11th at 6:45; also if the Tree Commission would come so we can talk about planting some trees for Arbor Day. Also; can I ask a question? Do we have a date set for bulk pickup?”

Mr. Mavromatis – “That’s going to be briefed next week but I believe it’s going to start April 15th; six consecutive Saturdays. It’ll be posted in the paper and I’ll get News 9 and Channel 7 to get it out there.”

Mr. DiLoreto – no report

Mr. Dressel – no report

Mrs. Hahn – “We were able to compare all of our schedules and so we will have the Code Enforcement Workshop on Wednesday, April 26th; it will be open to the public; it’s not a big room but it’s open to the public; 2:30-4:30 in the Pugliese Conference Room. I’ll send out some information ahead of time.”

Mayor Mucci – “Before we move in to the administrative reports I have distributed to City Council a letter from the U.S. Senate addressed to the honorable Donald Trump, the President of the United States. This is something I was talking about last week; the week prior to I attended the ARC conference in Washington, D.C., and as you all know a lot of funding sources that we rely on in the Appalachia Region depends on the funding. The President’s budget is zeroing out a lot of those funding sources; community development is in jeopardy and Chris Petrossi can express how important that is to our community. We talked about some of these Natureworks grants for our Recreation Department; that is being zeroed out. But more importantly our lobbying efforts I think really helped out when we were in Washington, D.C.; the letter and I’ll have some available for the public; is signed by right now ten Senators from the Appalachia Region. There are U.S. Senators and as you know each state has two U.S. Senators; both Senator Portman and Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio signed on asking the President to restore that funding in the budget. That shows you the effect because quite frankly, Senator Brown is a Democrat; Senator Portman is a Republican; so this doesn’t call for party lines; this is important to the citizens. We are not prepared to present a resolution for this Council to pass as of yet; as you can see almost daily things are changing in Washington, D.C., but I will keep Council abreast of the information that I receive.”

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Mavromatis – 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.”

Ross Lavender – “I live at 812 Lawson Avenue. I would like to speak on behalf of the Recreation Board and what we were talking about earlier; this is not a new problem; this problem has been going on since 1960 something. I as a citizen of Steubenville have worked diligently to acquire money from the federal government in order to build the High Shaft Recreation Center. If you look in the archives of the City you’ll see Ritz and Ritz designed different than what it looks like now. There was supposed to be a steam room in there; a swimming pool; a weight room and different functions. Mr. DiLoreto, you know that I was here at Council fighting for these things. I think it’s about time we put that animal to rest because I’m looking at the City of Steubenville and Mr. Mavromatis bending over backwards trying to bring business into town; the most important thing to a family coming to town is what are the recreations for my kids; don’t you agree it’s time to put this to rest?”

Mr. Villamagna – “That’s what we’re doing.”

Ross Lavender – “Thank you, Mr. Villamagna and Mr. Paul for your efforts; I will work with you as much as I can to get this straightened out.”

Mayor Mucci – “Mr. Lavender, I completely agree; as you well know we go back quite a few years; I could go through the whole list of progressives movement back then; and you requested funding from community development to make reality of an indoor recreation center; at that time we called it the High Shaft Recreation Center; later in life adopted the name Martin Luther King Center. But your work didn’t go unnoticed; and you’re absolutely correct; we were hoping that back then that we could do in phases some of the things; in fact it was supposed to have even a second floor; if you can recall the roof was supposed to be adjusted to build on to the building; but funding sources throughout the years, you know exactly what happened. We are trying to put it to rest and we’re trying to make recreation a priority in our community because you’re absolutely correct; in order to assist Evan Scurti, Mr. Mavromatis and all in economic development; when people relocate they do look at recreation in your community and also the educational system; and I think we can go without saying Franciscan University, Eastern Gateway, Steubenville City Schools and of course, my alma mater, Catholic Central.”

Mr. Mavromatis – “Mr. Lavender, you wouldn’t know this but I’m waiting to get additional bids for the MLK Center up there; I will be quite honest and candid with you; I don’t foresee a swimming pool being put there; but you are absolutely correct; we need to do remodeling there; that basketball court needs to be redone; the lights need to be replaced; the weight room needs to be redone in there; additional games in there; so I’m trying to collect all the bids to see what it will cost us. We have to replace some of those doors; the steel doors, you see some of those handles are broken off there; and you’re absolutely correct; that is an important center that we need to have continually working down in the downtown area. I will keep you apprised of that but until I get everything together and brief Council on this; but you wouldn’t have known that we’ve been collecting bids the last month and a half.”

Ross Lavender – “Keep in mind that this was because it was a blighted area; the whole downtown Steubenville was a blighted area; that’s why the federal government spent that money in town.”

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.”

Asantewa Anyabwile – “I live at 472 Spring Avenue. First of all I’d like to thank the committee members for expressing the sentiments of the community by keeping the pool open; it shows what the community when we come out together in forces that we are your constituents and I do believe that City Council should be there to help express community concerns. I want to thank the committee for coming out and I also want to thank you guys for making the pool a priority which has been a problem for the past few years since we worked on it. Some of the problems that you mentioned; in terms of the wall and sidewalk; those things have been there for years; if they were prioritized I do believe a lot of those things could’ve been taken care of. As far as the safety issue; Carla of the County Health Department was the one who inspected last year; there was nothing wrong in terms of the pool operating; it had a clean bill of health. We’re looking at some safety issues like we said the sidewalk and the wall, the needles from the trees that get down and block the drain; yes there is some plumbing issues that need to be fixed; but again, that does not stop the pool from opening. We have a late start; we might start opening the pool late this year but I’m glad to see that it will get opened. When Labelle Neighbors Who Care and Community Development Corp got together; we asked different individuals and organizations to come out and to help with that pool. There were college kids that came and asked us what could they do; they donated paint, they donated time, they donated labor, we donated labor; we got out there and we painted ourselves. Of course now after wear and tear as in anything, things have to be repaired and things have to be fixed. If you don’t repair and you don’t fix when things get broken all they do is get worse. Have somebody up there to say ok well that needs to get done; let’s get it done; that’s all you have to do is get it done; we have the money, let’s get it done. CAC summer youth program; we had those workers up there; they cleaned up; they washed things down; because we were open seven days a week we had CAC workers that were able to adjust their schedules and come up there and work; so we didn’t have to pay for that labor. We had lifeguards who also policed the pool; they went in and made sure the restrooms were clean; they told the kids if you mess up you’re gone; they did it with authority because we had the City as our backing; so you can supervise and you can do it correctly and if kids mess up they know they’re not allowed. We had some kids that we actually threw out wrote letters of apology because they know we were not playing; we wanted to be respected and they respected us; we told them they could come back the next year; they were not going to come until we say. Rentals help; that brings in money and the concession stand; open the concession stand; there is not even a drinking fountain for the kids up there; they can’t drink pool

water; you can't have kids go all day without a drink of water; open the concession stand; because you didn't allow food up there these past few years and you don't have a concession stand open; what are kids going to do; they're not going to come swimming where they can't eat or drink so you lose money that way by not having a place where kids can drink their water and eat their food; do something. We even had a program where we had younger kids come up to learn how to work the concession stand because you learn how to do a business. Again, I want to bring up this thing about we're not babysitters. I don't know if people remember when we were children every playground at every school was open because the teens from high school had their little summer job and they were our teachers, playground teachers, remember; so we could go as children, we didn't have to have our parents there because we had the teens who made sure we played checkers; we had baseball games; we made floats for the pet parade at the end of the summer; and that's where kids were, on the playground; and it wasn't like; we didn't consider it babysitting; it was like hey if teens had something too, they got paid for doing what they were doing and also the kids had somewhere to go and parents knew they were safe. We talk about we don't have money for this or that; I always know that when somebody wants to do something they always find the time and they always find the money. When you prioritize something you find the time and you find the money; so I'm glad that you guys are looking and prioritizing the citizens here; our parks, our recreations, our kids; because we all need something to do and be more social; that may cut down on crime; that may cut down on the big babysitter called the jail."

Mayor Mucci – "You know, Asantewa and we have Mrs. Wiggins here also; both members on the Community Action Council board; as you're well aware that summer youth program either starts I believe June 12th but I really believe June 19th they're out of school then and all; not until the middle of June so we're asking for their assistance right now. But just as I was talking about the cutting of the federal programs, that program is also in jeopardy and Mike McGlumphy and I also had some discussions on it and all so let's hope that survives so we can at least receive some of that assistance throughout the summer months. If there is anyone else wishing to speak to City Council on City business please come forward and state your name and address."

Melody Walton – "I live at 543 Union Avenue. First of all I worked for the City; I worked at Labelle Pool last year; no, we didn't have a big turnout because number one a lot of parents brought their little ones and we couldn't let them go in the pool because the little pool was a mess. We tried to go in there; it was Mr. Thomas and I; he was the supervisor and I was his assistant; Mary Beth was our boss but she left it up to us to do what we had to do. We took a Monday; we painted those bathrooms; the bathrooms weren't that bad except we needed new shower curtains up. Then Mary Beth had her husband paint the floor which was the wrong paint for a floor. The pool wasn't that bad except the kids, we had to watch them trying to go under the thing to keep them from going up on the slide; a lot of kids wanted to go on the slide and they were upset. The days I worked I got to work an hour and a half before my time started to make sure the pool was ready; everyone don't know what went on at that pool. We had a snake come in through the window one day; we had rats running around and I mean I took money out of my pocket to do what I had to do for that pool to make sure kids were safe. Now, I got a letter; I took my grandson and great-grandson to work with me every day because they were with me in the summer. Well, someone reported that I was bringing my kids to work and they were going to keep my check. I told them it didn't make me no difference because I knew where my kids were; with me. Yes, we were a babysitting service up there; people would drop their kids off or kids would walk that hill to come swimming. There were plenty of days we couldn't open because of the storms but we were up there; me and Mr. Thomas were there on stormy days to make sure the thing in the pool was turned off and everything was out; every day we got there we made sure the grass was neat and made sure the chairs were out. Yes, we needed a concession stand up there very badly; the pizza people made more money than what we made all summer because kids would call the pizza place and they would deliver five or six pizzas a day. I was like oh my goodness; we do need the concession stand; and Mary Beth had told us if we came up there and cleaned the top of it we would have a concession stand. There was a pop machine up there and a candy machine but they didn't work. So we decided we were going to go and clean that up so the kids could spend their money with us; we never got that done; she said somehow we were turned down so we were turned down. I want you to know our kids really don't have anywhere to go and for them to take their money and go to Mingo, Follansbee, Toronto to go swimming, that doesn't make any sense and like I told you last meeting I'm willing to work free if you need someone to help. Some of the lifeguards up there shouldn't have been lifeguards; all they did was on their cell phones, they played around, some of them got mad because they got hollered at; it wasn't our fault."

Mayor Mucci – "Lucky, I would completely agree with you; however, if they are certified to be a lifeguard; that is supervision; they supervisor, if they're on their cell phone and not paying attention and not doing their job they should've been reprimanded immediately and that is part of our problem and that is why next Wednesday the 12th the Recreation Board is going to be meeting here and absorbing a lot of this; we have several of the members here this evening but I encourage you and anybody else that wants to continue the conversation; we're not going to shut it off tonight; there is more to be discussed, I know; but to attend that meeting because that is where the planning process and ears are going to be."

Melody Walton – "That's all I want to say; our kids need to stay here in Steubenville up there at Labelle; somewhere to go."

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."

Carol Ann Simmons – "I live at 138 Two Ridge Road, Wintersville. I must say I was pleasantly surprised to hear that you have \$200,000 for the Recreation Department; so I want to know if it includes brick and mortar; what does it include; does it include beautification; does it include renovation, repairs; what does it include?"

Mayor Mucci – “All of the above that you just mentioned; however at a limit. The voters of the City of Steubenville; we have a 2% wage tax; 1% automatically put on by City Council for the general fund; the second 1% we have a .3% and a .7% renewal every five years. The .7% we earmark; we estimate what that would generate and we earmark \$500,000 for street improvements; \$300,000 for capital improvements; purchasing of cruisers, capital stock and all; and \$100,000 by the voters is designated to the Recreation Department. Throughout the years we did specify that \$100,000; the policy is that we would not use that toward wages; we didn’t want the voters to think that we were just going to give salary adjustments to the Rec Director or Rec Aides or whatever; it was for capital improvements or improvements within the whole Parks system; that includes Beatty, Belleview, Jim Woods, Martin Luther King Center; and it can be used for beautification projects or capital improvements, purchases of equipment; or improvements at Belleview Pool. \$200,000 might sound like a lot of money but in reality it’s not that much money.”

Carol Ann Simmons – “But if you have contractors who will volunteer their time, their resources; and this would be a write off to them, would it not?”

Mayor Mucci – “We’ll be happy to accept free labor from anyone if they’re registered as a contractor with the City of Steubenville; yes we’ll be more than happy to accept their labor.”

Carol Ann Simmons – “So that leaves more money in that budget to use at Belleview or any of the other 11 or 12 parks; thank you.”

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

Council Chambers were cleared for Executive Session.

Council 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